

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
October 25, 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 J. Fisher, Council Member S. Darnell and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; 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 L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Paul Sciarra from Anton Insurance, Chesterton, IN- Renewal of Town's Health Insurance-** Paul Sciarra, representing Anton Insurance Agency, addressed the Council regarding the renewal for the Town's stop loss health insurance plan. Quotes were provided from three companies. The quotes were based on past performance from this year. Sciarra and Clerk Treasurer Udvare recommended that the Town accept the renewal offer from American National. Some of the other companies that provided quotes do not offer underwriting freezes and could potentially require higher deductibles for certain individuals. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the renewal with American National, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police— SRO MOU-** Police Chief T. Richardson discussed the renegotiated MOU with Duneland School Corporation regarding adding another Student Resource Officer (SRO) and

increased compensation to the Town for all SROs. The MOU has been reviewed by legal and has also been approved at the Duneland School Board meeting. The Town will be receiving an extra \$175,000 from the school corporation and \$30,000 from the County for the purpose of adding a drug team member. Furthermore, Chief Richardson presented the MOU to the Town Council for review and approval and also asked to use the additional funding that would be available from the MOU for the purpose of hiring two new police officers for the Town. Police liaison J. Ton voiced his approval of Chief Richardson's requests. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the MOU, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve Chief Richardson's request to hire two new police officers with the funding made available by this MOU, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**B. Fire –Deputy Chief Job Description-** Deputy Chief Williams presented an updated job description of the Deputy Fire Chief. There are no significant changes, just refinements of language. The FDOC has approved the deputy fire chief job description. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the updated Deputy Fire Chief job description, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Deputy Chief Williams also reported on the status of RFPs for the emergency vehicle preemption project. NIRPC will be funding the project and any proposals are being sent to Town Engineer M. O'Dell for review.

**C. Clerk Treasurer-** Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that the 2022 budget information was turned into the DLGF and we are waiting on their review. Clerk-Treasurer Udvare also reported that the Town will be updating fund numbers at the beginning of the year to reflect updates to state standards. Lastly, Clerk-Treasurer Udvare asked to add a request from Heather Compton, representing Rebuilding Together Duneland, to the agenda. Compton explained that she is working on a project on Wabash and asked the Council if they would be willing to waive the permit fees. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to waive the permit fees for this Rebuilding Together project, motion second by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –NO REPORT**

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer M. O'Dell reported that the Storm Water Management Board has approved the 2022 budget. The budget was included in the Town Council packet for their review.

**F. Building** —Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported that the surgical center by the dental office is a two-phase project. The first phase involves exterior shell work and the second phase will be an interior remodel project.

**G. Parks** –Superintendent S. Griffin reported that the park restrooms will be closing soon with the exception of the train car restrooms in Thomas Centennial Park. Christmas Décor will be up soon.

**H. Attorney**—NO REPORT

**I. Utilities**—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that with the 3 inches of rain we recently received,

25,000 gallons ended up in the basin.

**J. Town Manager**—Town Manager Cincoski reported that an advertisement production crew (on behalf of gorving.com) will be out in the Town & Coffee Creek area on Thursday to shoot scenes for a commercial. Also, Town Manager Cincoski reported that he recently received a letter from a visiting Wisconsin resident thanking and praising the Town for having an electric car charging station available for use. Furthermore, Town Manager Cincoski stated that the electric charging station in Town averages 37 uses per month, with an average use time less than 2 hours.

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

**Public Hearing- Annexation- Duneland School Bus Barn-** Attorney Greg Babcock, Director of Support for the Duneland School Corporation Greg Lindy, and John Sturgil of McMahon Engineering approached the Council for approval of the Duneland School Bus Barn Annexation. Attorney Babcock reported that the annexation will enable the construction of a new parking lot for employees and a new fuel station for the bus barn. The public hearing for approval of the annexation was opened at 7:22 PM. No one spoke for or against the annexation. The public hearing was closed at 7:23 PM.

## VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinances 2021-21- Annexing Certain Contiguous Land to the Town of Chesterton— Duneland School Bus Barn Property-** Council Member D. Lafata approved the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 we are waiting for responses to revisions sent to the company.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Council President S. Darnell asked the Council to consider consulting with/hiring a short-term planner for the purpose of reviewing and refining building standards in new developments in the Town. This planner would work alongside the Plan Commission, the Town’s legal team, and Town Manager Cincoski and Department Heads. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve proceeding to hire a short-term planner or the purpose of controlling building standards in new developments, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

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| Council Member S. Darnell:   | No comment                              |
| Council Member J. Fisher:<br>411 app is online as of today.                | Member J. Fisher mentioned that the TIP |
| Council Member L. Kittredge:   | No comment                              |
| Council Member J. Ton:<br>Trick or Treat is Sunday from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM    | Member J. Ton reminded everyone that    |
| Council Member D. Lafata:<br>for assisting with YMCA Trick or Treat Event. | Member D. Lafata thanked CPD and CFD    |

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE