Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
August 27, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor Bella called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Councilor Bella.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE: A brief invocation was given, along with a moment of silence, by Pastor Mark Smith of Life Sanctuary Church.

ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- **Merrillville Professional Firefighter Local 5489 Union Incorporation**
  The Merrillville Firefighters Union Representatives announced that the Town of Merrillville Firefighters have join the International Association Firefighters and the Professional Firefighters Union. District 1 Vice-President John Parkhouse presented the charter to display at the fire station.

- **Employee of the Month - August**
  Town Manager Griffin and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January presented to the council and audience Jewel Williams as August's Employee of the Month for the Town of Merrillville. Miss Williams received a certificate of recognition and a gift card on behalf of the Town of Merrillville for her work in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

PUBLIC HEARING:

a) **Town Attorney review of Proof of Publication(s): Ordinance 24-29** – Column Add Proof Time Publication with public hearing date August 2nd regarding Ordinance 24-29 Additional Appropriations to the Casino Fund.

   Attorney Svetanoff reported that he has reviewed the Proof of Publication, and everything is in order and conforms with the Indiana Code. The council may proceed with the public hearing.

b) **Public Hearing: Re ORD 24-29**

ORDINANCE NO. 24-29

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2024 BUDGET CASINO GAMING FUND

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget in the Casino Gaming Fund of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is aware that the Fund currently holds sufficient cash balance to support the requested additional appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, that it is hereby provided and ordered for the expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sum of money is appropriated out of the fund named, subject to laws governing the same:

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED BY FISCAL BODY
Fund 2235: CASINO GAMING FUND		
300 Series: Services & Charges	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Total for CASINO GAMING FUND	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

DULY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

c) Action of Proposed Ordinance
Action on this ordinance will be taken under General Orders on the agenda.

a) Town Attorney review of Proof of Publication(s): Ordinance 24-30 – Column Add Proof Time Publication with public hearing date August 16th regarding Ordinance 24-30 Additional Appropriations to the Fire Protection Territory

Attorney Svetanoff reported that he has reviewed the Proof of Publication, and Everything is in order and conforms with the Indiana Code. The council may proceed with the public hearing.

b) Public Hearing: Re ORD 24-30

ORDINANCE NO: 24-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES WITHIN THE FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY OPERATING FUND FOR THE YEAR 2024 NOT INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT BUDGET

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget in the 2024 Fire Protection Territory Operating Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is aware that the 2024 Fire Protection Territory Operating Fund currently holds a sufficient cash balance to support the requested additional appropriation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, that there is hereby provided and ordered for the expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sums of money are appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

Fund Name: Merr. Fire Territory	Amount Requested	Amount Approved by Fiscal Body
2243010187 / Overtime	$150,000.00	$150,000.00
2243010372 / Insurance	$115,000.00	$115,000.00

DULY ADOPTED AND ORDAINED THIS _____DAY OF_____2024 BY THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

Public Comments:
There were no public comments.

c) Action of Proposed Ordinance
Action on this ordinance will be taken under General Orders on the agenda.

a) Town Attorney review of Proof of Publication(s): Ordinance 24-34 – Column Add Proof Time Publication with public hearing date August 2nd regarding Ordinance 24-34 Additional Appropriations to the Police-Continuing Ed Fund

Attorney Svetanoff reported that he has reviewed the Proof of Publication, and Everything is in order and conforms with the Indiana Code. The council may proceed with the public hearing.

b) **Public Hearing: Re ORD 24-34**

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE NO. 24-34

An Enactment Appropriating Additional Money in Excess of the Annual Budget for the Police Department Continuing Education Fund, all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5, et seq.

WHEREAS, Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 5-3-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate additional money that was not appropriated in the annual budget for the **Police Department Continuing Education Fund.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the **Police Department Continuing Education Fund** and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND 2228

Increase the following:	
2228010187 CE/OVERTIME	$60,000.00
Total 100 Series:	**$ 60,000.00**
TOTAL for the FUND:	**$ 60,000.00**

Section 2. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these moneys be made available for expenditure **subject to an order** of the Commissioner, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-18.

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this enactment shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5 *et seq.*

Introduced and Filed on the ____ Day of August 2024. Consideration on the same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of _____ in favor and _____ opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

Public Comments:
There were no public comments.

c) **Action of Proposed Ordinance**
Action on this ordinance will be taken under General Orders on the agenda

Motions on the Table:

1. Arsh Group Fee Structure Impact Fee Proposal

The Arsh Group Inc.
Planners, Landscape Architects, Development Consultants

July 23, 2024

Mr. Mike Griffin, Town Manager
Town of Merrillville
7820 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410

RE: 2024 PARKS MASTER PLAN – 2024 PARKS IMPACT FEE

Dear Mike:

Following our conversation last week, I am pleased to submit this proposal to prepare the 2024 Parks Master Plan as well as 2024 Parks Impact Fee for the Town's consideration. You will note that in our approach we are proposing to prepare both documents concurrently. This will allow us to collect some of the required information simultaneously and save on cost. We applied the same approach for the 2019 update of both documents for the Town.

To prepare these documents, we anticipate having several working meetings with the Parks Department and other agencies to collect information, discuss needs and get input. We also plan to have two public meetings for the Master Plan. During these meetings, we will solicit citizens' input, share our assessments and present recommended actions. The public meetings are also aimed to meet the citizen participation and outreach requirements of Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). We plan to discuss the extent of the public engagement during a scoping meeting with you and refine them as may be required. For the Impact Fee study, we will similarly have several meetings with the Advisory Committee. These meetings and the extent of them will also be discussed during our scoping meeting.

The completion of the Master Plan and Impact Fee will take approximately 18-22 weeks. However, due to a late start for the Impact Fee study, we are proposing to initially focus on the Impact Fee document in order to prevent potential laps in the Town's Impact Fee program. Nonetheless, the proposed time line will allow timely submission of the Master Plan to Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). To reduce the risk of laps for Impact Fee program, we are prepared to start work immediately after we receive a notice to proceed.

The combined fee for both Master Plan and the Impact Fee is estimated to be $45,600. Specific of the proposed fee is outlined in our attached proposal as Exhibit A.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal and assist the Town of Merrillville again to improve park and recreation opportunities for residents of the Town. As you are

[illegible]

aware the Arsh Group has prepared the Town's previous Parks Master Plans and the Impact Fee studies since their inception. The Arsh Group Inc. is eager to work with you, the Park Committee and the Advisory Committee to prepare a new plans study for the Town of Merrillville.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarifications.

Sincerely,

The Arsh Group Inc.

Tagh Arshami

Tagh Arshami, AICP, ASLA
Principal

Attachment(s)

Accepted:

Town of Merrillville:

_____

_____

Date _____

Attachment(s)

Exhibit "A"

MERRILLVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND PARKS IMPACT FEE STUDY

I - Project Understanding

The Town of Merrillville is seeking professional services to develop a new parks and recreation master plan and prepare an update for its Parks Impact Fee study. The master plan will establish new goals and strategies for the next five years. The plan is also expected to identify priorities and recommend implementation steps in the form of an action plan.

The Department of Parks and Recreation anticipates that the planning process should give an opportunity to the citizens to fully participate in a meaningful way in the development of a long term vision for the parks and recreation services. The Master Plan must meet requirements of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as outlined in the state's 2022 Guidelines. The Plan, once adopted, will make the Town eligible for certain state and federal parks and recreation grants.

The Impact Fee Update will establish new fees and updates prior studies and ordinances as approved by the Town. As a whole, the new impact fee study will aim to achieve three goals:

1. To develop adequate background, justifications and support documentation to meet the state statute requirements and guideline (rational nexus standard as well as IC 36-7-4-1300 et seq. and IC 36-7-4-1322 and others.)
2. To develop a sound mechanism that is most appropriate for the Town to continue its Impact Fee assessment program.
3. To update the Impact Fee Ordinance consistent with the current policies, plans and objectives of the Town.

II - Scope of Work - Parks Master Plan

TASK 1 - PROJECT FORMULATION

Our activities in this task involve developing a complete understanding of the final work program for the plan. We will discuss deliverables, schedule and other coordination issues for both documents. These assumptions will be discussed and revised if required in a scoping meeting. Management of the project and the responsibilities of the Arsh Group will also be further defined as they relate to the public participation element of the plan.

1.1 MANAGEMENT, COORDINATION, INTEGRATION

The Arsh Group will assist the Department to coordinate the plan development process. It is assumed the plan development process will take about five to six months with the final approval assumed for last quarter of 2024. All public meetings, questionnaire distribution, and the schedule will be discussed and finalized during this task.

1.2 FINAL SCOPE OF WORK

We plan to meet with the Department to identify all issues and tasks requiring consideration. Major development projects, other open spaces, competitive facilities, and other concerns and gaps needing consideration in the plan will be identified at this stage and work program will adjusted to reflect these needs.

TASK 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Arsh Group will update existing data and facilities based on current conditions and 2020 or later available Census data. The data base will contain relevant information related to physical, social and environmental characteristics and conditions of the Town's open space environment.

2.1 INVENTORY

Under this task the Arsh Group will review available and relevant information related to physical, social and environmental conditions of all parks and recreation programs and facilities in the Town.

A Facility Inventory

The Arsh Group will use existing available information about the park and recreation facilities from the Town to update all park facilities. This includes:

- All park properties
- Private recreational and sports facilities
- Other open spaces (vacant land, sensitive lands, or park opportunities)

C Recreation Inventory

The Arsh Group will review and update the recreation programs offered by the Department. This work will include but not limited to the following:

- Review all recreation programs, both indoor and outdoor, ranging from active to passive programs
- Market conditions for offered programs
- Develop a Matrix identifying these activities
- Review availability, duration and participation

2.2 POPULATION ASSESSMENT

Demographic data collected from the Census Bureau and others, will be evaluated. The Arsh Group will also assess the changes in population since 2010 Decennial Count. The demographic assessment is expected to include but not limited to the following:

- Future growth and development patterns
- Overall Population changes
- Seniors, students, and teenagers' characteristics
- Historical trends and projections

2.3 Land use Data/ Environment

This information will be updated from available sources as required. At this point the land use and environmental information are expected to include:

- Evaluation of new housing developments since last Census
- Future growth and development patterns
- Significant natural areas, wetlands
- Environmentally sensitive sites
- Historically important sites

TASK 3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Arsh Group will engage in several activities related to public participation. Public involvement activities proposed include: 1) Household Opinion Survey; 2) Two community meetings, one in the form of an open house, and 3) final presentation, to the Park Committee and the Town Council.

3.1 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A Household Opinion Survey

The Arsh Group will prepare a household questionnaire for input from residents. The survey will both include the parks as well as programming needs of the community. This questionnaire will be made available to participants during the first public meeting. We will also post the survey on line for residents to provide input.

B. Public Meetings

The Arsh Group will participate in two public meetings. The first meeting will involve getting community input related to the parks needs and programs. In this meeting we will present our analysis and findings about social and physical characteristics of the Town. We will also ask the residents to complete the household survey and provide other input in an open house format.

We will present the draft master plan for citizen input in the second public meeting. We propose to schedule all public meetings for evenings in order to maximize public participation.

The Arsh Group will tabulate comments received from public meetings and report them as a part of the Draft Master Plan. The Arsh Group, will also use these findings to outline new strategies for the master plan and identify new set of goals and objectives for the next five years.

TASK 4 - ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The intent of this work is to assess needs, identify opportunities, and determine existing gaps in facilities and services, if any. The technical data, results of the survey, citizen's wishes, the Park Board's vision, other information collected during the previous tasks, will be assessed to determine long term needs and identify major issues. We will also compare Town's needs with the current national and state standards for parks and recreational facilities.

4.1 PARKS ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Arsh Group will assess factors affecting the parks and recreational services delivery system in the Town. The analysis will cover physical, social and environmental concerns and opportunities. Factors evaluated in this task will include:

- Land use and Merrillville's recreational assets.
- Valuable lands, both in natural and ecological terms.
- Linkages to local and other regional recreational facilities
- Major needs and gaps, including potential new facilities and expansions

These findings will be presented to the Parks Department for review and comments.

4.2 RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Arsh Group will evaluate recreational needs and opportunities particularly in the context of construction of the new Community Center and services provided for the last three years. We will evaluate programs offered and discuss opportunities to address needs or gaps in services.

4.3 IDENTIFY ISSUES

Based on above assessment of the existing conditions, issues negatively impacting service delivery and the needs or opportunities will be identified. Alternative solutions will be proposed for considerations by the Park Committee and the Department.

TASK 5 - DRAFT MASTER PLAN

- Prepare Draft Master Plan
- Identify implementation strategy.
- Identify funding priorities

The Arsh Group will prepare the draft Master Plan using comments received from the public and the analysis. The Draft Plan will be submitted to the Parks Department for review and final comments.

5.1 DRAFT MASTER PLAN

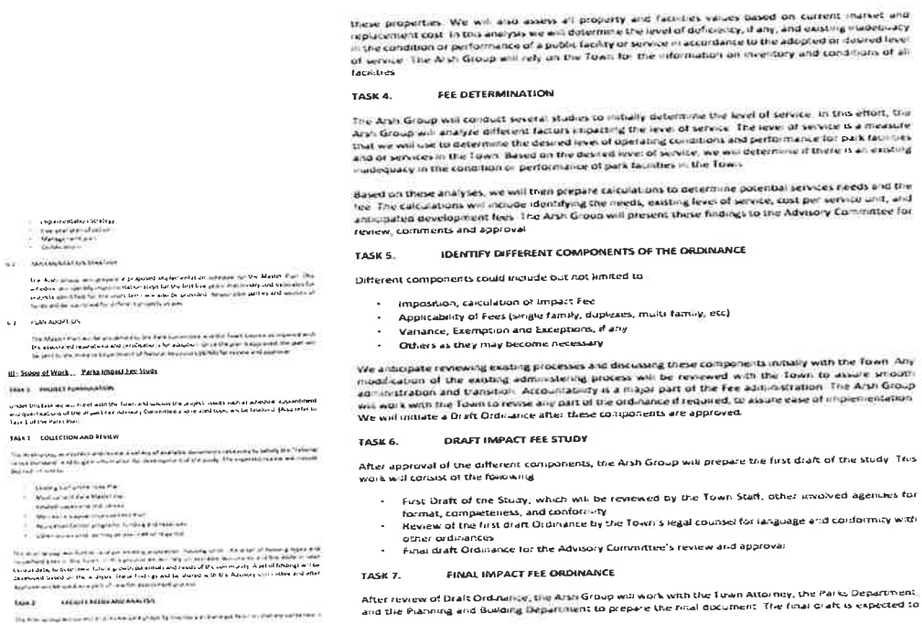
The Draft Master Plan will contain short term strategies for the next five years as well as long term outlook (20 year) for the parks system. Parks proposed for improvement or facility expansion, major recreational programs, potential linkages, as well as preservation areas will be identified in the Draft Plan. We will also outline the budgets for future improvements of the parks. The Draft Master Plan will be presented to the Town Council and residents for review and comment in the second public meeting.

TASK 6 - FINAL MASTER PLAN

The Draft Master Plan will be revised as required after community meeting. All maps, charts, etc. will be reduced for the final productions.

6.1 The Master Plan will be organized as a working document in several sections according to different phases into different sections. The Master Plan as a whole is anticipated to contain the following:

- Overview and background
- Existing conditions
- Goals for the plan
- Recreation Programming and facilities



these properties. We will also assess all property and facilities values based on current market and replacement cost. In this analysis we will determine the level of deficiency, if any, and existing inadequacy in the condition or performance of a public facility or service in accordance to the adopted or desired level of service. The Arsh Group will rely on the Town for the information on inventory and conditions of all facilities.

TASK 4. FEE DETERMINATION

The Arsh Group will conduct several studies to initially determine the level of service. In this effort, the Arsh Group will analyze different factors impacting the level of service. The level of service is a measure that we will use to determine the desired level of operating conditions and performance for park facilities and or services in the Town. Based on the desired level of service, we will determine if there is an existing inadequacy in the condition or performance of park facilities in the Town.

Based on these analyses, we will then prepare calculations to determine potential services needs and the fee. The calculations will include identifying the needs, existing level of service, cost per service unit, and anticipated development fees. The Arsh Group will present these findings to the Advisory Committee for review, comments and approval.

TASK 5. IDENTIFY DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF THE ORDINANCE

Different components could include but not limited to

- Imposition, calculation of Impact Fee
- Applicability of Fees (single family, duplexes, multi family, etc)
- Variance, Exemption and Exceptions, if any
- Others as they may become necessary

We anticipate reviewing existing processes and discussing these components initially with the Town. Any modification of the existing administering process will be reviewed with the Town to assure smooth administration and transition. Accountability is a major part of the Fee administration. The Arsh Group will work with the Town to revise any part of the ordinance if required, to assure ease of implementation. We will initiate a Draft Ordinance after these components are approved.

TASK 6. DRAFT IMPACT FEE STUDY

After approval of the different components, the Arsh Group will prepare the first draft of the study. This work will consist of the following

- First Draft of the Study, which will be reviewed by the Town Staff, other involved agencies for format, completeness, and conformity
- Review of the first draft Ordinance by the Town's legal counsel for language and conformity with other ordinances
- Final draft Ordinance for the Advisory Committee's review and approval

TASK 7. FINAL IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE

After review of Draft Ordinance, the Arsh Group will work with the Town Attorney, the Parks Department and the Planning and Building Department to prepare the final document. The final draft is expected to include:

- Final draft of the Ordinance
- Definition of terms. These terms will be added to the existing ordinance in the form of an amendment
- Administration of the Fee
- Fees, types and schedule
- Other components as identified and developed in prior tasks.

TASK 8. PUBLIC APPROVAL

The Arsh Group at the beginning of the Study, will assist the Town, as required, with the selection of the Advisory Committee. After appointment of the members by the Town, we will brief the Committee. The briefing will consist of subjects such as the Committee's role, the Impact Fee process, requirements by the State Statute and the time line. We will also schedule the 2-3 anticipated meetings with Advisory Committee to brief them of the process and findings. We will further assist the Parks Department and the Town during the public approval process. This work is expected to include:

- Attend one public hearing and prepare summaries of the Ordinance for the Council's review.
- Attend Plan Commission Review Meeting

IV - TIME OF COMPLETION

The completion of the both Master Plan and Parks Impact Fee typically takes about six months. However, due to late start of the planning process for the Impact Fee study, and the severe risk of laps for the program, we propose to start the Impact Fee development study immediately in an expeditious manner. An expedited process will prevent potential loss of revenues for the Town. We will discuss this process with the Town immediately after the award and mobilize our efforts to ensure completion of the study at the earliest possible.

Concurrent with the Impact Fee study, we propose to start the Parks Master Plan process but with minor delays in community engagement tasks. Such approach will ensure availability of adequate resources for the Impact Fee study. The Parks Master Plan is estimated to take about 4-5 months with the planned completion in the last quarter of 2024 as required to meet the State's Guidelines for such plans.

V - FEE

The Arsh Group proposes a combined fee of not to exceed $45,600 for the Master Plan and Impact Fee Study. This fee is presented in the following chart in two separate columns and as a total for all tasks. The fee also includes an allowance of $950 for out of pocket expenses including printing costs.

TASK	PARKS PLAN		IMPACT FEE		TOTAL	
					Hours	Fee
1 Planformulation	0	$ -	8	$ 1,080	8	$ 1,080
2 Existing Conditions	34	$ 3,570	60	$ 5,700	94	$ 9,270
3 Public Participation/Approval	76	$ 8,820	0	$ -	76	$ 8,820
4 Needs Assessment	16	$ 1,840	36	$ 3,780	52	$ 5,620
5 Draft Master Plan	56	$ 5,320	0	$ -	56	$ 5,320
6 Final Master Plan	24	$ 2,600	0	$ -	24	$ 2,600
7 Advisory Committee Review	0	$ -	32	$ 4,000	32	$ 4,000
8 Fee Determination	0	$ -	32	$ 4,000	32	$ 4,000
9 Components of the Ordinance	0	$ -	12	$ 1,260	12	$ 1,260
10 Draft Impact Fee	0	$ -	16	$ 1,680	16	$ 1,680
11 Final Impact Fee	0	$ -	8	$ 1,000	8	$ 1,000
Subtotal	206	$ 22,150	204	$ 22,500	410	$ 44,650
Expenses		$ 550		$ 400		$ 950
Total		$ 22,700		$ 22,900		$ 45,600

The proposed fee does not include any allowances for legal work or engineering review. We are proposing to use the Town's legal and engineering staff to review the required sections of the Study for conformity to all local and state codes and statutes. We are also assuming that there is no need for an Appraiser for parkland valuation as such information can be obtained locally at no cost from public sources. Additional services beyond above tasks will be charged at our standard rate. We will require advance approval of all such services.

Expenses:

All reasonable and directly related expenses are assumed to be reimbursable. Following is a list of the anticipated expenses.

1.	Presentation, Reproduction, photos, transportation, etc	$ 400
3.	Printing, Final Plan, 10 copies	$ 550
	Total Expenses	$ 950

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to remove from the table the Arsh Group's Proposal to complete a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Park Impact Fee Plan for a cost of $45,600.00.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to accept the Arsh Group's Proposal to complete a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan ($22,700.00) and Park Impact Fee Plan ($22,900.00) for a total cost of $45,600.00 and authorize the proper officer to execute the signature.

Upon a question from Clerk-Treasurer Eric January regarding the changes that occurred since the last report from the Arsh Group, Town Manager Griffin responded that the current Park's Master Plan is expiring this year, and the Park Impact fees was last completed in 2020. The Dean and Barbara White Center is the significant change, so the Impact fees must be updated.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton a Councilors Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were negatives. The motion passed. The Arsh Proposal for $45, 600.00 was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for August 27th 2024
- AP Register Summary for ARP Purchases for August 27th 2024

- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 13th 2024
- Approval of ARPA Meeting Minutes of April 4th 2024
- Approval of ARPA Meeting Minutes of May 1st 2024
- Approval of ARPA Meeting Minutes of June 27th 2024
- Approval of Personnel Policy & Employee Benefits Meeting Minutes for July 9th 2024
- Approval of ARPA Meeting Minutes of July 17th 2024

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the consent agenda.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda was approved.

PRESENTATION of DECLARATIONS:

- Designating the Week of September 8th -14th 2024 as "Assisted Living Week"
  - By leave of President Bella, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read the declaration into the record.



Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Designating the Week of September 8-14, 2024 as "Assisted Living Week"

Whereas, residents of assisted living communities are active members of the larger community offering their knowledge, life experiences and [illegible] past contributions continue to be a vital part of Indiana's rich history; and their ongoing [illegible] deepens Merrillville's identity;

Whereas, assisted living is a critical long term care option for older adults and individuals with disabilities that fosters choice, dignity, and independence; assisted living communities are commuted to excellence, innovation and the advancement of person-centered care;

Whereas, in 1995, National Center for Assisted Living established National Assisted Living Week' to honor the contributions of assisted living communities in providing long term care to America's seniors and individuals with disabilities;

Whereas, this year's theme of National Assisted Living Week' is 'Inspiring Generations,' highlights the incredible care provided by essential caregivers and celebrates residents and their families;

Whereas, during this special week, assisted living communities across the country are encouraged to organize activities and events which celebrate the [illegible] of staff, the individuality of residents, and the deep connections formed in these settings;

Whereas, The Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana is committed to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and value all residents of Merrillville no [illegible] of [illegible] housing in town and value the great service that assisted living communities offer;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, does hereby declare the week of September 8th through 14th, 2024 as Assisted Living Week and call upon the citizens of Merrillville to call a loved one, family member, or friend residing in any care setting and offer a kind word and spend time participating in [illegible] activities to unite those from all walks of life in need of our continuing love and support, [illegible] about how assisted living services benefit our wonderful community of Merrillville.

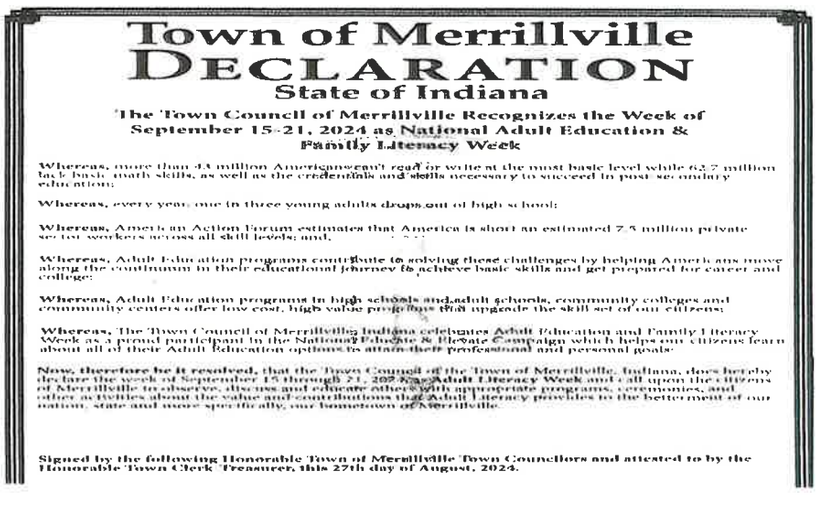
Signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk Treasurer, this 27th day of August, 2024.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the declaration.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January informed that he visited an Assisted Living Facility where one of the residents was turning100 years old next month. Councilor Pettit also visited Belvedere Assisted Living Facility where a resident who was also turning 100 years old. Councilor Uzelac reported that a resident at AHEPA Assisted Living Facility was turning 103 years old in February 2025.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Declaration was approved.

- Designating the Week of September 15th -21st 2024 as "Adult Literacy Week"
  - By leave of President Bella, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read the declaration into the record.



Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes the Week of September 15-21, 2024 as National Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

Whereas, more than 43 million Americans can't read or write at the most basic level while 62.7 million lack basic math skills, as well as the credentials and skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary education;

Whereas, every year, one in three young adults drops out of high school;

Whereas, American Action Forum estimates that America is short an estimated 7.5 million private sector workers across all skill levels; and,

Whereas, Adult Education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Americans move along the continuum in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and get prepared for career and college;

Whereas, Adult Education programs in high schools and adult schools, community colleges and community centers offer low cost, high value programs that upgrade the skill set of our citizens;

Whereas, The Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana celebrates Adult Education and Family Literacy Week as a proud participant in the National Educate & Elevate Campaign which helps our citizens learn about all of their Adult Education options to attain their professional and personal goals;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, does hereby declare the week of September 15 through 21, 2024 as Adult Literacy Week and call upon the citizens of Merrillville to observe, discuss and educate others with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and other activities about the value and contributions that Adult Literacy provides to the betterment of our nation, state and more specifically, our hometown of Merrillville.

Signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk Treasurer, this 27th day of August, 2024.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the declaration.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Declaration was approved.

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS:

BUDGET & FINANCE - NEAL – Councilor Neal reported that the 2025 budget is being prepared to turn in on time and the Resident Grant is completed. She asked Town Manager Griffin to explain the Resident Grant.

By leave of President Bella, Town Manager Griffin explained the Resident Grant. The application process has been revised. It is only for residential purposes. The grant can go up to $10,000.00 with a 50/50 match for most residential improvements even improvements based on a citation issued by the Town. Town Manager Griffin also stated that two new categories have been added roofs and sub-pumps which is a $20,000.00 with a 50/50 match. The American Recuse Plan Act (ARPA) committee has allocated $250,000.00 to support the grant and applications will be processed in order of arrival until the allocated funds have been exhausted.

Please call the Administration Office or The Building and Planning Department for information. The information will soon be published on the Town's website at merrillville.in.gov.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that he has to call a committee meeting to discuss ordinances for review. He is looking at Wednesday September 4th around noon.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding an update on the codification of passed ordinances, Town Manager Griffin responded that it would take an addition four weeks to upload the backlogged ordinances to the website. Town Manager Griffing reported that he took steps and got the penalty ordinances advertised on the 23rd of August. As of September 22nd. Chief Nuses, Code Enforcement, and the Fire Department can start enforcing the penalty ordinances.

STREET DEPARTMENT- UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported the following:

- Branch pickup is ongoing throughout the Town.
- The bike trails have been cleaned.
- The Street Department is in the process of crack ceiling on Merrillville Road.

Councilor Uzelac also met with Director Steve King regarding issues with the Street and Parks Departments. Director King reported that his department has been helping out with the cleanup and mowing of the parks and bike trails.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding the cleanup of Stefek Park in Turkey Creek, Director King responded that his crew hasn't started that project because of the priority of the bike trails. The Street Department crew will go and evaluate and start the cleaning project at Stefek and Pruzin Parks on Wednesday August 28, 2024.

Councilor Uzelac reported that garbage was disbursed on 73rd Whitcomb Street and drivers were complaining.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding additional staff for the Street Department in the 2025 budget, Director King responded that he requested two to three addition employees in the budget.

Councilor Pettit reported that the Personnel Committee is evaluating the staffing needs of the Dean and Barbara White Community Center, Park Maintenance, and the Street Department.

Councilor Pettit asked Town Manager Griffin to draft and send a letter to Merrillville High School regarding a speed bump being installed on 67th Avenue between Pennsylvania and Connecticut.to help reduce speeding.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding 67th Avenue between Pennsylvania and Connecticut being a major road, Councilor Pettit responded it is a major road. President Bella informed the council that we need to check with Chief Yerga before installing the speed bump.

Chief Yerga reported that speed bumps slow down the fire trucks.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Councilor Neal reported that the meeting occurred on Monday August 19th regarding the gateway signs, and the committee is waiting on estimates from the company.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that he would defer to Councilor Neal and Director Lake under the Lake County Solid Waste Management and Stormwater reports.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway reported that open positions will be advertise for the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. The positions are Event Center, Site Supervisor, Front Desk, and the Parks Director will be posted mid next week.

PUBLIC SAFETY- HARDWAY- Councilor Hardaway reported that she will be calling a meeting with Chief Nuses and Chief Yerga to discuss the plans for disasters simulation for and any other public safety concerns.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that there was a Redevelopment Commission meeting where a resolution was passed for the $6,000,000.00 for the paving in the seven Wards. A companion resolution is listed on the agenda under General Orders.

Councilor Pettit reported Ordinance 24-33 was deferred for two weeks at the August 13th Town Council Meeting. This matter still requires council action regarding the data center in Ward 6. The Petitioner is requestioning another two-week delay.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to defer Ordinance 24-33 for two-weeks until the Town Council Meeting of September 10, 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January stated we should ask for a data center for the North side of Merrillville for Economic Development. President Bella responded that the date centers need to go where there is enough power to support them and acres.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Ordinance 24-33 was deferred for two weeks until the September 10th Town Council Meeting.

UTILITY LIAISON – CHANDLER-FELTON – Councilor Chandler-Felton reported that she has spoken to Alexius Barber, Public Affairs and Economic Development Manager for NIPSCO, and a zoom meeting will be schedule at a later date.

PARKS AND DEAN & BARABAR COMMITTEE - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a committee meeting occurred Thursday August 22nd. One of the items discuss was the Martial Arts Self-Defense course that was approved by the committee.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Instructor Agreement and Recreation Fees with Benidaka Ninpo LLC/Joe Lawson for the Martial Arts Self-Defense Course.

Town Manager Griffin explained the Agreement.

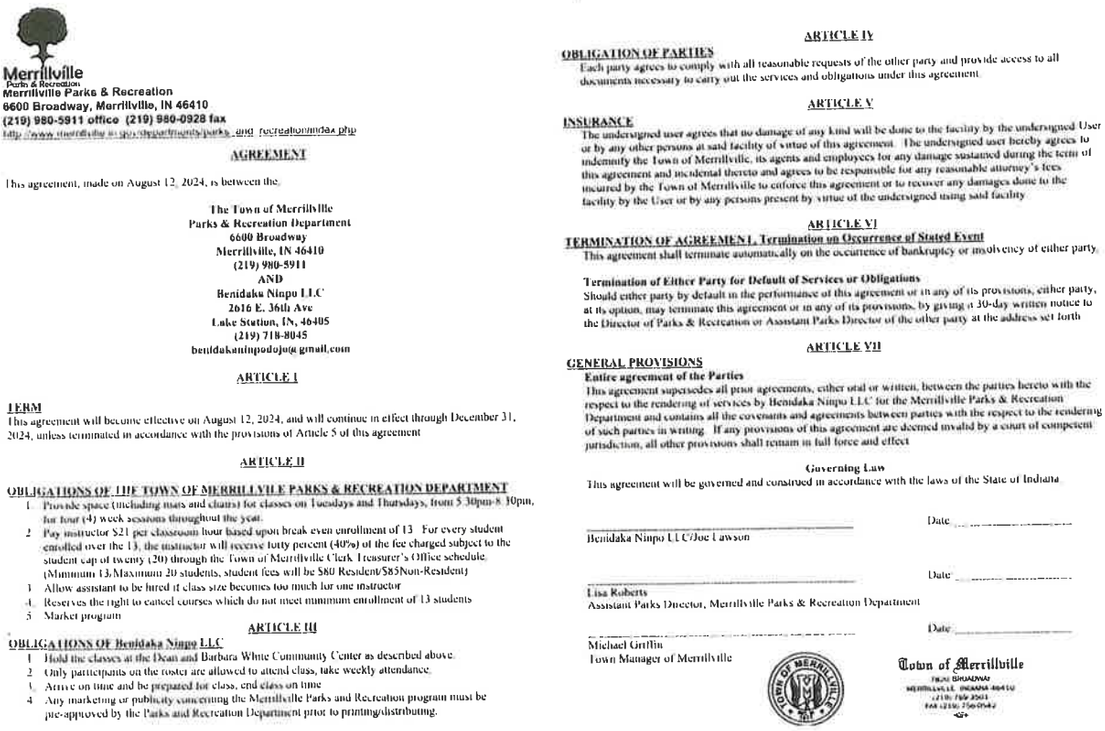
Upon a question from President Bella regarding amending his motion, Councilor Pettit responded he would amend his motion. Upon a question from President Bella regarding Councilor Uzelac second standing, Councilor Uzelac responded her second still stand.

Councilor Pettit motion was amended to added authorization for the Town Manager Griffin and Interim Assistant Park Director Roberts to sign the agreement and Councilor Uzelac seconded still stands with the amended motion.

Upon a question from Councilor Chadler-Felton regarding the term *too much* listed in the agreement, Interim Assistant Parks Director Roberts responded that a bigger space and another

instructor will be needed to address going over the maximum students. The agreement will be amended to address the increase in numbers.

Upon a question from Councilor Haynes-Edwards regarding the agreement being renewed annually, Interim Assistant Parks Director Roberts responded that she hopes Mr. Lawson will renew every year.



Merrillville
Parks & Recreation
Merrillville Parks & Recreation
6600 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 980-5911 office (219) 980-0928 fax
http://www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/parks_and_recreation/index.php

AGREEMENT

This agreement, made on August 12, 2024, is between the:

The Town of Merrillville
Parks & Recreation Department
6600 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 980-5911
AND
Benidaka Ninpo LLC
2616 E. 36th Ave
Lake Station, IN, 46405
(219) 718-8045
benidakaninpodojo@gmail.com

ARTICLE I

TERM
This agreement will become effective on August 12, 2024, and will continue in effect through December 31, 2024, unless terminated in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of this agreement

ARTICLE II

OBLIGATIONS OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Provide space (including mats and chairs) for classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5:30pm-8:30pm, for four (4) week sessions throughout the year.
2. Pay instructor $21 per classroom hour based upon break even enrollment of 13. For every student enrolled over the 13, the instructor will receive forty percent (40%) of the fee charged subject to the student cap of twenty (20) through the Town of Merrillville Clerk Treasurer's Office schedule. (Minimum 13/Maximum 20 students, student fees will be $80 Resident/$85Non-Resident)
3. Allow assistant to be hired if class size becomes too much for one instructor
4. Reserves the right to cancel courses which do not meet minimum enrollment of 13 students
5. Market program

ARTICLE III

OBLIGATIONS OF Benidaka Ninpo LLC

1. Hold the classes at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center as described above.
2. Only participants on the roster are allowed to attend class, take weekly attendance.
3. Arrive on time and be prepared for class, end class on time
4. Any marketing or publicity concerning the Merrillville Parks and Recreation program must be pre-approved by the Parks and Recreation Department prior to printing/distributing.

ARTICLE IV

OBLIGATION OF PARTIES
Each party agrees to comply with all reasonable requests of the other party and provide access to all documents necessary to carry out the services and obligations under this agreement.

ARTICLE V

INSURANCE
The undersigned user agrees that no damage of any kind will be done to the facility by the undersigned User or by any other persons at said facility of virtue of this agreement. The undersigned user hereby agrees to indemnify the Town of Merrillville, its agents and employees for any damage sustained during the term of this agreement and incidental thereto and agrees to be responsible for any reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the Town of Merrillville to enforce this agreement or to recover any damages done to the facility by the User or by any persons present by virtue of the undersigned using said facility

ARTICLE VI

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT. Termination on Occurrence of Stated Event
This agreement shall terminate automatically on the occurrence of bankruptcy or insolvency of either party.

Termination of Either Party for Default of Services or Obligations
Should either party by default in the performance of this agreement or in any of its provisions, either party, at its option, may terminate this agreement or in any of its provisions, by giving a 30-day written notice to the Director of Parks & Recreation or Assistant Parks Director of the other party at the address set forth

ARTICLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Entire agreement of the Parties
This agreement supersedes all prior agreements, either oral or written, between the parties hereto with the respect to the rendering of services by Benidaka Ninpo LLC for the Merrillville Parks & Recreation Department and contains all the covenants and agreements between parties with the respect to the rendering of such parties in writing. If any provisions of this agreement are deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions shall remain in full force and effect

Governing Law
This agreement will be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana.

_____ Date: _____
Benidaka Ninpo LLC/Joe Lawson

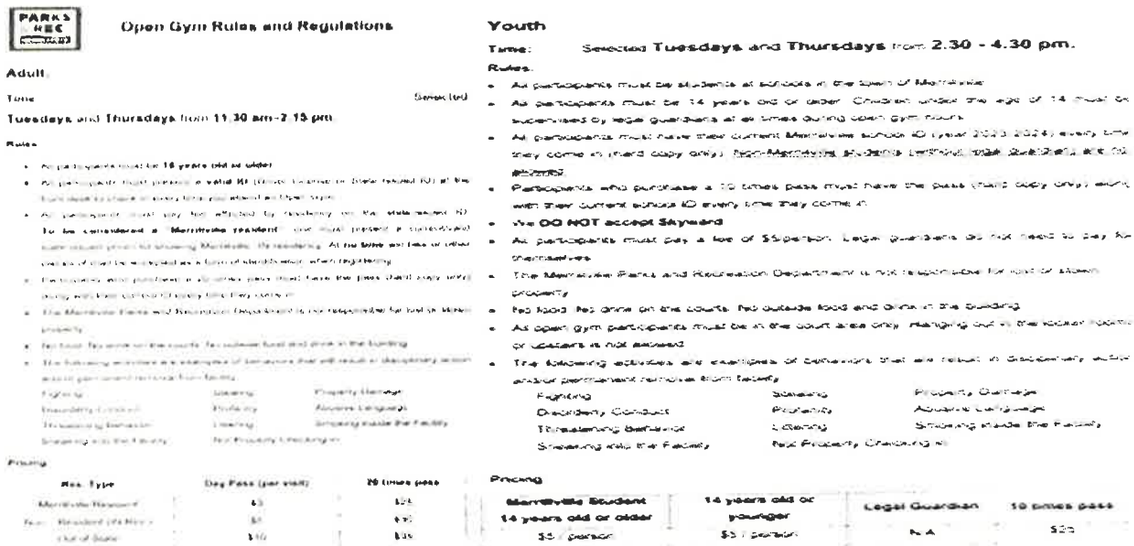
_____ Date: _____
Lisa Roberts
Assistant Parks Director, Merrillville Parks & Recreation Department

_____ Date: _____
Michael Griffin
Town Manager of Merrillville

Town of Merrillville
[illegible]

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The agreement was approved.

Councilor Pettit reported that the Open Gym Program and Recreation Fees requires the council 's approval. Councilor Pettit stated he would defer to Town Manager Griffin to explain the Open Gym Program and Recreation Fees.



PARKS REC

Open Gym Rules and Regulations

Adult

Time: Selected

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am-2:15 pm

Rules

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- To be considered a Merrillville resident [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Pricing

Res. Type	Day Pass (per visit)	10 times pass
Merrillville Resident	$3	$25
Non - Resident (IN Res.)	$5	$40
Out of State	$10	$80

Youth

Time: Selected **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from **2:30 - 4:30 pm.**

Rules

- All participants must be students at schools in the town of Merrillville
- All participants must be 14 years old or older. Children under the age of 14 must be supervised by legal guardians at all times during open gym hours.
- All participants must have their current Merrillville school ID (year 2023-2024) every time they come in (hard copy only). Non-Attending Students Letter that students are not allowed.
- Participants who purchase a 10 times pass must have the pass (hard copy only) along with their current school ID every time they come in.
- We DO NOT accept Skyward
- All participants must pay a fee of $3/person. Legal guardians do not need to pay for themselves.
- The Merrillville Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or stolen property.
- No food, No drink on the courts. No outside food and drink in the building.
- All open gym participants must be in the court area only. Hanging out in the locker rooms or lobbies is not allowed.
- The following activities are examples of behaviors that are related to disorderly and/or unsafe participants removed from facility:

Fighting	Stalking	Property Damage
Disorderly Conduct	Profanity	Abusive Language
Threatening Behavior	Littering	Smoking inside the Facility
Smoking outside the Facility	Not Properly Checking in	

Pricing

Merrillville Student 14 years old or older	14 years old or younger	Legal Guardian	10 times pass
$3 / person	$3 / person	N/A	$25

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Neal to approve the Open Gym Proposal.

Upon a question from Councilor Haynes-Edwards regarding an additional evening time for adults, Interim Assistant Park Director Roberts responded not at this time due to all of the rentals of the courts, but we can look at a Wednesday evening and Sundays.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The agreement was approved.

Councilor Pettit also reported that the committee recommended that Interim Assistant Director Roberts obtain three quotes for seal coating and restriping of the Dean and Barbara White Community Center's Parking Lot. The quote that the committee recommended is Everline for $29,700. If approved by the council, the funding for this project will come out of the Capital Fund.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the amount of the other quotes, Interim Assistant Director Roberts responded that the other two quotes were from B & G in the amount of Site Service $46,850.00 and B & G in the amount of $73,000.00.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to hire Everline to do the seal coating and striping at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center's Parking Lot utilizing the Capital Fund for $29,700.00.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Everline quote was approved for $29,700.00.

Council Pettit also updated the council on the following:

- As of June 30, 2024, the Parks Impact Fee balance was $224,462.41.
- Mike Neal and Director King will be obtaining three quotes for demolition of the Moc's building.
- Interim Assistant Parks Director Roberts will be getting prices on a lift to clean the high beams at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center (DBWCC).
- The committee recommends the closing DBWCC on Saturday September 21st due to several events happening at the DBWCC on that day. The Calumet Christian Volleyball Tournament, outdoor event in the south parking lot, and other events on the north parking lot.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to close the Dean and Barbara White Community Center on Saturday September 21st due to conflicting additional events.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding window cleaning at DBWCC, Interim Assistant Parks Director Roberts responded that the committee decided to wait until the gym floor was resurfaced because of all the dust issues. We are looking at the month of October for window cleaning.

Councilor Haynes-Edwards voiced her concerns regarding the residents be able to use the DBWCC.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The recommendation to closed was approved.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

SEMI-QUINCENTENN IAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS - NEAL – Councilor Neal reported that the committee is preparing for the following events:

- Trunk or Treat – October 24th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. (Outside)
- Christmas Tree Lighting – The date will be announced at a later time.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-NEAL– Councilor Neal reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. She also reported the following:

- Hazardous Waste Collection – September 7th at Lowell Middle School and September 21st at Hammond Public Works. Shredding will be available at both locations. The limit for shredding is 4 paper grocery bags per vehicle. Information for this event can be found on the website at www.lcswmd.com

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that a meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE – Director Matthew Lake updated the council on the following projects:

- Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission – Director Lake attended a board meeting and requested 50% of construction cost for the Connecticut Street and 69th Avenue project. The board approved $239.000.00 worth of cost sharing toward the project.
- Southmoor Park Drainage Project Phase 2 – Six contractors attend the pre-bid meeting. Bids will be opened at our September 3rd meeting.
- Independent Hill Third Addition – Director Lake reported that he is reviewing the draft set of engineering plans from Robinson Engineering and will seek some cost sharing grants for this project.
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) – The promotional video for the IDEM Clean Community Program show casting the Town of Merrillville's implementation of bmp will be available on their website: www.in.gov/idem.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding getting a copy of the video to post on the Town's website, Director Lake responded that he would get a copy.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY-PATENA – Deanne Patena wasn't present at the meeting.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Neal and Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER

Interim Assistant Director Roberts – Parks and Recreation
Interim Assistant Director Roberts had nothing more to report. She thanked Director King and his department for all of their help.

Chief Nuses – Police Department
Chief Nuses reported the official numbers for July 2024.

- Calls for Service – approximately 2.300 calls.
- Traffic Stops – over 400 that resulted in 198 tickets with 73 arrests.

Chief Nuses also reported that overall calls for service have dropped and violent crimes have also dropped significantly. The Town of Merrillville had the lowest rate of homicides in over a decade last year with only two. This year we had one homicide so far this year. The August Women Self-Defense was a success and we had 50 participants. We are looking to conduct another one in December.

Director Shine - Building and Planning
Director Shine reported that the Building and Planning Department will be sending out the rental registration renewal notices in the mail on Friday August 30th. If you are the owner or an agent, you must register your apartment or home in the rental registration program. Failure to renew by October 1st will result in a $500.00 fine.

Director King – Street Department
Director King reported had nothing more to report.

Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration
Town Manager Griffin reported that a written report was given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.

Town Manager Griffin reported that Director Lake contacted him regarding a typo in the adopted Ordinance 24-26. The rate should have been $10.00 not $9.00. The correct rate of $10.00 was advertised. After consultation with Attorney Svetanoff and Director Lake on this scrivener's error, Town Manager Griffin is entering into the record that a manual correction needs to be made on the ordinance from $9.00 to $10.00.

Upon a question to the council regarding any objections, there were no objections to the manual correction.

President Bella stated that are no objections from the council to the manual correction from $9.00 to $10.00 on Ordinance 24-26.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the total revenue from the Food and Beverage Tax, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded the amount is $338,538.64 and explained how the Food and Beverage Tax is collected.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January – Office of the Clerk-Treasurer
Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported that overall, between the Town, Stormwater, Court, and Redevelopment the total funds at the end of July 31, 2024 were $36,155,249.18

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances:

First Reading: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)
NONE

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

1. **Ordinance 24-28 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville Indiana, Providing That The Zoning Ordinance Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana Be Amended By Changing the Established C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District Classification to a Planned Unit Development Zoning District Classification.

Director Shine explained Ordinance 24-28

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 24-28 on second and final reading.

There were no public comments.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and final reading.

(The original is on file in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer)

2. **Ordinance 24-29 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriation in the 2024 Budget Casino Gaming Fund.

It was moved by Councilor Neal and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 24-29.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and final reading.

(The original is on file in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer)

3. **Ordinance 24-30 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)-FD**
   An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana. Appropriating Additional Monies Within the Fire Protection Territory Operating Fund for the Year 2024 Not Included in the Current Budget.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Neal to approve Ordinance 24-30.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Haraway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and final reading.

(The original is on file in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer)

4. **Ordinance 24-31 (Discussion, Public and Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Amending Ordinance No. 24-25 (Andrean High School Project).

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Neal to approve Ordinance 24-31.

No public comments were given.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and final reading.

(The original is on file in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer

5. **Ordinance 24-34 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)**
   An Enactment Appropriating Additional Money in Excess of the Annual Budget for the Police Department Continuing Education Fund, all pursuant to I. C. 6-1,1-18. I.C. 36-5-3-5. Et seq.

It was moved by Councilor Neal and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 24-34.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and reading.

B. Resolutions:

1. **Resolution 24-22 (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

A Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving The Issuance Of Bonds Of The Town Of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and Related Matters.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Resolution 24-22.

Councilor Pettit explained Resolution 24-22.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

(The original is on file in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer)

C. BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Petitioner: Adam Espinosa
Owner: Adam Espinosa
Request: Large Gathering Permit
Purpose: Mexican Independence Day
Location: 260 East 84th Drive
Times: September 7th from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Director Shine explained the Large Gathering Action.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Neal to approve the Large Gathering Action.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding any problems with during this event in the past, Chief Nuses responded no problems have occurred with this event.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Large Gathering Action was approved.

OLD BUSINESS
NONE

NEW BUSINESS
NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Levon Bowens Merrillville, Indiana voiced her concerns regarding a broken fence behind the Raddison Theater.

2. Joseph Konicek Merrillville, Indiana encouraged the council and Fire Territory Board to work with Merrillville Professional Firefighter Local 5489 union.

3. Cornelius Lewis Merrillville, Indiana voiced his concerns regarding lack of donations from the Town of Merrillville.

4. Bryon Messer Merrillville, Indiana Merrillville, Indiana voiced his concerns regarding speed bumps, stop signs, and the open gym schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis