

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
December 28, 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 in person were Council Member J. Ton, Council Member D. Lafata, Council Member S. Darnell, and Council Member L. Kittredge. Present virtually via Zoom was Council Member J. Fisher.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

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 roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

V. PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

VI. REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

**A. Police**— Police Chief T. Richardson thanked his department, especially Corporal Eric Lisoski, for handling the stabbing incident that occurred on Locust Street. Without the life-saving measures performed by Officer Lisoski, there could have been a different outcome. Chief Richardson went on to thank detectives, notably Detective Chuck Rinker for their work investigating. Chief Richardson also thanked Burns Harbor, Porter, and Ogden Dunes police departments for assisting.

**B. Fire** – No report.

**C. Clerk Treasurer**- No report.

**D. Streets, Sanitation, & Central Service** – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported on the refuse and recycling contract with Republic Services, stating that the rate for 2022 was to be

\$21.24/month and would decrease to \$20.15/month. This will be on the agenda to be set for public hearing on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Council Member J. Ton thanked residents for monitoring their recycling.

**E. Engineering**—No report.

**F. Building** — No report.

**G. Parks** –No report.

**H. Attorney**—No report.

**I. Utilities**—Superintendent D. Ryan reported that power outages occurred which presented some challenges.

**J. Town Manager**—No report.

## VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, & REMONSTRANCES

**Ordinance 2021-27- Amending Town Code Concerning Rates and Charges to be Collected by the Town’s Sewage Works-** This ordinance was introduced at the last Town Council meeting on December 13, 2021. President S. Darnell opened the public hearing at 7:06 PM.

**Larry Brandt** - 752 Moraine Rd. – Larry Brandt is the current Chairman of the Utility Service Board. He spoke in favor of the ordinance. Brandt stated that the Town must invest in all assets including its employees as an asset. Brandt went on to state that currently, wages are not competitive with other municipalities and private businesses. This pay increase, funded by the rate hike, would average out to about 10% for all Town employees. Furthermore, Brandt stated that this would help to limit employee turnover.

**Christopher Schoof**- 345 W. Johnson Rd., LaPorte, IN- Officer Schoof is a town employee and current President of the FOP 141. He spoke in favor of the ordinance. Schoof thanked the Town Council and commented that the officers deserve the pay increase.

**Joe Christian**- 1541 Lob Wedge Lane – Officer Christian is a town employee, member of FOP 141, and small business owner as well as Chesterton resident. He spoke in favor of the ordinance and thanked the Town Council for identifying this problem and working to find a solution. Christian went on to comment that trained and experienced officers must be retained. Low amounts of applications have been received when job postings have been open. Lastly, Christian commented that Chief Richardson has been doing an amazing job with the CPD.

**George Clem** – 501 Graham Dr. - George Clem is the Chairman of the Indian Boundary Conservancy District. He spoke against the ordinance, commenting that the increase is too high for the type of system the conservancy utilizes. Additionally, Clem commented that the conservancy did not get any input and or warning regarding the rate increase. Furthermore, Clem stated that the rate increase came after 2022 budgeting was performed.

**Brandon Smith** – 137 Washington Ave – Brandon Smith is a town employee and Vice President of Local 4600. He spoke in favor of the ordinance. He thanked the Utility Board for thinking of their employees. Smith commented that retaining employees and providing living wages is appreciated.

**Leone Heinold** – 1001 W Indiana Ave – Leone Heinold submitted a written note against the ordinance. This was included in the packet to Town Council for tonight’s meeting.

Public comments were closed at 7:19 PM. Council Member J. Ton commented that this ordinance is important for the retention of employees. Council Member D. Lafata thanked Chairman L. Brandt, Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg, and the Utility Service Board. Council Member J. Ton made the motion to close the public hearing at 7:20 PM, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

## VIII. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

**Ordinance 2021-27- Amending Town Code Concerning Rates and Charges to be Collected by the Town’s Sewage Works-** Town Attorney C. Lukmann presented the ordinance which was previously introduced at the December 13, 2021 Town Council meeting. Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Ordinance 2021-28-Authorizing Employment of Certain Town Employees and Determining the Compensation Thereof-** Council Member J. Ton made the motion to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; 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 D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to approve the ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Resolution 2021-12- Utility Payment in Lieu of Taxes-** Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). This payment would be in the amount of \$152,000 amount from Chesterton sewage works.

**Resolution 2021-13- Reclassification of Expenses and Transfer of Surplus Funds-** Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the resolution, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

**Ordinance 2022-01- Amending the Rate to be Collected by the Town for Garbage Pickup and Disposal, Including Recycling- To be Set for Public Hearing-** Council Member J. Ton made the motion to set the ordinance for public hearing on January 24, 2022, motion seconded

by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Attorney Lukmann explained this would be a \$1.09 offset to the utility rate increase

## IX. COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

## X. OLD BUSINESS

**Quiet Zone-** Town Manager Cincoski reported that there may be a presentation at the next Council meeting. Council Member J. Ton encouraged all council members to review the packet before this meeting and thanked Town Manager Cincoski for his work on the project.

## XI. NEW BUSINESS AND/OR UPDATES

**Longevity Awards-** The following employees were awarded longevity awards:

5 Years: Joshua Mohlke – Fire Department  
5 Years: Evan Jones – Fire Department  
10 Years: Chad Pomeroy- Utility Department  
15 Years: David Tucker- Street Department  
15 Years: Brandon Smith- Fire Department  
15 Years: Jennifer Gadzala- Storm Water Department  
20 Years: Daniel Rocha - Police Department  
20 Years: Brent Valpatic – Fire Department  
30 Years: Richard Wheeler – Street Department  
30 Years: Jason Iler – Utility Department  
45 Years: William Williams – Utility Department

### **Boards & Commission Appointments:**

**Town Council Officers:** Council Member J. Ton made the motion to nominate Council Member J. Fisher as Town Council President, motion seconded by Council Member D. Lafata; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member L. Kittredge made the motion to nominate Council Member D. Lafata as Town Council Vice President, motion seconded by Council Member J. Ton; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No). Council Member D. Lafata made the motion to approve the Town Council appointments, motion seconded by Council Member L. Kittredge; motion approved by unanimous roll call vote (5-Yes, 0-No).

### **2022 Open Board Seats:**

#### **Town Council Appointments:**

Park: Bruce Mathias (4 Year Term)  
Police: Mike Orlich (3 Year Term)  
Storm Water: Tom Kopko (3 Year Term)

Tree Board: Gina Darnell (3 Year Term)

Tax Abatement: Courtney Udvare, Jennifer Fisher, Dane Lafata, Jason Carmalick, and Martie Stockman (1 Year Terms)

Redevelopment: Jim Ton & Jennifer Fisher (1 Year Term)

CEDC: Steve Vernia (1 Year Term)

FDOC: Martie Stockman (At Will)

**President Appointments:**

Plan: Dan Marchetti (4 Year Term)

BZA: Richard Riley (4 Year Term)

Utility: John Schnadenberg (3 Year Term)

Redevelopment: Sharon Darnell, Dane Lafata, & Lloyd Kittredge (1 Year Term)

CEDC: Jim Ton (1 Year Term)

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Council Member S. Darnell: Member S. Darnell wants Town employees to know they are important to the Town Council and we worry about you all the time- you are our value.

Council Member J. Fisher: No comment.

Council Member L. Kittredge: Member L. Kittredge also thanked Member S. Darnell and wished everyone the best in 2022.

Council Member J. Ton: Member J. Ton thanked Member S. Darnell for her efforts, success, intuitiveness, and for going above and beyond while serving as Town Council President- it was a difficult 2 years.

Council Member D. Lafata: No comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE