



**TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO**

**122 Huber Blvd**

**Hobart, IN 46342**

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

**March 13, 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	absent
Vice-President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

**Minutes:**

Member Grecco made motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

**Payment of Bills:**

Vice President Gibson made motion to approve the February 2024 bills, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

**Fund & Appropriation Reports:**

Member Grecco made motion to accept the Fund & Appropriation reports for February, 2024 seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer - None.

Ordinances – None.

Resolutions – None.

## Departments:

### Police

- The Police Chief had to respond to a fight at one of the parks.
- There were 241 citations, 97 were local, 75 were infractions and 64 tows.
- A paid office is stepping down to be a Reserve Officer; after this Reserve Officer reaches 32 hours of time; the Police Chief asked if the officer can be paid. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

### Fire

- Higgins Overhead Door will be at Fire Station Friday to repair doors. The Fire Chief will speak to the Police Chief about access to the two Bays at the Town Hall Garage to use during repairs.
- It has been brought to the Fire Chief's attention that the weather siren is not working correctly. A new weather siren will be quite expensive. Council will need to decide whether or not to purchase one if the Town cannot obtain one through other resources.

### Town Manager

- There is a Bond Council for the new Town Hall. The Bond Council met today. The attorney for the Bond Council charge is \$225.00 per hour. The attorney will write an Inter-Local Agreement between Hobart Township and the Town of New Chicago. The Lake County Assessor will pay rent.

### Parks Board

- As a reminder March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm the Parks Board will be stuffing eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Twin Oaks Park.
- The Parks Board is moving forward with trying to get vendors signed up for the Farmer's Market, Vendor's Market and Food Trucks.
- Shakespeare in the Park will be happening again this summer for one day. The Parks Board President is not sure of the date.
- There will be a free Pet Clinic with the Hobart Humane Society at the Garage at Town Hall on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:00 am. The clinic will be limited to New Chicago residents as much as possible. A second date is set for the clinic but the Parks Board President is unsure of the date.

### Plan Commission

- The Planning Commission spoke with the person that inquired about opening a Food Truck on Michigan/Dekalb Streets. The Food Truck has not been approved yet. The individual that requested to open it will have to be approved with the Board of Health, written permission from the neighbor in the white house and Shirley Heinze to have it on the property.

- The request to build a house on 325 Arthur Avenue has been approved. Approval is contingent upon adding into the plan the required drains and the house needs to face Arthur Avenue instead of Iowa Street because it will have an Arthur Avenue address.

#### Sewer

- Pump Stations are all working well.
- The Town Manager received a call from the House Representative who is in charge of the Gary Sanitary District. The House Representative asked how the Town's sewer works and stated the Town may be able to save money; upon further investigation the Town Manager discovered the Town would not save money. The Town's Sewer will keep the contract with the City of Lake Station.

#### Streets

- Today the utility workers black topped and cold patched.
- The Utility Supervisor dug out a leaking drain and fixed a sinking sign today.
- The representative from Abonmarche called the Town Manager. The Town is applying for Community Crossings for five streets that are picked out. Abonmarche is submitting the request early; request have to be submitted in April.

Sanitation – None.

#### Water

- The main break on the bridge has been repaired. The repair took two days and the bill was roughly \$14,300.00 for H&G. The utility workers did work Saturday and Sunday to assist with the repair.
- Indiana American Water is raising rates. The Town Manager, Town Council President and Town Council Member met with the representative from Cender|Dalton today for a rate study for the water increases to the customers. The raise in rates must be advertised.
- The pump station is working. The bill for repairs will be paid tomorrow.

#### Stormwater

- The utility workers have been picking up leaves and branches.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

#### Legal Report

- The money was retained from one of the officers that the Town filed a suit against for Breach of Contract
- The Employee Handbook is still being worked on. There will be a work session pertaining to the Employee Handbook so employees can attend.

- The Parks Department stated the Ordinance that was sent to the Town Attorney will suffice for what is covered in it.
- The Town Attorney is looking into an Ordinance for Mobile Food Trucks.
- The Town Attorney is reviewing the Ordinance for Golf Carts.

Announcements

- The Town is working on the case with the house on 3021 Clay Street; the town plans to write a ticket once a week; then will place a lien on the property. The property is on Tax Sale.

Other Business to Come Before the Council

- The Parks Board President suggest putting an ATM in the Lobby of Town Hall.

Open Forum – None.

Comments from Board Members – None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo  
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L Bucko  
Clerk Treasurer