



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

122 Huber Blvd

Hobart, IN 46342

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

December 11, 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 November 13, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

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

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

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

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- Council Members signed the Nepotism Policy for 2025.
- A 2025 Calendar with Holidays was given to the Town Council to review.
- The Year End Meeting was scheduled for 12/27/2024 at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held at Rosser Hall: 1421 W. 37th Ave., Hobart IN.

- Town Council approved to rollover Vacation and Personal Leave Days for the Town Manager; Utility Supervisor and Assistant Utility Supervisor.
- The Clerk Treasurer read a letter from Total Disposal about trash & recycling pick-up during bad weather. The alerts will be posted on the Reach Alert, online and on the electronic sign.
- The Clerk Treasurer informed the Town Council that the New Chicago Police Department has received several donations for the Kid's Christmas Party.
- Town Council voted on members of the Advisory Board for the Joint Agreement with Hobart Township. The Clerk Treasurer and Town Council President were appointed. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances – None.

Resolutions:

- Resolution 2024-07 – Opposition to Proposed Rate Increase – Nipsco – Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution 2024-08 – Joint Interlocal Agreement Between the Town of New Chicago, Indiana and Hobart Township, Lake County, Indiana. – Member Anderson made motion to approve; seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

Departments:

Police

- For the month of November, the Police wrote 185 citations, 76 of those were local ordinance violations; 31 were tows.
- The Police are still in the process of moving items between River Forest School and Rosser Hall.
- The Police Chief hired an Academy Certified Officer; however, the officer resigned after the first day due to a better offer for employment. The New Chicago Police currently operate with a total of 14 Officers; 3 paid officers and 11 reserve officers.
- At least 1 vehicle monthly is in maintenance. The Police are working for more conservative options for the costs of repairs.
- The Police are expecting results for the Indiana Jag Grant by the end of December to determine if the New Chicago Police are eligible to be awarded money.
- The SRT Team (Strategic Response Team) took a pedophile into custody.
- The shooting suspect from the incident in Ravinia Pines was taken into custody.

Fire

- The NCFD assisted the Lake Station Fire Department for a truck that was on fire on Interstate 65. The NCFD truck blew a tire on the way; damaging the wheel and bending the rim. The cost of the tire and the rim came out of the Public Safety Fund.

- The NCFD has been busy. The Fire Chief has a very important meeting in Highland, Indiana to attend. The Fire Chief also has a year-end Lake County Fire Chief meeting to attend.

Town Manager

- The Town is in the process of taking quotes for the building. The Town Manager met with Abonmarche last week for flooring. After the meeting Abonmarche said they would solicit the bids for demolition of the old Town Hall. The Town Manager did receive 2 separate quotes for \$50,000.00. Those quotes were sent to Abonmarche. Abonmarche responded informing the Town Manager that it has to be put in a bid. The Town Manager contacted the Township Attorney; because it is 2 separate projects the Town can accept quotes. The Township Attorney would like to receive at least 5-6 quotes.
- Nipsco stated it would take 3-6 months to retire service at the old Town Hall.
- The Town Manager has a meeting tomorrow with Core Construction; after that meeting the Town Manager has to attend a Webinar at 11:30 about Tree Grants.
- A representative from Abonmarche came in today; he has the totals for construction costs for 2025. The total to do the whole project is \$561,905.00 and our match will be \$140,476.25. That will cover all of our streets. This project will probably begin July 2025.

Parks Board

- The Parks Department is in the process of planning for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- The Parks Board President met with the utility supervisor to get stone put in.
- Lunch and Learn 2024: The Parks Department served 967 meals in 41 days to over 120 children. 60-90 families were served.
- The Parks Board Vice President attended the Regional Arts Luncheon today.
- Velocity did shut water off for Parks.

Plan Commission

- The owner of the Foot Massage Parlor that is opening on 414 W. 37th Ave., Hobart Indiana, attended the meeting tonight. The business is approved to open; contingent on passing all inspections.

Sewer

- Advance Sewer will look into the New Town Hall to determine what is needed for the new septic system.
- A solenoid pump went bad at one of the pump stations; the replacement cost is around \$1,700.00.

Streets

- There are potholes on Indiana Street and Tyler Street. As soon as the weather clears up, they will be cold patched.

Sanitation

- In the contract with Total Disposal, it states the Town gets 3 free dumpsters per year. The Town Manager called and told the representative the Town did not use the dumpsters last year and will use 4 this year when demolition of the old Town Hall starts.

Water

- Pump-Stations – the valve on the water tower cracked and busted. The valve has been repaired. The other valves have not been repaired yet.
- There was a Main Break on Monday.

Stormwater

- Everything has been picked up; leaves and branches.

Old Business

- When the owner of the Food Truck comes into renew the Clerk Treasurer has to check how long the Department of Health approved the business to run on the certificate to determine if the Food Truck Owner will be charged for a Peddler License or Business License.
- The Town Attorney asked if American Auto Parts needs a Dealer License and other required licenses because the business is fixing salvage vehicles and selling the vehicles after they are repaired.

New Business – None.

Legal Report - None.

Announcements

- The New Chicago Police are hosting the Community Kid's Christmas Party on 12/22/2024 from 4:00pm-8:00pm.
- There may be a Food Drive on 12/27/2024 at 11:00am. The Town Manager will check.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

Open Forum – None.

Comments from Board Members

- Member Swallow suggested to check into taking credit/debit cards and taking payments online. The Clerk Treasurer will be looking into taking credit/debit cards and taking online payments when the Town moves into the new building.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:
Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer