

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
December 28, 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. via tele conference.

Council President S. Darnell called for a moment of silence in memory of previous Council Member Bob Crone.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member S. Darnell, Council Member J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

Council Member J. Ton called for a point of order regarding keeping current Town Council offices for 2021. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to keep S. Darnell as Council President and L. Kittredge as Council Vice President, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting and December 15, 2020 special meeting; motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Town Insurance Policy Renewal** - Mike and Jim Anton of Anton Insurance met with the Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare and Incoming Town Manager D. Cincoski regarding insurance policy renewals for the Town. Jim Anton indicated a twelve percent increase in premiums due to inflation and additional automobiles being added to the Town's policy. Council Member J. Ton questioned whether or not there would be a reduction in premiums after an auction of surplus vehicles. Jim Anton explained this could and would not take effect until the 2022 policy renewal

if the vehicles are under \$150,000.

## VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police—Unused Police Vacation Hours -** Chief N. Brown made the Council aware that some officers were unable to use their vacation time for 2020 due to covering shifts related to COVID issues. Chief Brown asked the Council’s approval to pay out this unused time to officers. Council Member J. Ton spoke in favor of this request as police liaison and made the motion to pay out unused 2020 vacation time to police officers, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**B. Fire –**Interim Chief E. Camel presented information and options regarding replacement of the fire engine that was involved in an accident months prior. Council Member J. Fisher said as fire liaison she is working with Interim Chief Camel and Deputy Chief Williams on the engine replacement and that they have not been able to find anything used that would be adequate as a replacement. Talks are in process with the Westchester Township Trustee regarding assistance in funding for a brand new replacement engine. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to proceed with specs and bids for the new engine, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**C. Clerk Treasurer—NO REPORT.** Council Member J. Ton commented that he attended a recent meeting regarding the 2020 Audit results and that Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare did a great job presenting information to the auditors.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service —End of Year Report-** Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg was absent from the Council meeting. However he provided the Council a detailed end of year report regarding Community Crossing Grant paving projects, sidewalk projects, General Obligation bond paving projects, Tree City Certification, leaf pick up, brush removal, tree maintenance, and payroll hours.

**E. Engineering—**Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported that his department is reviewing new Aldi and PSR, LLC development plans.

**F. Building —**Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reported that occupancy has been granted to Duneland Deli and Rhythm and Beats Physical Therapy. Aldi is still discussing their sidewalk construction issue and whether or not they will bring any petitions to the Town Council.

**G. Parks –** NO REPORT.

**H. Attorney—**Town Attorney C. Lukmann took a moment to honor late Town Council Member Bob Crone.

**I. Utilities—**Superintendent D. Ryan gave kudos to his staff and the Town Council for making it a great year in the Utility Department.

**J. Town Manager—**Town Manager B. Doyle said it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chesterton Town Manager for the past twelve years. Town Manager Doyle commented that it should be a seamless transition with Police Chief Cincoski taking over as Incoming Town Manager.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2020-23-Amending Town Code-Towing of Abandoned Vehicles-**Town Attorney Lukmann presented this ordinance from the Police Commission establishing guidelines for towing services called to provide service to the Chesterton Police Department. Council Member J. Ton made a motion to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Ordinance 2020-24-2021 Salary Ordinance-** Town Attorney C. Lukmann presented the 2021 Salary Ordinance to the Council. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Resolution 2020-09-Reclassification of Expenses and Transfer of Surplus Funds-**Town Attorney Lukmann presented this resolution to the Council regarding eligible expenses from the General Fund, MVH fund, Waste Water Operating fund, Debt Service fund, and Storm Water funds. Additionally, this resolution addresses surpluses in the Cumulative Capital Improvement fund, CEDIT fund, and Storm Water fund. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve this resolution, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

**Proclamation regarding Town Manager B. Doyle from House Representative Chuck Moseley-** Council President S. Darnell read a proclamation from House Representative Chuck Moseley regarding Town Manager B. Doyle. Representative Moseley congratulated Doyle on

11 years of service as Chesterton’s Town Manager, adding that he improved economic development in Chesterton, attracting Urschel Laboratories, CFON, as well as many others.

X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone-** NO REPORT.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

**Public Affairs Liaison -** Council Member J. Ton made a motion to approve the job description for a new Town position that would handle public relations for the Town and appointing Kevin Nevers to said position; motion seconded by council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Nevers’ start date will be January 4, 2021.

**Police Commission Vacancy-** Police Commission Member Jeff Horynak notified the Council that he will be moving outside of Town limits, thus resigning effective 12/31/2020 and creating an open vacancy on the Police Commission. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to post the opening for this vacancy and to accept applications until January 15, 2021; motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Fire Department Oversight Committee Opening-** Applications for the position open on the Fire Department Oversight Committee will be due by January 15, 2021.

**Appointments Special Meeting of the Town Council-** Council President S. Darnell mentioned that there will be a special meeting of the Town Council for the purpose of appointments on January 4, 2021 at 5 PM via zoom.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell: Council President S. Darnell thanked Bernie Doyle for all of his support and wished him a happy retirement.

Council Member J. Fisher: Council Member J. Fisher thanked Bernie Doyle for all of his contributions to our community. She wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Council Member L. Kittredge: Council Member L. Kittredge thanked Bernie Doyle for everything he has done for the Town and wished everyone a happy 2021.

Council Member J. Ton: Council Member J. Ton commented that the Chesterton Tribune has been good to the Town and that it will be greatly missed.

Council Member D. Lafata: Council Member D. Lafata thanked Bernie Doyle for his help for the Town Council and for Chesterton residents.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes,0-No).

ATTEST:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE