

TOWN COUNCIL
May 26, 2020

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wagner made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 minutes and Finley made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Finley made a motion to approve claims and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Robert Abrecht-Mallinger, Porter Beach, thanked the police department for their efforts for trying to combat the traffic issues at Porter Beach last weekend. He noted that most cars were from Illinois and Michigan. He suggests that the police should take whatever steps necessary to curb illegal parking and to try to alleviate excessive traffic and congestion at Porter beach.

Jennifer Klug, Franklin Street, suggested that the council contact the Governor and Mayor of Chicago to try to find a way to keep Illinois residents from flocking to Porter beaches.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy reminded residents Not to fill their swimming pools until after June 15th. On June 16th the Summer sprinkling credit takes effect which reduces sewer bills.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Spanier stated that it is going to be a rough summer at Porter beach since Illinois has closed their beaches due to COVID-19. He noted that traffic last weekend at Indiana Dunes State Park, National Park and Porter beach was about the same level as July 4th fireworks. Spanier said to control the 4th of July traffic takes officers from Porter, Chesterton and Burns Harbor all working together to manage the traffic. He stated that the State park reduced their parking lot from approximately 2000 parking spaces to approximately 900. Wagner said that they were parked all along State highway 49 and approximately 200 in his neighborhood.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Wagner reported that the refurbished tanker is complete and will be in service and thanked Westchester Township for paying for the tanker to be updated. Wagner also thanked Burns Harbor for hosting a fire fighter course that two firefighters are attending.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Barry announced that the department is still picking up brush.

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Barry said that he advertised for bids for the Community Crossing paving project. The bids were opened Friday and the lowest bidder is Walsh & Kelly for \$642,673.50, Rieth & Riley's bid was \$688,140.28 and Town & Country bid was \$773,292.50. Phillips made a motion to approve the bid of Walsh & Kelly for \$642,673.50 and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed. Barry noted that the original estimated paving project would be approximately \$800,000. He said the State pays 75% and the town 25%.

Barry also said that the town's INDOT asset management plan is due. Finley made a motion to approve Abonmarche to update this plan with a not to exceed amount of \$9,000 and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Barry presented 9 new contractors for approval, Finley made a motion to approve the 9 new contractors and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

Spanier said that a certified request was sent out to 9 dealerships, five to Chevrolet and four to Dodge dealers. He said that they received three quotes from Dodge and one quote from Chevy. The lowest bidder was Thomas Dodge of Highland for a Dodge Durango is \$32,374 minus a trade in of \$6,500. The lowest offer for a Chevy Tahoe is from Kelly Chevy in Fort Wayne for \$35,950 each. Spanier requested approval to buy two Chevy Tahoe's and one Dodge Durango. The total cost is \$120,461 which is \$461 over budgeted amount of \$120,000 and the \$461 will be taken out of Police budget. Phillips made a motion to approve purchasing two Chevy Tahoe's and one Dodge Durango for \$120,461, paying \$120,000 from CCD and \$461 from Police budget and Finley made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Lopez asked that the council if they want to extend the order not to collect penalties for sewer bills for the next billing cycle which is due June 15th, Finley made the motion not to assess penalties for the next sewer billing due June 15th and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Lopez asked for a motion to continue the work at home order for essential employees that are at risk to work from home through June 12th, Ordinance 2020-04, so that the town can continue to pay the at-risk employees that are working from home. Wagner

made the motion to pay the at-risk employees that are working from home through June 12th and Finley made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lopez said that the town will have to have a public hearing regarding the establishment of the economic development area. He asked if the council wants to have a "zoom" meeting or have the meeting somewhere else that is larger since there will be a larger number of residents attending or have residents write down their comments ahead of time and the council can read them at the meeting. Finley said that he likes the idea of residents writing down their comments and Lopez agreed. Attorney Sobkowski stated that the council should find a bigger meeting place for the public hearing. Barry said he is looking at places to have the public hearing. Barry said the plan is to have the public hearing on June 9th the next council meeting. If residents can't attend they could still submit written comments.

Finley made a motion to adjourn and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Dated this 9th day of JUNE, 2020.



William Lopez, Vice President



Erik Wagner



Brian Finley



David Phillips

ATTEST: 

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer