

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

President Sandi Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:30pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were: Jennifer Granat, Vice President, Council members Sandy Boothe, William Sexton and Paul Childress Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer, Attorney David Hollenbeck, Police Chief James Spanier, Public Works Director Karl Bauer, James Miller, Park Superintendent and Building Inspector Bill Lewis.

Sandy Snyder called the Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations to the 2006 budget to order. She asked 3 times if there were any opponents, there were none. She asked 3 time if there were any proponents, there were none. Sexton made the motion to number and read Ordinance 2006-04 by title only, Childress made the second. Vote 5-0. Sexton made the motion to suspend the rules and have 2nd reading by title only, Childress made the second. Vote 5-0. Sexton made the motion to approve and adopt. Childress made the second. Vote 5-0. The Ordinance 2006-04 was duly adopted.

Snyder called the second Public Hearing to order for raising the fees for Recycling. Snyder asked if there were any opponents.

- Karen Pisowicz, 85 McDashowicz Dr, stated that she was against raising the fee and going to weekly recycling. Residents can use more than 1 can as long as they mark it for recycling.
- Linda Hodges, 470 E. Oak Hill Rd., stated that she was also against raising the fees for Reliable just to make more money. This is an expense that senior citizens can not afford.

Snyder asked 3 times if there were and proponents, there were none. Council comments were: Granat, there already is a shortfall in the budget, if we go to weekly recycling maybe only imposing the fee for I year. Granat asked the Council to think about this before proceeding. Childress is also opposed to raising the fee. Sexton said that no one is in favor of adding this fee and said that the Council does not have to do this. Snyder agrees for residents to buy bigger receptacles and leave things as is. Childress made the motion not to increase the fees and stay at bi-weekly pick-up, Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Granat reminded the residents to have garbage out at 6:00am as per the contract. Sexton said he is receiving complaints about Reliable throwing receptacles on ground and leaving lids open. Snyder said she would call Lance Hodge and discuss this matter and also ask for a list of the count for charging the Town. Hollenbeck was asked where Reliable's bond is. He said he would check on the status of it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS:

Childress made the motion to approve the following claims with Boothe making the second. Vote 5-0

CLAIMS in the amount of \$131,372.72. Childress stated the reason this is so high is because of the town having to repay County \$53,000.

PAYROLL in the amount of \$48,681.97

SEWER CLAIMS in the amount of \$93,896.51

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Carrie Ailes, 1075 Dune Meadows Drive. She stated that she came before the Council last year about the standing and freezing water in front of her residence. Lewis & Bauer said that they were looking at this problem again last week and they agree that additional drainage is needed. Bauer thinks this should be turned over to the Stormwater Board. Council agreed and Bauer said he would talk to them and give information.

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy said that Keystone was there and installed the new software for payroll. She said there were (some)* glitches but payroll did get done.

She also has sent out letters to residents for delinquent sewer accounts.

She also reminded the Council of the \$300,000 shortfall from County, and that spending needed to be for essentials only. She said that the Town only received 82% of their tax money.

After all Council members voicing their concerns and displeasure, Snyder scheduled a Financial Crisis Workshop for March 11th or March 25th at 9:00am depending on which day County officials could attend. She advised she would contact Sandy Vuko, County Auditor, Shirley LaFever, County Assessor and Candy Crone, Township Assessor and then pick which day. Childress advised all Department Heads to submit their budgets with 18% cuts and give to Pomeroy by March 9th so that the Council could review them at the above scheduled meeting.

ATTORNEY

Hollenbeck advised the Council that he received a proposal from Indiana American Water Company. It stated that Indiana American (offered)* to take over our sewer billing and in return would shut off water to customers with delinquent sewer accounts. They would waive the \$10,000 set-up fee and charge \$1.53 per residents that have water and sewer and \$1.90 for residents that have only water. Sexton asked why they are asking for the billing when they provide the same service to Chesterton without their billing? Also, the MS4 billing is not in the proposal. Hollenbeck said he would check on this their questions.

Hollenbeck said that the, Ayres bill, allowing towns to appeal for excess levy should pass. The Council by consensus advised Hollenbeck to proceed with the appeal.

Hollenbeck said that Attorney Lyp has started litigation on 20 delinquent sewer customers. Lyp has asked residents that have contacted him to put in writing their proposal for payment and the Council will review and decide if it is acceptable. He also advised the Clerk Treasurer to do the same for letters she has sent out.

POLICE

Chief Spanier advised residents to lock their cars and homes. Porter is having a rash of breakins.

FIRE

Craig has received a contract with the hospital and Dr. Johnson wants his name added to our liability insurance policy. Craig checked with Anton Insurance and they stated that he was automatically added at no extra cost. Sexton made the motion to approve the (Wesstchester mutual aid)* contract and Childress made the second. Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bauer said that the water leak on Lincoln St was fixed this morning.

He has completed the MS4 annual report for IDEM.

Bauer attended a Stormwater conference last week and found it very informing.

Bauer asked residents to put brush and leaves by the curb, not in the street.

Spring cleaning will start soon.

PARK

Miller advised the Council the security system that was installed in the Community Bldg. was complete.

Set-back thermostats have been installed to save money.

Miller and the Park Board have started reviewing their five year plan.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Lewis said that 8 new contractors have applied for their license for a total of 230. Sexton made the motion to approve them and Childress made the second. Vote 5-0.

Sexton advised Lewis that he has received complaints about residents on Arrowhead and Woodlawn and advised Lewis to look into the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ NOISE/NUISANCE ORDINANCE 2006-01.

The Plan Commission has forwarded Ordinance 2006-01 with favorable recommendation to the Council. Childress made the motion to adopt and read by Title only and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0. Police Commissioner President Linda Hodges thanked the Council for approving.

➤ EROSION CONTROL ORDINANCE 2006-02

Sexton made the motion to approve and read by title only and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

➤ ILLICIT DISCHARGE ORDINANCE 2006-03

Childress made the motion to approve and read by title only and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

❖ MINERAL SPRINGS VILLAS PUD ORDINANCE 2006-05

The Plan Commission has forwarded this ordinance with a favorable recommendation. Sexton made the motion to number and have 1st reading by title only, Childress made the second. Vote 3-2 with Granat and Boothe voting no.

❖ WESTCHESTER FIRE CONTRACT

Sexton asked why they were receiving the contract now when it is effective January 1st? Craig said that they have responded to 18 calls in 2005 which is \$456. per call. Childress asked if this amount covers their calls and Craig responded no but said that set aside a Fund that is divided between Chesterton and Porter and have donated over \$300,000 of equipment to the Fire Dept. Last year they bought the boat, motor and trailer. Childress made the motion to approve and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0.

❖ HOGAN SOFTWARE SUPPORT CONTRACT

Granat made the motion to approve this contract for \$500. a year, Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0.

Granat made the motion to adjourn at 9:20pm and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0.

Dated this _____ day of March, 2006.

***AS AMENDED**

Sandi Snyder, President

Jennifer Granat, Vice President

Sandy Boothe

William F. Sexton

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer