



**TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO**  
**122 Huber Blvd**  
**Hobart, IN 46342**  
**Telephone: (219)962-1157      Fax: (219)962-5386**

**January 8, 2025**

**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
Member Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
Member Szwedo	present

Town Council President Nomination – Member Gibson nominated Member Szwedo; seconded by Member Swallow; there were no other nominations; motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

Member Anderson	absent
Member Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

**1. Appointments**

- A. Town Council Vice President: Jim Gibson
- B. Town Attorney: Lloyd Mullen
- C. Water & Sewer Attorney: Robert Peters
- D. Town Manager: Sue Pelfrey

2. Liaisons:
  - a. Police: Jim Gibson
  - b. Fire: Brenda Swallow
  - c. Park: Dave Anderson
  - d. Streets: Sharon Szwedo
  - e. Sewer: Roxanne Grecco
3. Police Chief: Earl Mayo
4. Fire Chief: Joe Eakins
5. E-911 Coordinator: Joe Eakins
6. Police Commission:
  - a. Tara Pelfrey
  - b. John Krikava
  - c. Tony Martin
7. Park Board:
  - a. Joe Bachman
  - b. Trey Backman
  - c. Tony Martin
  - d. Morgan McCabe
8. Plan Commission:
  - a. Joe Bachman
  - b. John Krikava
  - c. Jory Matthews
  - d. Dave Anderson
  - e. Sharon Szwedo
9. Advisors:
  - a. Solid Waste: Brenda Swallow
  - b. NIRPC: Sue Pelfrey Sharon Szwedo
10. Inspectors:
  - a. Building: John Krikava
  - b. Plumbing: William Shearer
  - c. Electrical: Lou Miazga
11. MS4 Coordinator: Robert George
12. Flood Plains Administrator: Robert George
13. ADA Coordinator: Joe Bachman
14. L-TAP Coordinator: Abonmarche
15. Street Superintendent: Sharon Szwedo
16. Title VI Coordinator: Robert George
17. NISWAG: Robert George
18. Indiana Association for Flood & Storm Water Management: Robert George
19. Sanitation & Sewer Operator: Robert George
20. OSHA Safety Representative: Robert George
21. Water Operator: Astbury

#### Roll Call:

Member Anderson	absent
Vice President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

#### Minutes:

Member Swallow made motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Gibson made motion to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

#### Payment of Bills:

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

#### Fund & Appropriation Reports:

Member Grecco made motion to accept the Fund & Appropriation reports for December 2024; seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

#### Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- A. Kiesler Invoice – Approved in April 2024 Meeting.
- B. Invoice to M. Flesher for fire started at Business Location at 3513 Michigan St., Hobart Indiana 46342. Mr. Flesher is to be invoiced by the New Chicago Fire Department due to the fire was intentionally started to dispose of debris which is illegal under Indiana law (IC 13-17-9-1). Mr. Flesher is also to be invoiced by New Chicago Water Department per Ordinance 2023-05. Charges were incurred for equipment, labor and water used on 01/03/2025. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- C. Flying Sky Ranch Storage – Approval to pay a full year to receive 10% discount on price. Storage is for New Chicago Police to use. – Member Grecco made motion to approve; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

#### Ordinances

- A. Ordinance 2025-01 – (Reaffirmation of Hydrant Fees) – Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Ordinance 2025-02 – (Reaffirmation of Water Works Fees) – Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- C. Ordinance 2025-03 – (Reaffirmation of Police Department Fees) – Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions – None.

## Departments:

### Police

- Total Emergency Calls for Service for 2024: Approximately 9,984.
- December Citations Issued: 185 total, 88 of those citations were local ordinances. For the Year of 2024 there were 2,336 citations issued total, 1,225 of those were local ordinances.
- December Vehicles Towed: 22 total. For the Year of 2024 there was a total of 447 Tows.
- The New Chicago Police received close to \$140,000.00 in donations for the 2024 year.
- Over 200 parents & children attended the New Chicago Police Kid's Christmas Party. Events such as this and the Snow Angels program strengthens ties with the residents. Thank you to the Town Council President, Town Council Member Grecco, Town Manager and the Clerk Treasurer and others for attending the Kid's Christmas Party.
- New Chicago Police Officers made arrests in all major felony offenses that occurred in the town during 2024. The rise in violent incidents requires further focus on preventative measures for 2025.
- All New Chicago Police Officers completed their training requirements within the allotted time. All training was completed in-house, eliminating the need for assistance from outside agencies.
- Officer Hubbell began training at the Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana on January 6, 2025.
- Police are still experiencing vehicle issues. Most repairs are covered under warranty; 85-90% of vehicle expenses are covered out of the Tow Fund and the LLE Fund.
- The New Chicago Police received the Indiana J.A.G. Grant in the amount of \$91,248.00.
- January 1, 2025 the town experienced a second homicide in eight weeks. New Chicago Police Officers solved the case and submitted charges to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.
- New Chicago Police are still battling recruiting and retention challenges. A goal for 2025 is to develop and implement strategies to address these challenges.
- The Town Council President asked the Police Chief where the Town's Dodge Charger was. The Police Chief replied that Officer Goffin had it. The Town Council President stated Council had to approve this decision. The Police Chief stated that he will instruct the officer to bring it back.

### Fire

- The Fire Chief stated that the recent fire at 3513 Michigan St., Hobart Indiana was intentionally started. The Fire Chief prepared an invoice for the Clerk Treasurer to send to the business owner. The Fire Chief and Police Chief have brought issues up at previous meetings about this business. The Town Council, the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the Town Attorney discussed ways to find a solution to solve the issues that involve the property owner so he can obtain a business license for 2025. In the discussion subjects such as electricity, proper ventilation, and debris on the property must be taken care of. The property owner is required to attend a Plan Commission meeting.

#### Parks Board

- The Parks Board meeting scheduled for January 7, 2025 at 6:00pm was moved to January 10, 2025 at 6:00pm.
- Easter Eggs have been ordered for the Easter Egg Hunt; a total of 5,000 have been ordered; 2,500 candy pre-filled eggs and 2,500 toy pre-filled eggs. The Parks Board determined that it is cost effective to buy the eggs this way.
- 2025 events so far are two Rummage in the Parks, Shakespeare in the Park and Lunch and Learn. Future dates to be determined.
- The 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Twin Oaks Park is coming up this year. The Parks Board would like to plan a big event to celebrate the special occasion.
- Strack and Van Til Grocery Store is the first to advertise with a banner on the fence at Twin Oaks Park.
- The beaver is still trying to build a damn at Twin Oaks Park.

#### Town Manager

- The gas and electricity services at Town Hall have been retired.
- The Town is waiting on asbestos quotes; 2 have been received; waiting on 1 more. The asbestos has to be done before demolition of the Town Hall Building.
- The Community Crossing Grant will be in by January 31, 2025 to INDOT.

#### Plan Commission – None.

#### Sewer

- Superior Pump called the Utility Foreman today. Superior Pump had to check and recalibrate the Wastewater System on Indiana & Garfield that runs over to Allen Street, Florida and to Gary to make sure it is calibrated correctly. The City of Lake Station paid for Superior Pump to check it since this was on the Lake Station side.
- The City of Gary is raising Wastewater Rates for the cities of Lake Station, Hobart and Merrillville. The cities affected by this rate hike are filing lawsuits against the City of Gary Sanitation District.

#### Streets

- The utility workers have been plowing as needed.
- Residents have been throwing debris in the streets such as tree limbs, leaves, etc., which is creating a hazard. The utility workers have been cleaning the debris up.

#### Sanitation

- Total Disposal sent a letter stating if there is 1 inch of snow or more that the garbage & recycle trucks will not be going down the alleys. If Total Disposal knows a snowstorm is coming then Total Disposal will reach out to the Town of New Chicago so the information can be relayed to the residents about trash and recycle pick-up.

#### Water

- H&G should be finished with the line that runs through Shelby Street by sometime in February. 2 hydrants will be put in; weather permitting.
- Water made the first payment to H&G in the amount of \$61,000.00 for this project per the six- month payment agreement.

#### Stormwater

- The drains have been cleaned; after rain the drains are checked twice to make sure they are free of debris.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

#### Legal Report

- The Training Reimbursement Agreement for Police Officers was amended from the cost of \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 to reflect the true cost of the training; the Agreement to work for the Town of New Chicago for six months after the academy has been amended to one year of employment for the Town of New Chicago.

#### Announcements

- The Food Drive will be January 21, 2025 at 11:00am at the Public Works Building; weather permitting.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

Open Forum – None.

Comments from Board Members – None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szwed  
Town Council President

ATTEST:  
Tammy L Bucko  
Clerk Treasurer