

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 26, 2021

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President L. Kittredge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Meeting and April 12, 2021 Special Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member D. Lafata 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)- Marilyn Buczowski of 804 S. 14th Street explained that she bought the property in 1994 and that she already maintains this area. She has gotten a variance for her garage construction in the past. Her neighbor wants to put up a fence. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set a public hearing on May 24, 2021, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— Interim Police Chief R. Byrd reintroduced Officer Nolan Mancera, who graduated from NWI Law Enforcement Academy on Friday. Mancera was class President and gave the commencement address. Mancera also is a captain in the United States Army Reserves. Additionally, Chief Byrd said that Officer Jorge Perez is in the process of completing his field training and will be serving the Town of Chesterton soon. Chief Byrd also talked about the drug take back program that was held Saturday. The program produced 250 lb. of needles/prescriptions being turned in. Lastly, Chief Byrd mentioned that the Police Commission

voted to eliminate the ban on 2 hour parking in Chesterton. Council Member J. Ton agreed with the recommendation of Police Byrd and a Council consensus of agreement was established.

B. Fire –Fire Engine Bids- Chief E. Camel reported that Sutphen has received the new engine contract. Additionally, CHS videography students filmed at the Fire Station and will be making public service announcements using that footage.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Positive Pay- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare shared information on this product from Horizon Bank. The product helps protect against check cashing fraud and costs \$50/month. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the use of positive pay, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –2021 Paving Projects, Blue Ribbon Request, Banner Requests- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg presented the list for 2021 paving projects on 10 streets totaling \$252,200. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the 2021 paving project list as submitted, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Commissioner Schnadenberg presented a blue-ribbon request in honor of police week from Officer J. Copollo. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the blue-ribbon request, seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Lastly, Commissioner Schnadenberg presented two banner requests, one for Artistic Recovery, two weeks prior to June 26, 2021 and then the other for Hooked on Art for two weeks prior to September 18, 2021. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the banner requests, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell reported that Highway 49 will be closed northbound over I94 on May 1 and southbound on May 2. Additionally, Engineer O’Dell reported that INDOT will be closing Highway 49 over Highway 12/NICTD for 2 weeks.

F. Building —Building Commissioner Mark O’Dell reported that occupancy has been issued for Golden Leaf Cigar Bar. Additionally, the permit for the Bird Sanctuary Building has been approved. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to waive the fees for the Bird Sanctuary in the amount of \$194, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

G. Parks –Kona Ice- Superintendent S. Griffin reported that Kona Ice and Dog Days have asked to operate outside the parks/during games etc.. The Park Board is okay with this. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to allow Dog Days & Kona Ice to proceed with contracting with legal for this purpose, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that he and Public Affairs Liaison K. Nevers met with a special assistant to the Governor and were told about the “Ready Grant.” The Ready Grant provides \$500 million for economic development, community development, and workforce development on a 60/40 match. Town Manager Cincoski said the grant will be

released after May 1 and more info will be provided.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Public Hearing- Vacation of a Portion of Public Way- Union Ave. (Boyer)- The public hearing was opened at 7:30 PM. Boyer stated she has lived at the property since 1965. Boyer wants to pave the drive and needs Union Ave. vacated in order to do so. There have been too many improvements on her property to do so without the vacation or a variance. Building Commissioner O'Dell stated since the property is over its lot coverage, this could go to BZA for a variance or follow the vacation route. No one spoke for or against the vacation. The public hearing was closed at 7:32 PM.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2021-09- Vacating a Portion of a Public Way-Union Ave. (Boyer)- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2021-03-Arbor Day-Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Town Manager D. Cincoski and Town Attorney C. Parkinson presented a dedicated schedule from the firm. May 31st will be the final draft proposal. June 14th will be for review of feasibility. June 21st will be finalization of review. June 28th will be presentation of the study. Town Manager Cincoski stated that the firm will copy Town Engineer O'Dell, Town Manager Cincoski, and Attorney Parkinson on all correspondence.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NIRPC Report- Council Member J. Ton provided the NIRPC report. Member Ton reported that

the deputy director of INDOT’s safety committee will be studying the Highway 49 bypass. He and the Police Commission have made recommendations and requests. The INDOT committee will review these.

Police Commission Appointment- Member N. Walding has resigned from the Redevelopment Commission and submitted a letter of interest in the open Police Commission position. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to appoint Walding to the Police Commission, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- Council Member S. Darnell: No comment
- Council Member J. Fisher: Member J. Fisher commented that we have a diverse community and that we should treat everyone equally and fairly. Fisher thanked the Department Heads.
- Council Member L. Kittredge: No comment
- Council Member J. Ton: Member J. Ton mentioned that Town Council is member of Shared Ethics Commission. Ton said ethics are not negotiable or situational.
- Council Member D. Lafata: No comment

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE