

March 20, 2023

### Town of Chandler Council Meeting Minutes

The Chandler Town Council meeting was called to order March 20, 2023, at the Chandler Town Hall, 401 E. Lincoln Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Absent** –

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:** Minutes for the February 21, 2023, regular meeting were presented to the council. Cheryl noticed a typo, under "Citizens on the Agenda" willing was misspelled and "Town Attorney" the needs to be replaced with she. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve the minutes with the typos corrected, second by Kim Burnett. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Citizens on the agenda:** Patrick Hickey shared information about E-REP and the READI grant. Patrick briefly explained that E-REP formed from the merger of 3 organizations that served Evansville and surrounding area. Their goals are to promote business growth and retention, community development, attract high skilled workers, and regional planning. His role is to focus on grant prospecting and grant writing for communities outside of Vanderburgh County. He presented information on the READI, Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, grant. \$50 million has been awarded in the last round of applications with an average award of \$2 million. The grant is primarily used for finishing projects, so a project typically receives 60% of funds from the private sector, 20% from local government, and 20% from the grant. Tonya asked what kind of projects are grants issued for and Patrick explained they are for quality of place. He will email the information to the council for their review.

Brittany Daugherty attended again to discuss the community garden. She said they have almost everything needed, but they still need to finalize plans for a water source. Tonya felt that a rain barrel would be best and Ron said he'd be ok with a hose but someone would have to make sure it's put up between uses. Brittany mentioned that she discussed an irrigation system with Super Cutz and although they didn't agree but they didn't refuse either so it might be an option later. Ron thought the best option would be to have a water tank on a trailer temporarily parked there instead of a rain barrel. Tonya suggested even using 4-wheeler and 50-gallon tank. Brittany asked if they have any other suggestions in case they can't find anyone to donate a trailer and tank for their use, but Ron said he knows someone that would be willing. Brittany asked if they would be able to install a trellis for planting beans or provide shade. Tonya suggested starting simple and minimizing the number of crops to avoid the need for structures starting out, but Ron suggested it would be ok if it was a temporary structure.

Brittany said they are aiming to have crops planted by April 22 and till 2 weeks before. Tonya said we'll need rules and policies written down first and asked her to share a list of crops, their maintenance plan, and distribution plan with the town's attorney for his review. Brittany asked if they could do any preparation like soil testing and marking the plot and the council agreed that would be ok.

**Town Attorney:** Justin Johnson attended in Josh's place. He presented Ordinance 2023-02 to Reestablish the CCD Fund for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Brian briefly explained that the ordinance is needed to bring the tax rate back to .05 per \$100 in assessed value, but for most households the increase will be less than \$12 per year. Motion was made by Kim Burnett to approve Ordinance 2023-02, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Justin presented Ordinance 2023-03 for Waterworks bonds of 2023. Justin explained that Josh suggested suspending the rules and passing it on the first reading so the town can stay on schedule for their bond issuance. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2023-03 on first reading, second by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Police Chief:** Report emailed. Kirk asked the council to surplus Bob's service pistol, long gun, and 3 boxes of ammo for a caliber that's no longer used by the town as a retirement gift. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to surplus the items listed by Kirk, second by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief:** Report emailed.

**Director of Public Services:** Report emailed. Rob presented the office lease with BLN. He explained that Josh already reviewed it and it will help with the transmission main project and transitioning to a new director. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve the lease, second by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Ron mentioned that the culvert work looks great. Rob said that we'll be slowing down on paving so he will plan to do more culvert replacements soon.

**Environmental Manager:** Report emailed. Michael gave the council a few quick updates. The town will host a stormwater workshop tomorrow, his annual IDEM report is due April 1<sup>st</sup>, and Centerpoint is ready to install 13 new streetlights.

Michael presented a list of 3 properties that are volunteering to be annexed, the Davis property on Heim, Macer property on McCool, and M&M property on Gardner. The Macer family would also like the easement for Paua Dr to be vacated too. With the council's approval, we will advertise a public hearing on April 17 to begin the process. This will add about 40 acres to the town. Rob added that M&M would like to move fast. Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve annexations and vacation, second by Kim Burnett. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

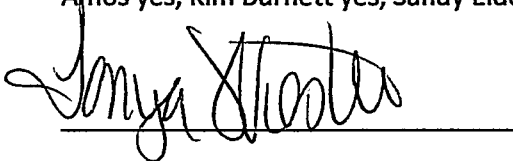
**Utility Administrator:** Report emailed. The council brought up the disconnect/reconnect fee for discussion. Cheryl mentioned that she is still very concerned how the increase will affect many people in our community but understands how the costs are justified. Tonya mentioned that the reconnect and disconnect are 2 separate charges and Scott added that we could restructure it as one charge. Tonya asked if we can recover costs if we restructure it but Scott said no, the fee is for 1 trip so if separate trips are done for reconnects and disconnects then we won't recover costs. Tonya asked if there's anything we can do to avoid the shutoff happening in the first place. Cheryl mentioned that elderly will be affected too. Larry suggested phasing it in. Kim, Ron, and Cheryl liked that idea. Rob asked if we would have to resubmit the schedule and Scott said yes, but he doesn't expect any resistance from the IURC since the suggested changes would help consumers. Scott said it would be a much faster process than a rate change and suggested reaching out to them first. The council agreed to reevaluate after hearing back from Scott.

**Clerk Treasurer:** Report emailed. Brian informed the council that the wreath has been picked up. Tonya asked about setting up a budget for Christmas decorations and asked Brian how much money is left. Brian said we have about \$5,000 in Christmas donations left, but we also have about \$8,000 in leftover Jaycee donations. Ron suggested \$3,000 and Tonya suggested adding the wreath return so we can purchase about \$4,000 in decorations. The council agreed.

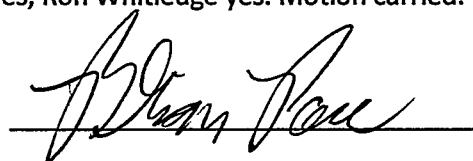
**Old Business:** Tonya asked for an update on 202 N Kentucky. Michael said that he hasn't issued the notice yet but he's working on it and 816 E Washington too. Rob asked if it was vacant, but Tonya said it wasn't. Tonya also asked for an update on 210 N Iowa. Michael said we suspended the abatement since they were in the process of selling the property, but the sale was hung up due to a title issue. Justin advised the council to start the abatement process over if we want to force them to clean up. Cheryl asked about setting a deadline for the 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight and Tonya suggested using the same deadline for all of them. Cheryl asked if we can demand evidence the property is being sold and Justin said that would be ok. Tonya asked if the 31<sup>st</sup> would be enough time to cleanup, but Ron thought they've had plenty of time already.

**Claims:** Kim Burnett made a motion to approve claims as presented in the amount of \$301,883.78, second by Sandy Elder. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos yes, Kim Burnett yes, Sandy Elder yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

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



Tonya Wester, Council President



Brian Pace, Clerk Treasurer