

**TOWN OF SWAYZEE INDIANA**  
213 S WASHINGTON STREET  
SWAYZEE, INDIANA 46986

**DESIREE ARENAS**  
**CLERK TREASURER**  
765-922-7952

**AARON TRAVIS**  
**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

October 21, 2024  
Swayzee Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Aaron Travis, President.

Present were Aaron Travis, President; Paul Hamilton, Vice President; Rhonda Fagan, Heather Zirkle, and Mike Horsely, Town Board Members.

Also in attendance were Desiree Arenas, Town Clerk; Joshua Miller, Town Marshal; Brittany Riner, Town Media;

Visitors: Don Thompson, Kenny Cates, Tyler Bundrick (Swayzee Fire Chief), Brad Waddell (Swayzee Towing), Jeff Duncan, Ken Rudy, Brady Edgington, Derek Patterson, and Rodney Lawson

Paul Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul Hamilton made a motion to accept the September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Rhonda Fagan seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0-1.

Paul Hamilton made a motion to accept the September 16, 2024 Executive Meeting Minutes. Heather Zirkle seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0-1.

Michael Studebaker resigned his council seat on September 17, 2024. Aaron Travis made a motion to accept the resignation of board member Michael Studebaker. Paul Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0-1.

Council would like to welcome Mike Horsely as the newest Town Council Member. Mike was sworn in on October 17th, 2024.

Aaron Travis opened the public meeting for the Adoption of the 2025 Budget at 7:10pm. Council and the public did not have any questions or concerns.

Aaron Travis made the motion to accept the 2025 Budget. Rhonda Fagan seconded the motion. Vote was passed 4-0-1. The 2025 Budget Adoptions was closed at 7:15pm.

### **VISITORS**

Don Thompson from SEDC- Survey results meeting went well. There were 190 surveys that were turned in. Ball State stated that this is the largest number of surveys they have ever received. Swayzee.org has the full slides of the presentation that was given during the last meeting. Next meeting will be in November. Also looking into TIF money. Rhonda Maggard stated that her son Tom Maggard does grant writing. She is hoping that he will be able to attend the next meeting. Two new members have joined the SEDC- Andrew Wood and Luke Thompson. The SEDC is also wanting to work on getting Blight Grants to tear down properties in town that are abandoned or vacant.

Derek Patterson wanted to personally welcome Mike Horsely to the Town Council.

Tyler Bundrick wanted to let everyone know that the Swayzee Volunteer Fire Department will be partnering with Chuckwagon Wednesday, October 23, 2024 through Saturday, October 26, 2024 to deliver the pizzas from open to close as a fundraiser.

Ken Rudy mentioned the CCDF. He stated that there was a funding change for this in 2015. He stated that this is money that Don Thompson and the SEDC could use. This could possibly cause a tax increase. It would have to be submitted May 31st, 2025. It would be assessed in 2027 and be paid in 2028.

It was also stated that the hydrant on Taylor Street needs to be vacked. Also think that the maps are different. Aaron Solms will do the work on Main Street which is a 6 inch pipe.

### **CLERK TREASURER**

Need to finalize and mention the 5% raise increase for town employees for 2025. Will have the final 2025 Salary Ordinance in the November meeting to adopt.

Swayzee Town Trick or Treating will be Thursday, October 31st from 5-8pm.

Shinholt- Nuisance- 307 E Main St., Title work was done on the property. The house was destroyed by a fire in September 2021. Mrs. Shinholt stated that she will take \$5,000 for the property. Taxes that are due on the property as of September 16, 2024 are \$0.00. She would need to clean out the sheds on the property before the sale. Title work came back showing that taxes were delinquent in the amount of \$4,488.66. I spoke with the Auditor's Office and they stated that the taxes were paid. It was mentioned that there was some title work done and the paperwork stated that there were delinquent taxes. Angie Jarvis, Grant County Auditor, stated that on their paperwork it looks like they might be Federal Tax Liens. Angie stated that her and her staff will look into this and get back with the Clerk office. Called GCA Title and the Title work has been updated. No Federal Tax Liens are on the property and it was an error on their part. There was an email sent by GCA Title and it was forwarded to all of the town council.

Aaron Travis made the motion to approve the purchase on the property at 307 E Main St. in Swayzee. Paul Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Thompson- Nuisance-303 E Main St., house fire December 2022. Did not show up for court. He was sent a letter on February 6, 2024. Construction was started on the house to fix it, but the construction has stopped for several months and is still open from the fire. The office has been unsuccessful in contacting him. What is the next step with the property? Kyle Persinger will need to advise on the next steps to be taken with the property.

Bridenthal's Concrete for sidewalks on State Road 13 was approved by council in the last meeting on September 16th. I have called and left messages for him, sent him several emails, and am still unable to reach him. I spoke with Lisa Collins and we got an estimate from Bergman Concrete out of Kokomo. See attached new estimate for sidewalks on Washington Street. Also see attached Collins estimate for the 50/50 in the amount of \$5,625.00. This amount has changed from the last estimate. Aaron Travis made the motion to accept this new bid from Bergman Concrete. Paul Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

Town gave \$3,000.00, Chuckwagon gave \$1,000.00, and the Junior Women's Club gave \$500.00 and Lynn was able to get 14 new Christmas Lights for the town.

Congratulations to Philip Howell, town employee, for passing his Wastewater Operator Class 1 Exam. He brought in his certification and it is effective as of October 4, 2024. This will take effect on Pay Period October 7 through October 20, 2024.

Our last Swayzee CCMG 2023-1 Road project that was done by First Brooks 1st Construction Company in July 2024 has been closed out. It was stated that we will want to apply for the Fall Project in 2025.

Spoke with Kyle Persinger before he left for vacation about the McPeak matter. He stated that he wanted Marshal Miller to tag the cars that are still on the property. If Mr. McPeak does not have them removed by the date that Marshal Miller gives him then he may have those vehicles towed. Kyle stated that he sees no reason to go to court with Mr. McPeak anymore over this matter.

The Clerk's office is also currently working on the letters that will be mailed out to customers that have lead and galvanized pipes for replacement.

New Construction- Jordan Lamb at 815 E Lyons. I have asked Philip to speak with Mr. Lamb about the tapping fee of \$700.00 for each of the Water and Wastewater lines for a total of \$1400.00.

Received an update today from Wendy about the installation of the Tornado Siren. They are about 6-7 weeks out. This puts them coming into town around mid December. As they finish their current runs- she will get a better time frame in the next few weeks.

Talked to Nicholas with EMC Insurance and he stated that he still hasn't received that check that was mailed on September 23, 2024 in the amount of \$1226.50 for the deductible on the PD Alwood claim loss. He said he will wait until 10/28/2024 to see if he receives it. We are not the first USPS lost mail. If he doesn't receive the check by that date then I can get the council's approval to cancel the check (will cost \$20.00) and use the credit card.

Water/Wastewater laptop that was bought for meter reading (Neptune, etc). Trey took the computer when he quit back in April and bought the town another computer? The computer that the town bought has been entered as an asset and needs to be returned ASAP. I just found this out in September when Philip was asking about anti virus software for the laptop. I told him that it's automatically renews on the credit card and we should not have to purchase any more. That is when I found out about him taking the laptop.

## **MEDIA**

### Events:

- Trick or Treating- October 31 from 5-8pm and if raining then November 1 5-8 pm.
- Swayzee Community Church- Trunk or Treat 5-7pm
- Swayzee Community Church- are still doing weekly meals

-Fall Item Drop Off

1,412 people reached; 1,553 times viewed; 28 interactions

-Scheduled Posts

Reminder for recycling and voting location?

Website:

-Ryan Smith of Greentown- Public Facing Inventory- URL to report on the Swayzee Lead Service Line Program Information.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Maintenance On Vehicles**

The 2013 Charger is still having power steering issues. All the fluid that was added has since leaked out, and it was determined that the pump will probably need to be replaced. Working on getting an estimate on how much it will cost to have it replaced. Need to get council approval before having it replaced. Replaced LED spotlights for the Chargers and RAM.

### **Community Outreach**

The Swayzee Police Department assisted with the Town Event, Swayzee Days, along with the help of the Grant County Sheriff's Department, to whom we would like to give a big thanks for sending extra help with the event detail.

### **Training**

Marshal Miller completed (3) separate training classes for the new Public Safety Flock Camera Network, which provides excellent tools for law enforcement access to locate vehicles in the event of a crime committed. Marshal Miller obtained (3) certifications from the classes.

### **Requests and Information**

I will need to take a trip to Fort Wayne soon, to get winter uniforms and outerwear.

### **New Info**

I am tentatively going to patrol rifle qualifications at the Fraternal Order of Police shooting range in Marion next Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, with the Marion Police/Marion Health Police Department's.

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Aaron Travis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Horsely seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The next Town Council Meeting will be November 18, 2024 at 7pm.



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Aaron Travis, President



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Desiree Arenas, Clerk Treasurer