



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

122 Huber Blvd

Hobart, IN 46342

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April 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	absent
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

Minutes:

Member Grecco made motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

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

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

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

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- Representatives from Logan's Love gave a presentation explaining what the organization is about. During the presentation the representatives presented bags to emergency responders with items in the bags that may help during an encounter with an individual

that is on the Autism Spectrum. There is also a Facebook page for Logan's Love if the public would like to find out more information.

- Cender|Dalton spoke about the Water Tracker for the Water Rate Increase due to Indiana American's rate increase. The cost in June will be 22% higher and in May 2025 the cost will increase 9%.
- Public Hearing set for Ordinance 2024-06 Amendment to Ordinance 2024-03, Increase in Schedule of Rates and Charges on April 24, 2024 at 10:00 am. Member Swallow made motion to approve Public Hearing seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

- Ordinance 2024-06 Schedule of Rates and Charges. (First Reading) – Member Swallow made motion to approve seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions – None.

Departments:

Police

- Officers completed Active Shooter Training and SWAT School.
- There were 291 citations, 121 were local, 120 were infractions and 32 tows.
- Three vehicles went in to the shop for routine maintenance. One of the vehicles needed tires and another needed brakes; both vehicles were covered under the warranty.

Fire

- As of the date of this meeting; the Fire Department has had 100 calls for emergency service.
- The Fire Chief asked for Council's approval to get the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (tanks) tested that the firemen wear on their backs. The Harnesses are required by OSHA to be flow tested once a year. McQueen Safety does the testing. – Member Anderson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.
- The firefighters have to do state mandated training. The Lake County Coordinator scheduled the Fire Department with the Lake Station Fire Department to take the training on April 16, 2024
- Higgins Overhead fixed the doors at the Fire Department.

Town Manager

- The Town Manager and Town Council are still working on plans for the new Town Hall. Cender|Dalton has been in contact with the attorney that is doing the bonding. The remaining ARPA money is allocated for the new Town Hall. A Council Member went to the last meeting to discuss plans for the project; Hobart Township and the Lake County Assessor's office are in agreement for the new Town Hall. The Town Manager spoke with a representative from Abonmarche about the contract that was created; the Town Manager would like for the contract to be revised.

Parks Board

- The Easter Egg Hunt went well. Thank you to everyone who helped.
- The Parks Department is still trying to get sign-ups for the Farmer's Market and Food Trucks for May 5, 2024.
- The Parks Department sent a donation letter to Political Candidates; as the date of this meeting the Parks Department has received \$300.00 in donations.
- The Parks Department is still continuing to look at a new snack shack. The Parks Board President is still waiting to hear back from a company that was contacted about customizations.
- The Parks Department will be putting up signs for Rummage in the Park which is May 11, 2024 at Twin Oaks Park.
- The Parks Department plans to speak to River Forest Schools Administrative Staff to find out about advertising so companies can pay to have their advertisement on the fence at the Parks. River Forest Schools has done this and it works well.
- The Parks Department will be hosting Lunch and Learn this summer. There are people lined up to help with the learning part. The Parks Department is still looking for people to help with opening restrooms and dumpsters. There are events lined up every day.
- The Parks Department sent a Grant Request to Centier Bank for \$2,500.00 and to Legacy Foundation for \$2,250.00 to help with supplies for Lunch and Learn.
- The New Chicago/Lake Station Public Library will be hosting Storytime at the Park; dates for the event are June 26, 2024 and July 24, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Plan Commission

- The individual that wanted to open the Food Truck on Michigan could not be approved yet. The individual is still waiting on a survey. The Plan Commission did instruct the individual to send certified letters to surrounding property owners in case the surrounding property owners had any objections.

Sewer

- Sunday there was a back-up coming out on 36th Avenue in Lake Station. The Utility Supervisor had to go and check it and found out that Lake Station's Sewer Pump Station went out. The City of Lake Station was contacted and informed that New Chicago's sewer was still flowing but nothing was going through Lake Station's sewer because it was down and the City of Lake Station was told to fix New Chicago's Bill for usage that did not go through.
- The State Representative stated that New Chicago could save money on sewer to run the sewer through Gary Sanitary District. The Town Manager called the former attorney for Gary Sanitary District. The attorney stated that the Town of New Chicago would not save money to do this.
- Tru-Ups are going out right after the election in May.

Streets

- The Utility workers patched four big potholes where the water main breaks were.
- Two sidewalks are out on the bridge where the water main break was. Indiana American fixed their part but did not fix the Town's part. The Town Manager is going to get a quote to fix the sidewalks.
- Today the Town was informed that the Community Crossing Matching Grant Fund 2024-1 was approved. The amount approved from INDOT is \$282,468.75. This money will be used to tentatively repair the following roads in Town:
 - a) Michigan from Madison to Huber – both sides.
 - b) Illinois to Michigan.
 - c) Arthur from Indiana to Michigan.
 - d) Garfield from Indiana to Illinois.
 - e) Tyler from Michigan to Wisconsin.
 - f) Possibly Iowa to Garfield. The designated roads are subject to change.

Sanitation

- There was a trash issue on 3107 Wisconsin Street between property owners. The Garbage truck only goes down one side of the road. The Town Manager called the owner of Total Disposal and explained the problem. The garbage men agreed to pick trash cans up manually so the property owners can keep their trash cans on their side of the road. The property owner was instructed to call the Town Hall right away if the trash is not picked up.

Water

- At 11:00 pm last night the Town Manager received a call that water was coming up on Oklahoma Street. The Utility Supervisor was called out to go check on it. The property owners service line was leaking. The property owner will have to call a plumber.

Stormwater

- MS4 codes were updated.
- The utility workers have been checking the stormwater drains and chipping.
- The Project Specialist is very impressed with the MS4 Coordinator.
- The MS4 Coordinator signed up to go to school.
- The Project Specialist is donating items to the Parks Department.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Legal Report

- Upon research the Town Attorney discovered that it is not legal to pay a Reserve Officer for hours worked.

Announcements

- April 27, 2024 at 10:00 am there will be a Free Pet Clinic at the Town Hall Garage.
- The Town will need to use the Fire Station for the Primary Election on May 7, 2024. The Fire trucks will need to be moved to the Town Hall Garage.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

Open Forum – None.

Comments from Board Members

- Welcome back Member Anderson.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer