

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 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 D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2019 Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Evelyn Komenas- 1087 N Pearson Rd – Mrs. Komenas thanked the Council for the letter sent to the Brassie Golf Course and she advised a couple weeks after it was sent she was almost hit by golf balls twice. She asked if there had been a response to the letter from Brassie and she was advised neither the Town Manager nor the Town Attorney have had a response. She wanted to know if the Town was going to require a response. Council Member J. Ton commented that the County is reviewing this problem also and there have been rumors that the situation might change in the near future. Mrs. Komenas was advised this would be reviewed again in the Spring.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

- A. POLICE - No Report
- B. FIRE - Chief Jarka asked if the Town Council had any response regarding the ALS proposal submitted at the last Council meeting. The situation with Superior is done, and services with them will end December 30th and Porter County EMS would take over services at that point. He advised he would be coordinating services with 911 Central Dispatch. Council Member E. DeLaney made a motion to have a legal review on the billing services presented in the Fire Chief's report, have a 3rd party or the Town's financial consultant review the financial information presented to determine financial feasibility, have the Chief present final funding requirements for equipment, and contact the State for ALS certification. The Town Attorney,

Town Manager, and Fire Chief are working on the development of a job description for part time paramedics, which would allow the Fire Chief to develop a hiring list for part time paramedics, all of which is to be included in the Town's Personnel Policy Handbook. DeLaney also requested that Chief approaches the Redevelopment Commission and Town Attorney on the feasibility of funding a second ambulance. Motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council Member J. Ton commented during discussion that the whole project rests on the billing and the Town recouping the costs or at least 75% of the costs. The Town can not afford to fund this service, it must and should be self-funding and no additional taxes would be created to fund this project. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. CLERK-TREASURER – Town & Police/Fire 2020 Holidays - Clerk-Treasurer Kuziela presented the list of 2020 Holiday dates for Town employees for approval. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the 2020 Holidays, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. She also reported the Fall tax distribution will be in the Town accounts tomorrow and the 1782 notice came in and the General Fund was cut by \$290,000 as expected. She advised there is a manual check for the election fee in the amount of \$14,893.95 and that a fee is assessed in each community with a contested election. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the manual check, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. She also asked the Council's opinion on payment to BZA members Kim Goldak and Rod Corder, who shared a position on the BZA this year. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to pay each member for the portion of the year that they served on the BZA, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela also advised the salary ordinance would be ready at the next meeting and asked if the 2% salary increase was only for full time employees or did it also include part time employees. Council Member J. Ton advised it was his understanding the 2% increase was only for full time personnel, the Council agreed to this by consensus.

D. STREETS, SANITATION & CENTRAL SERVICES – Awarding Asphalt Bids – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg recommended awarding the asphalt bids to the lowest responsive bidder, Walsh and Kelly, for both of the bid projects and to release the bid bonds of the unsuccessful bidders. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to award the bid to Walsh & Kelly and release the bid bond of the unsuccessful bidders, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Schnadenberg advised because of the weather, the leaf program has been extended. He also reported they have an issue with NIPSCO not repatching road cuts in a couple locations in Town and since the asphalt plants have closed, the best they will be able to do is to put down cold patch.

E. ENGINEERING – Engineer M. O'Dell reported Easton Park Phase IV infrastructure is in and they would be going to the Plan Commission for platting. He also advised he has been working with Commissioner Schnadenberg on the Indiana Ave sidewalk project which will review the sidewalks from 6th St. to 15th St for damaged areas.

F. BUILDING - Commissioner M. O'Dell reported he has had inquiries about the construction at Voyage Blvd and that this is a dental facility. He stated that if Council Members receive any complaints, these complaints should be directed to the Building Department so they can be logged and documented. He provided an update on the building at 507 Wabash Ave. and advised these are the type of complaints that need logging and documentation so they have a record to present to the legal department for appropriate action.

G. PARK - No Report

- H. ATTORNEY - No Report
- I. UTILITIES - No Report
- J. TOWN MANAGER- No Report

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS AND REMONSTRANCES

Vacation of Public Right-of-Way - 1720 Wood St. – Set for Public Hearing 12/23/2019 – Council Member E. DeLaney made the motion to set this for Public Hearing on December 23, 2019, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2019-18 – An Ordinance of the Town of Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana Amending Town Code – Town Attorney C. Parkinson presented information regarding this Ordinance. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2019-10 – A Resolution of The Chesterton Town Council Authorizing a payment in Lieu of Taxes and Return on the Sewage Treatment Plant From The Chesterton Sewage Works – Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the Resolution, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

2020 Health Insurance Deductible – Town Attorney C. Parkinson advised the recommendation from Q3 is to increase the insurance deductible in the amounts stated at the last meeting; \$2,800 for singles, and \$3,800 for families, in accordance with IRS regulations. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve this increased insurance deductibles as recommended, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Quiet Zone – As directed by Council Member J. Ton, Engineer M. O’Dell reported on the December 3rd meeting with CTC and representatives from Norfolk Southern and CSX Railroads. He outlined preliminary supplemental safety measures for the majority of the railroad crossings along these rail corridors. He advised the majority of the crossings would require a concrete median for a distance of 60 to 100 feet on either side of the crossing. Some of the crossings would require a complete system upgrade. The Calumet and Norfolk Crossing would require a quad gate as well as other barriers to prevent motorists from going around the down gates. None of the crossings at this time require pedestrian gates, and the CSX crossing at Calumet and Indian Boundary Rd causes a problem since there is not enough space to permit

retrofitting because of the traffic island. This crossing might be removed from the project because of this and the low number of trains that traverse this crossing. He did advise the Calumet and Norfolk crossing may cost in the area of 6 figures and the information would be reviewed by CTC who would provide a full analysis of the report.

NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

CEDC - Council Member J. Ton requested approval of a CHAMP loan for Christine Newton Agency in the amount of \$10,000 that was unanimously approved by the CEDC. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

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| Council Member E. DeLaney: | No Comment |
| Council Member L. Kittredge: | No Comment |
| Council Member J. Ton: | Council Member J. Ton commented that the Town employee Christmas party was wonderful and a lot of hard work was done, especially by John Schnadenberg. |
| Council Member D. Lafata: | No Comment |
| Council Member N. Cobbs: | No Comment |

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela