



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

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Hobart, IN 46342

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September 10, 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	present
Vice-President Gibson	present
Member Grecco	present
Member Swallow	present
President Szwedo	present

Executive Session:

Executive Session took place on September 2, 2025 at 6:00pm. All present. IC-5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(6)(A).

Minutes:

Member Swallow made motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2025, Meeting; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

Member Grecco made a motion to approve the August 2025 bills, seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

Member Grecco made a motion to approve August 2025 Fund & Appropriation Reports; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

2026 Budget Hearing:

Representatives from Cender|Dalton reviewed the proposed 2026 Budget. The Adoption Hearing is scheduled for October 8, 2025, at 6:00pm at 1421 W. 37th Ave., Hobart, Indiana 46342.

IOT:

Mr. Bachman asked Town Council for permission to sit down with the Clerk Treasurer to go over information to grant him written permission to sign and talk to IOT on behalf of the Town of New Chicago. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- The Town Council approved pay for the new part-time hire for Water Clerk.
- The Clerk Treasurer thanked the Town Council for allowing Cender|Dalton to work with her on the Bank Reconciliations that were left from previous years and not corrected. The Clerk Treasurer stated that the goal of taking office was to run the office efficiently.

Ordinances:

- 2025-07 – Parks Additional Appropriations (Second Reading). Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions: - None.

Departments:

Police

- **For the month of August 2025, the following were issued:**
 - a) 286 Total Citations issued; 127 of those Citations issued were Local Ordinances.
 - b) Officers conducted numerous traffic stops during the month of August. A total of 78 vehicles were towed during the reporting period.
- **Townwide Clean-Up:**
 - a) The Townwide Clean-Up has been rescheduled to Saturday September 20th and Sunday September 21st due to scheduling conflicts. Please note that Total Disposal is unable to pick up dumpsters on weekends. As such, the dumpsters will remain in place until Monday morning pickup. Officers and staff will monitor the area to prevent unauthorized dumping or safety issues.
- **Department Vehicles:**
 - a) Vehicle maintenance and reliability remain an ongoing challenge for the department. Progress was made this month as Hobart Discount Motors generously donated a working vehicle to the New Chicago Police Department. The addition will provide temporary relief as we continue to address long-term fleet needs.

- **Community Engagement Fundraising:**
 - a) Chief Mayo announces plans to host a vehicle raffle fundraiser to support the Annual Christmas Party.
 - 1) 100 raffle tickets will be sold at \$100.00 per ticket.
 - 2) The winning ticket will be drawn and announced at the Christmas Party.
 - 3) Proceeds will help offset costs for community and family-oriented holiday programming. This initiative not only supports community engagement but also promotes goodwill and transparency in departmental fundraising.

- **Training and Reserves:**
 - a) Our new reserve officers are awaiting the official start date from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to begin their Pre-Basic Training. Once underway, this will strengthen manpower and increase support for full-time staff in patrol, special details, and community programs.

- **Closing Notes:**

The New Chicago Police Department remains committed to public safety, fiscal responsibility, and strengthening trust within our community. Despite continued challenges with staffing and vehicle resources, our officers remain proactive and dedicated to serving the residents of New Chicago.

The Town Council President requested a list of terminated officers and whether they were paid or reserve, and a schedule of Police Officers.

Police Commission:

There was nothing to report on from Police Commission.

Fire

- The Fire Chief was called out for an emergency call.

Town Manager

- The Town of New Chicago is still looking for some help to find ambulance service. There is a DNR Volunteer Fireman Program. The Town needs to petition this program. There is no money from the Federal Government for ambulance service. The Town Manager called State Representative Hatcher requesting help with ambulance service.
- State Representative Hatcher is doing a Zoom Call on October 2, 2025. The Town Manager requested the Town Council be on the Zoom Call to request help with ambulance services for the Town of New Chicago.
- The Town Manager and the Park Board Vice President met with the Legacy Foundation. The Town can ask for money to provide for technological needs; anything Municipal. Community Based: Parks may approach the foundation for sponsorship with the Dark in the Park Event

Parks Board

- The Town Wide Rummage Sale/Rummage in Park is a good start for the first year.
- The Parks Board is still moving forward with CDBG. Parks had a meeting today with Mr. Ryder from Lake County, Velocity Plumbing and the owner of Kids Play Stuff to make sure everything planned will be covered. The Parks Board plans to use the full amount of money from the CDBG grant.
- There has been a new roof installed on the Garage and Bathroom building. The Parks Board President is going to be inquiring about the gutters.
- Velocity Plumbing came to Twin Oaks Park with another company. The Park Board President had them bring a tracking device and put a camera down a pipe. They found that the pipe had shifted. Velocity discovered there is a septic tank by the flag poles.
- The Parks Board met with students from the National Honor Society at the last Parks Board Meeting to begin to plan Dark in the Park. There will be approximately 30 students volunteering. The dates set for Dark in the Park are October 17th to October 19th, 2025.
- Vandalism and obnoxious behavior continue to be an issue at Twin Oaks Park. One of the cameras will be moved to get a better view.

Plan Commission

- Mr. Koselke met with Plan Commission. The Plan Commission gave Mr. Koselke information to make sure he is in compliance with IDEM. The Plan Commission approved Mr. Koselke contingent on Mr. Koselke getting the surveys, plan sheets with elevations, so that the Utility Supervisor/MS4 Coordinator and Plan Commission can review them. Mr. Koselke is making plans to build a 2 Unit Townhome on Benedict and Howard Streets.

Sewer

- The Utility Supervisor met with the technician that inspects the pump stations. The pump station on Harrison Street needs a starter; surge protectors and bypass valves are also needed for all the lift stations. This should all be installed within the next two weeks.
- Cender|Dalton needs to do a rate study for a Sewer Rate increase. Gary Sanitary District is raising rates to 2.8% plus a monitory fee which is the reason for the rate increase.

Streets

- The Utility Supervisor asked the Clerk Treasurer to order one load of Salt from Morton Salt.
- Chipping will begin this Friday.
- The utility workers have to clean out a few dry wells tomorrow.
- The utility workers repaired a sinkhole on Mckinley.

Sanitation

- Total Disposal Contract Renewal - Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Water

- The Utility Supervisor and the Town Manager had a meeting with Indiana American Water for a future possibility of them tapping into New Chicago Water lines to supply the west end of Lake Station with New Chicago's water. The Utility Supervisor recommended Indiana American Water use newer infrastructure so as not to be a strain on New Chicago's. The Town Manager asked about the extra strain on New Chicago's water lines and who would be fixing the lines.
- The Water Tower's valves need to be changed; the gage is stuck also. The Utility Supervisor manually adjusted the valve so it will work as it should. The pressure regulator is not working correctly.
- The Clerk Treasurer informed the Town Council that IFA sent a letter to Mr. Keiser with Abonmarche. Mr. Keiser forwarded the letter to the Clerk Treasurer. The letter the Town Council President signed was approved. The IFA stated they received everything that is needed to this point. The Environmental Review is still in progress; there is a possibility that more information may be requested. This information is for the Read-O-Matic Meters.

Stormwater

- MS4 and Water purchased a Hydro-Vac. This will be used for cleaning walls, for water main breaks. The Hydro-Vac has an 800-pound capacity tank.

Old Business – There is no old business to discuss.

New Business – There is no new business to discuss.

Legal Report

- The Town Attorney spoke to the Utility Supervisor about the idea of a pump station on Howard and Benedict where the new Townhomes may be built that is publicly owned and not privately owned.

Announcements – There are currently no new announcements.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – There is currently no new business to come before the Town Council.

Open Forum – Nobody spoke in the Open Forum.

Comments from Board Members – There are no comments from Board Members at this meeting.

Vice President Gibson made motion to Adjourn, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szvedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer