



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

122 Huber Blvd

Hobart, IN 46342

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November 13, 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	present
Vice-President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

Minutes:

Member Swallow made motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

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

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

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

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- Request to transfer funds from Appropriation 2302001991 – Police Donations to Appropriation 1101001412 Police Equipment Donations. The funds being transferred are funds donated to the New Chicago Police from the Lake County Commissioners for specific purchases. Council approval is needed because the funds are different fund

numbers. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

- Renewal of Ambulance Contract with the City of Hobart for Emergency Services; Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously pending the amount is no greater than \$1,000.00 per year increase for the next three years.
- The Clerk Treasurer notified Council the previous Clerk Treasurer's name was submitted to the Indiana League of Municipal Clerk Treasurers for the annual memorial to honor service for Clerk Treasurers that have passed away.
- The Clerk Treasurer requested the part-time water clerk be made full-time on November 17, 2024 which is the date eligible for full time. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances:

- Ordinance 2024-13 – Additional Appropriations – Authorizing Additional Appropriations in the 2024 Budget for Various Funds – Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance 2024-14 – Special Building Fund – An Ordinance of the Town of New Chicago, Lake County, Indiana, To Create the Special Building Fund - Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

- Resolution 2024-06 – Transfer of Traffic Grant Funds – Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Departments:

Police

- For the month of October, the Police wrote 226 citations, 123 of those were local ordinance violations. There is a total of 1,961 tickets for the year and 1,060 local ordinance violations for the year. 36 vehicles were impounded. The total year to date is 303 vehicles impounded.
- As of November 4, 2024 the New Chicago Police have responded to 8,311 calls for emergency service for the year.
- Officer Goffin has returned back to work for the New Chicago Police. One Reserve Officer was hired to start today and one officer was interviewed today. If the officer that was interviewed today does a good job; the Police Chief plans to offer that officer a paid position.
- The Police Chief stated he will be requesting permission to send Officer Hubbell to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in January 2025.
- The New Chicago Police responded to a homicide in Town on October 28, 2024. The suspect was taken into custody.

- There was another incident with the dangerous dogs on Wisconsin. The dogs attacked another person. The victim had serious injuries. During the response to the call one of the dogs tried to attack an officer; the officer had to shoot the dog. The owner was written a citation and arrested.
- The Police Chief spoke to the Lake County Prosecutor about the best procedure to move evidence to a new location. The Lake County Prosecutor approved the Police Chief's plan to move the evidence.
- The Police Chief applied for a grant for to purchase seven Portable Breath Alcohol Testers (PBT). The New Chicago Police were awarded four through the grant. The PBT's are \$650.00 each.
- The phone company has to be contacted about the emergency phone in the lobby when the Town Hall and Police move to the temporary location.

Fire

- As of today, the New Chicago Fire Department had 280 calls for Emergency Service.
- The Fire Chief has one application but the applicant does not have the qualifications. The Fire Chief has the applicant signed up with the Fire Academy in Valparaiso. The Fire Academy classes will begin in January 2025. The applicant comes to the station and goes to trainings but cannot assist with any activities until the Fire Academy classes and mandatory certifications are completed. The Fire Academy is free of charge.

Town Manager

- Someone has to sit in the doorway of the school to let customers in because the doors are locked. The Town has to figure out a solution for this.
- Buzzers and cameras have to be set up in the school once the Water, Police and Clerk Treasurer move into the school. The Town Manager is asking for help and suggestions from the Town Council.
- The Town Manager gave the IT person and Ac/Low Voltage the phone number of the tech person for the school so they can figure out how to set up the electronics.
- The town is moving into the school on November 22, 2024 and will open to the public on December 2, 2024 at 8:30am.
- H&G has to put a new water line in on 31st and 32nd Avenues. The water line is crumbling. The quote is \$360,903.71. H&G can start in December or January. H&G agreed to monthly payments of \$60,000.00 for six months.

Parks Board

- The Dark in the Park event turned out great.
- The Parks Department is finishing up installing the new playground equipment; caution tape should be removed and the swings should be put up.
- There is an issue with beavers still. The beavers chewed through a tree on the road. The Parks Department is going to try to figure out a solution for this issue.
- The Parks Department is still working on replacing the Snack Shack.

Plan Commission

- The Plan Commission met with the owner of 600 VanBuren. The owner has an issue with dirt washing away by the river. No motion was made; the Plan Commission suggested the home owner meet with an engineer about retention walls. After the home owner meets with the engineer; the engineer and home owner both have to come back to the Plan Commission.
- The land owner building a house on 50 Washington met with the Plan Commission today. The owner was approved pending inspections.
- The Police Chief requested the Plan Commission have the owner of Dunkin Donuts come back to meet with them over the traffic issue the business is causing.

Sewer

- Sewer pump stations will have preventative maintenance done.

Streets

- Abonmarche picked up the lists for streets that need work done. Abonmarche will check the lists to determine the work that will be done.
- There are a few holes on Tyler & Michigan Streets that will be patched.

Sanitation – None.

Water

- As previously stated in the meeting the water line will be fixed by H&G on 31st and 32nd Avenues.

Stormwater

- The utility workers are cleaning the drains and picking up leaves; weather permitting.
- The MS4 Coordinator will be attending school for Stormwater.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Legal Report – None.

Announcements – None.

Other Business to Come Before the Council

- Hardin Speed Shop has been sold. The title company will be paying the lien.

Open Forum

- Heavy dump trucks are running down VanBuren early in the morning. Three or four trucks will run multiple times a day. The company is licensed in Town to work but the

trucks are filled with concrete and are too heavy for the road. There are no weight limit signs posted on VanBuren.

Comments from Board Members – None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:
Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer