

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 23, 2019

7:00 p.m.

### I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President N. Cobbs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member N. Cobbs, and Council Member E. DeLaney.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 Council Meeting, seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Anton Insurance – Jim Anton – Mr. Anton presented a proposal to change the Town's Property and Casualty Insurance from GIE to Astra. He advised the coverage was broader than the current provider and the cost would be \$40,000 less for coverage. He advised this would cover the Town's needs for this type of insurance. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve this change in insurance carriers for property and casualty, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

- A. POLICE - No Report
- B. FIRE - Chief Jarka reported the final inspection for the new fire truck has been changed from December 30<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. He also updated the Council on the EMS project reporting that another collection agency has presented an interest in handling the billing for the service. He advised there are now 3 different companies wanting to be involved and the information is being forwarded to legal for review. He also reported that there are entities willing to donate equipment to the project which could reduce the startup costs needed for this project. Chief Jarka advised they have loan paperwork for the new fire truck that requires the Council's action. It involves the 7 year loan at 2.04% interest that was previously agreed to for the purchase. The final cost for the truck might be less since it was supposed to be ready in October and the purchase agreement has a penalty for not delivering the unit as in the

contract. Town Attorney Lukmann provided information about the loan documents and the purchase of the truck. Council Member E. DeLaney made the motion to approve the loan documents, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. CLERK-TREASURER – Clerk-Treasurer Kuziela reported they are wrapping things up in the office preparing for the transition. She advised it has been a pleasure and honor to serve the Town.

D. STREETS, SANITATION & CENTRAL SERVICES –Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg thanked the Council and Clerk-Treasurer S. Kuziela for working with him on projects over the last several years. He advised although some of the Council members won't be returning, there have been many things accomplished over the last several years and he appreciated working with them on these accomplishments.

E. ENGINEERING – Engineer M. O'Dell reported the Plan Commission approved the Easton Park Phase IV secondary plat last week. He also reported that he and Commissioner Schnadenberg have been working on the next round of Community Crossing Grants for January.

F. BUILDING - No Report

G. PARK - No Report

H. ATTORNEY - No Report

I. UTILITIES - No Report

J. TOWN MANAGER- Town Manager B. Doyle reported the KMART demolition permits have been approved and the owner of the property has begun the demolition of the building. He advised the final lease agreements for a new tenant have not be completed and he is not permitted to release any information on potential business that would be built at this location.

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

Vacation of Public Right-of-Way - 1720 Wood St. – President N. Cobbs opened the Public Hearing and asked for anyone who wanted to speak in favor of the petition for Trapmasters vacation of public right-of-way. Brian Bartozek presented the information that he had presented at earlier meetings, and Engineer M. O'Dell advised they have retained necessary easements for utilities. President N. Cobbs then asked if anyone wanted to speak against the petition. No one spoke against the petition. President N. Cobbs closed the Public Hearing. Town Attorney C. Lukmann advised this Ordinance would first have to be added to the agenda before it could be approved at tonight's meeting. Council E. DeLaney made the motion to add Ordinance 2019-22 to the agenda for approval, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Attorney Lukmann presented Ordinance 2019-22 on first reading; An Ordinance of the Town of Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana, Vacating a Portion of a Public Way – Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2019-19 – Amending the 2019 Salary Ordinance 2018-24 - Town Attorney Lukmann advised this added two inadvertently omitted positions; a Police Commissioner and Park Board member. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton 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.

Ordinance 2019-20 – (2020 Salary Ordinance) An Ordinance of the Chesterton Town Council Authorizing the Employment of Certain Town Employees and Determining the Compensation Thereof – Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, 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 L. Kittredge 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.

Ordinance 2019-21 – An Ordinance of the Chesterton Town Council Adopting New Personnel Policy Handbook - Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the Ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2019-11 – A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Chesterton Regarding Reclassification of Expenses – Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the Resolution, motion seconded by Council Member E. DeLaney, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone – Engineer M. O’Dell reported the diagnostic meeting with CTC went well and the Town is waiting for their report.

NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Westchester Liberty Trail Phase 3 – Engineer M. O’Dell advised that \$284,375 would need to be allocated from CEDIT for this Phase which includes a sidewalk along 1100 N from 5<sup>th</sup> St to the Park property at Tamarack Subdivision and ultimately culminating at Rail Rd. The plan is to connect the Trail to Coffee Creek.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member E. DeLaney: Council Member E. Delaney stated, “This is my last meeting. I want to thank everybody. I have gotten to know a lot of people, work with a bunch of great people here in Town, got to meet hundreds of residents, business owners, see a lot of growth in 12 years. We’ve had fires, floods, and tornados. There has been a lot of growth, buildings going up, buildings coming down, relationships being built. I’ve witnessed a lot, but it’s time to move on--time to pass the torch. I wish them the best of luck and I want to thank everybody.”

Council Member L. Kittredge: Council Member L. Kittredge stated, “I just want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and want to thank everyone I sat up here on the Board with for the last 4 years. It has been my pleasure to work with you guys. I wish everybody the best and look forward to working with the next Board that comes up. Again, I just want to thank everybody for a year of hard work.”

Council Member D. Lafata: Council Member D. Lafata stated, “I just want to thank everybody, the Board members-- you guys have been great to work with in the 4 years that I have been here, the department heads--seeing the actual work that you guys do behind the scenes has been amazing. You come up here and talk for 5 minutes on a Monday but its 2 weeks that you guys have been working non-stop to get these projects done. I think we have started a lot of great projects, the Quiet Zone and everything, and I hope those continue on with this next Council. Legal—it’s been great knowing you guys. I want to thank everybody again.”

Council Member J. Ton: Council Member J. Ton stated, “As this is our last meeting together, Dane, Nate, Emerson and Stephanie, and I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment and contributions to the Town of Chesterton. Much has been accomplished over the last 4 years together, for that we are all in your debt. As you move on from here may our paths cross again. I would be glad to serve with you. To you and all, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Council Member N. Cobbs: Council Member N. Cobbs stated, “I spent some time preparing for tonight, but I am not going to read all of this. I have enjoyed my 4 years, enjoyed working with all the department heads, Town Manager, over 100 employees, our legal team, Stephanie and the Council Members. I’ve served as Liaison to a couple of groups and on a couple of boards, and have met many people in Town. You realize Chesterton is the way it is because of the people here. It’s not because of the Council that changes every 4 years, it’s not because of any one employee or any one department head, it’s Chesterton because of everyone living here working together. We are a big family, we have disagreements at times, we see things differently, and most times we come back together and realize that we all want to be here, we all want to live here, we all want to work here, and we all want to do what is right for our kids and those who come after us. So, it’s been a privilege, it’s been an honor to serve here. I’ve made so many friends and I will cherish those friendships. I wish the incoming folks will have just as much fun as I had up here. Keep doing what everyone is doing. Keep Chesterton the way that it is, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.”

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvare