

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 24, 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 J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge. Council Member D. Lafata was absent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— Interim Police Chief R. Byrd reported that the Thomas Centennial Park Boxcar cameras are networked to the park department, detective bureau and dispatch. This technology will also be installed in patrol squad cars so officers can do virtual patrols. Chief Byrd also discussed the Tip411 program, which is an anonymous program that lets residents' text tips to the police department. Tip411 also allows the Police Department to push out information based on certain cases they might be working. Valparaiso has had this program going for 14 years and has found it incredibly successful. Police Chiefs from Porter and Burns Harbor are interested in the program. Council Member J. Fisher commented that she was pleased with the progress made and thanked Chief Byrd. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to allow Chief Byrd to get quotes on the Tip411 program as well as to get together with neighboring municipalities regarding the program; motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by

unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton commented that he would like to proceed with the 411 program regardless of other towns participating.

B. Fire – Chief E. Camel reported that there have been multiple accidents on Interstate 94, the toll road, and in Liberty Township to which the CFD has responded to. Additionally the last round of Covid-19 shots were administered successfully by Northshore in the Fire Station. Lastly, Chief Camel stated that the annual hiring process has been started in the Fire Department. Chief Camel would like to lower the hiring age requirement from 21 years old to 18 years old. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve lowering the hiring age from 21 to 18 years of age, pending FDOC and legal approval; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Clerk Treasurer- NO REPORT

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy reported that the missing links of some Town sidewalks (Railroad & Dickinson, Village Point & Kelle Dr.) have been connected and that the public is very happy. Additionally, Assistant Commissioner Moy reported that the paving at Pioneer Trail is done and the road will be striped next week. 2nd Street was paved partially and the department is waiting on a smaller paver to finish the job tomorrow. Laurel Creek paving has also been completed. Floral hanging baskets have been placed around Town. Employee Z. Lynk has resigned and hiring will take place to fill the position.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported LEL is doing infill and property clearing North of Culvers. There are no new businesses coming into those locations currently.

F. Building —NO REPORT

G. Parks –CEDIT Truck- Superintendent S. Griffin thanked Chief Byrd and the Police Department for their assistance with recent park vandalism. Additionally, Superintendent Griffin reported that the Park Department is replacing their 1999 Ford, which was also approved by the Park Board. The new 2022 Ford F250 truck would be purchased from Bozak Chevrolet for the amount of \$35,762. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the replacement truck purchase (funded by CEDIT funds), motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—Downtown Planters, Shared Ethics Advisory Commission- Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that it has been brought to his attention that the planters downtown are breaking and are rusting. Town Manager Cincoski would like to see them replaced with metal or concrete as a cheaper option. The replacement cost would be \$3,120 for 13 concrete planters. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve using CEDIT funds to purchase the 13 concrete planters, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Manager Cincoski explained that a non-government employee appointment needs to be made for a lay person to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. He recommended Todd Elliott. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to

approve the recommendation of Todd Elliott as lay person to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Vacation of Public Way- 1400 Block of Union Ave.- Marilyn A. Buczkowski- Public hearing was opened at 7:21 PM. Marilyn Buczkowski of 804 S. 14th. St. and Kimberly Lee of 722 S. 14th St. attended. Both Neighbors were in favor. No one opposed. The public hearing was closed at 7:22 PM.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2021-10- Amending Ordinance 2020-24 Employment of Certain Employees and Determining the Compensation Thereof- Attorney C. Lukmann presented the ordinance which gives raises to employees with exception of elected officials effective June 6. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance upon 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the ordinance upon 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2021-11- Vacation of a Public Way- 1400 Block of Union- Buczkowski- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance upon 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the ordinance upon 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2021-04- Amending Resolutions 2020-04 and 2020-06- Public Gatherings Under Covid-19 Restrictions- Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. This resolution increases the size (25 to 100) of people in a gathering required to submit plans for review.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NIRPC Board Meeting Report- Council Member J. Ton reported that NIRPC met May 20, 2021 as an Executive Board Meeting. Member Ton explained that the committee structure is changing. Fifteen committees are changing to four committees (transportation, administration of complex, economic development, and general government). NIRPC serves Lake, Porter, & Laporte Counties. Mark O'Dell serves on the transportation committee. CARES act funds were discussed but are not yet available. An updated informational report was given at the meeting regarding the Cline Avenue bridge, which is a privately owned entity through which East Chicago receives a funding (10 cents on every \$1 in tolls).

X. OLD BUSINESS

Waiver of Minimum Standards- Park Ave.- Peterson- Attorney Greg Babcock represented petitioners Glenn and Audra Peterson. The Peterson's were requesting waivers on both Park Avenue and Jackson Blvd. Attorney Babcock worked with the Town legal and Engineer M. O'Dell on recommendations that would take into consideration the large amount of trees east of the subdivision to Jackson Blvd. Town Attorney Lukmann recommended that upon submission of an infrastructure guarantee of \$66,420 in a form acceptable to the town attorney, that temporary occupancy would be granted. This temporary occupancy would also be subject to sidewalks being installed within 90 days or creation of a subdivision plat being filled within 90 days. Attorney Babcock discussed possibly vacating Park Ave at 16th in the future. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to reject the waiver of standards and to grant occupancy subject to the conditions requested by the Town Attorney, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Quiet Zone- Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that the company advised that they are on track to meet their self-imposed deadline of May 31st for providing a feasibility study. Council Member J. Ton questioned what this project might cost the Town.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No Comment
Council Member J. Fisher: for all their hard work.	Council Member J. Fisher thanked everyone
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No comment
Council Member J. Ton:	Council Member J. Ton commented that he hopes everyone has a pleasant and thoughtful Memorial Day.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Fisher 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