



TOWN OF NEW CHICAGO

122 Huber Blvd

Hobart, IN 46342

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

March 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 Grecco made motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025 Meeting, seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills:

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

Fund & Appropriation Reports:

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

The President of the Hobart Fire Department Local 1641 gave a presentation about the Hobart Fire Territory. The presentation discussed recent incidents and possible benefits from merging for a Fire Territory. There were many concerns about negative consequences for the Town of New Chicago merging with the Hobart Fire Department for the Fire Territory from the Town Council and Town Attorney; a decision was not made at this meeting.

Correspondence/Clerk Treasurer

- The Clerk Treasurer reminded the Town Council that the Letter of Community Engagement is due to Congressman Mrvan's office by March 18, 2025.
- The Clerk Treasurer presented to the Town Council Rieth-Riley's Proposal Letter for 2025 fees. Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- The Clerk Treasurer met with the Representative from Abonmarche Consultants to discuss the Community Crossings Project that the Town was approved for this year. Abonmarche will begin to work on the plans for the project and will put the bids out.

Ordinances:

- Ordinance 2025-04 – Amended Salary Ordinance – Member Swallow made motion to approve; seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance 2025-05 – Donation – Police Equipment Fund – Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

- Resolution – 2025-01 – CDBG – Community Development – Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Swallow; motion carried unanimously.

Departments:

Police

- As of this date calls for the year are 1,140. Traffic and Ordinance Citations for the month of February are 66; 3 of those issued were Local Ordinance Violations, 18 Warrants were issued and 8 vehicles were towed.
- Community Engagement:
 - The New Chicago Police Department is planning to have Coffee with a Cop. The date is to be determined.
 - The Police Chief will be hosting a community wide Women's Self Defense Course. This course may be held in April 2025 but the date is not set.
- Maintenance:
 - Police Vehicles: Cars 1 and 2 are in the shop. There are no details on repairs at this time.
- Training and Recruitment:
 - The Pre-Basic Training Course is open for the Police Chief to host at the end of April for any new recruits.
 - Officer Hubbell is at the Academy. 750 rounds of ammunition are needed for training and 300 rounds for qualifying totaling 1,050 rounds; approval is needed for the ammunition from the Town Council. Vice President Gibson made motion to approve; seconded by Member Anderson; motion carried unanimously.

Police Commission – None.

Fire

- Recruitment and Retention for the New Chicago Volunteer Fire Department has been extremely difficult; this is mostly due to state training requirements for volunteers.
- The Fire Chief stated he appreciates the support of the Town Council and the Town Attorney.

Town Manager – None.

Parks Board

- The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 19, 2025. The New Chicago Fire Department will bring the Easter Bunny to the Park on the Fire Truck. The Parks Board and anyone who would like to volunteer will be meeting on April 16, 2025 at 6:00pm to stuff a few eggs and make the Easter Baskets; the location is to be determined.
- Rummage in the Park will be May 3, 2025. Registration for Rummage in the Park has been opened up to the public. The costs for Rummage in the Park is as follows:
 - \$15.00 for a 10x10 space for Town of New Chicago Resident and Non-Resident
 - \$25.00 for a 10x20 space for Town of New Chicago Resident and Non-Resident
- June 21, 2025 will be the 55th Anniversary for the Twin Oaks Park Celebration.
- The Parks Board had to request a new dumpster at Twin Oaks Park again; the bar was so bent that the dumpster could not be used.
- Spring Clean-Up at Twin Oaks Park will be April 12, 2025 at 10:00am. The Parks Board will be reaching out to the River Forest High School Administration to inquire if any High School Students are interested in participating to earn Community Service hours for graduation.
- The Parks Board has applied for the following grants:
 - Master Gardner Grant.
 - Communitree Grant
 - American Water Grant
- The Parks Board signed up for Grant Station to have access for other grants.
- Congressman Mrvan's grant is for long lasting rubber mulch for the playgrounds; this grant has not been applied for yet.
- The Parks Board is still waiting to hear from River Forest Schools about the Lunch and Learn Program; current cuts to funding programs may affect this program.

Plan Commission – None.

Sewer

- Repairs on sewer lines at Huber Blvd. and Michigan Street have been done by Advanced Sewer Services.

Streets

- Next week the utility workers are planning to chip and pick up leaves. Homeowners have been putting leaves in the street which is a safety hazard.

- There is a large pothole on Wisconsin and Garfield Streets. Wisconsin Street will be paved this year. The holes in all the streets will be addressed and taken care of.

Sanitation – None.

Water

- Repairs on the water main start tomorrow on the main that is under the river.

Stormwater

- The MS4 Coordinator is attending a one-day MS4 meeting for certification on March 19, 2025 in Merrillville, Indiana.
- During the main break on Harrison a collapsed storm drain was found. This section of storm drain will be replaced.
- The MS4 Coordinator will attend school to be certified as a Flood Plains Administrator on March 18, 2025 in Indianapolis.
- The Town Council President thanked the Public Works Workers for working so diligently to take care of all the jobs they have had to do short-handed.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Legal Report – None.

Announcements – None.

Other Business to Come Before the Council

- The Fire Chief asked a River Forest School Board Member to request at the next School Board Meeting for approval for the New Chicago Fire Department to use the River Forest High School Football Field as a landing zone for the UCAN Helicopter that is used by the Fire Department occasionally.

Open Forum – None.

Comments from Board Members

- Member Swallow stated that Member Grecco took her by the house at 3021 Clay Street; the house is deplorable. The neighbors next to this house are moving because of this home.
- Member Swallow discussed complaints from constituents about not being able to pay their bill with debit/credit cards. The Clerk Treasurer stated that Treasury Management with the bank will be contacted to discuss options for this.

Vice President Gibson made motion to Adjourn, seconded by Member Grecco; motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Signed,

Sharon Szwedo
Town Council President

ATTEST:
Tammy L Bucko
Clerk Treasurer

This meeting may be viewed at: <https://youtube.com/@townofnewchiago>