

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 22, 2019

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President N. Cobbs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member N. Cobbs, and Council Member E. DeLaney.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019 Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the claims as submitted for the Town Council, seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Maura Durham – Downtown sidewalks and Expansion of European Market - Ms. Durham, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce, introduced Chad Burns, Market Director, and reported on the European Market which would begin on May 4, 2019 and continue until the last Saturday in October. Ms. Durham stated the Porter County Health Department has pushed food vendors to begin using self-contained food trucks which require more area than the previous years' food tents. Therefore, they are requesting expansion of the European Market along 3rd Street beyond the current area and use all of 3rd Street to Indiana Ave. Prior to any discussion by the Council or approval of this, Council Member J. Ton recommended that they first listen to the other person on the agenda regarding this request.

Laura Layman 312 W. Indiana Ave. – Regarding the Expansion of the European Market –

Mrs. Layman advised she had no issue with the European Market but there were many concerns with traffic, especially on Saturdays and the use of 3rd Street by food trucks. She expressed that she felt it would just make the situation worse, plus the noise from the generators that would be used for the trucks. Mrs. Layman expressed her opinion regarding the lack of sufficient signage for one-way traffic on Indiana Avenue and the alley.

Lisa Stamm – Director of Library expressed concerns about traffic and parking in the library lots during the Market, she too thought the Market was a wonderful event, but during the Market it was difficult for patrons to find parking in the library parking lots and there were safety issues because of the confusion of the one-way alleys and streets.

Kathy Cochran 300 N. Mineral Springs, Porter - Trustee of the Library Board, also spoke on behalf of the families of Westchester Township, many of who both parents work and the only time the families can enjoy the library is on Saturdays and the library parking lots are being used by persons other than library patrons. With the addition of the trucks along 3rd Street, there would be less parking and the traffic issues are dangerous for the children. She also reminded the Council that Food Trucks that were used for downtown Halloween were parked along Broadway.

Chad Burns, Market Director, stated he is aware of the concerns and the alley that crosses 3rd St and it is already closed to traffic on Saturdays during the Market.

Maura Durham stated they wanted to be good partners and the other option consider was the placement of food trucks along Broadway instead of using 3rd St. and no change to the traffic patterns.

Town Attorney Lukmann advised that any decision by the Council should be contingent on legal review and opinion.

Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg commented this is a Council decision and if the Council does approve this, the one way signs in the alley from 3rd to 4th should be removed to allow traffic in both directions. The alley is not wide enough for two way traffic.

Fire Chief J. Jarka expressed concerns about any generators on food trucks and additional inspections this would require.

Engineer M. O'Dell commented that this request needs to be further investigated including the removal of the one-way signs.

Laura Layman commented that she originally requested that the alley be one-way westbound instead of east bound as it is now.

Council Member E. DeLaney commented that he would like to see this expansion of the European Market work, however, the Market begins in two weeks and this request is being made with short notice to the Council. He also asked either the Park Department or Town Attorney how much of the park the Market is permitted to use. Park Superintendent B. Mathias advised he believed they were allotted 1/3 of the Park.

Laura Berhag 115 Broadway owner of Redcup Café - advised the inclusion of food trucks hurt her business and the sales during this time carry her through the winter months.

During additional discussion of the Council Members and Mr. Burns, it was suggested that any existing tents might be moved into the Park and the food trucks could then take the place of these tents in the Chamber parking lot and existing European Market areas. Mr. Burns did state in reply to Council Member J. Ton that some of the food trucks are existing food vendors but there was also a list of new food trucks that have applied for the event in the area if expanded along 3rd St. Mr. Burns also advised that he would not have any food trucks with generators and intended to place trucks so they could access the electrical connections that are in place. After further discussion and suggestions, Council Member E. DeLaney made the motion for the Chamber to use the existing footprint of the European Market, contact Town Manager B. Doyle to be included on the agenda with the department heads, also appearing before the Park Board for expansion in the Park and so that options can be developed and presented to the Council at a future meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Lorelei Wiemer – Indiana Dunes Tourism 1215 N. SR 49 Porter, Indiana, presented information on behalf of the Chesterton Branding Leadership Team Committee, and in line with the Committee goals J. Gadzala, M. O'Dell and J. Schnadenberg were already working on the

widening of the sidewalks on Broadway and they have been working on a pilot project that the Committee supports. Ms. Weimer introduced Maura Durham, co-chairperson of the committee to address this project. Ms. Durham advised the committee supported the widening of sidewalks along Broadway and the pilot program would be one block of Broadway from 3rd Street to 2nd Street and would change the angle parking to parallel parking. She has spoken with the businesses within this block and the majority were in favor of this change. Council Member J. Ton expressed a concern about having a section that was parallel parking just prior to an area of angle parking. J. Gadzala explained the reason for selecting this block as a beginning since some of the businesses downtown had coal chutes in the sidewalks and basements adjacent to the sidewalks and this block does not have these issues. She also addressed Council Member J. Ton's concern about the mixed parking uses, and Street Commissioner Schnadenberg advised that there would be no change in the driving lane, so the parallel to angle parking should not be an issue. The Council agreed by consensus for the project to proceed.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. POLICE - Chief Cincoski reported at the last Police Commission meeting he was authorized to submit the Bullet Proof Vest grant through the DOJ for this year. He also reported that Saturday is National Drug Take Back Day and officers would be on station to accept expired and unwanted prescription drugs from 10 am to 2 pm. He also advised that there is a box in the police station where people can drop off unwanted prescription drugs at any time.

B. FIRE - No Report

C. CLERK-TREASURER – Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela requested a manual check in the amount of \$9,000 for ONIX, which is the email provider, she advised this is for 125 licenses for one year. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the request, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. STREETS, SANITATION & CENTRAL SERVICES- Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported Arbor Day is Saturday and at 10 am they would be planting a tree at 15th and Lincoln. He also advised that NIPSCO has donated 7 trees and some of these would be planted on N. 8th St. in the area of the former Westchester Bowling Lanes. He reported that Rebuilding Together would also be on Saturday. He advised that Greg Lindy, Duneland School Corporation assisted the Town in obtaining and installing a new crosswalk light at 11th and Porter Avenue. He reported on the progress of the E. Morgan Avenue curb replacement project and the 11th St Community Crossing Grant sidewalk replacement project, with 1300' of sidewalk replaced and they would be completing a drainage project at Crabtree and 11th. He advised that at the next meeting he should have for the Council a sidewalk replacement and trip hazard list for this year.

E. ENGINEERING – No Report

F. BUILDING - Commissioner M. O'Dell advised that Greg Lindy from the Duneland School Corporation is requesting waiver of building permit fees for an emergency generator upgrade. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the request, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. M. O'Dell also reported that Story Point has been given occupancy permit on April 15th, and he was assisted by Chief Jarka and his staff.

G. PARK - No Report

H. ATTORNEY - No Report

I. UTILITIES - No Report

J. TOWN MANAGER- No Report

K. NIRPC REPORT - Council Member J. Ton reported the Council has the agenda from the April 18th meeting and information about the 2050 plan workshops.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS AND REMONSTRANCES

Petition for Vacation of Alley – Ms. Kasie Carmichael – 258 S. 21st St. – Ms. Carmichael explained she was planning on closing on the property this week.

Ordinance 2019-06 Vacating Public Way – Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reading, seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2019-05 Amending the Town Code Concerning Rates and Charges to be Collected by the Town’s Sewage Works – Council President N. Cobbs opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke in favor of the Ordinance and no one spoke in opposition to the Ordinance. Council President N. Cobbs closed the Public Hearing.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2019-05 Amending the Town Code Concerning Rates and Charges to be Collected by the Town’s Sewage Works – Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reading, seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2019-08 – Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate and Appointing Appraisers to Appraise the Fair Market Value of Said Real Estate - Town Attorney Lukmann explained this involves the property at Calumet and Porter Ave that is for sale and the Redevelopment Commission would fund the appraisal and purchase once the appraisal is obtained.

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

1957 Texas St. – Nick Scalise – Engineer M. O’Dell advised this could be removed from the agenda.

Quiet Zone - Council Member J. Ton advised there was information the Town Manager had on this topic and asked Town Manager B. Doyle for this information. Town Manager B. Doyle advised at this stage the project could move forward and requested authorization to prepare a

R.F.P. for engineering. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to develop a R.F.P. for engineering on this project, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

New Lamar Sign – Engineer M. O’Dell and J. Gadzala presented information on the proposed sign which would be digital and the same size as the existing sign, but would have an additional way finding sign directing visitors to the downtown area. Council Member E. DeLaney made the motion to approve the sign, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member J. Ton:	No Comment
Council Member D. Lafata:	No Comment
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No Comment
Council Member E. DeLaney:	Council Member E. DeLaney stated there was a lot
of great work done by a lot of people.	
Council Member N. Cobbs:	No Comment

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member E. DeLaney made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela