

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2006

President Paul Childress called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members William F. Sexton, Sandi Snyder and newly appointed Lorri Wickberg. Also present were Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Public Works Director Karl Bauer and Park Superintendent James Miller.

Childress welcomed Lorri Wickberg to the Council. Wickberg was appointed the night before by the Republican caucus replacing Sandy Boothe who resigned because of moving out of district to get married.

Council member Jennifer Granat was absent because she had surgery on her ankle.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2007 BUDGET.

Childress opened the meeting by conducting a Public Hearing on the 2007 budget. Childress asked 3 times for opponents against the budget. There were none. Childress continued by asking 3 times if there were any proponents. There were none. Childress closed the public hearing and adoption is set for the September 12th meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Sexton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Snyder made the second. Vote 3-0 with Wickberg abstaining.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS.

Sexton made a motion to approve the claims as presented with Snyder making the second. Vote 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR.

None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT.

Pomeroy announced that she had received 15 applicants for the Clerk's job and that she would start interviewing tomorrow. Snyder repeated for the Clerk to answer calls that will be forwarded from the Public Works Department. Childress stated that Bauer should forward the calls only when he is out of the office. Pomeroy told the Council that she could not forward calls to Bauer because he is not connected to the system and they said to call him on his cell phone to relay messages. Miller asked if the ringer could be turned off in his office for calls that are not for the Park Dept. Pomeroy will look into it.

Pomeroy asked the Council their pleasure on the 2007 Salary Ordinance? She was advised that there is a 3% raise for salaries and the Department heads should give merit raises based on performance etc. not an automatic flat increase for every employee. The Department heads should meet with her to list each individual raise. Pomeroy said that since every employee will not be making the same in each pay category that she needs to list individual names of what each employee is making and attach to the salary ordinance, the Council agreed. Childress

reminded the Council that they had approved making the Building Commissioner a full time position, which needs to be included in the salary ordinance.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Lyp announced that he will be attending each Council meeting rather than rotating with Attorney Hollenbeck.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Spanier said that he had received a settlement from a Federal lawsuit for defective vest for the police department in the amount of \$5,840.00. He wants to wait and use the money next year to purchase new vest because the department's vest are good until the end of next year, and he also will receive a grant for purchasing vest next year and wants to wait until he receives this money also and buy all new vests at the same time. Sexton made the motion that this monies will be available for him to use next year to purchase vest, Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0
- Spanier also asked the Council to hire more part-time Police officer's because some have dropped off the roster. He said it would not cost any more money he needs more officers to fill spots. The Council agreed by consensus.
- Spanier asked if the Council would approve him to hire a full time officer to fill a vacancy, it would not be filled for a month or so because of the process of hiring an officer. His break even point for salary was June 25th for the officer that retired. Sexton made the motion for him to hire an officer and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Craig said he received a 50/50 grant in the amount of \$3,214.50 from the DNR to purchase 6 radios. The Town's cost is \$1,607.25. Wickberg made the motion to approve this purchase and Sexton made the second. Vote 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bauer reported the following:

- Indiana American water has not called him back regarding the water lines behind Steel City.
- Honorary street sign for Janet Mae Davis at Porter Beach. Bauer said that the sign conforms to the Town's sign specifications. He said that the last Town Council approved this sign and a bench in her honor. The Council stated that they do not remember a sign but a bench being approved. Brueckheimer and Bauer were told to look in the minutes for this approval if not there they need to get approval from this Council to be official.
- Street stripping machine. Bauer will check for prices because the Town's machine is not complying with traffic codes. The money will come out of LR&S fund.
- Hot box for filling potholes. Bauer will check prices to purchase since it will save the Town money by having their own.
- Railroad crossing at Mineral Springs is now open.
- Waverly Road & Oak Hill Road. Verizon has dug a hole in the Town's right of way and has left open for weeks and with school starting the Street Department has filled the hole. He asked the Council if he should send them the bill for stone and time. Sexton made the

motion for him to send a bill to Verizon to pay for these costs and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

- Childress appointed Wickberg to be the liaison to the Street Department.
- Bauer said he wants to attend a 2 day class in Indianapolis for grant writing. He was instructed to talk to his liaison.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller said he has \$14,000 left from last years CEDIT monies and asked the Council if he could get an advance on 2007 CEDIT money to buy playground equipment for Dunes Meadows Park because the longer he waits the higher the price for the equipment raises, and he would like to buy this Fall. By consensus the Council agreed that the Park Board can move monies in his budget any place that they want as long as they do not exceed his budget for 2006.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer reported 14 new contractors for a grand total of 334. Sexton made the motion to approve the new contractors and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- ✓ **Storm water billing.** County Treasurer James Murphy is still investigating including the MS4 billing on tax bills. This was tabled until next meeting.
- ✓ **Chesterton sewer agreement.** Karl Cender, the town's financial advisor, was instructed at last meeting to report on the figures from Chesterton. He reported that Chesterton refused to give information after several attempts. Childress asked Lyp if all other issues of the proposed contract have been ironed out. Lyp said basically yes except for the cost of buying capacity. After much discussion, Snyder made a motion to have Cender and Lyp meet with Chesterton and use their best judgment and hopefully have a proposed contract by the September 12th meeting, Sexton made the second. Vote 3-1 with Sexton, Snyder and Wickberg voting yes and Childress voting no.
- ✓ **Capital asset policy.** Was tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **Len Eason sewer dispute.** Was tabled until next meeting. He could not make this meeting.
- ❖ **Land donation to Town.** The donor was not at the meeting
- ❖ **Savani/Salvi PUD Worthington Drive.** Lawyer was not present. Tabled until next meeting.
- ❖ **Fire contract.** Sexton did not have time to review. Tabled until next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Childress asked the Council to schedule an Executive session to review Department Heads. The Council agreed to September 5th at 5:00pm. They agreed to 1 hour increments with Bauer to start at 5:00, Craig at 6:00, Spanier at 7:00 and Brueckheimer at 8:00.

Childress also asked the Council if he could put the Employee Handbook on the next agenda, by consensus the Council agreed. Sexton was to give copies to Wickberg and Lyp.

Sexton was making the motion to adjourn when Fred Shenvar of Ogden Dunes entered and offered his apologies for being late, Sexton withdrew his motion. Mr. Shenvar was scheduled earlier in the meeting under new business for his donation of land to the Town of Porter. The land he is donating is Cardinal Court off of East Oak Hill Road, which by error of the County, had been sold at a sheriff's sale and he had bought it. He is offering the land because the taxes are too high and if he donates the land he can get a tax exemption. Bruce Snyder did the appraisal for him. Mr. Shenvar had not deeded the title to the Town, Childress asked Bauer to review and report at next meeting.

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

Dated this _____ day of September, 2006.

Paul Childress, President

Lorri Wickberg

William Sexton

Sandi Snyder

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer