

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
February 25, 2020

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Finley made a motion to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes and Phillips made the second, motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Lopez made a motion to approve the claims as presented and Finley made the second, motion passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy said that the Porter Beach permits go on sale March 9th & 10th for Porter residents only. She said that in order to receive the Porter rate the residents must have a valid driver's license and valid registration showing the legal address of the Town of Porter on both. Pomeroy stated that the limit per household is two permits. Residents may purchase permits for neighbors or friends, but can only purchase for two different addresses. If they need to purchase more, they will need to go to the end of the line.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Spanier presented a parade application from Laura Layman of the Duneland Business Initiative Group (DuneBig) for the 4th of July parade. He noted that there have not been problems in the past, though they did not include their insurance information. Finley made a motion to approve the parade permit from DuneBig pending that they provide their insurance and Wagner made the second, vote 5-0 motion passed. Stinson noted that this is a great addition to our town.

Concerning Porter Beach permits, Chief noted that sometime the registration will have Chesterton but on the top right hand side will give the legal address of Porter. The town will accept registration that lists Porter as the legal address.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Craig stated that he received the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant money for \$4,999.45 and would like it appropriated in 244-001-111 Fire DNR grant.

Craig asked the council permission to apply for the same DNR 50/50 grant for 2020 and his share payable out of LIT for \$5,000, Lopez made the motion to give Craig permission to apply for the DNR grant again for this year and his share will be payable from LIT and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

Craig also thanked the community, town council and residents that came to the dedication of the Memorial Garden and he thanked the council for purchasing the new fire truck.

Craig said they will be receiving \$800 from Wildland Firefighting Equipment as part of the 2019 50/50 DNR grant.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

None

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

BUILDING COMMISSIONER REPORT

Building Commissioner Barry presented 8 new contractors for approval. Lopez made the motion to approve the 8 new contractors and Wagner made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

Barry said that employee Robin Davis has been on major medical leave that runs out February 26. He asked the council to approve unpaid leave for Davis until March 10th. Phillips made the motion to approve an unpaid leave for Robin Davis until March 10th and Finley made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Economic Development Commission appointments

Stinson stated that the three new appointments to the Economic Development Commission have staggered expiration dates. He noted that Porter County Council chooses one member, the town council chooses one member and the town council president also chooses one member. He said that Porter County Council did a one-year appointment of Rob Pomeroy and his term will expire December 2020.

Stinson appointed Elka Nelson for a three-year term expiring December 2022.

Phillips made a motion to appoint Jim Burge for the council appointment and his term will expire December 2021. Stinson asked for a vote for this appointment motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Stinson asked Pomeroy to notify these appointments and ask them to have a meeting within 30 days. He also said that this meeting will be advertised and held at the town hall. After the first meeting they will meet whenever needed at the town hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-01 Climate Emergency

Chesterton High School senior Sid Augustyn asked the council to approve Resolution 2020-01 regarding a climate emergency. Augustyn said that in 2009 the Plan Commission efforts to design the Lakeshore Preservation District which was supported by the residents of Porter Beach and the town as a whole. He said that there are two aims to this resolution: (1) the town recognizes the climate emergency which is a step to addressing this crisis and (2) the town commits to establish a mechanism to ensure inclusion of the future of young people in the process. Augustyn stated that the youth will stop at nothing to fight for their future, because they are the future. Stinson read Resolution 2020-01 by title only and asked for a motion to adopt. Wagner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01 and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0, resolution passed.

Westchester Township fire contract for 2020

Finley made a motion to approve Westchester Township fire contract and Lopez made the second, vote 5-0, contract approved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stinson stated that Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) passed a resolution to be sent to Governor Holcomb urging him to follow other municipalities in declaring a state of emergency over lakeshore erosion.

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

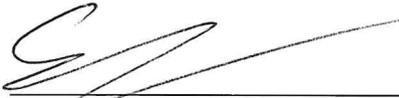
Dated this _____ day of March 2020.



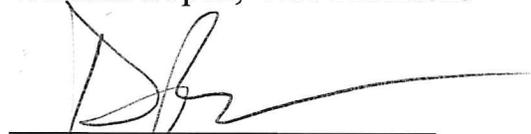
Greg Stinson, President



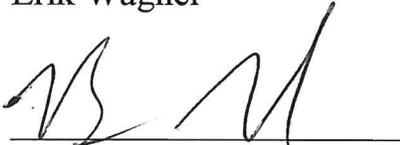
William Lopez, Vice President



Erik Wagner



David Phillips



Brian Finley

ATTEST _____

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer