



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO
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Hobart, IN 46342
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February 19, 2025
(Rescheduled from February 12, 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

Minutes:

Member Swallow made motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2025 Meeting, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

Vice President Gibson made motion to approve the January 2025 bills, seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

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

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- The Park Board President spoke to the Town Council about livestreaming requirements beginning July 1, 2025. The Town will begin to livestream Town Council Meetings at upcoming meetings to make sure the Town is in compliance when the law takes effect.

- The Clerk Treasurer recognized the Police Chief for the notes he presented at the previous Town Council Meeting. The Clerk Treasurer appreciated the thoroughness of the notes that were presented.

Ordinances – None.

Resolutions – None.

Departments:

Police

- For the month of January 2025, the New Chicago Police responded to 650 Calls for Emergency Service. The number of Emergency Calls are determined by the dispatch center.
- Citations Issued:
 - 43 State-Issued Citations
 - 23 Local Ordinance Citations
 - 33 Written Warnings
 - 7 Vehicles Impounded/Towed
- Due to concerns regarding the hiring process the Police Chief formally requested The Town of New Chicago Police Commission and the Town Council assume full responsibility for hiring and background investigations. The Town Council President stated it is not up to the Town Council to hire and do the background investigations. The Police Chief and the Police Commission are responsible for the hiring process for Police Officers. The Police Chief handed out a report about personnel issues that are ongoing in the New Chicago Police Department.
- The Police Chief distributed a Law Report to the Town Council.
- The Town Council addressed the issue of overtime with the New Chicago Police.

Police Commission

- The main focus is the hiring issues for Police Officers. The Police Chief went down a list of potential candidates. The Police Commission will not be conducting the hiring process for potential Police Officers. The Police Commission does not have authority to conduct background checks. The Police Commission stated the hiring process should be done by the New Chicago Police Chief.
- The Police Commission are focusing on safety issues for the New Chicago Police.
- A Council Member suggested disbanding the New Chicago Police Department. The Council Member will look into the Lake County Police taking over patrol in the Town of New Chicago.

Fire

- The New Chicago Fire Chief thanked the New Chicago Firemen, New Chicago Police, New Chicago Street Department and the Town Manager for their continued effort to serve the residents of the Town of New Chicago in the recent severe weather. The New Chicago Fire Chief stated he is proud of everyone.

Town Manager

- The Town Manager received the Asbestos Report for the old town hall. The Town Manager gave the Town Council copies of the report. The Town Manager sent questions to Abonmarche about the report.
- The Demolition Company hired after the bidding process for demolition of the old town hall will dispose of the asbestos properly.

Parks Board

- Dates for Rummage in the Park have been set. The dates are:
 - May 3, 2025
 - September 6, 2025
- Grant Station is an app that will be applied for. This will give the Parks and Town access to more grants that are available.
- River Forest Schools will be doing the Lunch n Learn if the grant comes through for the program.

Plan Commission

- Raydee Magoos was approved pending final inspection from the Fire Department. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion passed unanimously.
- The Tower Lease by KC Bar and Grill was approved. The Council had no questions. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Flesher passed the electric and fire inspection. Mr. Flesher is allowed to work inside the building on vehicles minus painting. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Vice President Gibson; motion carried unanimously.

Sewer

- The Utility Supervisor stated that everything is working good with Sewer.

Streets

- The Utility Supervisor asked that New Chicago Police to follow the proper protocol when calling out for plowing.

Sanitation – None.

Water

- The Water Department has had multiple water main breaks. H&G had to be contacted because a pump went out to assist with one break. The break on Liverpool and LaPorte required a new hydrant to be put in; the old one was very old and would not shut off. There have been approximately 8 water main breaks in the last month.
- There have been 26-meter freezes in the last month.

Stormwater

- The MS4 Coordinator will attend school to be certified as a Flood Plains Administrator on March 18, 2025 in Indianapolis.
- The MS4 Coordinator will return from school and will attend a MS4 meeting on March 19, 2025.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Legal Report

- The Town Attorney discussed the pending lawsuit with a former police officer.
- The Town Attorney discussed the importance of having competent police officers and a police department for the Town of New Chicago.

Announcements – None.

Other Business to Come Before the Council – None.

Open Forum

- The Park Board President encouraged residents to sign up for the Reach Alert. Information is on the electronic sign, on social media and flyers are in the Water Department. The Reach Alerts are sent out as quickly as possible. If there is a main break during non-business hours; on the back of the water bill, it states to call 911 and emergency services will be notified.
- The Clerk Treasurer informed the Town Council about upcoming trainings in March and May; the Town Council previously approved all future trainings.
- The owner of Gill Gas Station stated that Town/Water Vehicles will receive 10 cents off a gallon for gas. The owner also stated the current Police Chief for the Town of New Chicago is the best Police Chief that he has worked with.
- Officer Baldazo, Reserve Officer for the Town of New Chicago stated that the Current Police Chief is the best Police Chief that he has ever worked for in all of his years of service as a Police Officer.

Comments from Board Members – None.

Vice President Gibson made motion to Adjourn, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szwedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:
Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer