

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2006

President Sandi Snyder called the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Vice President Jennifer Granat, Council members Sandy Boothe, William Sexton and Paul Childress. Also present were Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Park Superintendent James Miller and Attorney David Hollenbeck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sexton made the motion to approve with Childress making the second. Zathoe Sexton noted that in the minutes for March 14th the minutes did not show that there were 7 opponents that also emailed for the Public Hearing for the sheds at LaSalle Street. Sexton amended his motion to include the above changes and Childress made the second. Vote 4-0 with Boothe voting present.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Sexton made the motion to approve all claims in the amount of \$162,392.46, Granat made the second. Childress questioned Haas & Associates bill for \$1,300, he thought that Redevelopment was paying for this. Granat said no that this is for a feasibility study for the Iron Triangle. Childress asked who approved this study? Granat stated that the Oak Hill Pump Station and the Sanitary Sewer study were approved at a Public meeting. Childress stated that there should be no studies done unless approved by Council. Childress also questioned the billing for Regional Industries and wants the numbers verified and recommended that Bauer does a household count. Childress also asked Pomeroy for a chart of accounts for the new billing statements. Vote 5-0 to approve.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy stated that the Utility Department needed billing cards for sewer accounts. The Council recommended that she order enough cards for 3 billings.

Pomeroy said that the Utility Department has collected \$31,000 from delinquent customers since she sent out letters to the residents.

Since Bill Lewis, the Building Commissioner was absent Pomeroy said there were 14 new contractors that needed to be approved. Sexton made the motion to approve and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0

ATTORNEY

- **Indiana American Water Company.** Hollenbeck said that the contract is in St. Louis and they are reviewing and he will have the contract by next Wednesday (April 5) and he will forward to the Council.
- **Regional Industries.** Hollenbeck has a Letter of Credit in the amount of \$90,000. and needs to add 2 sentences to the contract and will have ready by next meeting. He stated that this Letter of Credit will double the coverage for the town in case of default.
- **Police generator.** He has contacted the bond company Ice Miller and has complied with the Trust Indenture for Porter Bank to release the monies needed to pay for the generator. Granat said she would call the Bank to see if the bill can be paid.
- **Police software.** Boothe asked Hollenbeck if is he would check and see what could be done since the software is not up and running and it has been 2 years. Hollenbeck said he would need the contract and any correspondence and he will review.
- **Chesterton sewer ordinance.** He has not received Bauer's analysis on the ordinance.
- **Excess Levy Appeal.** Karl Cender will send the paper work to the State by April 1st and feels that the Town will receive \$230,000.
- **National Park Service Road agreement.** He received tonight and will review.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Spanier commended Officers Joseph Torok and John McMahon for apprehending the "cigarette thief" after a pursuit through a field.

Granat said that at the last Police Commission meeting that they agreed to send a recommendation to the Council for review of the Beach Parking Ordinance. The Council has not received it. Police Commission President Linda Hodges was in the audience and apologized that it was not sent and she would make sure that the Council receives it. Granat asked that it be put on the next agenda.

Granat also was questioning about budget cuts that will be needed for the Police Department and asked the Council to consider downsizing the Police Commission to 3 members. This would save \$2,000 for the year. The Council setup a budget workshop for April 4th at 5:00 pm. Pomeroy was advised to have department heads figure a 7% cut to their budget.

The Council also told Spanier to thank Officers Torok and McMahon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No report

PUBLIC WORKS

With Bauer attending a seminar at Purdue, Boothe gave his report. She reported that the Town received \$100,000 grant for the Coastal grant program.

Boothe told the Council that the Town had received a check for \$4,228.98 from Anton Insurance that did not include the \$1,000 deductible for the truck that was involved in an accident. Sexton asked why is the Town paying the deductible when it was not our fault. Pomeroy said that when they delivered the check she also questioned why the deductible was not included. Anton said that they decided to go through our insurance since the other persons insurance company was a very slow payer. Pomeroy said that is not what she instructed them to do. Anton explained that it would not affect our rates since our premiums are so high that the ratio is next to nothing. The Council advised Boothe to call Anton and ask them to pay the deductible.

Boothe also advised Pomeroy to have Bauer and Lorenz to check on Regional Industries billing numbers.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller suggested that the Council develop a Tree Ordinance since he received a letter inquiring about tree planting regulations for the Park. He said that by having an ordinance in place that could save the Town money by preventing problem trees from being planted.

Miller said that considerable tree and bush trimming had been done at the corner of Waverly and Ackerman Drive. This has improved the visibility at that intersection. He used the wood chips to cover the pruned area to keep new vegetation from regenerating.

He is also working at Dune Meadows trimming the brush and trees. He said that Chesterton had delivered 10 loads of wood chips to mulch the pond bank. He is trying to get the preliminary work done before the playground equipment is installed.

The Park Board has given him permission to have a large dying willow tree at the East end of Hawthorne Park removed. He received 3 proposals and accepted the lowest bid.

Miller stated that there are 2 drainage issues at Hawthorne Park. 1. at the War Memorial that Bauer has a possible solution for the problem. 2. at the Gazebo walk way is a catch basin and Potter from the Public Works Dept. said he would clean it out by the end of April. Miller also reminded the Council that when funds become available for paving that the roads and parking lot at Hawthorne Park needs to be resurfaced.

The Park Department is also seeking a grant from LWCF to help with Park improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Mineral Springs Villas PUD 2006-05 Ordinance. Sexton made the motion to have 3rd and final reading for approval by title only. Childress made the second. Vote 3-2. Granat and Boothe voting nay. Granat expressed that she did not oppose the project but the density.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Control Ordinance 2005-07. Hollenbeck said he just received and has not had time to review.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Snyder said that Bill Lewis, Building Commissioner has resigned effective April 1st.

Granat Commended Lewis for a job well done and he will be missed. Granat noted that this will leave a vacancy on the Plan Commission and feels that the next Building Commissioner should not sit on the Plan Commission because it is not in the best interest of the Town because the Building Commissioner also sits on the TAC Committee. After much discussion this was tabled until the next meeting.

Sexton made the motion to adjourn and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0

Dated this _____ day of April, 2006.

Sandi Snyder, President

Jennifer Granat, Vice President

William F. Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

ATTEST _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer