

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 13, 2021
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. Udvare; present were Council Member S. Darnell, Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member J. Fisher, and Council Member L. Kittredge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021 Meeting, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

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

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Duneland Chamber of Commerce- Maura Durham – Chamber Events- Durham thanked the Town for the support of the European Market. There will be a new event October 23 from 5-9 PM. This event is called Vivo el Fresco and will be a wine sampling for guests ages 21+. There will be a maximum of 300 people. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to allow the Chamber to proceed with the planning of this event, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Durham will work with legal, park, and excise.

Duneland School Bus Barn Annexation – Greg Babcock- Attorney Babcock presented an annexation petition on behalf of Duneland School Corporation for the property at the Bus Barn. This property is currently in Porter County. Duneland School Corporation would like the property annexed into the Town of Chesterton in order to improve the property (more parking for buses/cars and a new fuel station for the buses). Babcock requested a public hearing for the annexation on October 11 and for the addition of the agreement and resolution containing the

fiscal plan to be put on the agenda for the September 27th meeting. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to set the public hearing on October 11th and the agreement and resolution at the September 27th meeting, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vacation of a Portion of an Easement—Hanneli Jaakkola - 1087 Crabtree Lane- Jaakkola recently had a contractor, Blue World Pools, put up a pool on her property. The pool was 18’ x 14’ and is partially in a 10 ft utility easement. She is requesting 2 ½ of the 10 ft easement. Blue World Pools was not registered in the Town and did not get a permit. Town Engineer M. O’Dell said there are utilities there, but the Town could still get to it through Crabtree Lane. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to set a public hearing for the vacation on October 11, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vacation of a Portion of an Easement—Ed & Aneeqa Virgil – 1890 Catkin Circle- Ed Virgil of 1890 Catkin Circle explained that he would like to construct a shed in his back yard, which prompted him to request a vacation of a portion of the easement. Virgil discussed easements on his property—there is a 15 foot easement on the west side of his property and all other easements are 6 feet. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to set this petition for a public hearing on October 11, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. This petition will go to department heads and engineering for review.

Right of Way Agreement- Dwight Sturrock - Ritter- Dwight Sturrock of 1810 Ritter St. explained that the original owner of his property had put in a driveway without permission. Sturrock proceeded to ask permission retroactively for a right of way agreement for the driveway. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to take the request under advisement and to follow up at the September 27 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Town Engineer O’Dell stated that the Center Street area will need to be reviewed so that a parcel of land does not get potentially land locked.

Evelyn Fike – 259 19th. St.- Evelyn Fike approached the Council to discuss her concerns about current mask mandates, vaccine issues, and testing requirements. Fike stated that she wasn’t sure how and or if the Council could help her with her concerns, but asked that if the Council could, to please assist her. The Council thanked Fike for sharing her thoughts on the pandemic situation.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police— SRO program- Chief Richardson discussed a request from Duneland School Corporation to add a 4th student resource officer. Richardson has been working with legal on an updated contract with the schools. This potential contract would include approximately double the reimbursement money from Duneland Schools for the additional SRO. Furthermore,

Richardson is requesting to use the potential increase in SRO reimbursement money to add 2 additional employees to the CPD. One of these 2 employees would be the 4th SRO for DSC and the other employee would be tasked to the Drug Task Force. This would take CPDs employee number from 24 to 26 officers. Police liaison J. Ton approves and agrees on proceeding with this process. Town Attorney C. Nolan reported that his office represents both Duneland Schools and the Town. He has asked for an additional law firm to represent Duneland School Cooperation and Harris, Welsh, and Lukmann can represent the Town still but will need a waiver because of the potential conflict of interest.. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve a waiver for HWL to represent the Town, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion; motion approved (4-Yes, 1-Abstain-Council Member J. Ton due to employment with DSC).

B. Fire – Surplus Items- Chief E. Camel reviewed a list of surplus items which was submitted to the Council. FDOC has reviewed. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the surplus list, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. The South Shore Clean Cities Grant has been submitted- follow up will be given in October. The TC Energy grant for \$4500 has been received—this funding is for tablets for dispatch updates to software. Lastly, Chief Camel reported that Pine Township has not responded regarding the Fire Protection Contract proposed for their area. The deadline for response as set by Town Council is midnight on September 15. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve cutting off fire protection service in Pine Township if there is no response on the contract by September 15th at midnight, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Dispatch will direct all incoming calls to the Town of Pines FD so they will still have coverage but no additional from the Town of Chesterton.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that the Town auction will be next Tuesday, September 21 at 1490 Broadway. Doors will open at 6 pm and the auction will start at 7 pm. Masks will need to be worn at the auction. Cash or check is accepted. Also, Clerk-Treasurer Udvare reported that the 2022 budget discussion will be held at the next Town Council meeting on September 27, 2021 at 5 pm. The 2022 budget hearing will be held at 7 pm during the Town Council meeting on September 27, 2021.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service –Truck Request- Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg discussed a truck replacement list which tells the age of the department’s dump trucks. Commissioner Schnadenberg explained that the department typically tries to replace the trucks at an age of 12-14 years old. Funding has not allowed them to adhere to this type of schedule. Currently, an electrical chip shortage is causing a shortage of trucks available in 2022. Dealers are advising to put in for approvals now in order to possibly accept delivery in late 2022 or possibly 2023. Commissioner Schnadenberg requested approval to start the replacement process for the 2002 Peterbuilt dump truck on the list he provided to the Council as there will be funding available in 2023. Council Member D. Lafata thanked Street Commissioner Schnadenberg and Assistant Street Commissioner Moy for being proactive. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to allow Schnadenberg to start the truck replacement process, motion

seconded by Council Member J. Fisher; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Engineering—NO REPORT

F. Building —Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reminded residents to get permits for projects in order to avoid potential issues.

G. Parks –Superintendent S. Griffin reported that new lights have been installed on the ramp to the train car bathrooms. Additionally, Griffin reported that the Hooked on Art event will be held at Thomas Park this coming weekend.

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—NO REPORT

J. Town Manager—NO REPORT

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Vacation of a Portion of a Public Way- Unimproved Park Ave.- Nolan & Tripp- Connor Nolan of 701 S. 20th St. was present for the public hearing. Council President S. Darnell opened the hearing at 7:43 PM. Nolan stated that his neighbor has no objections to the vacation and was excited about it. Nolan also stated that his neighbor acknowledged the property tax liability and said landscaping in the area is to come. The public hearing notice was published. No one spoke for or against the vacation. Council President S. Darnell closed the hearing at 7:44 PM.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2021-17- Electronic Meetings- Town Attorney Paulson presented the ordinance which establishes a policy for continuing electronic meetings past the public health emergency. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1st reading, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge 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 L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2021-18- Vacation of a Portion of a Public Way- Unimproved Park Ave.- 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 voice vote. Council Member L. Kittredge 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 L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Quiet Zone-Council Member J. Ton reported that they are waiting for a response from the consultants.

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	Thank you Chief Richardson, Chief Camel, & Town Manager Cincoski for contributions and service to the 9/11 event held over the weekend.
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 voice vote.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE