

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2005
PORTER TOWN HALL

CALL TO ORDER

President Jennifer Granat called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were: Vice President William Sexton and Council members Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress, Sandi Snyder, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Acting Police Chief Jim Menn, Public Works Director Scott Guy, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Karen Spanier.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Granat asked for a motion to elect the Town Council President. Childress made motion to nominate Sexton. Booth seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with Sexton voting present. Granat then turned the gavel over to President William Sexton for the year 2005.

President Sexton then asked for a motion for vice-president. Boothe made the motion to nominate Snyder. Childress second. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0 with Snyder voting present.

Sexton then acknowledged Granat for her leadership in 2004 and for her time and dedication of the Council. He said this had been a very interesting year and the Town of Porter is in much better shape now than it was when they took office. (See attached).

Sexton then presented Granat with a gift in appreciation of her service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 14, 2004 - Childress made a motion to accept the minutes. Under discussion, Childress had slight changes. Under Clerk Treasurer Report on Page 1 – change officer to office. Alarm Ordinance should be taken up at January 11, 2005. Boothe seconded. Unanimous consent was made by Council to accept.

December 21, 2004 - Granat made a motion to approve with Snyder second. No discussion led to unanimous approval with Childress voting present due to his absence.

TOWN APPOINTMENTS

Sexton asked for a motion to approve James Spanier for Porter Police Chief. Booth made the motion with Childress seconding. No discussion. Vote was unanimous.

Childress asked if the President wished to have Porter County Clerk Dale Brewer (who was in attendance administer the oath). Sexton and the Council agreed. The oath was given and Spanier received a round of applause as he took office.

Sexton then asked for a motion to accept Bill Lewis as the new Building Commissioner and Inspector. Boothe made motion and Childress the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Sexton said that Larry Peterson as Electrical Inspector and Richard Sexton as Plumbing Inspector, Council agreed by consensus.

Childress made a motion to retain Jim Mandan as Town Planner, Blachley, Tabor, Bozik, and Hartman as Town Attorneys, Haas & Associates as Town Engineer, and Financial Consultant Cender & Co. Boothe seconded. There was unanimous approval.

Liaisons was next on the list: For 2005 –

Police Dept. will be Jennifer Granat.

Fire Dept will be Paul Childress

Public Working and Building Dept will be Sandy Boothe

Park Dept will remain with Sandi Snyder

Town Hall will be Bill Sexton

Sexton made the Presidential Appointment to the Plan Commission – Jim Eriksson and then asked for a motion to appoint newly picked Building Comm. Bill Lewis as the town employee on the Commission. Granat made such motion. Snyder seconded. Motion carried unanimously. They will be working with remaining members: Loraine Bell, Mike Leibert, Ken Timm, Paul Childress and Sandi Snyder.

BZA – has five members. Granat motioned to accept Henry Huyser to the position vacated Childress seconded. Motion carried unanimously. He will join Loraine Bell, Mike Leibert, Bruce Niepokoj and Bruce Snyder.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - Sexton made two presidential appointments to the five-panel commission. He named Bill Donley and Jennifer Granat. They will join returning members: Sandy Boothe, Paul Childress and Trudi Gallagher.

PARK - With only one application, Granat gladly recommended Zathoe Sexton. Snyder gladly seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Sexton abstaining. With remaining terms are Juan Magana, Bud Tilden, and Nancy Whisler.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD- Childress motion to reappoint Steve Rohe. Boothe seconded it. Vote was unanimous. Remaining on the Board are Roger Abraham and Ed Pilarski.

POLICE COMMISSION - Sexton said the Board has moved to a five-member board. Boothe motioned to accept Art Heredia. Granat seconded. Vote was 4-1 with Childress opposed. Childress then made a motion to approve Brian Dahlin. Granat seconded that motion also. Vote again was 4-1 with Snyder opposing. For the third spot, Granat made the motion to approve Karen Pisowicz with Childress making a strong second. With no discussion, she was unanimously approved. They will join remaining members Bill Donley (2006 term) and Linda Hodges (2005).

NIRPC - Sexton will remain on the Board.

DEDC – Snyder is the now the appointment.

PCCRVC - The Council has only received one letter applying for the position. Boothe made a motion accept Judy Chaplin as the appointment and Childress seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING DEPT - Scott Guy was reappointed by consensus.

FIRE DEPT - Sexton said Craig had not been reappointed due to the legal stance to reappoint the Fire Chief. Craig was assured he was still an employee of the town but they need to wait until January 11, 2005 for appointment to Fire Chief.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

CLAIMS - December 11-30, 2004. \$507,588.18 – Granat moved to approve. Boothe seconded. Discussion - Childress questioned the Council's policy on expenditures. He thought purchases over \$100.00 were required to have a P.O. signed by the liaisons and under \$100. were to have liaisons approval and signature on claim. Sexton assured him that was correct and that policy had never been changed. Childress wanted to know what happens if the policy is violated. Granat said her understanding was that first you talk to the person and if it continues there would be a write

up. In the future, Granat said that Purchase Order Numbers would be put on the docket. Motion carried 4-1 with Childress opposing.

SEWER CLAIMS: \$83,122.25 - Childress said that \$2804.03 should come out of the Storm Water Management in the General Fund. Bottom line will be \$80,318.22. Childress made the motion and Boothe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL: December 15, 2004 -

December 30, 2004 - Childress made the motion to accept payroll claims as presented. Boothe seconded. No discussion - Claims were approved unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Acting Police Chief Jim Menn welcomed Spanier as the Police Department head and said he and the rest of the Police look forward to a long and lasting relationship with him.

Chad Brooks of Beam St thanked the Council for his time on the Police Commission. Having become very close to the police department, he said that he feels we have the best policemen in the state. President Sexton thanked him for his five years of service to the Commission. He received a round of applause.

Brian Dahlin of Porter Beach rose and thanked the Council for his appointment to the Police Commission. He said the original Commission was established during his tenure on the Council and he brings his expertise to the job. He looks forward to establishing a good working relationship between the Police, the Council and the Commission.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK TREASURER

Nothing to report

ATTORNEY

Nothing to report

POLICE

Nothing to report

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS

Guy brought up the incident that just developed during the day on Woodlawn with the water problem. Indiana American Water Co is still working on the problem due to a ruptured water main, which caused part of the road to be washed out. It is in the 200-300 block of Woodlawn and there are still people without water at this time.

He said the Town is prepared for the predicted freezing rain. The road salt is here with more to be ordered.

All flow meters are certified and he will be receiving certificates shortly. Conversation with Chesterton's Steve Yageleski assured him they would be mailed within the next week.

He would like to address more water to Porter Beach. Guy said Roskin, Market, Brockmeier, Wabash and State at Dearborn should be reviewed. He should have more a report by the January 25, 2005 meeting.

Guy is having a Confined Space Class on January 19 at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Bldg. He invited the Council. Sexton asked Craig to have some of the Fire Dept. in attendance.

Pre-treatment rabies shots are going to be available. The cost is \$1000.00 for two people.

Guy thanked the Council for the development last year of the Storm Water Management Board. He had no idea of the amount of work that has to be done in that area and felt it was a great move for the town to establish the Board putting Porter ahead of other towns in the area.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Newly appointed Building Commissioner Bill Lewis thanked the Council for their appointment and said he looked forward to working with them and the citizens in the town.

Menn reminded the Council that the newly appointed Police Commission members need to be sworn in prior to the meeting. Sexton asked the Clerk of the Courts Dale Brewer who was still present if she could do that immediately following the meeting. She agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

WINNER OF CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST – Sexton asked the Committee to announce the winners. Linda Hodges spoke for the committee. They would like to eliminate the sign up next year and just have those interested in participating to just turn their lights on at a prescheduled time. They would like the Council to look at dividing the group into categories so that the extremely expensive displays could be judged separately. This year's winners: 1st Place Don Whisler - \$75.00, 2nd Place Jean Daniels \$50.00, and 3rd Place Joe Ello \$25.00. She thanked everyone who entered.

NEW BUSINESS

Sexton announced that the Council meetings will be moving back to a 7:30 p.m. start due to the fact of conflict of time interest with the attorneys. Redevelopment meetings will be at 7:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL- Granat again brought up the Yost children of Mr. Andy Borelli's class who wish to visit the Town Hall. She asked for a date and it was agreed by consensus that January 13 or January 14 will work.

Guy asked for permission to send a letter to the Chesterton Utility Board to request the allotted amount we require for Porter's sewer (420,000 gals per day). By consensus, it was okayed.

Granat thanked the Council for their support during the past year. Although not always seeing eye to eye on every matter, she felt the results for the town have been good.

Snyder expressed her thanks to the voters for putting her in office. She has met many new people and said that the Council has accomplished many things and has more in the future. Snyder said she was looking forward to the next three years. She feels they have a great panel that can working together for the good of Porter residents.

Childress made the motion to adjourn. Granat seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

President William Sexton

Vice President Sandi Snyder

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

Jennifer Granat

ATTESTED BY:

 Karen Spanier, Pro Temp

This _____ of _____ 2004