

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
September 27, 2016

Present were council members Greg Stinson, Erik Wagner, Tim Conroy, Ross LeBleu, Bill Lopez, Attorney Greg Sobkowski, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Louie Craig, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer, Building Commissioner Mike Barry and Park Director Brian Bugajski.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2017 BUDGET

The public hearing was opened at 7:03pm. Stinson asked if anyone had any comments for or against the 2017 budget. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the 2017 budget. Paul Childress asked the council if they had a breakdown of taxes the town receives for commercial versus residential. Stinson said the town does not. Without any more comments Stinson closed the public hearing at 7:07pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LeBleu made a motion to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes as written and Lopez made the second, vote 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Wagner made a motion to approve the claims and sewer adjustments as presented, Conroy made the second, vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jennifer Klug, Franklin Street, said she reviewed Ordinance 522 which states that political signs may not be erected 30 days before a primary or a general election and all signs must be removed by 10 days preceding the election. The ordinance also states a deposit of \$25.00 is needed and will be refunded after all political signs are removed within 10 days of election. Klug then referred to the town code book under Section 190 Temporary Signs which states that signs must be removed within 5 days of an election and there isn't a fee for political signs. Attorney Sobkowski says he will look into the matter.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy stated that the first meeting in November is on election day and the second meeting is the week of Thanksgiving and asked the council if they would like to change the November meeting dates. Stinson said he is considering holding one meeting in November if the agenda will support doing this. The council agreed to wait until the time is closer.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Spanier reported that Discovery Charter School turned in their insurance and everything is in order.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Public Works Director Brueckheimer thanked Northwest Indiana Paddling Association for cleaning the Little Calumet River between Brummit Road in Chesterton to Wagner Road in Porter. She also announced that Weldon Coslet is retiring October 1st with 18 years of service.

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

Park Director Bugajski thanked the Public Works department for fixing their lawn mower. He also announced that this Saturday, October 1st, is Porter Perfect Pint. The event will be held from noon until 5:00pm. He also noted that donation items are still needed for the silent auction. Bugajski also thanked Davis & Sons for donating dirt for a project. He also stated that two benches have arrived for Hawthorne Park. These benches were made from donated bottle caps. He is planning on having the dedication on November 20. Bugajski also announced that the park department received a matching grant of up to \$50,000 from GameTime for Hawthorne Park playground equipment. The stipulation is the playground equipment must be ordered by November 1st and delivered by the end of the year. Bugajski is in the process of getting quotes.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Building Commissioner Mike Barry presented three contractors for approval, Wagner made a motion to accept the three contractors and Conroy made the second, vote 5-0.

Barry reported that the four quotes received for the Kubota tractor were not for the same size tractor. The council said all bids must be rejected and motion rescinded.

Wagner made a motion to reject all bids and LeBleu made the second, vote 5-0. Lopez made a motion to rescind all motions regarding the tractor (June 28 town council meeting) and Conroy made the second, vote 5-0. Conroy made a motion to send out new specs for quotes on a new tractor and LeBleu made the second, vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2016-10 – Amending 2016 Salary Ordinance

Stinson explained that the town is amending the 2016 salary ordinance because of a new requirement by the Department of Labor regarding overtime for salaried personnel. Stinson read Ordinance 2016-10 by title only. Stinson asked Pomeroy to add this ordinance to the next agenda for 2nd reading.

Ordinance 2016-11 – 2017 Budget ordinance

Stinson read Ordinance 2016-11 by title only and asked Pomeroy to place this ordinance on the October 25th agenda for second reading.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stinson reminded residents that this Saturday October 1st is Porter Perfect Pint and encourage people to come join the fun. He noted that participants do not have to drink in order to attend this function.

Wagner made a motion to adjourn and LeBlue made the second, vote 5-0.

Dated this _____ day of October, 2016.

Greg Stinson, President

Erik Wagner, Vice President

Ross LeBleu

Tim Conroy

William Lopez

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer