

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 10, 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 S. Darnell, Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Member J. Fisher called a point of order regarding the recent vandalism at Town parks. Member Fisher said there have been 4 incidents of vandalism since she has taken office and any further incidents will not be tolerated. She called for a strategic plan and recommendations to be sent to the Park Board. Ideas for vandalism prevention included increased lighting, improving camera presences, limiting hours of rest room operations, and police/park department restroom checks. Superintendent S. Griffin will provide a list of the damages incurred from the vandalism to the Police Chief and to the Town's legal department. The Park Board will have a special meeting on the issue. Residents are encouraged to speak out if they have any information.

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

Waiver of Minimum Standards- Park Ave. (Peterson)- Attorney Greg Babcock spoke on behalf of Glenn and Audra Peterson of 200 Roosevelt Street, Chesterton, IN 46304. The Petersons are seeking to waive the construction of a 5 foot wide sidewalk on Park Avenue between 15th and Jackson Blvd., a distance of 595.92 feet. Additionally, they are seeking to waive the construction of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on Jackson Blvd., from Park Avenue extended North to the North line of said property—a distance of 286.94 feet. The Petersons are building a

new Home on Porter Ave. just west of the intersection of 15th street. Their parcel extends from Porter Ave. south to Park over to Jackson and is almost 5 acres in size. Town Engineer Mark O'Dell offered to give comments on the petition if the Town Council requested. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to defer the petition to Department Heads for study/recommendation, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Audra Peterson thanked Street Commissioner Schnadenberg and his team for recently clearing the trees efficiently from the area.

Richard Reilly- Richard Reilly of 123 N. 4th St., Chesterton, attended the recent Park Board meeting and has brought the issue of recent vandalism to Town parks to the attention of the CBLT and to the Porter County Tourism Board. Reilly requests more follow up on the issue and offered the help of the CBLT and of the Tourism Board. Additional ideas for vandalism prevention and monitoring were to place a phone # in restrooms for the purpose of conveying information on vandalism incidents and or creating a tip line that allows anonymous reports. An itemized list of damages was requested from Park Superintendent S. Griffin for review.

Carl Robinson – Carl Robinson of 2091 Texas St. Chesterton, approached the Council asking that Texas Street be paved as soon as possible. A list of upcoming paving projects was provided during the Street Department's report.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— Interim Police Chief R. Byrd reported that the department is actively involved in two investigations (armed robbery in unknown park and park vandalism). There have also been complaints about speeding. Patrols will be increasing in neighborhoods and awareness will be brought to the issue on social media. Council Member J. Ton mentioned that they may not disclose all tactics in place to prevent park vandalism so that vandals are not aware of them. Additionally, Ton thanked the Police Department for their help with the stop arm violations for the school buses.

B. Fire –Fire Engine Bids- Chief E. Camel reported that they received 25 smoke detectors from the Get Alarms Program from the State of Indiana. A smoke detector blitz will take place. Additionally, Chief Camel reported that the department has received 1 shaker alarm which is used for the hearing impaired. Lastly, Chief Camel explained that the Sutphen contract for the new engine has been fully executed and a rebuild can be expected in 80 days.

C. Clerk Treasurer- TRECS Program- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare shared information and a Memorandum of Understanding regarding this program that helps government entities collect debts (i.e., delinquent utility, stormwater, and refuse fees, etc.). For instance, when a resident's tax return processes through the state of Indiana, the debts owed on delinquent utility/stormwater/refuse fees would be collected out of any said tax refunds to the resident. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to execute the Memorandum of Understanding for the TRECS program, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by

unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton said he thought this may be the best way to go about the issue and appreciated Clerk- Treasurer Udvaré's research on the issue.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg said Texas Street is not on the list this year for paving. Commissioner Schnadenberg did agree Texas Street needs paving and mentioned it will be included on an application for Community Crossing Grants, with potential 50/50 funding, and will hopefully get done next spring. He added that the estimate to pave Texas Street is roughly \$98,000. Lastly, Commissioner Schnadenberg reported that paving in TIF areas on 1100 N from 49 to Dickinson and Pioneer Trail will begin on May 17 and that the department is receiving a dump truck within next two weeks.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O'Dell agreed with paving concerns regarding Texas Street.

F. Building —Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported that Aldi has broken ground. Additionally, Commissioner O'Dell mentioned that he will be working with Public Affairs Liaison K. Nevers on getting notice out to residents regarding the importance of obtaining appropriate permits before starting building projects. Contractors must be registered and have licenses.

G. Parks –Superintendent S. Griffin reported that they are working on developing Dickinson Park, with a possibility of developing a Dog Park. Additionally, Superintendent Griffin is working on a grant for the bathrooms by the baseball field at Chesterton Park.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that the Utility Department was able to manage the recent rain without any issues.

J. Town Manager—NO REPORT

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

NONE

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Town Manager D. Cincoski reported there have been no updates since the last meeting.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Redevelopment Commission Appointment- Council Member J. Ton nominated Sharon Darnell to fill the open seat on the Redevelopment Commission, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell: Council President S. Darnell commented that it has been a rough year and encouraged everyone to keep plugging along.

Council Member J. Fisher: No Comment

Council Member L. Kittredge: No comment

Council Member J. Ton: No Comment

Council Member D. Lafata: No comment

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE