

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 27, 2006

President Paul Childress called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Vice President Jennifer Granat, Council members Sandy Boothe, William Sexton and Sandi Snyder, Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Public Works Director Karl Bauer and Park Superintendent James Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sexton made the motion to approve the June 13, 2006 minutes as written and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0 with Boothe voting present.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Granat made the motion to approve claims in the amount of \$377,766.69 and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy asked the Council's pleasure for Vision insurance for the Town's insured members. The new plan United Vision would save the Town \$880. a year plus has a smaller co-pay of \$10. for glasses and exams compared to \$25. Granat made the motion to accept United Vision insurance plan and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0. Childress said that the Council did not need to vote on accepting United Health Care since there are no changes except in premiums. By consensus the Council agreed to accept 5-0.

Pomeroy said that Keystone had installed the Asset program and the Council needs to adopt a policy for entering this information.

Pomeroy also asked the Council about a bill from Keystone in the amount of \$480. for creating a spreadsheet of wastewater only and/or trash customers for Indiana American Water. Sexton advised to send the bill to IAW for them to pay.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Lyp advised the Council that Dines appeal is set for August 8, 2006.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Spanier said that the Duneland Art Fair has submitted their application for the Art Fair August 4th thru the 6th and everything was in order and that the Park Board has approved the application. Sexton made a motion to accept the application and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

Spanier advised the Council that the 2 new police cars are in and getting the equipment installed.

Spanier asked for guidance of the parade ordinance 2004-05 does "public place" mean that a tavern would need to get a permit for an outdoor beer garden? The consensus of the Council was no. Spanier also asked about noise being generated from this beer garden. Attorney Lyp advised him to take reasonable steps to control the assemblage by asking the owner to take control of patrons on his property. Lyp said that each officer should use his own discretion, there is no set regulations pertaining to this ordinance. The number of people attending a party doesn't matter it is what they are doing that counts. Granat said if the Police get a compliant then they need to respond and use their own discretion how to handle it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Craig said the department had responded to 48 calls so far this month and the Dive Team went out on 3 calls, 1 to Michigan City, 1 to Hammond and 1 to Liberty Township. Sexton asked if they are reimbursed when they go out on a call and Craig stated that nothing is actually used except for air that they have a compressor to refill their own tanks.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bauer gave the following reports:

- Glacier Trail guard rail has been installed.
- Porter Beach Survey. Rich Hudson from the Bonar Group will attend the next meeting to give an update.
- No parking signs at Porter Beach will also be installed and 2 towing signs by July 4th.
- Tree at Hawthorne Park and Porter Ave. has been cut and removed.
- Storm drain at Hawthorne Park. Bauer has estimated the cost at \$4,600. to repair the drain by the Community Building. It will take about 5 days to complete. He will take the money from MVH street materials. Consensus of Council was to proceed.
- Traffic Counters. Bauer asked the Council to purchase 4 traffic counters in the amount of \$2,000. The money would come from LR&S equipment. Granat made a motion to purchase 4 traffic counters not to exceed \$2,000. Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0
- Rate Analysis meeting with Chesterton. Bauer advised the Council that on June 30th he was meeting with Steve Yagelski, Mark O'Dell, Shem, Dave Hollenbeck and Karl Cender at 10:00 am at the Chesterton.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller gave the following reports:

- ✓ Concerts at Hawthorne Park. Tonight's concert is featuring the Valparaiso Community/University Band is presented by the Westchester Public Library. On July 2, Peter Encleecas, solo guitarist, will be performing. This concert is sponsored by the Porter Park Department. Concert time is 7pm to 8pm.
- ✓ Park rentals and usage is up. The Community Center is booked from May through August.
- ✓ Fire Systems Service Contract. The contract at Hawthorne Park Community Center needs to be renewed. The contractors that perform this kind of inspections are very limited. Miller said that since our public buildings have some kind of back flow preventer that the town should seek a common contract. The inspection costs were \$680. for wet sprinklers and domestic back-flow preventers and McDaniels proposed \$1,273.00 for this year. Bauer said he is an inspector and he will meet with Miller later this week to discuss.
- ✓ Vandalism at Parks. Hawthorne Park had tables moved out of the shelter and 1 table was damaged beyond repair. Porter Cove Park had their portable toilet pushed over 4 times in the last month. The charge to service this is \$90. a day. Tables were also removed from shelter and 1 was damaged but was repaired.
- ✓ Cedit monies. Miller asked the Council if he was going to get his remainder of his allotted cedit money of \$14,000. The Council advised yes.
- ✓

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer said there were 10 new contractors for a grand total of 300. Sexton asked about the waiver for Andrea Homes for workmen's compensation. Pomeroy said that she said she was President and was the only worker. Sexton advised Brueckheimer to check on this when she gets a permit. Sexton made the motion to accept and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution for a policy to shut off water to delinquent sewer customers was postponed until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Code Enforcement Officer. Childress stated that this was a Council appointment but the questions are who and the funding for this. Brueckheimer submitted a proposal to make he position a full time job. Her duties listed comprises of Building Commissioner, Building Inspector, electrical and mechanical inspector, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). Sexton stated that he didn't think one person could handle all of the above. Brueckheimer said she has talked with Bill Lewis, building inspector, and they felt that between the two of them they could handle all inspections. Granat said that at this time her main concern is a CEO that can help patrol the beach on weekends for illegal parking. Sexton made the motion to hire Brenda Brueckheimer for CEO on a temporary basis for this year at \$15.00 an hour, Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Spanier said that he has a line item in his budget for CEO for \$15.00 an hour and suggested that she use the extra unmarked patrol car to check other areas at the beach. The Council agreed. Childress said that we will work this position into the 2007 budget.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Snyder. She has a letter and supports the idea of joining the Northwest Indiana Forum, which supports marketing efforts in Northwest Indiana. The dues are \$250. for a half year for Porter's portion. Sexton made the motion to join and pay \$250 to Northwest Indiana Forum and to take the money from promotion of business line item. Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

Sexton. Sexton said that he had talked with Hollenbeck about the meeting with Chesterton Utility board and that they had not met with because Bauer was on vacation. Bauer said that he told Hollenbeck that even though he was on vacation he would be able to met with them and a meeting was set for June 29.

Childress. Asked the Council if they had received a copy of Chesterton Utility Board meeting. He also asked if anyone could go to the workshop at Chesterton Wastewater plant at 6:30pm for rates. Boothe and Bauer agreed to go.

Snyder made the motion to adjourn and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

Dated this _____ day of July, 2006.

Paul Childress, President

Jennifer Granat, Vice President

Sandy Boothe

William F. Sexton

Sandi Snyder

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

