

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 24, 2022
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President J. Fisher 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, Council Member L. Kittredge, and Council Member J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

Indiana Dunes Tourism & Visit Indiana- Lorelei Weimer & Mary Clare- Weimer, from the Indiana Dunes Tourism board and Clare, on behalf of the Indiana Lieutenant Governor, presented the Hoosier Hospitality Award to Lisa Wodrich. Wodrich is the owner of Third Coast Spice Café and Lemon Tree Mediterranean Grill. Wodrich is also part of the CBLT (Chesterton Branding Leadership Team), is creator of the European and Upsadaisy Markets, serves on the Indiana Dunes Tourism Board, and started the Gnome Place Like Home program in which visitors hunt for gnomes at various businesses. These programs have helped the Town thrive during the pandemic.

Richard Riley- 123 4th Street-Thomas Centennial Park Name Change- Riley approached the Council regarding changing the name of Thomas Centennial Park to Railroad Park. Riley provided reasons why he believes the name should be updated. Riley presented history of the Town, Park, and railroads. The park was started in 1939 and was named Thomas Centennial Park

in 1966, many years after the actual Centennial Celebration. Furthermore, Riley stated that Chesterton is in the top 10 of places in the U.S. to watch trains. Riley suggested that perhaps the park's new name could be "Thomas Railroad Park," with the thought process of not losing the "Thomas" but also honoring the railroads. Riley thanked the Council for its consideration.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—Chief Richardson gave an update on vehicles that were declared surplus and or traded in. The proceeds of the auction money helped with a new truck purchase. The department ended up paying \$13,398 on \$42,000 truck purchase after the trade in and the auction funds. The department is awaiting prices on SUVs and possible arrival dates. Council Member J. Ton commented that traditionally, there are 3 new vehicles per year for the police department.

B. Fire – Chief Camel reported the new engine is now expected in September vs. July due to supply chain issues. Council Member Fisher commented that legal will review the contract regarding the delay.

C. Clerk Treasurer- No report.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – CEDIT Request, Banner Request, and Bid Recommendation for 2022 Paving & Community Crossing Projects- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported there is a banner request from the Chesterton Art Center for the dates of July 25, 2022 through August 8, 2022 for the purpose of advertising for the Art Fair. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the banner request, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Commissioner Schnadenberg recommended the Council choose Rieth Riley for the bids and to release Milestone. Rieth Riley was lowest for both project bids. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve Rieth Riley's bids and to release Milestone's bids, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Street Commissioner Schnadenberg then referred to a written CEDIT request to the Council regarding the offset to the MVH (motor vehicle highway) budget. Council Member D. Lafata approved this use of CEDIT funds, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Lastly, Street Commissioner Schnadenberg reported that the department's purchased dump truck might be ready in July. Additionally, the purchased pickup truck and tractor may be ready in March.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer O'Dell reported that he has been working with the Northshore project going in at the former resale shop. Additionally, he reported working with Republic Services on their project.

F. Building — Building Commissioner O'Dell reported that the Allure, now with sprinkler system, and the Duneland Distillery have received occupancy.

G. Parks –No report.

H. Attorney—No report.

I. Utilities—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that the lift station at Pioneer Point and 1100 is being rehabilitated over the next week or so.

J. Town Manager—Town Manager Cincoski gave a report on behalf of the Park Department. The pickle ball court designs are currently being worked on and will hopefully be presented for quote process to the park board. The park department has passed the 1st step of the coastal grant process for the coffee creek boardwalk and will be moving forward in this process. Bass Pro awarded the department with a \$1,000 grant for the purpose of pond rehabilitation. Town Manager Cincoski reported that business registrations are being completed. A CEDIT fund discussion meeting will take place on February 28, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Council Member J. Ton gave a report on behalf of NIPRC. Ton reported that the full commission met online via hybrid meeting last Thursday. The budget was approved. Ty Warner is still the executive director. There are 6 projects NIRPC has contributed to the Town. Ton was re-elected to the executive board of NIRPC. Mark O'Dell with respect to the technical planning committee was named proxy. Council Member J. Fisher thanked Ton for all his work.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Ordinance 2022-01- Amending 2020-21 Amending the Rate to be collected by the Town from owners of property for Garbage Pickup and Disposal including Recycling- The rate for recycling would decrease by \$1.09. The public hearing was opened at 7:29 PM. No one spoke for or against the ordinance. The public hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2022-01- Amending 2020-01 Amending the Rate to be Collected by the Town from owners of property for Garbage Pickup and Disposal including Recycling- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2022-01- Authorizing the Establishment of Work Procedures and Regulations by the Town Manager to Combat the Spread of COVID-19- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Town Manager Cincoski reported there will be a meeting with the consultant on February 14.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Council Member S. Darnell requested that the council look into updating the Town Hall. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to work with legal to make a plan to update the Town Hall, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; 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: | Fisher thanked Town Manager Cincoski for being proactive with employees regarding COVID 19. |
| Council Member L. Kittredge: | No comment. |
| Council Member J. Ton: | Ton commented that the \$3.1 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding will eventually be deposited. Ton wanted to assure the public that needs and wants will be examined. Additionally, Ton amended Riley's presentation, updating the year of the Town Centennial from 1951 to 1952. |
| Council Member D. Lafata: | No comment. |

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member L. Kittredge 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