

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 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. Udvard; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting; motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, 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 D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Duneland Chamber of Commerce--Maura Durham of Duneland Chamber of Commerce gave an update regarding event scheduling for the Chamber. Durham explained they will be rescheduling Taste of Duneland to September 5th. Durham said with the changing situation of the pandemic, this event will have to be restructured and she does not have a further update at this time. Additionally, Corkscrew & Brew was scheduled for June 20th and has now been pushed to November 7th and has been coordinated with the park board. Durham said that this event is also tentatively scheduled given the changing situation of the pandemic.

Center Avenue Right-of-Way Agreement-- Odisei Miron of 1750 N. Spalding Ave., Apt. 302, Chicago, IL requests use of a right-of-way at Center Ave. Town Attorney J. Paulson explained that this is simply an agreement between Miron and the Town saying he would be able to improve the right of way, but that the Town will not then be responsible for things such as repairs, snow removal, and trash pick-up. Donna Barr of 1764 Elgin St. voiced concerns regarding items being stored on the property such as RVs, boats, trailers, trucks, and logs. Some of the items belonged to the former owner who is now deceased. Miron said he wants to

improve the road and hopes to build a house there. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to take the agreement under advisement, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vacate of Public Way-- 723 S. Jackson Blvd. -- Tammy Symmes explained she would like to vacate a portion of public way at the extension of Union Ave. Attorney J. Paulson advised the Council to set this for public hearing on August 10th and to get a report from the Town Engineer and Department Heads. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set this for public hearing August 10th, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mike Candiano-- 2101 Pradera Trail—Originally came to the meeting to speak on the PSR LLC Annexation Petition, but since this topic will be addressed again in a later meeting, wanted to offer some compliments to Police Chief Cincoski. Candiano thanked Chief Cincoski and the Police Department for help with demonstrations, for coverage for Portage PD, and for assistance at the skating rink.

Rod Zachara--2121 Pradera Trail—Came to the meeting to speak on the PSR LLC Annexation Petition. Zachara asked how the July 27th Town meeting will be handled in terms of social distancing in case a large number of residents show up. Zachara asked if the meeting would perhaps be held at a larger facility or if it would be streamed.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—NO REPORT

B. Fire – NO REPORT

C. Clerk Treasurer—Plan Commission Opening, CEDIT Request—Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare said that there is a Plan Commission Opening available and this position must be Independent or Democrat. Council President S. Darnell asked interested people to please email a letter of intent by July 24th so that the Council can review by the July 27th meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Udvare also requested \$8,000 for codification from CEDIT. Clerk-Treasurer Udvare received the quote and said it will cost \$3,600 and asked for the approval to move forward. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the CEDIT request, motion seconded by council member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service—Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg said they've got started on the previous list that was approved for sidewalk projects. Commission Schnadenberg also said that NIPSCO is installing a new gas main on Calumet from Indian Boundary south to Grant Street.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O'Dell said they are reviewing Coffee Creek Center's first addition subdivision. Plan Commission will have a preliminary hearing Thursday. Engineer

O'Dell also said he and Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg have worked with INDOT regarding a "Chesterton Strong" banner and have applied for permits. Commissioner Schnadenberg and Engineer O'Dell will get with INDOT on the locations for this. INDOT is also reviewing improving a few intersections: 49 and Indian Boundary, 49 and Porter Ave., 49 and 1100, and 49 and Gateway. Engineer O'Dell explained that these would likely be 2-3 year projects.

F. Building-Town Engineer Mark O'Dell said Dollar General will be submitting plans in 2 weeks. Engineer O'Dell also said the owner of the old travel building is doing demo right now and is looking at several ideas for things that could go in there. There are not yet any confirmed plans.

G. Park- NO REPORT

H. Attorney--NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—NO REPORT

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

NONE

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Tabled: PSR, LLC Annexation Petition- Council Member J. Ton said that in order for the Town of Chesterton and Plan Commission to exercise authority over this development, it needs to be in town. Council Member J. Ton made motion to un-table the petition for annexation and set a public hearing, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Attorney Paulson said the next step would be to put the annexation agreement/ordinance on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting on July 27th. Council Member J. Ton commented that annexation is a different issue than approval of plans for the area. What comes after annexation is up to the Plan Commission. This step just requires making the land part of Chesterton. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to add PSR, LLC Annexation Petition to the Agenda for July 27th meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Quiet Zone- Council Member J. Ton said they have been working with a new company, Rio Tech, and that diagnostics have been submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

LEL Park Donation-- Kevin Warren and Keith Sharp spoke on behalf of Lake Erie Land Company. Pursuant to Town of Chesterton Ordinance 97-03, and the Annexation Agreement, dated February 24, 1997, Lake Erie Land Company has committed to providing 17 acres of usable open space to the Town of Chesterton. Attorney Kevin Warren of Sopko, Nussbaum, Inabnit & Kaczmarek, has written the Town Council explaining that in working with representatives of the Town, they have identified a parcel that exceeds the required acreage while meeting the requirements of the commitment. The parcel is located on Dickinson Road between Porter Avenue and 1100 N. Warren requested acceptance by the Town of Chesterton of this parcel in satisfaction of the commitment. The parcel is 27 acres and is located off Dickinson Road just south of Memory Lane. Council Member J. Ton asked if this parcel has been identified as marsh. Council President S. Darnell asked whether or not there are structures on the property and asked that demolition be taken care of by Lake Erie Land Company. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to accept the donation subject to legal review and approval of the details, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No Comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	No Comment
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No Comment
Council Member J. Ton:	Council Member J. Ton said that masks are a health statement and are not political.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No Comment

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE