

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 27, 2022

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member D. Lafata 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 Member L. Kittredge. Council President J. Fisher was absent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—No report.

B. Fire – Chief E. Camel reported that there were a couple serious accidents on Highway 49 and I-94 this week. A couple semis rolled over on a ramp. Also, there was an accident at the lake this morning. Chief Camel also stated that the Street Dance will be held on August 6th.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that the Town had received its spring tax draw and was what we were expecting. Also, budget dates will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Truck Request- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg requested permission to replace the 2008 F250 currently owned by the department. They are still waiting for the truck ordered last August as a replacement. He is hoping to avoid another wait by finding a truck that is already built. Commissioner Schnadenberg would like to use the proceeds from the recent sale of the 1998 wood chipper to put towards the purchase. The estimated cost would be between \$53,000 and \$55,000. The rest of the funding for this purchase would come from the MVH fund. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion for Schnadenberg to proceed with this purchase, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Declaring Equipment Surplus- Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy referenced a letter provided to the Council regarding a request to declare a 1999 Leaf Vac, 2002 Peterbilt dump truck, and 1997 mower as surplus. The 1997 mower has been replaced by the Kubota machine which was received 3 weeks ago. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve this surplus declaration, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Engineering - Town Engineer M. O'Dell reported that white paint, lines, and flags signify Frontier pre-planning their installation routes in Town subdivisions.

F. Building — Building Commissioner M. O'Dell reported that the department is working with North Shore on signage and parking. Also, the Westchester Intermediate School construction project has begun.

G. Parks – Superintendent T. McLead reported that three pickle ball project bids will be discussed at tomorrow's special meeting. Next, Superintendent McLead reported 125 participants signed up for the Park Department's Summer Fun Camp program. McLead thanked the Chesterton Duneland Kiwanis club for their \$500 donation. Lastly, he reported that the next regularly scheduled Park Board meeting has been moved to July 12th.

H. Attorney— No report.

I. Utilities— No report.

J. Town Manager—No report.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-05- Declaring Official Intent to Undertake the Financing of Urschel Laboratories Inc. Economic Development Project- Town Attorney C. Lukmann reported that this resolution is in regards to an expansion of Urschel’s site in Chesterton. This will be subject to Town Council and other board’s approval. This would allow financing of the expansion similar to what occurred in 2013 when Urschel first came to Chesterton. Phil Faccenda, an Attorney from Barnes and Thornburg in South Bend, IN, represented Urschel Laboratories. He explained to the Town Council that this is essentially a reimbursement resolution. Bonds would be issued by the Town with a pledge of TIF revenues from the Redevelopment Commission. The bonds would be tax exempt and would be reimbursed by TIF funds. There are several steps which would take place this fall in order to get this project done. The bonds could be issued late fall or early winter if approved. The project is a \$33 million dollar expansion. An additional 115,000 square feet is planned to be added onto the facility’s current structure. Additionally, there will be an addition of \$6-10 million dollars in equipment. It is anticipated that over the course of 5 years following construction, 50 employees will be added. Construction would take around 12 months. A new parking lot would be needed due to the expansion going out into the existing parking lot. Statistics: There are currently 443 employees at Urschel with an aggregate \$44 million payroll. There have been 87 new employees since Urschel moved to Chesterton. There has been \$40 million in capital invested. There have been 2 minor expansions since this move. Town Attorney Lukmann commented that the TIF revenues are solely from Urschel. This is a new TIF for expansion. The existing TIF district remains unchanged. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the London Witte engagement letter, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2022-06- Reclassification and Transfer of Expenses- Attorney Lukmann presented this funds transfer housekeeping resolution. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Highway 49 Update- Council Member J. Ton reported that he has been working with the Police Department and with the Town Manager regarding ways to make Highway 49 safer. Ton, Town

Manager Cincoski, and Chief Richardson met with INDOT on May 27th to discuss safety concerns and a second meeting on June 17th. Ideas discussed were: continuing to have trucks utilize the right lane at 40 mph, installing 3 enforcement turns on cross over culverts for patrols, implementing no brake restrictions as trucks need it for quick stopping. Cars would still be at 50 mph speed limit. Lowering the speed limit is meant to give the trucks more stopping distance. The turnaround enforcement lanes would allow for police monitoring and will aid in enforcement. Chief Richardson thanked Council Member Ton for the positive meetings. Council Member J. Ton commented that he would like this implemented ASAP as scheduling permits. There has not been a date supplied by INDOT.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No comment.
Council Member J. Fisher:	No comment.
Council Member L. Kittredge:	Council Member L. Kittredge thanked the Street Department for their hard work—the downtown paving looks nice.
Council Member J. Ton:	No comment.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE