

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

President William Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Vice President Lorri Wickberg, Council members Sandi Snyder and Paul Childress. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Police Chief James Spanier, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer and Public Works Director Karl Bauer. Absent were Jennifer Granat and Attorney Patrick Lyp.

MINUTES: January 23, 2007

Wickberg made the motion to approve as written and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

CLAIMS: \$99,823.52 and \$91,692.60

Paul made the motion to approve as presented and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CLERK TREASURER:

Pomeroy reported that the Town had received the extra check from the State for CEDIT in the amount of \$159,943.00.

She also advised the Council that the budget had outstanding checks that were over 2 years old that needed to be returned to the Funds that they were deducted from. Before March 1st. They are as follows:

Town Hall: A total of \$129.78 which includes check #'s 11360 to ILMCT \$50.00; #36574 to Dave Kinel \$9.78; #36894 for Sign deposits \$50.00 and a EFT #9 for \$20.00

Street Department: Total of \$182.37 which includes check #'s 11351 to Diversified Service \$20.16; #11560 to Carquest for \$15.90; #12050 to Sears for \$88.96 and #12062 to Verizon \$57.35.

Fire Department: Total of \$200.84 which includes check #'s 11827 to Batteries Plus \$46.84; #12062 to Verizon \$57.35 and #12137 to Waymire's \$96.65

Park Department: Total of \$15.00 check #36783 security deposit \$15.00. A grand Total of \$527.99.

Childress asked the Council if the extra CEDIT money could go into the Rainy Day Fund. Childress made the motion to put the CEDIT money into the Rainy Day Fund and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0. Childress stated that the Town Attorney should draft an ordinance to transfer the CEDIT monies into the Rainy Day Fund. This will be placed on next agenda.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Spanier stated that he received an application from Supporters of the Military for a candlelight vigil at Hawthorne Park on March 20, 2007 at 7:00pm. He said everything was in order. This group coordinates sending packages to the soldiers in Iraq. Snyder made the motion to waive the bond for the permit, Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Craig made nothing to report other than turning in his monthly report. Snyder asked Craig if he was receiving applications for smoke detectors, Lewie said he has received about 29 applications.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Bauer reported that Shem of Haas & Assoc. and he were meeting with Chesterton next week for a long term plan for the sewers. He also reported that the Porter Beach survey was done and the rod markers would be set soon. Bauer also plans to meet with IAWC soon for extensions of the water lines in Town.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

Brueckheimer reported that there were 35 new contractors for a total of 198. Childress made the motion to accept the contractors, Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0. Brenda also presented the Council her spreadsheet for complaints and how they were handled.

OLD BUSINESS:

United Health Insurance: Insurance Consultant Steve Brady, for United gave a report that Porter Hospital had not signed with United Health Insurance, which provides health insurance to the employees. At the January 23rd meeting he stated that the contract would expire on February 1st, Brady said the insurance has been extended to Feb. 20 at midnight. Brady feels confident that they will sign by tonight. The employees have filled out applications for other insurance companies in case this does not happen. The problem Brady stated is that the other insurance companies will not start coverage until March 1st. If they do not sign Porter Hospital will be out-of-network until the end of the month. Brady felt that the Town is not greatly at risk because of self-insuring for this time period. He stated that most contracts are good for 3 to 5 years once signed. Brady has 3 other insurance companies providing bids. After much discussions over the other insurance policies the Council agreed by consensus to make a decision at the February 27th meeting.

Indiana American Water disconnect agreement. Childress commented that Attorney Lyp has given approval for this contract. Childress made a motion to accept the contract as written and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

Awarding bids for wheel loader. Bauer reported that the only company to meet the specifications of the bids was Harding's of Lowell, IN. for \$76,258.00 for a Hyundai wheel loader and asked the Council to accept their bid. Dave Cruise of Roland Machinery was in the audience and asked if he could speak to the Council, he was the lowest bidder for the wheel loader for \$69,655. He stated that these specs were written just for the Hyundai and no one else would be able to comply. He said that usually the specs are generic enough that any company would be in contention. Cruise said that the Hyundai was made in Korea and his wheel loader is made in North America. Snyder suggested that Bauer and Childress review the specs and report at next meeting on February 27th with their recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Westchester Township fire contract for 2007. Childress asked Chief Craig is the contract was in order. Childress made a motion to accept the contract as submitted and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

Signature Graphics tax abatement: Sexton said since Attorney Lyp was not present to postpone until next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sexton: VFW Post 2511 is having a poppy drive on May 18th from 8:00 am til Noon. The Council agreed by consensus to approve.

Sexton also made a presidential appointment to the BZA of Robert Kremke (D) to replace William Donley who resigned.

Wickberg made a motion to adjourn and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

Dated this _____ day of February, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice-President

Sandi Snyder

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer