

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 23, 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, and Council President J. Fisher. Council Member L. Kittredge was absent.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 Meeting and May 9, 2022 Special 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 S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

**Fireworks on the Lakefront- Maura Mundell-** Maura Mundell appeared on behalf of the Duneland Chamber of Commerce asking for support of the lakefront fireworks on June 29<sup>th</sup> at dusk. Mundell asked for in-kind donations of \$2,500 of fire and police support. The cost of the fireworks has already been covered by sponsors of the event. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Vacation of a Public Way- Fernando and Liliana Romo-** Town Engineer O'Dell reported that the owner was unable to make it to the meeting. Furthermore, Town Engineer O'Dell reported that this is a unique parcel as it is unrecorded and he will need to work with legal on it and report back at the next meeting.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**—Police Chief T. Richardson reported that the 18 rifles which were purchased with CEDIT funds have been received and respective training will be starting.

**B. Fire – Deputy Fire Chief, New Fireman, & Street Dance-** Chief E. Camel reported that Deputy Chief Nathaniel Williams has retired effective 5/18/2022. Williams will be coming back to work in the Town’s building department after the 30 day separation period expires. Chief Camel introduced Rudolph Jimenez as the new proposed Deputy Fire Chief. Camel also introduced Marc Mihalek as the department’s newly hired fireman. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve Rudolph Jimenez as Deputy Fire Chief, motion seconded by Council S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Mihalek and Jimenez both received the oath of office from Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare. Lastly, Chief Camel asked for approval to have the Street Dance and to use facilities on August 6th. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the Street Dance date and permission to use facilities, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**C. Clerk Treasurer- Building and Park Credit Card Acceptance-** Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that she is looking for permission to research the ability to take credit card payments for both the building and park departments. Currently, Park and Building Departments only accept cash and check as payments. Building Commissioner O’Dell and Park Superintendent McLead are both in support of accepting credit cards as payment. Council President J. Fisher expressed support for accepting credit cards. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve Clerk Treasurer Udvare proceeding with researching credit card payment capabilities for the Building and Park Departments, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service** – Town Manager D. Cincoski reported that the Kobata that was ordered last year has arrived. The dump truck that was ordered last November might be arriving in June. Texas Street paving was delayed due to weather. Rieth Riley will be in town to pave Broadway and Calumet on June 6<sup>th</sup> and then will work on Texas Street. Crack sealing is currently taking place around town.

**E. Engineering**—Town Engineer M. O’Dell introduced Assistant Engineer & Assistant MS4 Coordinator M. Gavelek, who started May 9th.

**F. Building** — Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reported that the department has received 27 tall grass complaints, 24 of which have been sent notices. Most of the complaints were being taken care of and the Building Department is monitoring the issue. Commissioner O’Dell also reported that Republic Services has gotten occupancy and Smoothie King is close to occupancy.

**G. Parks** – Park Superintendent T. McLead reported that the Splash Pad will open on Saturday. Seasonal employees will start work next week. Crack sealing on the bike trail will start this

week. The Pickleball project has gone out for quotes which will be reviewed at next Park Board meeting. The first car show this year will be this Saturday. Lastly, the Summer Fun park program will start on June 6 to July 29 and runs Mondays to Fridays.

**H. Attorney**— No report.

**I. Utilities**— No report.

**J. Town Manager—Letter of Recommendation from Cincoski & O’Dell-** Town Manager D. Cincoski requested that former Deputy Fire Chief Nathaniel Williams be given a lateral transfer in order to maintain his vacation, longevity, and other accrued benefits. Building inspections and fire inspections would be done at the same time as well as code enforcement – with a \$10,000 stipend for Williams. Council Member J. Fisher commented that this Council cares a lot about code enforcement and is actively working on updated code. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the lateral transfer for Nathaniel Williams, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

NONE

#### VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2022-11- Amending Salary Ordinance 2021-28-** Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

#### X. OLD BUSINESS

##### **CEDC (Chesterton Economic Development Company) - 2% Interest Business Loans-**

Council Member Ton reported that the CEDC gives out 2% business loans to local businesses. Ton explained that this can help those affected by COVID impacts. The CEDC currently has two loans in the pipeline. The recommendations for these loans should most likely be presented at the next meeting for Town Council approval.

**NIRPC REPORT-** Council Member Ton reported that NIRPC met last Thursday in an executive session. The Technical Planning Committee has unspent funds from projects that have not yet been utilized. These funds will be allotted to the oldest projects first. There is also money available from NIRPC Economic Development District. Town Manager Cincoski referenced this in the ARP input meeting and has a contact person for businesses seeking these funds. INDOT gave a presentation regarding electric vehicle charging stations and addressed concerns about where can the recharges be found. This program is called NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Initiative). Indiana interstates will have recharging stations at various locations. Council Member Ton will forward this information to Public Affairs Liaison K. Nevers to place on the Town’s website. Lastly, Ton reported that INDOT will be mowing the highway medians 3 times this summer.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

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:	No comment.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE