

August 19, 2024

## Town of Chandler Council Meeting Minutes

The Chandler Town Council meeting was called to order August 19, 2024, at the Chandler Town Hall, 401 E. Lincoln Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll call: Present** - Cheryl Amos, Tom Burnett, Sandy Elder, Tonya Wester, Ron Whitledge

**Absent** –

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:** Minutes for the August 5, 2024 regular meeting were presented to the council. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve the minutes, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder abstain, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Town Attorney:** Josh informed the council he sent an email updating them on litigation discussions with Boonville.

Josh presented an Ordinance amending 2024-16. Josh explained that our bonds will be issued to Indiana Bond Bank and will have an arbitrage interest rate of 3.8% and all in interest will be 4.57% for the fire station project. The Indiana Bond Bank is requesting language to clarify the commitment of PS LIT funds for bond payments, so ordinance 2024-16 will need to be amended. He advised passing it on the first reading. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to suspend the rules, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to pass the amendment on first reading, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Josh informed the council that our credit rating for the Sewer Utility was reduced from ~~A to A+~~ <sup>A<sub>1</sub> to A</sup>. He explained that it was still a very good rating, but it was reduced since we have a lower cash balance compared to other utilities with A+ ratings, but we were able to avoid raising rates by drawing down the balance.

Josh informed the council that he has Baker Tilly's testimony, so the Water rate case can go forward. Josh added that the fire station bonds will close soon. Tonya said it's unfortunate that the credit rating was reduced, but it couldn't be helped, and Tyler did good considering the environmental circumstances.

**Police Chief:** Report emailed. Kirk informed the council that we have 6 officers on patrol now and he's looking to hire 2 more. Brian explained that he used upper estimates for expenses, and it fits within the budget, so he doesn't expect any issues with funding. Tonya said we worked our way up to 9 officers, so we should try to sustain it. Kirk said it's been difficult due to turnover, but both people he selected are

Chandler residents. He expects them to start their Academy training in January. Tom asked Kirk if he received his message and Kirk said know but he'll share his cell number later.

**Fire Chief:** Report emailed. Alex informed the council that they drove the firetruck home. It's a good multipurpose truck and he'd like to confirm the purchase. The council agreed to go forward, and Brian asked Tonya to sign the bill of sale.

**Director of Public Services:** Report emailed. Tyler said he had nothing to discuss. Ron mentioned that his wife said that she noticed a faint sewer smell on Sunday. Tyler discussed all of the work they've done to mitigate the issue, but they believe the smell is caused by the private lift station nearby and not the town's sewer system.

**Utility Administrator:** Report emailed. Misty said Scott sent a lot of paperwork and she's still going through it.

Misty discussed sidewalks with the council and shared quotes from Elliott's and Crane. Tonya explained for the audience that a county grant will fund the project, and it will complete the sidewalks already started by the Lion's Club and connect the sports park to Cherry St. Misty said the handrails are the last step and she needs to know what type for cost. Tonya asked if we could go forward with the concrete and suggested picking the most durable handrails. Misty said the powder coated would be a good choice at the bridge. Tonya suggested matching the rails at the small park. Cheryl added that she likes the black powder coating, and it doesn't fade the same way paint does. Misty asked if it's possible to powder coat the rails at the park and Tyler said it could be done. Tyler added that the decorative light poles will be black, so they'll match. Tonya asked about the price, but Misty said it will depend on the size. Michael said that ADA requires the handrails to go above the needed height, so it would make more sense to wait until the concrete is finished to measure the height. Ron said that's common practice. Tonya said she'd like to see the project go forward since it's been delayed too many times. Cheryl said that she doesn't like the two parking spaces by the lake and suggested removing them and reevaluating later. Tonya and Sandy both said they are having a hard time visualizing the parking spots. Tom said there isn't much advantage to two more spots. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to go forward with Elliott's and to table to parking spots and handrails for now, second by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Misty said the grant administrator requires training requires lots of work. There's only 148 certified in the state. She said it feels like we've missed out on money.

Misty said she doesn't have an update for the dog park yet. Tyler said he expects to receive quotes soon. He included double gates for the mower, entrance, and gates for the dugouts. Misty mentioned that people are parking around the ball fields for disc golf. Tonya suggested posting some signs for emergency vehicles only. Tyler also asked not to share keys to locks since it can be easily abused.

Misty asked the council about going forward with the lights. Tyler said the estimate is \$37,000 for 10 lights. Brian explained that we can pay it from ARP funds, but we'll likely have to apply for additional appropriations. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to go forward with the decorative light poles, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Environmental Manager:** Report emailed. Michael informed the council that we'd received our SWPPP plan and sent it to the state and thanked Reynolds and Egis for their help.

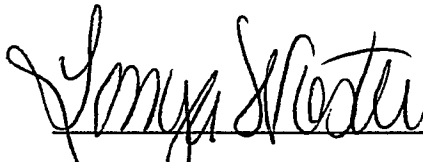
Michael discussed mowing with the council. Michael said they only mow twice per year. Tonya said she would like to see it mowed since they won't. Michael said there's a small forest in a ditch near Inderrieden that will be difficult to clean up. Tonya asked if we would need new equipment. Tyler said his guys can mow it, but they would probably need a hydraulic bush hog to handle the trees. Tonya suggested going forward and Cheryl asked if Michael got any feedback from the state. Michael said he expects to hear back in the fall when they mow again, so we can wait on the bush hog, but we'll likely have the same issue in the spring. Tonya suggested asking the state to handle the trees in the ditch if we offer to mow it. Sandy asked if the bush hog can be used elsewhere, and Tyler said yes and explained that it can move up but our current equipment only goes out and down. Tonya and Sandy asked about splitting the cost and Tyler and Michael agreed they could. Tonya asked them to go forward with it.

Michael discussed culverts with the council. He explained that an older person needed a new culvert due to negative flow and a citizen offered to purchase the pipe for them. Michael reminded the council that we've discussed creating payment plans for culvert replacements and asked if there's been a decision to add it to bills. Michael reminded the council that the rates assumed we would hire contractors, but we can do it in house now. Cheryl asked if we agreed to do only driveways and Ron said he thought so. Tonya said they had concerns about yards and didn't feel it's the best use of resources. Michael asked about people affected downstream. Tonya said they'll have to convert to an open ditch if they can't maintain their culvert and we can still put contractor costs on utility bills. Sandy said mixing closed and open ditches will probably cause problems. Tonya said we'll need to check the minutes. Misty said she thinks billing could be a legal issue. Josh explained that we'll need a contract, but we can probably shut off water as leverage to enforce payments. Misty asked about penalties. Tonya said we'll have to put it in the contract. Michael asked if we should do 24 or 36 months. Tonya thought we set aside funds and Brian explained that the issue is we have to spend directly from the ARP fund, and we can't just transfer it to another fund. Tom warned about abuse and people could start treating us like a bank. Ron said we'll have to consider downstream issues after upgrades. Michael said there's 5 houses on Adams that are a good example. Tonya said that culverts and ditches were mentioned in the past minutes. Sandy asked what the cost would be, and Michael said it could be about \$40 per ft or about \$3,000 for a property if we subcontract it. Cheryl asked if there's other areas and Michael said Green Valley and Les Dr will be and there are some others. He added that the county's outfall needs to be expanded. Cheryl said that at the time culverts were the right size. Tonya said they were probably installed before standards existed. Michael mentioned that a new outlet was installed on McCool Rd that helped a lot.

**Clerk Treasurer:** Report emailed.

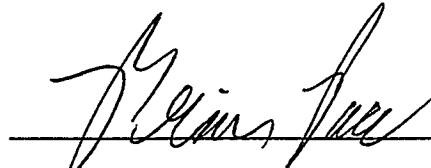
**Claims:** Ron Whitledge made a motion to approve claims as presented in the amount of \$1,263,336.91, second by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to recess the meeting, second by Tom Burnett. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.



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Tonya Wester, Council President



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Brian Pace, Clerk Treasurer