

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 12, 2021
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 D. Lafata, Council Member S. Darnell, Council Member J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 Meeting, motion 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 J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Vacation of a Public Way- Union Ave. (Buczowski)- The resident was not present. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to continue, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— Interim Police Chief Byrd reported that the department has been busy and has recently responded to several homeless calls, one of which ended with a CPD officer buying a homeless person breakfast and then taking them to the Valparaiso shelter. Next, Chief Byrd said that CPD has been working with VPD and Portage PD on active shooter training, where students would reunite with families at Liberty Bible Church in the event of a live active shooter. Chief Byrd also explained that the Porter County Drug Task Force will be coming out over the next couple weeks to conduct opioid training for the CPD. Chief Byrd also discussed the totaling of a CPD vehicle that was struck on April 3. \$16,000 will be available from the insurance claim, however, CPD is down a vehicle. Byrd explained that Ford has a surplus vehicle that could be

purchased to eliminate the vehicle shortage. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the use of CCD funds to purchase this vehicle, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Lastly, Chief Byrd and members of the CPD took a moment to honor and to present former Police Chief D. Cincoski with an award that recognized his service.

B. Fire –Fire Engine Bids- Chief Camel reported that there were 430 calls and 8 fires, making it a busy month. Additionally, Chief Camel noted that approximately 90 COVID vaccines were administered at the Fire Bay by Northshore Health on April 7. Northshore will return to the Fire Bay on both April 23rd and May 7th for 2nd rounds of vaccines. Next, Chief Camel reported on the Engine bids received. Fire Department Liaison J. Fisher recommended going with the 2nd lowest bid (Sutphen at \$559,895) because the lowest bid (KME) did not meet the specifications for the engine purchase. Westchester Township agreed to contribute \$97,533 toward the purchase. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to award the bid the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Sutphen, and to release the bid bonds of the unsuccessful bidders, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton thanked Chief Camel for his concise research.

C. Clerk Treasurer – NO REPORT

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –Sidewalk, Crack & Seal, and Trip Hazard Project Recommendations- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg and Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy presented recommendation lists for sidewalk, crack & seal, and trip hazard projects, which would be supported by previously approved funds. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the sidewalk project list as submitted, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the crack and seal project list as submitted, referring 5 crack sealing projects to the Redevelopment Commission for review, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the trip hazard project list as submitted, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Lastly, Commissioner Schnadenberg said spring cleanup will take place the 3rd week of April from April 19th- April 23rd for brush and leaf pick up. He also stated that more information about road projects will be presented at the next Town Council & Redevelopment meetings. Council Member J. Ton commented that Porter & Calumet looks great from the improvement project. Council President S. Darnell received a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizing Chesterton as a Tree City for 2020. This is the 25th Tree City year. Commissioner Schnadenberg was thanked for his hard work. Lastly, Commissioner Schnadenberg mentioned that Indiana American Water will be doing a project on 9th Street-Porter Ave. to Indiana Ave.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell reported that his department is reviewing 1100 Woods, which will also go to the Plan Commission. Also, Engineer O’Dell stated that plans for lots 13 and 19 of Coffee Creek will be going in front of the Plan Commission as well.

F. Building—Building Commissioner Mark O’Dell reported that the Aldi project has started.

Aldi has picked up their permit and the initial site work has begun for the lay out process. It is estimated that Aldi will be ready by year end. Commissioner O’Dell said that the Porter County Commissioners are asking for a \$145 waiver of fees for generator installation on Porter Ave. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the waiver of fees, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

G. Parks –Car Show- Superintendent S. Griffin reported he was approached at the recent Park Board meeting about support for the Car Show, which would run on the last Saturday evenings of the month May through September. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the Car Show (subject to COVID 19 safety measures and Police Commission review), motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that Wabash sewer re-lining has been completed.

J. Town Manager—NO REPORT

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Public Hearing- Vacation of a Portion of Public Way- Union Ave. (Boyer)- The resident was not present. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to continue, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

NONE

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that the engineering group has not contacted the Town as they had promised to do. Town Manager Cincoski contacted the Federal Railroad Administration and found out that in May 2020 the FRA had told the engineering firm that more documents and studies were needed. This was never done. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to allow Cincoski to work with the Town’s legal team on potential next steps regarding the project, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Tax Abatement Compliance for Addison Pointe- Town Attorney C. Nolan stated that this is

the final year of the abatement, which started 11 years ago. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to find Addison Pointe to be in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. There will be no CEDC funds this year from this.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- Council Member S. Darnell: No comment
- Council Member J. Fisher: Member J. Fisher thanked Interim Police Chief Byrd for his care and concern for the Police Department.
- Council Member L. Kittredge: No comment
- Council Member J. Ton: Member J. Ton said Indiana Governor Holcomb has been doing a great job with the pandemic. Taking away his authority to declare emergencies would be a bad idea.
- Council Member D. Lafata: No comment

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE