

TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO
122 Huber Blvd
Hobart, IN 46342
Phone 219-962-1157 Fax 219-962-5386

June 8, 2022

Town Council Meeting

6:00 pm

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops.

Roll Call:

Member Anderson	present
Vice-President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	absent
President Szwedo	present

Minutes:

Vice-President Gibson made motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting, May 26, 2022 meeting, and the June 1, 2022 meeting, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

Member Anderson made motion to approve the bills, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

Member Anderson made motion to accept the Fund & Appropriation reports for May, seconded by Vice-President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. Chris Krous and Eric Birge from the Shirley Heinz Foundation were recognized and were asked to speak. The Foundation was approached by resident Hunter Potchen and Jr. Solutions about putting in a kayak launch at the land on the river formerly occupied by the Chateau. The Foundation has already secured 23 acres directly across the river from this property from the American Legion #454. For both of these properties, they secured funds from the ChiTown Restoration public access amenities. They are proposing a parking lot, boat ramp, and fishing area. Member Anderson made motion to turn over property with the intent to restore and improve

the property as stated, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously. Vice-President Gibson made motion to execute the Quit Claim Deed, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously. Deed was signed and Clerk Treasurer to notarized and Shirley Heinz Foundation to pick up in the morning.

- B. Personnel Changes:
 - a. Member Anderson made motion to approve increase in pay to the Fire Chief, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Vice-President Gibson made motion to approve position of Consulting Water Operator and Consulting MS4 Coordinator, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- C. Garbage Rate increase public hearing set for June 22, 2022 at 2:00 pm.
- D. Reith-Riley sent an updated notice with changes in pricing.

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance 2022-09 – Water rate reduction (approximately 1.4%) due to the elimination of the Utility Tax Receipts by the General Assembly (third, and final reading. Member Grecco made motion to approve, seconded by Vice-President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Ordinance 2021-14 – Amendment to Salary Ordinance to reflect the personnel changes approved. Vice-President Gibson made motion to approve, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Departments:

Police

- Chief Needham stated that the department had made 277 contacts, 171 violations.
- Chief Needham stated that the department had hired 8 new individuals as reserves
- Car 3 and Car 6 had the tires changed to police package, 1 officer was out due to COVID contact.
- 2 officers were promoted: Lt. Mayo, with special police powers, and Cpl. Jacquez
- 2 officers (#299 and #300) terminated for lack of participation.
- Lengthy discussion and review of the Police Commission meeting took place with the Police Chief, Council Members and Attorney Mullen which ended with Chief Needham resigning his position. All present Council members accepted his resignation and Lt. Mayo was given permission to take the Chief home and return his police vehicle to the Town.

Fire

- There have been 170 calls for service this year.
- Rescue vehicle has been repaired and will be delivered to the Town tomorrow. Upon its return, the loaned rescue vehicle from Merrillville will be returned with our gratitude.

Town Manager

- Requested that Fire Chief send a written thank you to Merrillville for the loan of their rescue vehicle.
- Guterrez will come and clean carpet in foyer on June 24, 2022.
- Getting quotes for lawn service for the median and whatever else we can get assistance with due to shortage of utility workers. Vice-President made motion to approve the customer that the Town Manager found for a one-time mowing of the median, seconded by Member Grecco; motion passed unanimously.
- Pittsburg Tank sent quote for repairing our Water tower. Cost is estimated to be \$7200.00 plus dry cleanout out of \$2520.00 immobilization. Member Anderson made motion to approve, seconded by Member Grecco; motion passed unanimously.

Parks Board:

- Rummage in the Park went well and they are planning to do it again on September 10, 2022 from 9 am – 3 pm, with the concession open again.
- Looking into having a movie in the evening
- Mural project received \$500.00 donation from Brown Insurance Group. To date, they have only received 2 entries.
- Shakespeare in the Park is still planned and moving forward.
- Still waiting on quotes for replacement of the concession stand.
- Flag pole at the park is still in need to repair. President of the Park Board to contact Hobart Fire Dept to see if they can assist with their ladder truck.
- Still waiting on quotes for a new sign.
- Haunted Hayride is planned for October 29, 2022.
- Board is looking to have T-shirts made for workers to wear during any and all events so attendees of the different events can easily identify them.

Plan Commission – No report

Sewer – No report

Streets – No report

Sanitation – No report

Water

- North Lake Park and Nob Hill project is moving along well and they now have two project managers from Abonmarche working daily.

Stormwater – No report

New Business - None

Old Business - None

Legal Report:

Attorney Mullen stated we are in need of an Interim Police Chief. Lt. Mayo would step in to cover until a new chief is hired. Lt. Mayo is to use his vehicle as a take home vehicle while he is acting as Interim Police Chief.

Attorney Mullen made mention that if the Officer exposed to COVID is positive, it would be a workman's compensation claim.

Due to an officer's current work performance, Member Grecco made a motion to deny that officer enrollment in the academy training at the next session, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously. Subsequently, Vice-President Gibson made motion for Attorney Mullen to send letter requesting that officer's resignation, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Once the officer exposed to COVID has been cleared and because of past work performance, Member Anderson made motion for that officer not to be scheduled to work again, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Announcements – None

Other Business to Come Before the Council

Chief Eakins, stated that the NCFD will be participating in the Lake Station 4th of July parade.

Park Board President received quote from Pete Moss Landscaping, who is currently taking care of the Parks, for \$140.00 to take care of the median, and the Park Board President highly recommends them.

Open Forum - None

Comments from Board Members

Council thanked Hunter Potchen, present at the meeting, for getting Shirley Heinz involved with the Chateau project, and they all expect to be there at the dedication.

Vice-President Gibson made motion to Adjourn, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szwedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Dorothy R Zimmer
Clerk Treasurer