

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 13, 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 J. Fisher, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021 meeting and December 8, 2021 Special Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member J. Ton 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

Anton Insurance- 2021 Astra Insurance Public Safety Award- Jim & Mike Anton from Anton Insurance and David Paul from Astra Insurance came to present the Town of Chesterton and Town Manager Cincoski with a public safety award. Anton explained that the Town has always taken proactive approaches to loss and risk mitigation. This award is given to 1 out of 175 other Indiana municipalities. Prior Town Manager Bernie Doyle and Town Manager Cincoski have made safety of residents, risk management, employment practice liability, and cyber security a priority. A commemorative plaque was presented.

Vacation of a Portion of a Right-of-Way- Peterson- Park Ave.- Attorney Greg Babcock appeared on behalf of Glenn & Audra Peterson. The Petersons are requesting a vacate of a portion of Park Avenue west of 16th Street and ending at Jackson Blvd. Babcock requested the Council to set the vacation for public hearing on January 24, 2022. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the public hearing for January 24, 2022, motion seconded by Council

Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vacation of a Right-of-Way- Roberts- Sand Creek North- Attorney Greg Babcock appeared on behalf of Tom Roberts. Roberts wishes to make outlot B in Duneland Cove unit 4 into 7 buildable lots for single family residential sties. This will require a vacate of Sand Creek Drive south of Michael Drive. Babcock explained that the last plat for this area was done in 1992. The project will also go to the plan commission for review. Babcock requested the vacation go to public hearing on January 24, 2022. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the vacation for public hearing on January 24, 2022, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dan Koch- 129 S. 9th. St.- Koch thanked the CPD for past hospitality. Koch stated that he believes that Indiana from Calumet to 15th street is lacking speed limit signs. He would like the town to consider more signage. Furthermore, Koch expressed his desire for a path between Omni Fitness Center and the Duneland Family YMCA. Council Member J. Ton mentioned that INDOT has the intersection of Indian Boundary and Highway 49 going to engineering review for a possible pedestrian crossing in 2022.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— Chief Richardson congratulated the Town on its safety award from Astra Insurance.

B. Fire – Chief Camel discussed changes on a policy. SOG213 has been reviewed by legal and FDOC. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve changes and updates to SOG213, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Camel also thanked the Town’s Committee that worked on the Christmas party.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Capital Asset Agreement, 2021 Refuse Write Offs- Clerk Treasurer Udvare reported that there is a need to establish, research, and report the Town’s assets. Udvare has been in contact with Larry Tippin, who comes highly recommended and used to work for State Board of Accounts. Legal and department heads have reviewed a copy of a contract with Tippin for the purpose of assisting with the Town’s asset reporting. Udvare requested the Council’s approval to move forward with the contract. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve working with Larry Tippin for the purpose of reporting on the Town’s assets, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Udvare asked for the Council’s approval to process \$298.00 in refuse write-offs. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the write offs, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Udvare informed the Council that the 1782 notice came in and looks good. Council Member J. Fisher and Council Member J. Ton commented that Clerk Treasurer Udvare did a great job on the budget. Udvare reminded that the next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday December 28th at 7 PM. The 2022 salary ordinance will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that

the leaf pick up program will be extended for approximately a week. Next, Schnadenberg asked the Council's permission to process Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy's accumulated vacation time, even though he is not a Department Head. Council Member J. Ton commented that this is a one-time thing. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the payout of Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy's vacation time, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O'Dell reported that the department has been reviewing preliminary plans on the Westchester Liberty Trail Phase 3, an 80/20 NIRPC grant.

F. Building — Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported that the Northshore permit is being reviewed. Only demolition is occurring currently.

G. Parks –Superintendent S. Griffin reported that the Christmas tree in Thomas Centennial Park is animated and plays music every hour on the hour, starting at 5 pm nightly.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—Town Manager Cincoski reported that children can email the Town's email to get a hold of Santa. This stops at midnight on the 22nd of December.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Resolution 2021-10 – Additional Appropriations- Attorney Nolan presented the resolution. Public hearing was opened at 7:25 PM. No one spoke for or against the resolution. The public hearing was closed at 7:26 PM.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-10- Additional Appropriations- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2021-26- Amending the First Addition to Coffee Creek Center PUD District- Notice of Intent to Consider- Attorney Nolan presented the ordinance which came with a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. Council Member D. Lafata 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 J. Fisher made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2021-27- Amending the Town Code Concerning Rates and Charges to be collected by the Town’s Sewage Works- To Be Set for Public Hearing- Attorney Nolan presented the ordinance and Utility Service Board President L. Brandt from gave information behind its thought process. A rate study was done by London Witte. The Utility is operating at 60% of its rated capacity. The Utility Department has employment openings that have not been able to be filled. Employees have left the Town to better themselves financially. Surrounding communities are offering Town employees with many years of experience job opportunities with higher pay rates. To address the disparity in the pay rate scale, the Utility Board would like to propose a rate structure based on the concept of returns on investment. State legislature allows this. Using a reasonable rate of 2.84% the cash return to the town would be \$502,000, which would provide enough funding for a competitive wage increase of \$1/hour and then a 5% increase in pay (this would be on top of the already established 3% increase). This produces a 16.37% increase in the average residential customer’s utility bill. Outside users would see similar increases in rate. The Utility Service Board is unanimous in approval for this rate ordinance and asked the Town Council to approve and set for public hearing. Council Member J. Ton commented that it is time to recognize employees for loyalty and devotion. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the ordinance for public hearing on December 28, 2021, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2021-11- Adopting Certain Measures to Slow the Spread of Covid 19- Attorney Nolan presented the resolution, which re-imposes the mask mandate/social distancing if the county is in orange or red level, as determined by the state department of health. Council Member L. Kittredge 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 Cincoski reported that there are no updates. Cincoski said there may be a presentation on January 10th or February 14th on the topic.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	Member Fisher wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. She commented that this is a great group of people and I thank you for your hard work.
Council Member L. Kittredge:	Member Kittredge wished everyone happy holidays.
Council Member J. Ton:	Member J. Ton wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Ton commented he is in favor of re-naming Thomas Centennial Park "Railroad Park." This is a historical name and makes downtown brandable
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