



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

122 Huber Blvd

Hobart, IN 46342

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

August 14, 2024

Town Council Meeting

6:00 pm

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 July 10, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

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

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

Vice President Gibson made motion to approve July 2024 Fund & Appropriation Reports; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- Representatives from Logan’s Love dropped off paperwork detailing the organization’s Logan Speaks 2nd Annual Autism Walk on August 18th, 2024. The walk will take place at Rohrman Park in Schererville, Indiana; registration begins at 12:00pm and the walk begins at 1:00pm. All proceeds from this event will be used to improve safety for the

Autism & Disability Community in Northwest Indiana and beyond through Ben's Blue Bags & Project Lifesaver.

- The Park Board Vice President presented a letter of support to the Town Council for Shirley Heinze for the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. The support letter is asking for three years support from the Town of New Chicago. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances - None.

Resolutions – None.

Departments:

Police

- For the month of July there were 202 citations, 97 were local ordinances and 42 were tows.
- The Police Chief has attended training classes for the last three and a half weeks.
- The State of Indiana has put new laws into effect July 1, 2024. The Police Chief copied these laws and gave each Council Member a copy.
- The Police Chief will be teaching Pre-Basic Training to 15 students total; 2 students will be from the Gary Police Department and 3 students are from the Lake Station Police Department, and 10 students are from the Town of New Chicago.
- The Police Chief requested Town Council's approval to hire a paid part-time police officer. The police officer is Academy Certified. The starting pay requested is \$18.00 per hour. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- The Lake County Council donated \$120,000.00 to the New Chicago Police Department for the purchase of radios.
- The New Chicago Police Department was approved for a Traffic Safety Grant. The grant will be issued in September 2024.
- The New Chicago Police Department received an award through Clean Cities and will purchase a new electric truck.
- The Police Chief spoke to the owner from Copsgear. Copsgear may take the tower down on one of the following dates: September 12th, 14th, 26th or 27th; these dates depend on weather conditions.
- The Police Chief is looking into the church on tax sale on Michigan. The Police Chief would like to use the building for a training center for New Chicago Police and New Chicago Fire Departments.

Fire

- There were 207 calls for Emergency Service.
- All fire trucks have had maintenance performed on them.
- The Fire Chief thanked everyone for the sympathy card and condolences for the passing of his father.

Town Manager

- The streets are being paved.
- The Ambulance Contract with the City of Hobart will expire at the end of the year. The price for the new contract is expected to increase. The Town will have to add this increase to the Budget for 2025.
- The Town Manager and Town Council President met the new representatives for IDEM yesterday.
- The DNR wrote a ticket to 600 Vanburen for illegal dumping.

Parks Board

- The Park Board is moving forward with CDBG. The last required form was completed and mailed; the Park Board is waiting to hear back from CDBG.
- The Park Board is waiting on an electrical quote for the new Snack Shack. The Park Board is looking to upgrade electrical services. The old stove will be replaced with a new electric stove. The gas will be turned off to save money.
- A/C Low Voltage quoted \$500.00 to take the cameras down from the old building and to install the cameras on the new building.
- Lunch and Learn ended. Thank you to all that helped; the kids love the program.
- The Parks Board President will be emailing the Town Attorney a contract for the Banners that will be placed on the Fence for businesses/vendors to advertise. Letters will be mailed to businesses and contractors detailing advertising with banners on the fence at Twin Oaks Park.
- The Park Board Members will be bringing students from the schools to attend Town Council Meetings and Park Board Meetings so they can learn how government meetings work.
- Rummage in the Park/Craft Market will be September 14th, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- Dark in the Park will be moved back one weekend to align with Fall Break for the high school students that volunteer.

Plan Commission

- 115 Madison, the home owner wanted to add on to the house, add a shed and garage. The Building Inspector stated the home owner had enough room to do this. The home owner was approved for the improvements to the property.

Sewer

- The Pump Stations are working.

Streets

- The streets were blacktopped.
- The next CCMG Call is in January 2025.

Sanitation – None.

Water

- The pump station on 35th Ave. is rusting out. The Utility Supervisor met with Indiana American Water and opened the pit; it is literally rusting away. Per the contract signed in 2013 New Chicago Water is responsible for replacing it. The Utility Supervisor will get a quote to replace the pump.

Stormwater

- The utility workers have been out chipping.

Old Business – None.

New Business

- Member Swallow made a motion to increase the Clerk Treasurer's pay by \$5,000.00 per year. Member Grecco made motion to approve; seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

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Legal Report

- The Town Attorney spoke to the Council and others present about procedures regarding contractors or others operating without the proper authorization in Town. The Town Attorney requested approval to write an Ordinance requiring contractors to come before the Board. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

- The Police Chief stated the new Police Officer will be Code Enforcement. The Police Chief would like to meet with each Town Council Member and walk with each Town Council Members through their Wards.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

Open Forum

Comments from Board Members – None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szwedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:
Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer