

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 8, 2020

7:00 p.m.

### I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President S. Darnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member J. Fisher.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 meeting, minutes of the June 1, 2020 Special Meeting, and minutes of the June 3, 2020 Executive Meeting; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. 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 J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Lori Laster- 801 Oakwood Dr.—Laster thanked the park department for restriping the pickle ball courts last year. Laster also stated that the Valparaiso, Griffith, and New Buffalo Courts have reopened and that the sport allows for a sense of social distancing. Laster questioned when Chesterton's pickle ball courts will reopen. Park Superintendent S. Griffin confirmed that the pickle ball courts are set to open June 14, 2020 unless something drastic happens.

Rodney Pol Jr. - 605 Shannon Dr.—Pol thanked the council for a quick decision to condemn the inappropriate remarks made by former Council Member Allison. He stated people want a community that welcomes all. Pol remarked that former Council Member Allison has to understand that in that seat he represents all of us and the reputation of this town at all times and that he was not telling a harmless knock-knock joke.

### VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**—No report.

**B. Fire** – Fire Chief J. Jarka stated that his only business is the vehicle transfer agreement with Burns Harbor which will be discussed the ordinances and resolutions portion of the meeting.

**C. Clerk Treasurer**—Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare brought up an issue from the previous Town Council meeting regarding paying out an employee’s wellness points when they leave the Town’s employment. Clerk –Treasurer She found that in 2018 that it was decided to prorate the payout based on how many months they paid into the health insurance and to cap that amount at \$300. Clerk- Treasurer Udvare said she planned on continuing this method unless it is decided that it needs to be changed. Additionally, Clerk – Treasurer Udvare brought up the fact that she has been notified that Franciscan Health Fitness Center has raised their rates from \$48 per month to \$54 per month. The Town pays 50% of the membership of those who regularly attend but normally caps it at \$25. Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare asked if the match should be increased from \$24 to \$27. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve continuing the above mentioned payout of employee wellness points and the increase in membership rate matching dollars, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service**—Update on Paving Projects & Community Crossing Paving Projects—Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg recommended the Town go with Reith Reilly’s bid for \$370,999.55 for the paving of Calumet and South Park Dr. It was the lower bid. The bid from Walsh & Kelly was for \$396,605. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to accept the recommendation from Street Commissioner Schnadenberg and accept the bid from Reith Reilly, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg also gave an update on the general obligation bond and stated that they had paved 3.9 miles of road this year amongst 18 roads. Street Commissioner Schnadenberg stated that the plan is to finish up the community crossing grant projects, a project with the Town of Porter for east Oakhill Rd., and then go from there regarding other projects if there is funding available.

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell explained that work continued on the repair of the sinkhole beneath the sidewalk on the east side of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, north of Washington Ave. Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that the town has been bypass pumping since the sinkhole started. The groundwater level and required well points put in to pump out the site so repairs could be made.

**F. Building**-No report.

**G. Park**- No report.

**H. Attorney**—No report.

**I. Utilities**—No report.

**J. Town Manager**—Town Manager B. Doyle reported that Wendy Marcinak from the Art Center has regretfully cancelled the Art Festival. Regarding the Pope property, McColly

reported that there was interest in the property, however, they had not heard back on this. Town Manager Doyle also informed the council that a glass enclosure was installed in the front of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street building to protect employees and keep people socially distant.

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

### **Vacation of Public Way (Reduction of Drainage Easement) Topor Public Hearing—**

Topor—3525 Drivers Way. Petitioners were not present. Town Attorney C. Lukmann advised that the hearing be continued until the petitioners are present to state their case on record.

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to continue setting this for public hearing, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2020-08**—Vacating a Portion of a Utility Drainage Easement- Set for continuation until petitioners are present.

**Resolution 2020-05**—**Sale of Surplus Personal Property to The Town of Burns Harbor, IN-** - Transfer of Vehicle to Burns Harbor Fire Department. Town Attorney C. Lukmann presented the resolution which involves the donation of the 1988 Utility vehicle to the town of Burns Harbor and a vehicle transfer agreement doing the same. The vehicle is no longer needed by the Chesterton Fire Department. The Town of Burns Harbor Fire Department would like the vehicle and the Town of Chesterton would have no responsibility regarding the vehicle once the transfer is made. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to accept the agreement, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

## X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone** - Town Manager B. Doyle reported that work on the railroad quiet zone project has started again. The firm Real Technology is working with the Chicago offices of the Federal Railroad Administration.

**New Liaisons** – Council President S. Darnell stated that light of former Council Member Bob Allison’s resignation, the council will need to appoint new liaisons to the Street Department and to the Police Department. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to appoint Council Member J. Ton as the Police Department liaison and Council Member L. Kittredge as the Street

Department liaison; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell: Council Member S. Darnell brought up the viral comments of former Council Member Bob Allison. She commented that as elected officials, the council is not capable of removing fellow council members. Council Member S. Darnell further went on to say Mr. Allison's statements were his own and in this instance, the rest of the council members did what they felt was right in denouncing his statements and calling on Mr. Allison to resign.

Council Member J. Fisher: No Comment

Council Member L. Kittredge: Council Member L. Kittredge commented that it was nice to meet again in person.

Council Member J. Ton: No Comment

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE