

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2020

7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President S. Darnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvaré; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member L. Kittredge, Council Member R. Allison, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member R. Allison made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019 meeting and the January 1, 2020 meeting. Motion 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 R. Allison, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. POLICE - No Report

B. FIRE - Chief J. Jarka reported that the new fire truck was delivered to the dealer in Valparaiso. Some work still needs to be completed before the final delivery. Chief Jarka also reported that Indiana American Water was here to donate to the fire gift fund. \$1,250 was donated and it will be used to buy equipment.

C. CLERK-TREASURER – Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvaré reported that per the policy manual the sick and vacation payouts were processed and in the claims for approval. She also informed the council that two petitions to waive minimum standards for municipal improvements were inadvertently not included in the meeting's agenda. She asked the council to vote to include it in new business. A motion was made by Council Member J. Ton to include the petitions, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. STREETS, SANITATION & CENTRAL SERVICES – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported that he would like the council to declare a 2003 International bucket truck surplus and put it out for sealed bids. Council Member R. Allison made a motion to declare the truck surplus and accept sealed bids, motion seconded by L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg also informed the council of the new

flashing stop signs installed at Eighth Street and Broadway. He hopes this will prevent accidents in the future. He also reported that he was offered an opportunity to trade in one of the town's older grapple trucks for \$45,000 off the purchase of a new grapple truck. This would bring the purchase price down from \$150,000 to \$105,000. This purchase would be done with CEDIT funds. Council Member R. Allison made a motion to trade-in the older truck and purchase the new grapple truck, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge complimented Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg and his staff on how well they maintain their equipment. Council Member R. Allison made a motion approving the use of CEDIT funds for the purchase and approving Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg to sign the necessary documents needed for the purchase, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. ENGINEERING – Engineer M. O'Dell reported that he is working a sidewalk replacement project for along Indiana Avenue from 6th Street to 15th Street. Funds have already been allocated to the project. He requests authorization to work with legal for bids on the project. A motion was made to get bids on the project by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Engineer M. O'Dell also reported that there was a presentation about the Suman Das parcel for the department heads. The parcel has new plans with a new layout. Engineer M. O'Dell also reported that he will meet later in the week with INDOT about a future project at Hwy 49 and Indian Boundary Road.

F. BUILDING - Engineer M. O'Dell informed the council that the former bowling alley has a new owner and he is working with him to make sure they get the proper permits. He also reported that Chesterton High School has a new lab that was recently inspected. No issues were found.

G. PARK - Superintendent B. Mathias reported that Christmas decorations are down. He also reported that a shelter at Dogwood was torn down and will be replaced when weather allows. Council Member R. Allison commented that the Christmas decorations received many compliments this year and that the Park Department is doing a great job.

H. ATTORNEY - Town Attorney Lukmann informed the council that Robert Aponte turned in a letter of resignation from the Police Commission Board. The council will have to appoint a new member to the board. Council Member J. Ton made a motion to accept the letter and resend his appointment to the Police Commission Board, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Attorney Lukmann let the council know they can accept new applications or look at past applications to the board. Council Member R. Allison made a motion to open the application process until the end of business day on January 20th, 2020, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

I. UTILITIES - Superintendent D. Ryan praised his team and commented that we got over 3 inches of rain the past weekend and they were able to handle it without bypassing to the river.

J. TOWN MANAGER- Town Manager B. Doyle reported he had met with the new owners of Namaste Indian Restaurant and they are interested in applying for a liquor license under the Riverfront designation. He will have more information after the owners get their paperwork together.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS AND REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 2020-01 – Amending the 2020 Salary Ordinance – Town Attorney Lukmann informed the council that this sets a lump sum for Safety Committee members. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the Ordinance, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on the 2nd Reading, motion seconded by Council Member R. Allison, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone – Council Member J. Ton commented that he had not received any communication from CTC regarding pricing and inquired if Engineer M. O’Dell had heard anything. Engineer M. O’Dell reported that the diagnostic meeting minutes were just submitted last week and they are waiting on Norfolk Southern before starting the cost evaluation.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

Petition for Waiver of Minimum Standards – Brian Lewandowski – 903 & 905 S. 22nd St; 911 & 913 S. 22nd St. – Mr. Lewandowski wants to waive the standard for sidewalks. He says there are similar situations near the property. He does plan to put a sidewalk on Westchester which would be a continuance of the current sidewalk. Council Member J. Ton commented that since this is the first time this has been heard, he would like to hear from Department Heads. Engineer M. O’Dell agreed that he would like to take a look at the properties. Council Member J. Ton said that they will review this at the next meeting after hearing the recommendations from the Department Heads.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member R. Allison: Council Member R. Allison wanted to give kudos to Chief Cincoski and the Duneland Metro Investigation Unit for getting the maximum sentence in the Nicole Gland case. He also complimented J. Schnadenberg and the street department on how well they maintain their equipment. He added that all department employees for the town do an

excellent job at equipment maintenance and people in town don't realize how great of a job they do. He also offered prayers and condolences Amanda Miller's family and friends.

Council Member L. Kittredge: No Comment

Council Member J. Ton: Council Member J. Ton stated his disappointment in H.B. 1031, a bill that would threaten the public's use of Lake Michigan beachfront. He stated, "Here we go again. It goes like this: 'Let's carve out some beach for our private use. Forget public access. It's my beach.'" He added these individuals have more self-interest than common sense. He noted that they call on non-local legislators to support their rights to take a public beach. He shared that in 2018, the Supreme Court rejected claims that deeds reaching into the lake are valid in the case of Gunderson v Indiana. Council Member J. Ton said this judgement retains the high-water mark standard that has been in effect since Indiana was created in 1816. It's in the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. He calls for people to back the Save the Dunes organization and other organizations fighting this short-sighted action. He ending by saying that "Herb and Charlotte Reed fought the good fight and we need to do the same."

Council Member J. Fisher: Council Member J. Fisher concurred with Council Member J. Ton. She also congratulated Council Member J. Ton on his recent recommendation by the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Nomination Committee that he be considered to serve to as Porter County's representative on the executive committee. She said "We are all very proud of Councilman Ton."

Council Member S. Darnell: Council Member S. Darnell commented that she found H.B. 1003 troubling. The bill, if passed, would eliminate the required publication of the annual performance report for school corporations. She said with all the increased discussion of increased transparency recently, why would public schools be exempt from publication?

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member R. Allison made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member J. Ton, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Udvaré