

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 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. Udvare; present were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member S. Darnell, Council Member L. Kittredge, and Council President J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; 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 L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

James Kowalski - 480 Louisa Ln. – Kowalski is a current member of the Advisory Plan Commission and encouraged the Town Council to approve Ordinance 2022-09 He stated that the Advisory Plan Commission has given it a favorable opinion and that the ordinance will help to tighten up standards.

Greg Babcock - 600 E. Morgan - Babcock encouraged the Town Council to oppose Ordinance 2022-09, stating that current subdivisions do not meet these standards and they are perfectly fine. Doubling the lot size would limit the number of smaller houses. These houses are essential because they are available at a lower cost for those who are unable to afford bigger houses and or lots. Babcock would like the Town Council to send the ordinance back to the Advisory Plan Commission for a better and or more reasonable recommendation.

Bill Laster- 801 Oakwood Dr. - Laster approached the Council regarding ordinance 2022-09, stating that he believes we need to use common sense regarding lot sizes. Laster was worried the changes in lot size requirements could affect the growth of the Town.

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—Flock Contract- Chief T. Richardson reported on the Flock Camera system. It has the ability to scan the license plate, make, and model of a vehicle as it passes. Porter County is currently utilizing the device and they are averaging one arrest per day due to the help from this camera scanner system. Chief Richardson went on to explain that these cameras do not have facial recognition, nor do they detect speeding violations. The system would also serve as a deterrent to criminals once they learn the cameras exist. Chief Richardson would like to place the device at Indian Boundary Road and Highway 49 intersection, stating that this could help prevent criminal activity which could be coming from the Toll Road and I94 corridor. The cost for the device is \$11,400 and would come out of the Police Department’s budget. Council Member J. Ton was in support of the program and made the motion to approve proceeding with this contract, subject to final legal review, motion seconded by Council Member S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Fire – Training Reimbursement Agreement, Highwood Foundation Grant, and Notice of Funding Opportunity Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy- Chief E. Camel reported that new employee Marc Mihalek started today. Next, Chief Camel presented a training agreement which was already approved by the FDOC and which would instate a 3 year term for new employees regarding onboarding and training expenses. Legal has reviewed and updated the agreement. Council Member J. Fisher commented that a lot of money is invested up front for training new employees and if they leave, this will compensate the Town for that cost. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the training agreement, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Next, Chief Camel asked the Council for authorization to proceed in applying for the Highwood Foundation Grant. It is a no match grant that would be used to for new firefighting hoods. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve applying for the grant, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Lastly, Chief Camel asked for authorization to apply for a two grants from the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy. One is a fire training infrastructure grant that would be used to purchase training equipment. The second is a local training support grant that would be used to host incident command training. Both grants are 100% reimbursement grants. Council Member J. Fisher recommended approval of fire pursuing these grants. Council Member S. Darnell made the motion to approve applying for the two grants, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Clerk Treasurer- Clerk Treasurer C. Udvare reported that budget training starts next week. The annual clerk treasurer’s conference will take place in June in Michigan City.

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service – Assistant Street Commissioner D. Moy reported that Rieth Riley is coming to start paving next week. The plan is to work on the Community Crossing projects while also working on Texas Street, Washington and 23rd. Combining Community Crossing projects with annual paving list projects will hopefully save some money. Assistant Street Commissioner Moy reminded residents to please keep their vehicles off the street during paving. Door hangers will be distributed.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer M. O’Dell reported that the Villages of Sand Creek construction is starting over the next couple weeks. Also, the 1100 Woods subdivision has started grading.

F. Building — Building Commissioner M. O’Dell reported that Westchester Intermediate School (WIS) has submitted a permit for renovations, remodeling, and an addition project. A walkthrough and temporary occupancy will be conducted this week for the Republic Service’s new building on Wabash. Lastly, Surg Center received temporary occupancy last week and will receive occupancy once they install a backup generator.

G. Parks – Park Superintendent T. McLead reported that playground mulching has been completed. Park restrooms are open. The department is getting caught up on mowing. The splash pad will open Memorial Day weekend. The Park Board held the Dickinson Road public input session last week. Council President Fisher welcomed Superintendent McLead to the Town. Superintendent McLead thanked the Town of Chesterton employees for the welcoming team environment. Interim Superintendent B. Mathias will consult with the Town for a few more weeks to assist with McLead’s transition.

H. Attorney— No report.

I. Utilities— Superintendent D. Ryan reported that last Wednesday there was a 48in main sewer that collapsed in the plant gate. The department was able to get back in service without interruption. Superintendent Ryan commented that this was a weak point in the system and part was rotted away.

J. Town Manager—Corkscrew & Brew- Town Manager D. Cincoski reported on the Corkscrew & Brew contract. Legal prepared this contract and the Park Board has approved it. The event will be on June 18. Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the contract, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

NONE

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2022-10- Amending Chesterton Zoning Map- Town Attorney J. Paulson informed the Council that this petition by Thomas Roberts was to rezone real estate on the south side of Michael Drive. It comes with a favorable recommendation by Advisory Plan Commission (7-0 Vote). 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 voice vote. Council Member S. Darnell 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 S. Darnell; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance 2022-09-Amending Portions of the Zoning and Subdivision Control Ordinance- Notice of Intent to Consider Town Attorney J. Paulson informed the Council that this ordinance came with a favorable recommendation by Advisory Plan Commission (4 -1 Vote). The ordinance amends lot sizes for R-1 and R-2 Districts. 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 D. Lafata made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; 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. Council Member J. Ton commented that density means different things to different people. Some people like to not have density. The new standards only apply to unplatted property left in Town as of the date of the ordinance. There are very few areas of unplatted property in Town.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Back the Blue Event –Police Chief T. Richardson reminded everyone about the event this Saturday. The event proceeds will benefit the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

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:	Council Member J. Ton commented that he is glad we are hearing public input on the American Recovery Plan Act funds.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE