

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 8, 2015

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member S. Darnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member E. Delaney, Council Member N. Walding, and Council Member S. Darnell.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member N. Walding made the motion approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 Council Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve claims as submitted, motion seconded by Council Member E. Delaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Glenda Dersham 1031 Jefferson Ave. – Representing the Relay for Life for Duneland, requested permission to install purple ribbons on street light poles, and a banner on the gazebo with everything being removed by Monday. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve request, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Timothy Cole 845 N. Calumet Ave gave notice that he would be commenting on Public Hearing later in meeting.

Bill Stone 1451 Birdie Way – Mr. Stone questioned the change in Town Standards, Ordinance 2015-08 at the last meeting. He stated that 9 months ago he was told that he had to use the more expensive product that has now been changed due to the amended Town Standards. He wanted to know who initiated this amendment and expressed concerns that the amendment appeared to have been fast-tracked especially since a competitor of his now has a project.

Marci Stone 1451 Birdie Way - Mrs. Stone requested that the Town Standard Ordinance 2015-08 be amended to the previous standard. She asked why it was amended and for whose benefit it was amended and were politics the reason for the amendment. Attorney Parkinson advised that Town Standards are changing all the time, and can change based on information and technology presented to department heads who recommend the changes to the Council.

Council E. Delaney advised that a response to their concerns would be prepared for the next Council meeting.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. POLICE - Chief Cincoski requested authorization to apply for the DOJ COPS grant for an additional officer. He advised that the grant provides for 75% of the cost of an officer and the position could be a new School Resource Officer, or an Officer to replace an existing position. Council Member E. Delaney made the motion to approve request, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. FIRE - Chief J. Jarka reported that parts for aerial 520 have arrived and it would be going in for repairs. He also commented that there has been an intermittent issue with the tornado sirens and recommended that residents listen to radio and television during inclement weather for updates and information.

C. TOWN HALL - No Report

D. STREETS, SANITATION & CENTRAL SERVICES- Street Superintendent J. Schnadenberg reported the bucket truck has been repaired and back in service. He advised that the downtown sidewalk project is complete and just needs restriping. He commended Marci Stone for her years of collecting trash along 1100 N and she held a garage sale to purchase signs to be installed along the roads reminding persons to keep the areas clean.

E. ENGINEERING - Engineer M. O'Dell provided an update on the Calumet and Indian Boundary Rd. signal project stating that the project was 98% complete and they were working on some issues with the contractor, designer, and INDOT. He also advised that final phasing needed to be coordinated with the railroad.

F. BUILDING - Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported that (2) new multi unit, (1) townhouse and (1) single family resident permits were issued.

G. PARK - No Report

H. ATTORNEY - No Report

I. UTILITIES - No Report

J. TOWN MANAGER- Town Manager B. Doyle reported on the update regarding the charging station project and partnership with NIPSCO and that he would notify the Council when there would be a ribbon cutting for this project. He reported on the status for the Civic Ready program. He also reported on the Health Insurance program status. He mentioned the computer equipment update program was progressing well.

K. NIRPC REPORT - Council Member J. Ton reported the renovation of the NIRPC Portage Headquarters and meetings have been delayed until they can locate a meeting room.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS AND REMONSTRANCES

ORDINANCE 2015-07 – ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL UTILITY AREA (Fox Chase Farms, etal) Attorney Parkinson explained that the Ordinance first needed to be amended before the Public Hearing could be opened and the proposed amendment change the proposed rate, and issues related to undeveloped lots within Fox Chase Farms. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to amend the Ordinance as described by the Town Attorney, seconded by Council Member E. Delaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Once the amendment was approved, Attorney Parkinson explained the Ordinance and advised the Council to open the

Public Hearing. Council President S. Darnell opened the Public Hearing. Timothy Cole 845 N. Calumet Ave. requested to speak regarding the Ordinance. He commented that like many municipalities, Chesterton Utility Service Board opted to remove themselves from the jurisdiction of the I.U.R.C. and O.U.C.C. and he was against that status. He asked what control the customers in the affected area of this Ordinance would have over the services and if any would be permitted to have a position on the Board. Attorney Parkinson advised that State Statute provides the right of petition and remonstrance by the customers within the service area.

Jeff Larson 892 Jade Ave. Liberty Township stated that he is aware of the issues associated with Fox Chase Farms and applauds the Town for addressing these issues. He asked if there was a potential for extending services within Liberty Township.

Council President S. Darnell stated that this was a matter for the Utility Service Board and he would have to present the request to them at the next meeting.

Council President S. Darnell closed the Public Hearing.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 2015-07 ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL UTILITY AREA (Fox Chase Farms) – Council Member E. Delaney made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member E. Delaney made the motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member N. Walding, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member N. Walding made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reading, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

AMENDED BOND ORDINANCE 2015-10 FOR FCF/MERIDIAN ROAD WWCS - Council Member N. Walding made the motion to approve on 1st Reading, seconded by Council Member E. Delaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member N. Walding made the motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Council Member E. Delaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member E. Delaney made the motion to approve Ordinance on 2nd Reading, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

TAX ABATEMENT – LONG TERM CARE II, LLC (ADDISON POINTE) Committee met and voted favorably to continue Long Term Care tax abatement. Council President S. Darnell will sign.

“Hooked on Art” Festival – Agreement prepared by Town Attorney’s office for the Council President to sign. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Council Member N. Walding, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member J. Ton commented that with the beginning of the European Market he has noticed that several unoccupied and unattended businesses downtown are an embarrassment and he asked for input and comments to address this issue. Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg commented that he has spoken with the owner of the property at 4th & Broadway and has been told that he no longer is able to maintain the property. Commissioner Schnadenberg suggested that PACT workers or the Duneland Garden Club could assist with the maintenance of the areas within Town right-of-way.

Council Member N. Walding commented about the report from the Clerk-Treasurer concerning Health Insurance savings, and recommended possible raises for employees. Council Member N. Walding made the motion that the Town Attorney be directed to prepare Ordinances with increases of 2% and 3% in salaries, seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council Member E. Delaney commented that there are unfilled positions within the Town, and recommended that 1% also be included as a possible increase. Council Member N. Walding made the motion to amend the original motion to include increases of 1%, 2% and 3%, Council Member J. Ton seconded the amended motion, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

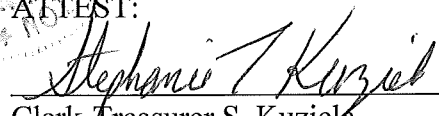
XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD


- Council Member L. Kittredge: No Comment
- Council Member E. Delaney: No Comment
- Council Member N. Walding: Council Member N. Walding commented in regards to amended Town Standards 2015-08, the amendment was not a result of political reasons and due diligence was done prior to recommending and passing the Ordinance and answers would be prepared in response to concerns.
- Council Member J. Ton: Council Member J. Ton expressed sadness at the passing of Judy Chaplin and she would be missed.
- Council Member S. Darnell: No Comment

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A Council Member E. Delaney made motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziel


COUNCIL PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT

