

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 28, 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. Udvare; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member D. Lafata, and Council Member J. Fisher. Council Member S. Darnell was absent.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; 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. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Duneland School Corporation- Waiver of Building Permit Fees- Greg Lindy-** Greg Lindy of Duneland School Corporation asked for the waiver of building permit fees on the following projects:

- 1) Grounds Garage at Westchester Intermediate School bathroom entrances- \$215
- 2) CMS Y Care door 8 work on Alternative School- \$480
- 3) Middle School stadium lights replacement- \$115

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve these requests for waiver of building permit fees, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Appointment of Police Chief-** Mike Orlich, President of the Police Commission, reported that the Police Commission has selected/appointed Tim Richardson as incoming Police Chief. Richardson comes with 26 years of experience, most of which from Michigan City CPD. Richardson thanked the Police Commission, Council Member Ton, Town Manager Cincoski, and the Town's legal team. Richardson said the Town's search for candidates was very professional—hats off to the other applicants. Richardson thanked CPD for their hard work and

dedication. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to endorse Richardson's selection by the Police Commission, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Richardson's first day of employment will be August 16 while Interim Chief Byrd will continue to be employed by the Town of Chesterton through the end of August. Council President Darnell had prepared a statement welcoming Chief Richardson to Town— noting his experience and accomplishments thus far have been monumental.

Point of Order- Council Member J. Fisher called a point of order regarding Interim Fire Chief E. Camel. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to appoint E. Camel as Fire Chief, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare performed the oath for Eric Camel.

## VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**— Interim Police Chief R. Byrd congratulated incoming Chief Richardson. Byrd mentioned he has worked with Richardson in the past and that he has always been of great assistance. Byrd also reported on the Department of Justice Bulletproof vest program, stating that funding for the 2021 program (50% match) has been secured. Byrd plans to work with Town Manager Cincoski and Clerk Treasurer Udvare regarding investigating 2019 and 2020 funding.

**B. Fire** –Chief Camel discussed the TC Energy Grant and said he should get notification in 4-6 weeks regarding an update. Camel has been working with members of the dive team on a hand held sonar device for water rescue. The device is called Aqua Eye. Camel reported that Local 4600 and volunteers may assist. The cost for the device is \$5,500. More info to come.

**C. Clerk Treasurer-** Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the Town's payment plan to Zayo Group, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. NITCO refunds the Town for payments made to Zayo Group. Tax fees that were previously charged are now being waived. The outstanding balance is \$39,828.03. The Town's payment plan will last a year, with monthly payments of \$3,319, in addition to regular bills from Zayo.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service** –Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of paving has been completed, however, the department may not be able to get to all roads mentioned on the list. This depends on invoices received/what roads that were approved are left. Sidewalk projects from the previously approved list will start after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer M. O'Dell reported that streets are being connected in Springdale Phase III. The department is still reviewing 1100 Woods information.

**F. Building** —Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported on the Porter Ave. sidewalk issue— they are working on a process to meet requirements. Also, O'Dell said there has been no response on the letter sent to the Brassie requesting the property to be mowed. O'Dell said the Town might mow it and try later to recuperate the cost. If the Brassie doesn't pay, then the costs of mowing could be added to the tax bill at the Auditor's office. Council Member J. Fisher made

the motion to follow all remedies authorized by the Town ordinance and by State Law, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**G. Parks –NO REPORT**

**H. Attorney**—Town Attorney C. Lukmann mentioned that he appreciates Interim Chief Bob Byrd. Byrd greatly helped with processes and ideas. Council Member J. Ton agreed.

**I. Utilities**—Superintendent D. Ryan remarked that there has been a lot of rain with no major issues. There has also been a sink hole at 5<sup>th</sup> street. The sink hole was caused by a fiber optic cable being bored into the sewer line. An emergency patch was completed and the department will be working with the contractor regarding a permanent repair.

**J. Town Manager**—Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that lakefront fireworks will take place on June 30, with a rain date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Duneland Chamber is thankful for the support/donation.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2021-12- Ordinance of the Town of Chesterton Establishing a Cellular Phone Program for Certain Town Employees**—The ordinance was continued with no action taken.

**Resolution 2021-05- Resolution of the Town Council and of the Town of Chesterton Regarding Reclassification and Transfer of Expenses**—Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone-** Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that he is finishing up the review which will then go to CTC.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

**Chesterton Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)-** Council Member J. Ton mentioned that the Chesterton Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) has applications for business loans at a 2% interest rate. The applications are on the Town's website.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:

No comment

Council Member J. Fisher:

Council Member J. Fisher welcomed Police Chief Richardson and thanked legal, Town Manager Cincoski, Interim Chief Byrd, Council Member Ton, and Mike Orlich for their work. It is important to have good leadership in our community.

Council Member L. Kittredge:

Council Member Kittredge welcomed Chief Richardson and thanked Fire Chief Camel for his work.

Council Member J. Ton:

Council Member J. Ton reported that there are citizens concerned about walkers/bikers crossing 49 and Indian Boundary Rd. There is no “safe zone” for a cross walk. Ton reported that he has done research and that in 2023 the intersection will be reconstructed by the State. This project has been approved for installation of a sidewalk, curbs, ADA, and a crosswalk.

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:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE