

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2020
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President S. Darnell called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, and Council Member J. Fisher. Council Member L. Kittredge was absent.

III. INTERVIEWS WITH ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION CANDIDATES

Prospective Advisory Plan Commission Members were interviewed by the Council.

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to recess and reconvene at 7:00 PM, seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council was recessed at 6:45 PM

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to reconvene, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. President S. Darnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting; motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, 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 D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Police—NO REPORT

B. Fire – Fire Chief John Jarka said the Town is not getting the fire truck donation that he discussed in a prior meeting from the Dunes National Park.

C. Clerk Treasurer—NO REPORT

D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service—Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg gave an update on sidewalk projects. Commissioner Schnadenberg said the sidewalk between 18th Street & 19th Street on Broadway has been completed and that they have replaced a total of 1,257 ft. of sidewalk. They have one more block on Calumet between Porter Ave. and Jefferson. H&G completed a water main project for Indiana American Water on South Park Drive. NIPSCO is still working on a gas main on Calumet for most likely for 3-4 more weeks.

E. Engineering—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell said PSR, LLC., who was recently annexed into Town, is on the Plan Commission Agenda.

F. Building-Building Commissioner Mark O’Dell said Dollar General submitted plans which did not have any issues. A permit will be issued.

G. Park- NO REPORT

H. Attorney—NO REPORT

I. Utilities—Superintendent Dave Ryan reported that Wabash is closed for a sewer main repair.

J. Town Manager—Town Manager Bernie Doyle reported that the former Sweenie Todd’s - now Downtown Tacos - has applied for a riverfront license. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to allow Downtown Tacos to apply for the riverfront license, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

Vacation of a Public Way- Unimproved Union Ave. – Tamitha Symmes 723 S Jackson Blvd - Symmes stated that there is limited parking at the property and that she has three teens driving. She wants to extend parking area. Leo Bankowski of 803 S. Jackson Blvd spoke up about the notice he has received in the mail and requested clarification. Town Attorney Julie Paulson explained that Bankowski got the notice because he owns the abutting property that would be vacated. If the vacation goes through, he would get half of the land. Town Engineer Mark O’Dell said the vacation would help with setbacks with increased lot space and that the center line will become the new property line.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2020-11-Vacating a Portion of Public Way- Union Ave.- Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on first reading, motion seconded by Council Member

J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to suspend the rules, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Fisher made the motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Steiner Homes Sidewalk Waiver- 1840 S. 11th. Street- Property owner John Deal came before the Council to discuss his petition to waive Town standards regarding the requirement to place a sidewalk in front of his property/home that is being constructed. Deal explained that John Kremke of Steiner Homes was currently quarantined and was unable to make it to tonight's meeting. Deal felt that this sidewalk would only serve his home and that it might encourage people to cross the road away from the intersection. Additionally, Deal commented that there is a wetland in the way. Deal went on to add that there are already a lot of areas without sidewalks. Council President S. Darnell said Deal's property is the end of Town now, but that the Town will continue to grow and that he may not always be the end of Town. Council Member J. Ton said he recalls when there was nothing in that area. He stressed that we must stick to the sidewalk plans. Council Member Ton added he understands the increased cost of sidewalks on wetland and mentioned perhaps there will be a crosswalk in the future. Deal then asked if it was possible for the Town to grant occupancy before the wetland permit was approved. Town Engineer Mark O'Dell commented that the occupancy would need to be modified through perhaps a temporary 2 year occupancy permit. Town Attorney Paulson additionally commented that a surety bond could be put in place as well to secure the sidewalk's construction. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to deny the petition, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion denied by unanimous voice vote. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to continue the discussion at the next meeting, motion seconded by Council Member J. Fisher, motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Advisory Plan Commission Appointment- Council President S. Darnell appointed Cassi Hammar to fill the Advisory Plan Commission open seat.

Quiet Zone- None

XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

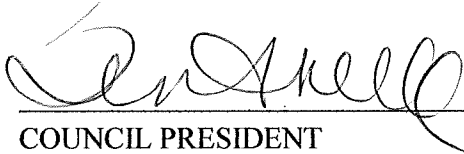
NONE

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell:	No Comment
Council Member J. Fisher:	Council Member J. Fisher said COVID has been stressful and has caused lots of change. She encouraged Chesterton residents to support each other and to not allow themselves to become divisive.
Council Member L. Kittredge:	Absent
Council Member J. Ton:	Council Member J. Ton said that he misses the Resale Shop and hopes it can get back up and running soon. He said that the Resale Shop fills a need for back to school clothing.
Council Member D. Lafata:	No Comment

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member J. Ton made the motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.



 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



 CLERK TREASURER C. UDVARE

