

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 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. via tele conference.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Clerk-Treasurer C. Udvard; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member S. Darnell, Council Member J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 and Executive Session December 7, 2020 meetings; motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

Council Member J. Fisher asked for a point of order regarding a letter from Fire Chief Jarka to the Town Council. This letter stated Jarka's resignation as Chief and his request to return to the rank of Captain. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to accept Jarka's resignation, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the claims as presented, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—2021 Vehicle Purchase- Chief N. Brown told the Council the Department wants to purchase four vehicles next year. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the purchases with CCD funds, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

B. Fire –Deputy Chief N. Williams reported that brake work has been completed on the 92 engine and the engine is now back in service.

C. Clerk Treasurer—AXA Renewal, 2021 Holiday Schedule, & Refuse Write-Offs- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare informed Council that the quote received from AXA for life, dental, and vision was the same as last year. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to renew with AXA, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Clerk-Treasurer Udvare also brought up the question of whether the 2022 New Year’s holiday should be on December 31, 2021 or January 3, 2022. It was decided that a decision would be made on this closer towards the end of 2021. Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg brought up the matter of refuse write-offs. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the refuse write-offs as submitted (\$493.67), motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service —2” Snow Ban on Designated Streets in Downtown Area - Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg requested a 2” Snow Ban for some streets in the downtown area for the purpose of being able to clear streets starting at December 15th at 2:01 AM. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the snow ban, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg said that the Town has been awarded a Community Crossing Grant. Council Member J. Ton made a motion to approve matching the 50/50 funding and to allow Town Council President Sharon Darnell to sign on behalf of the Town Council, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell said they have been reviewing Springdale Phase 1 re-plat, which will be going in front of the Plan Commission. Additionally, Engineer O’Dell and staff have been reviewing Aldi and Republic Services project plans. Engineer O’Dell said Aldi is to build sidewalks on Indian Boundary and Council Dr. and that Aldi has requested to delay the sidewalks on Council Dr. (about 170 ft. of sidewalk) until the rest of the site is developed. Council Member J. Ton suggested this request to delay the installation of sidewalks on Council Dr. should be received in writing. Attorney C. Parkinson agreed and suggested a waiver of Town standards format for the request.

F. Building —Included in above engineering report.

G. Parks – NO REPORT. Council Member J. Ton commented that the downtown holiday decorations looked good.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—Cares Act Requests- Town Manager B. Doyle reported that this information has been submitted to IFA. Town Manager Doyle also said he would receive an update on Aldi groundbreaking next week.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Refuse & Recycling Service Bid Opening- A notice had been published in the Chesterton Tribune regarding this as well as a hearing held live on Facebook/Zoom. There were no objectives in writing received at the Clerk's Office nor were there any comments on Facebook. President Darnell closed the hearing.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2020-21-Amending the Rate to be Collected by the Town of Chesterton from the Owners of Property in Said Town for Garbage Pickup and Disposal including Recycling- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). These contracted rates of \$20.50/month for 2021, \$21.24/month for 2022, and \$21.98/month for 2023, will go into effect January 2021.

Ordinance 2020-22- Appointment of E. Camel as Interim Fire Chief; N. Williams as Interim Deputy Chief-Attorney Parkinson presented this ordinance to the Council. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to add this ordinance to the agenda, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2nd reading, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone- Council Member J. Ton said there was no report on this. There is a separate grant starting for the Calumet crossing.

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 J. Ton made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes,0-No).

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE