

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2022
5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President J. Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 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. QUIET ZONE

The Quiet Zone evaluation report by CTC Inc. was presented virtually by Danny Fregia from Rio Grande Technology. The findings were discussed by the Town Council and Department Heads. Fregia was asked to look into a few questions that were asked and get back to Town Manager Dave Cincoski.

Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to recess, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council was recessed at 6:26 p.m.

President J. Fisher called the Town Council meeting to reconvene at 7:00 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Member S. Darnell called a point of order requesting to add Resolution 2022-02 to the agenda; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Resolution 2022-02 repeals Resolution 2021-11 Adopting Certain Measures to Slow the Spread of Covid-19. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-02, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; 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 L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Duneland Chamber- Maura Mundell- 2022 Chamber Events- Mundell presented some save the dates for Chamber events in 2022: European Market (1st Sat. in May till last Sat. in October 8am-2pm), Corkscrew and Brew (June 18 from 12pm-4pm), Fireworks on the Lakefront (June 29th; June 30th if weather is bad), Vino al Fresco (September 17 from 5-8 pm), Downtown Trick or Treat (October 28 from 4-6 pm), Hometown Holiday Celebration (November 26th: 8am Market, 5:15 pm parade and tree lighting), and Mistletoe Market (December 3 from 8am-2pm). Contracts will be presented closer to the dates of the specific events.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—Chief T. Richardson inquired about and reported on the 2022 police fleet purchases. QPA state pricing may not be in effect anymore, so the department may not be able to purchase vehicles under state quantity pricing. Instead, Chief Richardson, working with legal, would need to utilize quoted purchases. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve Chief Richardson proceeding with quotes for 2022 fleet, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Fire – SOG 300 – Equipment Checks Policy Update- Chief E. Camel reported on an update to policy SOG 300 regarding equipment checks. These are done electronically and are reported in the emergency reporting software. SOG 300 updates were reviewed and approved by the FDOC. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the update to the SOG 300 policy, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Surplus Cell Phones- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that the Town has 2 Wi-Fi hot spots, 15 flip phones, and 17 iPhones that have been wiped of all data. There are some companies interested in buying the used cell phones for up to \$300 a piece depending on condition and model. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to give Clerk-Treasurer Udvare permission to proceed in researching cell phone buy back companies & declare the above mentioned items as surplus, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Clerk-Treasurer Udvare gave an update on the Chesterton Economic Development Company (CEDC). Chesterton Montessori has fully paid off their loan from the CEDC. Montessori had borrowed \$20,000 at 2% interest in 2020. Council Member J. Ton wanted to congratulate Chesterton Montessori School. Loan applications for this program are available on the Town website.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that the department handled the 10-12 inches of recent snow well. There was a total of 652 gallons of fuel, 220 tons of salt, and 2,254 miles driven—plowing the Town essentially 3 times per GPS on trucks. Street Commissioner Schnadenberg also reported that there was a plow truck damaged by a tree limb, so the department is down one truck.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported he has been working with Utility Superintendent D. Ryan on the 1100 Woods subdivision regarding storm sewer, sanitary, and a lift station. Also, Engineer O’Dell has been working with Fire Chief Camel, Deputy Fire Chief Williams, and Town Manager Cincoski on the emergency vehicle preemption project. The Town will be working with NIRPC on this project.

F. Building — Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reported that the surgery center is continuing inspections and is looking to open around March. Also, the Northshore project is undergoing inspections and is progressing. Lastly, large wall and foundation work is being done on the Ken Allen building.

G. Parks –Interim Superintendent B. Mathias reported on department projects and funding. The department will be working on getting equipment ready for spring.

H. Attorney—No report.

I. Utilities—No report.

J. Town Manager—Town Manager Cincoski reported that the Town is searching for an Assistant Engineer and a Park Superintendent. The Park Board will be meeting in an executive session to review prospective employees.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Vacating a Portion of a Public Way – Peterson – Park Ave. - Greg Babcock represented Glenn & Audra Peterson regarding the vacation of Park Ave. at 16th and Jackson Blvd. Owners are aware of the property tax addition that comes with the vacate. Town Engineer M. O’Dell said he has no issues with the vacation. Council Member J. Ton questioned if trees would be effected. Attorney Babcock remarked that the Petersons would own the trees. The public hearing was opened at 7:17 pm. No one spoke for or against the vacation. The public hearing was closed at 7:20 pm.

Vacating a Portion of a Public Way- Roberts- Michael Dr. - Greg Babcock represented Thomas Roberts and Victor Roberts. This parcel was platted in 1992 with different plans in mind. The goal is to eventually rezone as R1 for 7 buildable single family lots. This is step 1 of a 3 step process. The public hearing was opened at 7:22 pm. No one spoke for or against the vacation. The public hearing was closed at 7:25 pm. Town Engineer M. O’Dell clarified that they are only vacating the Town right of way.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2022-03- Vacating a Portion of a Public Way- Peterson- Park Ave. - Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; 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 S. Darnell made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2022-04- Vacating a Portion of a Public Way- Roberts- Michael Dr. - Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; 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.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Town Manager Cincoski gave a briefing. They are getting clarification on questions and updates. Council Member J. Ton appreciated the time and presentation.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Council Member S. Darnell asked for an update on 8th Street building. This is the building that houses the Town Hall, Fire Department, and Police Department. Town Manager D. Cincoski requested Council consent to obtain a structural engineer/architect to see what could be done. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to proceed with contacting a structural engineer/architect, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell: Council Member S. Darnell commented that she is sorry for loss of Bob Poparad. Bob Poparad fought for this Town. He had integrity and donated to many causes.

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 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