

TOWN COUNCIL
May 12, 2020

Present were council members President Greg Stinson, Vice President, William Lopez; Erik Wagner, Brian Finley, David Phillips. Attorney Greg Sobkowski, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Jay Craig, Public Works Director Sarah Olson, Building Commissioner Michael Barry and Park Director Brian Bugajski were absent from meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Finley made a motion to approve the April 28, 2020 minutes and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

Finley made a motion to approve the "emergency meeting" of May 5, 2020 at 6:30pm and Lopez made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

Finley made a motion to approve the "emergency meeting" of May 5, 2020 at 8:00pm and Lopez made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

Stinson explained that last Monday we had a security breach at town hall. We contacted our insurance and our cyber insurance carrier and had preliminary discussion and they sent a contract that needed to be signed immediately so they could start their investigation. The council agreed to have an emergency meeting to get the contract signed at 6:30pm. We notified the Tribune of said meeting beforehand. After this meeting was over, we received another contract that needed to be signed. The council agreed to come back for another emergency meeting at 8:00pm. The Chesterton Tribune was notified again of meeting. These contracts needed to be signed so that each company could start investigating first thing in the morning. As of now we are slowly getting our computers up and running. This is a very slow process. Our IT people are adding additional security systems. To prevent this from ever happening again. Our investigators stated that this happens all the time that is why they are in business.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jennifer Klug, Franklin Street, asked about the Resolution establishing Economic Revitalization area and the resolution does not have Exhibit A attached. Stinson noted that at we can't access our computers to print the map. He explained that the areas are for three parcels, for the water park, across the street for parking lot and the area where Anderson Trucking on Highway 20. Stinson explained this is the first step and then will be public hearings, EDC review and approval. Anderson Trucking will be done. Since the water park parcels are located in a residential area there will be an ordinance process which will result in more opportunity for public comments.

She also asked why the National Lakeshore closed Porter Beach. Stinson explained that we closed our parking lot but National Lakeshore closed the beach because of all

restrooms are closed and social distancing must be observed plus basic hygiene needs to be followed.

Robert Abrecht-Mallinger, Porter Beach, thanked the Public Works department and the Police department for all they have done at Porter Beach. He noted that the police had their hands full and did a wonderful job.

Austin Wright, Franklin Street, presented a petition with 16 signatures from his immediate neighbors for the town to change the code so that chickens are allowed. He said that he has talked to Michael Barry about this and Mike referred him to the council. Stinson noted that in 2014 the council voted against chickens. He noted that he was out of the country for that meeting. He stated that he personally doesn't care and asked the council their thoughts and they basically don't care either. Wagner noted that he has had residents say that they are glad that there are no chickens and some that want to have chickens. Stinson told Mr. Wright that he would contact Mike Barry and for Mr. Wright to contact Barry also.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

None

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE REPORT

Liaison Lopez presented an application from Pedal Power to the council for renting bicycles at the PCCRVC parking lot. He noted that they have done this before and asked council for approval. Lopez said that their insurance will need to be renewed soon. Lopez made a motion to approve the permit for Pedal Power pending insurance renewal and background checks and Wagner made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Finley reported that they are still picking up leaves and brush.

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

Liaison Phillips presented a request from Indiana Lightening baseball team to use Porter park every Monday evenings starting May 25th to end of season in July. Phillips made a motion to approve the application contingent on them providing insurance, signed team waivers and a signed usage agreement and Finley made the second, vote 5-0, motion approved.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER REPORT

Stinson presented five contractors for approval. Finley made the motion to approve the five new contractors and Lopez made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-02 establishing Economic Revitalization area.

Stinson read Resolution 2020-02 by title only and asked for a motion to adopt. Wagner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 and Finley made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

TOWN REOPENING DISCUSSION

Stinson stated that the town is continuing to follow the Governors direction pertaining to Hawthorn park. The Community Center at Hawthorne Park, which reopened on May 4, is limited to gatherings of 25 people or less until May 23rd. Events taking place after May 23rd and before June 13th are limited to less than 100 people, or 50% of the maximum capacity of each room, whichever is more restrictive. Events taking place after June 13th will be limited to 75% of the maximum capacity of the building, or roughly 130 people. Though larger gatherings are permitted under the Governor's plan after May 23rd, social distancing measures must be followed and tables will be placed 6-8 feet apart.

After much discussion the Town Council has voted to cancel the following planned events: the annual Memorial Day Service originally scheduled for May 25th at Hawthorne Park, but is considering having a service on Labor Day or Veteran's Day; the Summer Safety Fest scheduled for June 5th at Hawthorne Park; the MS4 Kids Fishing Derby scheduled for June 17th at Indian Springs Park; the Dune Big 4th of July Parade, and the Family 4th Fest, both scheduled for July 4th at Hawthorne Park. Stinson said he would notify Laura Layman of Dune Big.

The Council also voted to keep the Town-owned parking lot at Porter Beach closed. The beach and parking lot will reopen in conjunction with the opening of the Indiana Dunes National Park parking and restroom facilities later in May.

Council member Phillips asked the council if we are selling the few beach permits that are left and they agreed that the remainder will not be sold.

Stinson thanked the council for their support on the "emergency" meetings and told Pomeroy to tell Karen and Tammie how much he appreciates what they have been going through and how frustrating it must be answering the phones and not being able to provide answers to people and have to deal with that backlash and hopefully the worst is over and things will soon get back to normal.

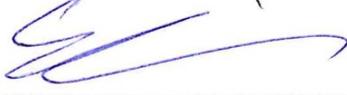
Finley made a motion to adjourn and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0 motion passed.

Dated this 26TH day of MAY, 2020.

Greg Stinson, President



Brian Finley



Erik Wagner

ATTEST: 

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer



William Lopez, Vice President



David Phillips