

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

November 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Kirkwood Town Board was held on November 4, 2024 at 6 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Lewis Grubham presiding.

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilmember William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilmember Katie Legg
Councilmember Sandy Wasson
Councilmember Robert Weingartner

Also Present: Mark Spinner, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Julie Wyatt, Budget Officer
Duane Travis, Zoning Board Chairman
Karen Ferguson, Historian

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 1, 2024 Town Board Meeting and (2) October 29, 2024 Public Hearings

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mary Conrad of Springer Road discussed an issue she had regarding the storage of a motor home on her property, and noted she was unaware of the local zoning regulations. Although, motor homes are required to be behind the front line of the property's home, Supervisor Grubham previously made an exception in Mary Conrad's case since there was no other place for the motor home to be parked. It will be parked on the side of her house and set back as far as possible. At this time there appears to be no further issue.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Elections. Councilmember Diffendorf mentioned Election Day is tomorrow and hoping everyone knows where they are voting since polling sites have changed and it is confusing.

ELKS Lodge #70 – 2nd Place. Councilmember Wasson reported the ELKS Club received a 2nd place award in Division 1 for the Flag Day contest they recently participated in. The ELKS will continue to accept flags that are considered retired.

Veterans Day Ceremony. Councilmember Legg reminded everyone the Veterans Day ceremony will be held at Veterans River Park on November 11, 2024 at 2 PM.

Budget. Supervisor Grubham reported a 2% drop in the tax rate. Because of the 27-week pay schedule some payroll situations came up for 2025 but it did get worked out.

Town Audit. Supervisor Grubham reported a town audit was conducted and it came out very well. The Auditor had some suggestions on what could be done better but found nothing wrong.

NYCLASS. Supervisor Grubham informed the Board that the money invested in NYCLASS this July earned the Town about \$77,000 in interest in four months.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting the Annual Budget for 2025, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
Councilmember Wasson - yes
Councilmember Legg - yes
Councilmember Weingartner - yes
Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

130:24
Adopt 2025
Budget

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131:24
Adopt Fire
Contracts 2025

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, authorizing the Supervisor to execute the Fire Protection Contracts for 2025. Councilmember Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

132:24
Agreement
TextMyGov

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with TextMyGov regarding a text notification program, at a cost of \$5,750 for the first year, in accordance with the attached agreement. Councilmember Weingartner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

133:24
Approve
Fireworks
Hometown
Christmas

Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution ratifying a resolution approving a firework display at the Town of Kirkwood Hometown Christmas, to be held on December 7, 2024, upon the issuance of a fireworks permit, issued by the Town Clerk of the Town of Kirkwood, and subject to the compliance with all required New York State statutes, regulations, and codes. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

134:24
Establish
Buildings &
Grounds
Reserve Fund

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution establishing a Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

135:24
Close Town
Hall Reserve
Fund

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution transferring Unexpended Funds from the Town Hall Reserve Fund to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund and Closing the Town Hall Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution transferring Unexpended Funds from the Personal Computer Reserve Fund to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund and Closing the Personal Computer Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution.
Councilmember Weingartner seconded.

136:24
Close Personal
Computer
Reserve Fund

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution transferring Unexpended Funds from the Contingency & Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund and Closing the Contingency & Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.

137:24
Close
Contingency &
Tax
Stabilization
Reserve Fund

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution transferring Unexpended Funds from the Public Works Garage Reserve Fund to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund and Closing the Public Works Garage Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

138:24
Close Public
Works Garage
Reserve Fund

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution transferring Unexpended Funds from the Sign Reserve Fund to the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund and Closing the Sign Reserve Fund, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Legg seconded.

139:24
Close Sign
Reserve Fund

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER:

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution rejecting the Sealed Bid received for the Cluster Valves, Industrial Park Drive Project. Councilmember Weingartner seconded.

140:24
Reject Sealed
Bid for
Industrial Park
Drive Project

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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NEW BUSINESS:

141:24
Schedule PH to
Amend Water
Rates LL #8

Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 26, 2024 at 6 PM regarding A Local Law Amending the Water Rates.

Councilmember Diffendorf seconded.

Discussion. This local law would amend the water rates from \$25 to \$30 (for the first 2,000 cubic feet), which would generate approximately \$15,000 for the Town for the year. Supervisor Grubham noted it will help fund projects that are falling behind as well as keep the budget on track. Councilmember Diffendorf commented, it is the cheapest water in the area.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

142:24
Schedule PH to
Amend Sewer
Rents LL #9

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 26, 2024 at 6:03 PM regarding A Local Law Amending the Sewer Rents.

Councilmember Wasson seconded.

Discussion. It was determined the sewer rents rate would be increased by \$.03 (per 100 cubic feet) based on an estimate given by the Binghamton Johnson City Joint Sewage Board (BJC).

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

143:24
Audit/Pay

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water and Sewer Districts), Professional Services, Capital Projects and Reserve Funds claims #24001153 through #24001283 in the total amount of \$793,323.17, which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 2, 2024. Councilmember Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Diffendorf - yes
 Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Weingartner moved to adopt resolution to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Diffendorf seconded. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk