

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 8, 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 S. Darnell, and Council Member J. Fisher. Council Member L. Kittredge was absent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 Executive Session and of the February 22, 2021 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member D. Lafata 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

Kevin Warren- LEL Park Donation- Town Attorney J. Paulson explained that Warren was here tonight on behalf of Lake Erie Land Company. Lake Erie Land Company has donated land to the Town for the use of parks and recreation. This donation was part of their commitment during an annexation process. The Town's legal counsel will be receiving the deed soon for this donated land. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to accept the donated property, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ann Welsh- 2205 Kelle Dr. APT. 104- Welsh appeared before the Council to express her concerns about the intersection where 1050 meets Kelle Dr. Welsh commented that she has witnessed three serious accidents and many near accidents at the intersection. Furthermore, Welsh expressed her thoughts that the intersection should be a 4-way stop as opposed to the current 2-way set up with warning lights. Interim Police Chief Byrd will bring this issue up with the Police Commission for further review.

CBLT-Lorelei Weimer-1215 N St. Rd. 49, Porter, IN- Weimer gave an update on the Chesterton Leadership Branding Team (CBLT). The CBLT is currently waiting on its 501C Status to operate independently as the CBLT. For the time being, the CBLT is working as a committee of the DEDC. The CBLT came to present and to speak to the Council about a proposed Upsidaisy Market. Weimer commented that any proration and or savings of expenses would be appreciated for this new market.

Lisa Woodrich- 610 Michigami Trail, Porter- Woodrich, owner of Third Coast Spice Café & Lemon Tree and creator of the European Market, presented the concept of the Upsidaisy Market. Upsidaisy Market would be an urban market, part shopping and part artisan-festival, in a small-town setting. The Market could incorporate concerts, demonstrations, car shows, special guests, and different themes. Hours of operation would be from 10AM-4PM on Sundays in Thomas Centennial Park and in the Duneland Chamber's parking lot. The Market's goal opening date would be May 30, 2021 and would run through October 2021, subject to appropriate approvals. The proposed rate for a vendor booth is \$50 a day with a current goal of 30 participating vendors. Vendors would be carefully screened for specialty, originality, market demand for goods, as well as vendor information by the CBLT. Council Member J. Ton thanked Lisa for her presentation and made the motion to take the Upsidaisy Market concept under advisement, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Manager D. Cincoski said feedback of favorable recommendation has been provided from Department Heads and from the Park Board. The Upsidaisy Market will be placed on the agenda for further review at the March 22, 2021 Town Council meeting.

Vacation of a Public Way- Union Ave.-Joanne Boyer-722 S. Jackson Blvd.- Boyer explained that she was seeking a vacation of public way for the purpose of paving her driveway. Boyer attempted to pursue paving her driveway last fall and was told that she could not due to the land improvements being at their limit for her current lot size. Adding this vacation to her lot size could allow her to pave her driveway. Town Attorney J. Paulson advised that the Council could choose to set this petition for public hearing. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the vacation for public hearing on April 12, 2021, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—Council Member J. Ton introduced Interim Police Chief Bob Byrd. Chief Byrd explained that he will be approaching the Police Commission about possibly performing a traffic study at the intersection of Kelle Dr. and 1050.

B. Fire –FDOC Policy Changes-Chief E. Camel said there were 149 calls in February. Also, Chief Camel will be in contact with Westchester Township, who has their meeting on March 24, regarding the fire engine bids. Chief Camel explained that the FDOC has met and has approved four policy changes/updates. These policies were then presented to the Town Council to review.

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to terminate Rule 1.3, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to adopt SOP 514 regarding compensation and overtime policy for more flexible scheduling at no additional cost to the Town, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to remove references to reduction time and to add compensation time (Standard Operating Guideline 510 Amendment), motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to remove the 5-day advance notice requirement for department use of personal time, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Clerk Treasurer – NO REPORT

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –Banner Request for Duneland Exchange Club- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg presented the banner request from April 1-30, 2021 for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the banner request, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Street Commissioner Schnadenberg referenced a letter of praise to Building Department employees Chris Cole and David Lohse for helping construct additional Street Department office space. Cole used his talents to build a frame, put up drywall, complete the flooring, and even painted the office. Lohse assisted throughout the project. Cole and Lohse did a great job on the project and also saved taxpayers several thousands of dollars.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported that A&R is working on replacing 300 ft. sections of pipeline behind the Abbiocco restaurant during March and that this will be a 2-month process.

F. Building —Building Commissioner M. O’Dell said the letter of credit for 1840 S. 11th. Street was received today and that it has been sent to the Town’s legal team for further review. The occupancy permit has been held on this item until the letter of credit can be investigated further.

G. Parks –Superintendent S. Griffin asked the Council to declare the Park Department’s 1999 Ford F250 (VIN# 1FTNW21L9XEB53952) Truck as surplus. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to declare the truck as surplus, motion seconded by council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Griffin also reported that the Coffee Creek RFPs have been reviewed and that he hopes to conduct interviews with some of the firms next week.

H. Attorney—Re-Establishing CCD Fund- Town Attorney J. Paulson reported that this fund is annually re-established for the purpose of purchasing police and fire vehicles. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set a March 22, 2021 hearing for the re-establishment of the CCD Fund, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

I. Utilities—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that the UV disinfectant processes will be starting soon.

J. Town Manager—Town Manager D. Cincoski commented that Town Public Relations Liaison K. Nevers has posted articles to the Town’s website archives. Council Member J. Ton

gave kudos to Nevers and to Town Manager Cincoski for getting news on the Town's website (chestertonin.org). News can be viewed on Chesterton's website as well as on the Town's Facebook page. Manager Cincoski received notice from the Indiana Pacers regarding Kayla Harris, a Chesterton High School Senior who was nominated by the YMCA for a scholarship. Harris is 1 of 21 recipients of this scholarship throughout IN. Manager Cincoski congratulated Harris and said an article on her achievement will be coming to the Town's pages soon. Lastly, Manager Cincoski asked the Council to consider a CEDIT meeting soon.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2021-06-Amending the Text of the Unified Comprehensive Zoning and Subdivision Control Ordinance- Town Attorney J. Paulson presented this ordinance and explained that it came with a 7-0 favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. The ordinance removes references requiring publications in the Chesterton Tribune and allows for publications in a general newspaper circulating within the Town. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2021-07-Amending the Public Records Policy- Fees Changed for Law Enforcement Recordings- Town Attorney J. Paulson presented the ordinance which would amend the Town's Public Records Policy to set a fee for bodycam recordings at \$150. Council Member J. Ton 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 D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Council Member J. Ton reported on the lack of communication from the company that contracted with the Town. Town Manager D. Cincoski said an inquiry has been sent 3-4 weeks ago by Town Engineer M. O’Dell. The Vice President of the company said there is an inquiring status with the Federal Railroad Association. Council Member J. Fisher questioned the recourse on the contract.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	Fisher is excited about the CBLT proposal and thanked CBLT for the presentation. Fisher commended Cincoski & Nevers as well as CFD for jobs well done.
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No comment
Council Member J. Ton:	Member J. Ton said he is excited about the Upsidaisy Market.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE