



**TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO**

**122 Huber Blvd**

**Hobart, IN 46342**

**Telephone: (219)962-1157      Fax: (219)962-5386**

**January 10, 2024**

**Town Council Meeting**

6:00 pm

**Call to Order:**

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

**Roll Call:**

Member Anderson	present
Vice-President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	Arrived 6:05pm
President Szwedo	present

**Minutes:**

Member Grecco made motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023 Meeting, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:**

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

**Fund & Appropriation Reports:**

Member Grecco made motion to accept the Fund & Appropriation reports for December, 2023 seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer:**

- The Clerk Treasurer appointed a Deputy Clerk Treasurer as needed.
- Town Council Members signed Nepotism Policy.

#### Ordinances –

- Ordinance 2024-01 Salary Ordinance. Member Grecco made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance 2024-02 Reaffirmation of Hydrant Fees. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance 2024-03 Reaffirmation of Water Works Fees. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance 2024-04 Reaffirmation of Police Fees. Member Anderson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolutions –

- Resolution 2024-01 Seventh Pay for Police from IDP Fund. Member Grecco made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

#### Departments:

##### Police

- Year end number of calls for service 9,180.
- Police Chief thanked everyone who attended the Christmas Party for employees and the kids Christmas Party.
- There were 230 citations, 101 were local and 38 tows.
- Police Chief requested to promote a Reserve Officer to a Paid Officer. Member Anderson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion passed unanimously.
- All police vehicles have been in for maintenance.
- The Police Chief requested permission to be EMA Coordinator for Public Safety. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- 220 Washington Street was condemned. The home will be boarded up. The Town will need a lien on the property. Nipsco and the New Chicago Fire Department were called twice to the property. Nipsco will have to retire the meter. New Chicago Police and New Chicago Fire Departments discussed contacting The Red Cross.

##### Fire

- There were 360 calls for emergency service.
- There are 14 active Firefighters on the Roster. The Fire Chief gave the new roster to the Clerk Treasurer.
- The Fire Chief thanked the New Chicago Police for helping with calls.
- The Fire Chief asked if the Town was equipped for a warming center for the cold weather. The Town is equipped for a warming center.

#### Town Manager

- The Town had 5 water main breaks.
- The Town received the insurance check for the pump on 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. The pump is not fixed yet.
- Cender|Dalton is working on financial plans for the new Town Hall Building.

#### Parks Board

- The Parks Board elected the Parks Board President, Vice President and Secretary at the first Parks Board meeting.
- The Parks Board thanked a member that stepped down for seven years of service.
- The Park Board got ahold of Lake County Economic Development Department for a County Grant.
- The Little Library will be rebuilt in the Spring.
- The Parks Board is looking into sending out letters for donations, plaques for businesses that donate and a list of politicians that donate.
- The Parks Board Vice President is working on the Food Truck and Farmer's Market Event.
- The Parks Board will be purchasing new locks for the park. The current lock is too long.
- The Parks Board is looking into an Ordinance that prohibits feeding wild life and feral cats.
- The Parks Board is adding another light pole to the back corner parking lot at Twin Oaks.
- March 27, 2024 will be stuffing for Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30, 2024 at Twin Oaks Park. The Town Manager will contact the person who plays the Easter Bunny.
- The Parks Board is going to reach out to the Lake Station Parks Board about Rummage in the Park for 2024.
- The Parks Board is looking into developing walking paths in the parks.
- Winterizing was done in the park's restrooms. The urinal was removed from the men's restroom.

Plan Commission – None.

Sewer – None.

#### Streets

- The paving on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complete. The Town still has not received the money from INDOT. Reith Riley sent the bill on December 8, 2023.

#### Sanitation

- Garbage pick-up is normal now but Total Disposal will inform the Town when the trucks will not be able to go down the alleys.

Water – None.

## Stormwater

- The Utility Supervisor will be attending training,

## Old Business –

- The Food Bank will be January 26, 2024 at 11:00am at the Public Works Building. Anyone that is helping will need to be there between 10:30am-10:45am.

## New Business – None.

## Legal Report

- The Town Attorney just starting working on the Employee Handbook.
- The Town Attorney would like to recognize how the New Chicago Police and Fire Departments go above and beyond for service.

## Announcements –

- April 8, 2024 will be an Eclipse. Nashville, Indiana will be overcrowded as this will be where the Eclipse can be viewed. The New Chicago Police Chief spoke with the Nashville Police Chief to possibly assist this day in Nashville, Indiana.

## Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

## Open Forum

- A concerned resident came before the Town Council to speak about school busses driving at a fast speed down his road. The New Chicago Police will contact the SRO at River Forest Community Schools to discuss the issue and to increase police patrol during the times of 10:20am and 4:10pm

## Comments from Board Members

- Add speed bumps to February Agenda under Old Business.

Member Swallow made motion to Adjourn, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo  
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L Bucko  
Clerk Treasurer