



**TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO**

**122 Huber Blvd**

**Hobart, IN 46342**

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

**February 14, 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	present
President Szwedo	present

**Minutes:**

Member Anderson made motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:**

Member Grecco made motion to approve the January 2024 bills, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

**Fund & Appropriation Reports:**

Vice President Gibson made motion to accept the Fund & Appropriation reports for January, 2024 seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer:**

- The Clerk Treasurer notified the Council of an upcoming ILMCT Conference that the Clerk will be attending from March 17 through March 21, 2024.

Ordinances – None.

Resolutions – None.

Departments:

#### Police

- There were 230 citations, 130 were local and 33 tows.
- The brakes and rotors were fixed on Car2. The heat malfunction in Car 1 was repaired at no cost.
- The Police Chief’s car was struck while performing a traffic stop.
- The Police Chief stated in the future he will be asking for Dash Cameras and Full Body Cameras.
- A paid officer resigned; there is a paid position open.
- The Police Chief asked the Town Council to approve an Ordinance to charge for Salvage Vin Checks whether the Salvage Vin Check can be approved or not. The Town Attorney will write the Ordinance. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion passed unanimously.
- The New Chicago Police Department will be hosting a training called Laser for outside agencies at River Forest High School from March 26, 2024-March 28, 2024.

#### Fire

- The Fire Chief is still waiting to hear back from company that is fixing the Fire Station Doors. The parts have been ordered. The Fire Department has two vehicles that need to go into the Police Garage while the doors are being repaired.
- The Fire Chief would like to commend the firefighters on their work during the extremely cold weather.

#### Town Manager

- The owners of lots on Kosciusko and Benedict Street would like to donate the lots to the Town of New Chicago. This matter will have to be looked into further to decide on whether to accept the lots or not.
- The Town Manager, a Council Person and a Parks Board Member are meeting with a representative from the Hobart Humane Society on February 22, 2024.
- There will be a Food Bank at 11:00 a.m. on February 22, 2024 at the Public Works Building.

#### Parks Board

- The Parks Board is still working towards getting new playground equipment. The Parks Board President is still waiting to receive notice of the grant. The total of the grant to be used will be \$37, 506.00 for the equipment. The Parks Board President stated that the Parks Board still plans to use the building fund to cover most of the cost. The Parks Board President stated the Parks Department may have to ask for an additional appropriation.

- The Parks Department is still moving forward with plans for the Farmer’s Market and the Food Truck idea. The Parks Board decided instead of two separate Sundays to combine the Farmer’s Market and Food Truck event in one day.
- The Parks Department is still looking at the possibility of a walking trail through the wooded area by Twin Oaks Park. The City of Lake Station owns three plots of land behind the parking lot at Twin Oaks. The Parks Department will meet with the City of Lake Station to discuss options to work together.
- The Parks Department is sending out donation letters to Political Candidates and to businesses in the Town of New Chicago.
- Pre-filled Easter Eggs were ordered today. The Parks Board is filling the other eggs on March 27, 2024 for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to be at the Easter Egg Hunt.
- The Parks Board is going to have two dates for Rummage in the Park.
- Shakespeare in the Park this year will be July 27, 2024.
- River Forest Schools would like to partner with the Parks Board for the Lunch and Learn. The Parks Board has talked to the Legacy Foundation and Centier Bank for donations to the program. The Parks Department will possibly use some of the Grant money to pay for help if needed for the program.

Plan Commission – None.

#### Sewer

- There was a Sewer Line Break by A-Z Liquor Store. Advanced Sewer came to repair it; New Chicago utility workers are going to help. There will be a Y put in; Advanced Sewer stated there was a lot of debris in the line.

#### Streets

- The utility workers did do cold patching on Van Buren and Michigan Streets. The Town of New Chicago was out of cold patch. The Clerk Treasurer called to order cold patch but it was a minimum of twenty tons. The Town has nowhere to store that much cold patch. The City of Lake Station gave the Town of New Chicago a truckload of cold patch to repair the streets.

Sanitation – None.

#### Water

- There is another main break. There have been eight or nine main breaks this year. The main break is on the bridge; it is leaking down and going into Deep River. H&G has been called out to repair the break. The entire bridge will be closed during the repair from VanBuren Street to Liverpool.

## Stormwater

- The MS4 Auditor came to the Town Hall Office. The MS4 Auditor will assist the MS4 Coordinator if needed because the MS4 Coordinator is new the position.

## Old Business

- Speed Bumps on Indiana Street and Huber Blvd. are still a concern. Vehicles are still driving too fast. Council Members addressing the issue need to get information of cost and options. Look into volunteers for Crossing Guards.
- The Town Manager called Cender | Dalton about the New Town Hall. The Hobart Township Assessor's Office is now interested in having an office in the new Town Hall. The bond will be through Hobart Township.

New Business – None.

## Legal Report

- The Employee Handbook is still under review.

Announcements – None.

## Other Business to Come Before the Council

- All meetings in the year 2025 must be recorded. The current minutes and agenda are uploaded to the Town's Website. The Clerk Treasurer currently uploads minutes and agendas to Gateway.

## Open Forum

- A representative from Wayne's Towing asked that the company be reconsidered for towing for the Town of New Chicago. The representative stated the Company is under different ownership. The Police Chief stated there are two active contracts with other tow companies. When the current contracts are due to expire the Police Chief will have to meet with the Police Commission to discuss a possible contract with Wayne's Towing. The final decision will be up to the Town Council and Police Commission.

Comments from Board Members – None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo  
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L Bucko  
Clerk Treasurer