

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 13, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL**

President Jenny Granat called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were: Vice President William Sexton, Sandi Snyder, Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief John Lane, Public Works Dir. Scott Guy, Bldg Commissioner Dave Babcock. Jay Craig represented the fire department for Chief Louie Craig, who is on vacation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 21, 2004 Budget Workshop –Sexton made a motion to approve, Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

June 22, 2004 Town Council Meeting -Childress made a motion to approve the minutes as amended (a motion made by Childress on page 5-second paragraph was rescinded). Snyder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

June 28, 2004 – Budget Workshop – Childress made a motion to accept. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

June 29, 2004 Special Meeting – Snyder made a motion to accept the minutes as amended (changing Sandy Snyder to Sandy Boothe). Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Claims: June 22 through June 30, 2004 totaled \$83,518.28. Sexton made a motion to approve said claims. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Payroll: ending June 28, 2004 totaled \$50,514.66. Snyder made motion to approve said payroll. Boothe seconded. Childress said general fund is now down to \$149,000.00. Motion was carried 5-0.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jon Fancher 215 Indiana said he drives a 1-ton service van and is concerned that he will not be able to park in front of his home if the pending parking ordinance is passed. Sexton explained that the ordinance is in draft form and that they will take his comments under consideration but as it stands right now only utility vehicles on call will be allowed to park in residential areas. Fancher explained he would lose about \$18,000.00 a year if he were not allowed to take his vehicle home from work. He assured the council his van is a 2000 Chevy van that is clean, neat and does not look trashy.

Rita Newman of 315 Franklin representing the Friends of Porter submitted a letter asking for the Council's permission to offer pictures of the past for their approval to hang in the Town Hall. Granat asked if this would be permanent or on loan. Newman said she would consult with the Friends at the next meeting and report her findings. By consensus of the board, she was given permission to proceed. Sexton offered more pictures if needed. Childress stressed that this is at no cost to the town.

Tom Goldbin of the National Lakeshore would like the council to consider the petition of vacation of certain roads and streets. Granat said this had been turned over to Atty. Lyp and Childress. Discussion followed with Childress saying the Plan Commission had asked for addition right of way on South Bailey Dr. Mr. Goldbin said it is a possibility but also a long and involved process. He said the Park is willing to work on this with the Town of Porter. Lyp said he would want a written document from the supervisor of the Lakeshore saying that they would work with the town toward this goal. Lyp said he would advise the Council to have a public hearing on the process. Granat said she would put the matter on the next agenda.

Rich Gross of 340 Indiana asked on the progress of the Bike Trail noting that he had read Sexton's remarks that an alternative route was being sought. Sexton replied that the town is in negotiations and he was unable to comment at this time.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy said she had followed up on the information at the last meeting about the West Nile Virus. She had Porter added to the list at the Porter County Health office. There is a total of \$3000.00 to be divided among the towns interested.

The Duneland Economic Development Corp. dues are \$100.00 and Pomeroy found it is something that should be done according to a neighboring town. Childress made a motion to pay the claim. Booth seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Pomeroy will take \$6000.00 and put it in the newly formed Financial Consultant line item for the 2005 budget. The bottom line will remain the same as she rearranged some of the figures and gave a copy to each councilperson. Approved by consensus.

She also asked for approval of the Semi-annual payback of the 77 fund totaling \$9,868.94. It couldn't appear on budget because it is due in July. Sexton made a motion to accept with Snyder seconding. Childress asked if this was the loan was from Porter Bank and said the interest rate is 7% and felt that it should and could be much lower in the future. Motion carried 5-0. By consensus, Pomeroy is to look to renegotiate a better deal.

ATTORNEY

Atty. Lyp said that prior to next meeting, each council member would receive a copy of the final draft of the commercial parking ordinance. He would like council to review and for the reading to be put on the agenda.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Lane reported first on the first Kiddie Parade that took place on July 3rd. He praised Steve Neitzel for organizing the event. The newly formed Explorers helped with that parade and with set up for the Midnight Parade. Lane thanked the Council for the open container ordinance recently passed. Minimum parking problems occurred. One incident of public intoxication was reported. Excise officers were in attendance. There were a total of sixteen officers helping patrol the event. He also mentioned the small amount of rubbish left in comparison to previous year.

He had a request for a permit for the Annual Village Street Dance that he had approved. Also there was a request by owner Midge Fornshell for an alcohol beverage permit. Childress questioned the insurance accompanying the request. It covers only the building and the land it sits on. Under advise of the attorney, Sexton made the motion to accept the permit with the understanding that the town will receive a certificate of insurance that will cover the event and not just the building/land. Boothe seconded. Snyder clarified that it will be permitted with updated insurance coverage. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Chief Craig was on vacation. Jay Craig spoke on the Porter ordinance that follows the Uniform Code set by the State of Indiana. Now there is a National Fire Code ordinance and the department would like to have Porter's ordinance comply with the National Code. He did not have a cost figure at this time to purchase one copy of that policy. Granat said to find out and talk with Fire Dept liaison Sexton.

He said things were going fine as Animal Warden. Boothe has offered shredded paper and pact workers to assist in the maintenance of the kennels.

PUBLIC WORKS

Supt. Guy asked for permission to attend a Street Commissioner's convention in Columbus City. Registration is \$85.00 with two nights totaling \$225.00 less the gas cost. Childress suggested Guy travel with John Schnadenberg from Chesterton. The Council approved by Consensus.

He said that he had been on the trail of the mosquito problem. He went to Barbara Miller's home, Dunes Meadows, Hunter's Glen and on McDashowitz.

There are two breeds of the 50 that need to be contained. He had met with someone from Arrow Pest who has abatement for small insects.

Brush pick up will be the third week of the month.

BUILDING DEPT.

Commissioner Babcock listed nineteen new contractors bring the total to 271. He said all had provided the necessary forms and asked for them to be approved. Childress asked how many we had last year and Pomeroy said she remembered a number around 300 from a meeting she attended in December of last year. Sexton made a motion to approve the new contractors. Childress seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL UPDATED VERSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Granat said each councilperson had received a copy and asked for a motion to approve the updated version. Childress made the motion and Sexton made the second. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MARQUETTE POINTE COMPLAINTS

Babcock reported on the previous complaints from residents. He said he had met with Scott Guy, Louie Craig and developer Doug Bonin. Clean up had been completed and the residents were pleased (Brian Finley spoke on behalf of the residents).

There has been no access road put in and the residents said they would prefer not to have the road put in, as it would infringe on two of the neighbors yards. Granat said the BZA would have to address the issue. Babcock said that Chief Craig said there was no need for the road. Babcock said there are no specs on file concerning the depth or strength of the road. There is still a bond in place if needed. Jay Craig said that at one time the department said the road would have to be strong enough to hold the Chesterton trucks, which are the heaviest in the area. Sexton said the contractor would have to return to the Plan Commission to remove the road from the original plans. Chief Craig should also attend to state the town's position.

Finley asked who owns the triangle of property that leads to the bike path. No one seemed to know and he was directed to contact the Porter County Assessors office to obtain that information.

DISCUSSION UPDATE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Sexton has worked on a draft of an updated handbook. Granat suggested a workshop in the near future to discuss the handbook.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Sexton complimented Steve Neitzel on the Midnight Parade. Granat and the rest of the council concurred he had done a great job in the time period he had to work on it. He also wanted more review of the parking ordinance before approval (referring to the comments from the floor earlier).

Babcock said that covenants in subdivisions also could be used to cover the vehicle problem.

Sexton reported he had spoken to Steve Brady of United Insurance on town's insurance. It is estimated approximately \$9000.00 can be saved. He also suggested that the town consider posting the \$6000.00 to have John Alden Insurance also give the bid. Snyder spoke and said that she felt that the town should look into both companies. Brady would be the agent for both and he suggested the savings would be even more with Alden. With no objections, Brady will attend the next meeting and make his presentation.

Granat said that Childress and Sexton would be attending the meeting for the Public Radio Broadcasting at Westchester Library on Thursday night.

With no other business, Childress made a motion to adjourn. Boothe seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

President Jennifer Granat

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Sandi Snyder

Paul Childress

ATTESTED:

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer

This _____ day of _____ 2004