

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
May 26, 2020  
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 L. Kittredge, Council Member R. Allison, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting; motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0-nays.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**—No report.

**B. Fire**—Chief J. Jarka spoke about a resolution for donation of a fire truck (old SWAT vehicle-mobile communication center) to Burns Harbor. This truck is a surplus and Burns Harbor has asked to move forward and has a resolution drawn up for the transfer. Town Attorney C. Nolan explained that he could have a resolution prepared for the next meeting regarding the transfer of the vehicle to Burns Harbor. Chief Jarka also spoke about the Fire Department's need for a new HVAC unit. Chief Jarka explained the main furnace which heats and cools the office space and the upstairs living quarters, including the bunkroom, lounge and kitchen has experienced a

catastrophic failure of the cooling system. Two quotes were received—one from Bloomfield Mechanical for \$21,300 and one from Reling for \$26,573.96. Liaison to the Fire Department, Council Member J. Fisher commented that the unit is 10 years old and has undergone extensive repairs. Council Member Fisher further recommended that the Town go with the lower of the two quotes. Funding for the HVAC project would come from CEDIT. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

**C. Clerk Treasurer**—Wellness Points/Gym Reimbursements—Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare explained that a couple decisions need to be made regarding the employee wellness program. First, Clerk Udvare mentioned that there is an employee leaving in July and this employee is wondering about their pay out for wellness points. Council Member S. Darnell recommended checking with both legal and Anton Insurance regarding what might have been done in the past to handle a similar situation. This matter would be revisited again at a future town council meeting. Secondly, Clerk Udvare discussed lunch and learn sessions for town employees. These sessions were previously held in person, however, COVID-19 has halted their occurrences. Clerk Udvare further explained that Franciscan does offer videos that cover topics that would be otherwise covered in above said lunch and learns. It was decided that watching videos on appropriate topics instead of physical lunch and learns would be acceptable to qualify for lunch and learn attendance. Clerk Udvare then brought up the topic of gym reimbursement during COVID – 19 for Town employees. Council Member. J. Ton made the motion to continue offering gym reimbursements to Town employees, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays. Lastly, C. Udvare talked about the resignation of George Stone from the Plan Commission. Applications will be taken until June 12<sup>th</sup> and an appointment made on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Council Member S. Darnell commented that George Stone was an amazing asset to the Plan Commission. Council Member J. Ton commented that George will definitely be missed. Town Attorney C. Nolan commented that George’s seat must be filled by an applicant that is not a republican.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service**—Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg said he was continuing with paving projects and he will provide a list of completed projects at the next Town Council Meeting. Commissioner Schnadenberg also discussed the storm sewer collapse at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Washington and explained they have been bypass pumping and repairing the sewer.

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell discussed the Chesterton Promotional Program. He submitted a permit to IDEM for two banners at 49 and Indian Boundary. Engineer O’Dell mentioned he has received a lot of calls regarding Aldi and explained that no plans have been submitted at this time.

**F. Park**—No report

**H. Attorney**—No Report

**I. Utilities**—Superintendent D. Ryan talked the overflow tank during the heavy rainfall.

Council Member J. Ton commented that this overflow swimming pool was one of the best investments that could be made in the environmental security of the Town.

**J. Town Manager**—No Report.

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

**Bid Opening**—Community Crossing Grant paving projects—Town Attorney C. Nolan opened and discussed the two sealed bids for the projects. These projects are for paving at Calumet Rd., South Park Dr., Elm Court, and Timber Court. Reith Riley’s bid was for \$370,999.55 and Walsh & Kelley’s bid was for \$396,605.00. Attorney Nolan advised the council to take the bids under advisement. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to take the bids under advisement, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

**Vacation of Public Way (Reduction of Drainage Easement)**—Topor—3525 Drivers Way. Town Engineer Mark O’Dell explained that Melissa & Mike Topor are interested in installing a pool in their yard. In the Golf View subdivision there is an easement on the west side of their property line that would be looked into as far as a reduction in utility drainage easement space. This would be a possible reduction of utility easement by 3 feet. Also, the pool must be 10 ft. from house and can’t be in the side yard per setbacks. Engineer O’Dell explained they would need a BZA variance and this would be a 2 step process. Engineer O’Dell further recommended setting this for public hearing at the next Town Council meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set this for public hearing, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

## VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2020-07**—Amending Ordinance 2014-11-Regulating the Furnishing of Sanitary Sewer Services Outside of the Town’s Corporate Boundaries. Town Attorney Connor explained that this ordinance carries out the Town’s part of its obligations regarding a settlement involving the IURC of Valparaiso and a resolution of all those claims and a division of territory down to US Highway 6. This will present Chesterton’s new service area to the IURC for service approval. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on first reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays. Council Member R. Allison made the motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher. Council President S. Darnell requested input

from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone-** Town Engineer M. O’Dell spoke about the diagnostic meeting minutes from CTC. O’Dell is still in the process of reviewing these minutes. Council Member J. Ton and Town Manager B. Doyle added that they have been getting more regular communications regarding the matter.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No Comment
Council Member J. Fisher: looking forward to meeting in person.	Council Member J. Fisher said she is
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No Comment
Council Member R. Allison: responsibility for the Town parks opening slower than anticipated and prayers to city of Valparaiso for the loss of police officer.	Council Member R. Allison said he takes
Council Member J. Ton: forward to meeting in person.	Council Member J. Ton said he looks

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison. Council President S. Darnell requested input from the council. Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare called a roll call vote. Motion passed. 5-yes, 0 nays.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE