

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
September 14, 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.

Council Member J. Ton asked for a moment of silence to honor Chesterton Police Officer, Sergeant Donald Maloney, who passed away on September 8, 2020. Council Member Ton said Officer Maloney was dedicated and professional at all times and was an asset to the Town.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting; motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, 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, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Mark Passarelli - Arbormetrics (NIPSCO Contractor)** – Passarelli spoke about NIPSCO replacing electrical poles in town along Calumet Avenue, Broadway, and Indian Boundary. Part of this project involves removing and trimming several trees that are interfering with the power lines. Most of the trees that need to be removed are Bradford Pears, which are invasive species. Passarelli said he is involved with 6 permits with the Town regarding tree removal. Two permits for tree removal have been approved already by Street Commissioner John Schnadenberg. For the remaining 4, he was instructed to check with the Town Council for approval. He explained that there is no cost to the Town to have these trees removed and part of this project is a tree replacement program

**Andrea Nichols - Forestry Supervisor for NIPSCO** – Nichols let the Town Council know that

NIPSCO is willing to offer a 1 for 1 tree replacement for those removed. One stipulation of tree replacement would be that the tree replacement cannot exceed a maximum height of 25 ft. The replacement tree does not have to be planted in the exact spot the tree was removed from Nichols also talked about a program that exists through Communtree. This program offers the replacement of trees when invasive trees are removed. Part of the Communtree program requirements are that the Town would have to attend a 15 minute online webinar on the program and additionally prove that the Town has someone available to water and to care for the tree after planting. Council Member J. Ton and Street Commission J. Schnadenberg recommended the Tree Committee make the decisions regarding selections of the new trees. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to go ahead with replacing the trees and allowing the Tree Committee to choose the replacement trees, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Maura Durham (Chamber of Commerce)** - Durham asked the Council for extension of the European Market to continue. The dates involved are November 7, 14, 21, 28 and December 5. Durham said November 28 and December 5 are normally holiday markets. So, really, there are only 3 additional dates for this season requested. The Town's legal counsel would prepare an agreement to extend the market dates for this season. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to go forward with preparing above mentioned agreement and for President S. Darnell to sign the agreement, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**—Council Member J. Ton mentioned that Chesterton Police officers have both body and car cameras in use.

**B. Fire** – NO REPORT

**C. Clerk Treasurer—Docuware Contract & Budget meeting dates:** Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare explained that back in July 2018 the Town started looking into possibilities of data migration with Docuware, an imaging/record retention storage company. This was because the current software, Fortis, is no longer supported. These companies all aid in the imaging and retention processes of Town records. There is a cost of \$25,191 for this migration of information. Clerk- Treasurer C. Udvare asked for authorization to pay the \$25,191 migration fee out of CEDIT for the contract with Docuware. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve this use of CEDIT funds, motion seconded by council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Clerk-Treasurer Udvare also discussed upcoming budget dates. She asked to set the hearing for the 2021 budget on October 12, 2020 at 6 PM and the budget adoption date on October 26, 2020. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve October 12, 2020 as the 2021 budget hearing date and October 26, 2020 as the 2021 budget adoption date, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service** —Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg said there is free firewood for Town residents to pick up at the Street Department. Also, Calumet Avenue paving has been pushed back due to NIPSCO delays in the area.

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell said NIRPC will be taking applications for a notice of funding availabilities (NOVA) program. Applications would be accepted 9/11 to 10/21. This funding would potentially support transportation improvement plans for the Region. Town Engineer Mark O’Dell and Fire Chief Jarka asked for permission to research whether or not this could work for a potentially viable project for the Town that would install preemption technology for emergency/first responder vehicles. Engineer O’Dell and Fire Chief Jarka mentioned this technology is currently used in Lake County. The technology essentially gives green lights to emergency vehicles. Chief Jarka said the company they have spoken with also installs preemptive devices in snow plows as well, which could be beneficial. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to give authorization to look into this program, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**F. Building** —Building Commissioner Mark O’Dell said political signs can be up 60 days prior to the election. The signs must be out of Town right of way and 10 ft. from the pavement. Political signs cannot be installed on fences or on power poles. Also, signs can have a max size of 32 sq. ft. Commissioner O’Dell also said Dollar General has started clearing for their location on Broadway and that Aldi has submitted plans and is working on their liquor license.

**G. Park-** NO REPORT

**H. Attorney**—NO REPORT

**I. Utilities**—NO REPORT

**J. Town Manager**—NO REPORT

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

NONE

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone-** NO REPORT

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Council Member J. Ton encouraged people to take advantage of the Chesterton Economic Development Committee’s loan program. The town has funds available to loan out, respective to this program. Applications are available at 15<sup>th</sup> street building can be used for many types of business purposes, including improvements, equipment purchases, and so on.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No Comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	No Comment
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No Comment
Council Member J. Ton:	No Comment
Council Member D. Lafata:	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:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE