

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2022

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council 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 President J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; 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

Vacation of a Public Way-Jefferson Ave. & 20th. Street- The property owner of 517 S 20th St, Grzegorz Twardus of 7986 W. Highway 20, LaPorte, IN and Jessica Twardus of 614 Lakeshore Dr., Michigan City, IN were present to discuss their request for a vacate. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the vacation for public hearing on May 23rd at 7 PM, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Department heads will review the vacation prior to the meeting. Mr. Twardus stated that he is the sole owner of the property.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—K9 Officer- Police Chief T.Richardson reported that Sergeant Eric Lisoski has been selected to be the new K9 handler for the CPD. Lisoski typically works the noon –midnight or 3

PM -3 AM shifts so he will have the K9 during the busiest times of the day. Next, Chief Richardson announced the Back the Blue Event which is hosted by Aftermath, Running Vines, and the Duneland Distillery. This event will raise money for the FOP. This money will then be facilitated to the CPD for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the officers. The event takes place on May 14th at the Duneland Distillery. Richardson thanked the numerous businesses and organizations in the community that have already made donations to the FOP. Tickets are available now online. Council Member J. Ton made the suggestion of granting Chief latitude to relocate on his own timeline due to the current housing market.

B. Fire – Fire Chief E. Camel reported that a conditional offer was extended to Marc Mihalek. Mihalek has been a full time employee at Gary Fire for 9 years and has been a volunteer at Chesterton Fire for 13 years.

C. Clerk Treasurer- No report.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that the sidewalk has been completed on Calumet North and South of Morgan Ave. Also, the department is in the process of planting 42 trees which were received by NIRPC from a grant. There was also \$5,000 placed in the CEDIT fund for the Tree Committee for the purpose of planting larger trees along Wabash Ave. Schnadenberg closed by commenting that spring clean-up week was a success last week.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported that sewer and storm water will be started in the 1100 Woods subdivision.

F. Building — Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reported that steel is going up on the Ken Allen building. The department is working with the contractor on inspections.

G. Parks –Interim Park Superintendent B. Mathias reported that the department has fixed the trailers. Also, two department trucks are at the Ford dealer for recalls. The department has continued working on mulching the parks and has been working on the softball fields. The bathrooms are being opened.

H. Attorney— No report.

I. Utilities— No report.

J. Town Manager—Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that Duneland Porter Rotary Club wants to meet at the Town Hall on Tuesdays from 11:30 AM – 1 PM until the Library Service Center opens. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to allow the meeting times, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Town Manager Cincoski reported on a grant the NWI Paddling Association is pursuing, which would be used to clear the Little Calumet River. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to allow a letter of recommendation from the Town regarding this grant, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Manager

Cincoski announced that the Town of Porter will hold a Memorial Day program at Hawthorne Park at 1 PM and have asked for a representative of Chesterton to speak at the event. The Council approved participating in the event by consensus. An update was given on the quiet zone regarding costs broken down by rail roads, crossings, and costs. NIRPC is forming the NWI Climate Action Planning Task Force. The Town had previously participated in their greenhouse gas study last year. Town Manager Cincoski volunteered to represent the Town at this meeting. Lastly, Town Manager Cincoski spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act funds and a recommendation from the Federal Government to hold some sort of public input session. He recommended that the Town advertise and hold a public input session on May 9th as a Special Meeting at 6 PM. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the special meeting, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. There will also be a three question survey on the website which will be maintained by the Public Affairs Liaison K. Nevers.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

NONE

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NIRPC Board Report- Council President J. Fisher congratulated Council Member J. Ton for his dedication to NIRPC. Member Ton attended all NIRPC meetings in 2021. Member Ton reported that 42 trees were given to Chesterton from NIRPC and remarked that there were only 100 or so given out total. Last Thursday information was provided about railroad safety upgrades. The Town has been given an allotment of INDOT and federal railway funds for the upgrade of 2 crossings (8th street and Jackson Boulevard). These are non-matching funds and are all federal and state funds which will fund the re-construction of those intersections with the railroad crossings. MS4 programs were updated at the meeting and new guidelines have been issued. Requirements have been formulated on the team, one of these members is Town of Chesterton's J. Gadzala. Gadzala was recognized at the NIRPC meeting for her efforts in MS4 regulation. The regional inventory of greenhouse gas resolution was passed unanimously to begin the study with the partnership of the people that participated. Chesterton was recognized as a participant in this study.

X. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Westchester Township Fire Protection Agreement- Chief E. Camel reported that usages are calculated the same as the previous year at 50,000 divided by the call volume. Legal has reviewed and approved the agreement. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the agreement, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Chief Camel remarked that Westchester Township will also pay \$97,000 (not included in the above mentioned agreement) towards the new engine.

Tax Abatement Compliance for Addison Pointe- Attorney Lukmann reported that the Tax Abatement Committee met last week to review for compliance. Town Manager B. Doyle helped this business to locate here in 2010. Council Members S. Darnell and J. Ton were on the Council at that time and approved the original resolution in 2010. Lukmann remarked that this has been a successful tax abatement. Addison Pointe had 120 full time jobs at \$3.2 million in wages in 2010. In 2021 the business reported 166 full time jobs at \$3.8 million in wages. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the tax abatement compliance, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No comment.
Council Member J. Fisher:	No comment.
Council Member L. Kittredge:	No comment.
Council Member J. Ton:	Council Member J. Ton commented that he wished we could make every day earth day.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE