

**WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**February 15, 2023**

**Council members present**

Brad Goedeker	
President	<u>  X  </u>
Richard Hill	
V-President	<u>  X  </u>
Laura Fleury	
Member	<u>  X  </u>
David Hawkins	
Member	<u>  X  </u>
Joe Sayler	
Member	<u>  X  </u>

**Other Town Officials**

James Lowhorn	
Town Manager	<u>  x  </u>
Debra L. Hendrickson	
Clerk Treasurer	<u>  X  </u>
Stephen Watson	
Town Attorney	<u>  X  </u>
Carmen Young	
Community Develop.	<u>  X  </u>

**Call to Order**

- J. Sayler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Roll Call – All Present**

**Invocation – Jim Lowhorn**

**Adoption of the Order of Business**

- J. Sayler recommended moving a public issue to New Business. No objections.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

- **Brian Smith**
  - S. Watson read the application. Brian Smith is a Police Officer for the Town of Whiteland. Annual disclosure statement for IT services and supplies under the company's name TXC Solutions, LLC. Brian is an employee and does not make any decisions pertaining to the company.
  - D. Hawkins made a motion to approve. B. Goedeker seconded the motion.

**Passed 5-0**

**Minutes 1/10/23**

- L. Fleury made a motion to approve the Minutes 1/10/23. R. Hill seconded the motion.

**Passed 5-0 .**

**Voucher Packet 2-15-2023**

- J. Sayler inquired in Water operating pertaining to a claim for \$728.00 to Johnson County Access. D. Hendrickson stated the invoice was entered but not completed pending an explanation. The claim was deleted. The amount allowed was amended to \$147,247.30.
- B. Goedeker made the motion to approve Voucher Packet 1-10-2023 with the amendment. D. Hawkins seconded the motion.

**Passed 5-0**

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## Financial Report

- The Clerk Treasurer reported there will not be an appropriation report this time due to the year rollover has not been completed.
- The Clerk Treasurer reported fund balances.
- The ARPA money has totally been expended.
- Two disbursements have been made out of the Bond Proceeds for Patch Development.

## Old Business

- **Disposal of electronic equipment**
  - D. Hendrickson stated after the Town disposed of electronics last month a few more other items turned in. R. Hill made a motion to approve disposal of the electronics. D. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

Passed 5-0

## New Business

- **Request to allow residents to have chickens.**
  - Shawn Butler at 599 Greensprings Drive, Whiteland, stated he grew up in Whiteland and went to school here. Has distributed information of proposed amendments to the Ordinance on livestock. had chickens for a year.
  - Jana Waldon, County resident, supports the reason to allow chickens. They keep mosquitoes away.
  - D. Hawkins asked if anyone has thoughts on predators as coyotes? Mr. Butler has seen coyotes run the streets. They also go after small dogs.
  - Dennis Clarkson, 579 Greensprings Drive, had reservations but has never experienced any noises or smells.
  - Stewart Remali, 330 St. Charles Way, at end of the back yard is to woods. If there were no roosters, then there would be no noise.
  - J. Saylor states there are two ordinances it would conflict with. Would like to allow any resident to apply and does support the request.
  - L. Fleury stated she is also in support of the request.
  - J. Saylor asked the Town attorney to draw something up. The majority of the board was in consensus.
- **Ordinance 2023-01, Modification of Concept Plan Briar Creek PUD**
  - Carmen Young, stated Gradison has requested to increase the number of lots from 83 to 92. The single family lot size increased.
  - Requested the lots near the Sewer Plant to be changed also due to the change in the pond situation.
  - R. Hill inquired if they are still committed to the road to the Sewer Plant? Yes.
  - D. Hawkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01. R. Hill seconded the motion.

**Passed 5-0**

- **Resolution 2023-03, Application for Personal Property Tax Abatement**
  - Chad Sweeney, Ginovus, his firm advises companies to locate facilities. Whiteland is one of a couple of areas they are looking at for a company with 250 jobs averaging \$25 an hour. Mohr Logistics has a 510,000 square foot building for a 12-lease 5-year abatement.
  - J. Saylor stated there has not been a personal property tax abatement except for Cooper Tire and that was a special 2-year exception for repayment of expenses. Not comfortable with the idea.

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- Mr. Sweeny stated the CF-1 and SB-1 are to make sure there is compliance in what they are doing.
- R. Hill would like to see the Council consider the abatement to bring in good paying jobs.
- J. Sayler would like to see the cost benefit to the Town before supporting the abatement and continue it at the next meeting.
- C. Young stated Aspire put together a packet that breaks down the numbers. There is an empty building sitting out there. This company fits the other industries in the area and thinks it should be considered.
- Amanda Rubadue, representative of Aspire Johnson County, stated she created the landscape spreadsheet.
- D. Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03. R. Hill seconded the motion.

**Passed 4-1.**

- **Resolution 2023-05, Exclusion of Residential from TIF, Saddlebrook South**

- S. Watson stated the residential area does not contribute to TIF.
- The Redevelopment Commission Board took the first steps of the process for this action. Plan Commission took the second step and now the process comes to the Town Council as the third step.
- D. Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05 B. Goedeker seconded the motion.

**Passed 5-0**

- **Update Town Attorney Engagement Letter**

- S. Watson stated the request is due to inflation and reports the Town of Whiteland is a preferred client and receives a discount currently. The request is an increase of \$15 an hour.
- D. Hawkins made a motion to approve the increase. R. Hill seconded the motion.

Passed 5-0

- **Town Manager Report**

- CCMG – J. Lowhorn stated the agreement has been signed and the bid packets will be going out soon. The public bid opening for paving will be the Thursday before the next meeting. Confirmed by census.
- The Ready Grant for the I65 project has been sent applied for.
- Duke Energy would like the Town to update some of the lighting to LED for savings with an agreement on the cost.
- L. Fleury inquired on the streaming of the meetings. J. Lowhorn has been looking into the options

- **Department Heads Report**

- Chief Shipp
  1. presented the Annual Report listing cases the officers were involved in. One has been the Mall shootings.
  2. It has been a slightly rough year through the summer with employees being off for recovery. The reserves have really stepped up.
  3. Recognized the veterans on Veterans Day for our officers. Renamed the Dog Park after a retired canine Vader Bark Park.
  4. In-house training for school shootings. A mock shooting at Greenwood.
  5. Drone program. Several requests for drone locations. The officers must be qualified to operate the drone.
  6. Whiteland Police Cadet Program will be starting. Sending flyers to high school students.
  7. There were two new hires this year. 1. Officer Emily Vautaw, six-year army veteran and served in Afghanistan. A heavy family background in law enforcement. 2. Alex Gonzalez,

8 years' experience, and an instructor. Thank you to the Council for backing the Police Department. That is why these officers apply.

- C. Young stated she would be willing to dive in and create a standard moving forward pertaining to personal property tax abatement. J. Sayler stated that would be a wonderful idea.

● **Council Comment**

- J. Sayler stated he received a letter from the Johnson County Highway Department. Years ago, the County created a cumulative bridge fund to levy a tax for repairs. They have decided to dissolve the fund and give the portion of the fund to municipalities. So now it is the Town's responsibility to do the repairs and some are half completed projects. Other municipalities are taking legal action. We need to keep an eye on what is going on.

**Public Comments - None**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.


Passed by the Whiteland Town Council on this day 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023.

**Aye**

**Nay**

  
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Joseph Sayler, President

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Richard Hill, Vice President


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Laura Fleury

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Brad Goedeker

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Brad Goedeker

  
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David Hawkins

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David Hawkins

**Attest:**

  
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Debra L. Hendrickson, Clerk Treasurer