

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 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. Udvardy; present were Council President J. Fisher, Council Member J. Ton, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member D. Lafata. Council Member L. Kittredge was absent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 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

NWI Paddling Association- Rob Albrect- Mallinger & Dan Plath appeared on behalf of Northwest Indiana Paddling Association. The association has been working on clearing the east branch of the Little Calumet River for the last ten years. While they have been clearing the area, they have also been preserving the environment. The NWI Paddling Association recognizes one community partner each year and this year they have chosen Chesterton Utility. The Utility Department has helped NWI Paddling Association by allowing access to the Little Calumet and assisting in clearing when needed. Council Member S. Darnell, acting as Utility Department liaison, accepted this recognition.

Petition for Annexation- DMEN Investments LLC-Ronald Stone - 1711 Snead Ave.- Stone appeared before the Council to request a public hearing in regards to the annexation for his property – Red Barn on 49. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set a public hearing for the October 10 Town Council meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion

approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—Swearing in New K9 Officer—Chief T. Richardson reported that retired police officer Rocha helped to get the Town its K9 Officer, Zeke. Officer Zeke has completed his training with Officer Lisoski. Clerk Treasurer Udvare administered the oath of office to Zeke and presented him with a badge. Zeke is able to track people, articles, and is able to find cocaine, heroin, and meth. He also alerts to some derivatives of narcotics. He has gone through lots of obedience training as well. Donations to the K9 program have been received from Porter County Substance Abuse Council and from the public. Council Member J. Ton remarked that it is against the law to attack a police dog as they are sworn in as an officer.

B. Fire – Surplus Items for Auction- Chief E. Camel asked the Council to review a list of items the department would like to declare as surplus. This list has been approved at the FDOC meeting. Chief Camel explained that some of these items will be going to the Town auction and some will be put in the trash. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the surplus list, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that the Town auction will be held next Tuesday, September 20th at 6pm at 1490 Broadway. A list will go out and will be posted on the auction website.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Dan Moy’s Certification- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that the department is working on paving Locust Street from Woodlawn to Wabash on Wednesday. Also, there are three roads in the Morgan’s Corner subdivision that will be paved and that should complete this year’s paving list. Next, Commissioner Schnadenberg reported that Assistant Street Commissioner Dan Moy has received a Road Building Certification at the Street Commissioner’s Conference. Moy had worked on this certification, which included 300 hours of training and 12 courses, for four years. Moy will be working toward his Master Road Builders Certification next.

E. Engineering – Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported that Indiana American Water has put taps on Locust. Utility paid for a tap on undeveloped land in this area that future developers will be responsible for reimbursing the Town for. Next, Engineer O’Dell reported on the CSX crossing at 15th Street. There have been many calls to the town regarding this. O’Dell emphasized that residents should call the 1800 # listed at the crossing for questions and concerns. Lastly, Engineer O’Dell reported that the Morgan Lake Condos at Sand Creek plans are being reviewed and that the Urschel parking lot expansion has been reviewed and a permit was issued last week.

F. Building — Addressed in the engineering report.

G. Parks –Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant Approval- Superintendent T. McLead reported that the DNR has approved this project. This is a matching grant with park impact fees as the funding match. The project will allow for construction of a loop around the pond at Coffee Creek and the removal of the invasive overgrowth. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve Superintendent McLead as signatory on this grant, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Superintendent McLead also reported that the Pickleball fence installation is scheduled for this week. There will be an open house event hosted by the Duneland Pickle ball group this Saturday from 10AM-12PM at Chesterton Park.

H. Attorney—Town Hall/Police Renovation Town Attorney C. Nolan reported that they have been working with American Structure Point the last few months. The possible design fee for the project is \$521,650. Nolan stated that this fee appears to be reasonable and in line with the market. Nolan asked the Council to enter in contract with American Structure Point Inc. not to exceed the amount of \$521,650, with a schedule allowing the Town to go out to bid in February of 2023, with a contract satisfactory to legal, and a contingency to issue an RFP if needed. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve the contract with the above mentioned conditions, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Nolan thanked Town Engineer Mark O’Dell, Police Chief Tim Richardson, Council Member Sharon Darnell, and Town Manager Dave Cincoski for all their work on this project.

I. Utilities- Town Manager Cincoski reported that IDEM performed a sewer audit for the first time in eight years. The department is awaiting the final report. IDEM seemed impressed with the facility.

J. Town Manager— Memorandum of Understanding- Town of Porter Sidewalk- Town Manager Cincoski reported that he has worked with legal and with the Town of Porter regarding this agreement for a sidewalk on 23rd Street. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the MOU, 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 2022-14- Amending Town Code- Redistricting- Town Attorney C. Nolan presented the ordinance which would redistribute the voting districts. The Town was required to evaluate and complete this after the 2020 census and before the election this year. Engineer M. O’Dell and Town Manager D. Cincoski did a presentation with maps showing the current districts. Currently, District 1 is largest in size with 23% of the Town’s population, District 2 with 20%, District 3 with 19%, District 4 with 22%, and District 5 with 16%. The ordinance

proposes changes to more evenly divide representation among the Town. The changes would give District 1 with near 21% of the population. District 2 would remain the same with 20%. District 3 would increase to around 20% and District 4 would decrease to 21%. District 5 would increase to around 19%. Council Member S. Darnell thanked them for the effort. Town Manager Cincoski stated that growth is assumed in District 4 and District 5 in the future. Council Member S. Darnell 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 J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; 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.

Ordinance 2022-15- Adopting New Regulations for Flood Hazard Areas- Town Engineer M. O’Dell explained that this process is done every five years when FEMA updates its flood maps. The Town receives a model ordinance from DNR which legal reviews and incorporates changes for the Town’s ordinance. This ordinance could affect where homes in Town have to buy flood insurance. Council Member D. Lafata 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 J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; 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. O’Dell thanked Assistant Engineer Gavelek for his contributions to this process.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NIRPC will report at the next meeting.

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:	Congrats to the Westchester Bird Sanctuary for their work. Their volunteers demonstrate what recycling can mean. They have recycled the land from a dump to a wonderful parking area to observe wildlife and to walk trails. This is an

asset to the community and a blessing to have here.

Council Member D. Lafata: The Westchester Township Historical Museum scavenger hunt was great and educational. There were clues at the Coffee Creek Park boardwalk. This is a great program.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Ton 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