

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL

CALL TO ORDER

President Jennifer Granat called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were: Vice President William Sexton and Councilpersons Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress, Attorney Richard Rupcich, Acting Police Chief Jim Menn, and Supt of Public Works Scott Guy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Boothe made a motion to accept the minutes. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 3-0 with Childress voting present due to the fact he was unable to attend the previous meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS: Due to the transfer of funds resolution appearing later on the agenda, there will be a delay of payment until later on the agenda. By consensus the council agreed to wait.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

John Beckman of 160 Roskin speaking on behalf of the Lake County Fish and Game thanked the Porter Town Council. With the backing of the Council, he was able to go back to NIRPC and ask for and receive approval of the resolution to take a serious look at the truck traffic throughout Northwest Indiana and Illinois.

Monte Moffitt of 1556 Admiral Court spoke on the pending ordinance concerning the RV parking in residential areas. As an owner of a RV, he asked that the Council take a good look at the ordinance before passing it. He said his neighborhood was not in favor of this parking ordinance. Childress explained that this ordinance was recommended by the Plan Commission and was originally brought to the Commission by Porter Cove residents. The Plan Commission had a Public Hearing and has been looking extensively into the matter for at least four months. Much of the parking ordinance has to do with commercial vehicles. Granat said the Parking Ordinance will appear later on the agenda and Moffitt could speak at that time.

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy said the officer had received a tax check for the amount of \$434,851.81 with the second portion due by December 30, 2004. Sexton reminded all that \$425,000.00 is due to the Redevelopment Commission also by the end of the month. The authorization has also been made for her to handle this before the December 31st.

ATTORNEY

Nothing to report

POLICE

Menn presented the Alarm Ordinance recently approved by the Police Commission. Granat said it would be put on the January 4, 2005 agenda for Council approval.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No report

PUBLIC WORKS

Guy said that leaf pick up is over, however he will pick up any leaves that are bagged. Plows are on the trucks and ready for the snow.

Sexton asked about Guy's certification of the sewer meters. He said he would provide copies when they are received from Chesterton – probably on December 27-28.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Granat said that three contractors had applied for permits bring the total to 330. Childress made the motion to accept the contractors. Boothe seconded. Voted to accept 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SEWER RATE STUDY - Representing Cender & Company was Damon Tsouklis. The written report remains nearly the same as presented at the last meeting. Adjustments were made to repairs and maintenance of about \$91,000.00. He called the Council's attention to Page 16 (I) showing a sewer rate would be about 22% rate increase. Page 19 (L) shows what figures would be for residential. See Sewer Rate Study attached. After discussion, Childress expressed concern about the tap on fee. He would like that fee to be adjusted depending on the type of business. Childress would like the wording clarified. The Council set a Public Hearing at January 4, 2005 and asked Pomeroy to notify the newspapers. Childress asked that the Public Hearing be held before a motion to approve and read. Granat will put this on the agenda on January 4, 2005 after the Public Hearing to address it that evening.

WEBSITE RECOMMENDATION - Sexton and Childress were appointed to recommend a business to handle the website issue. They are very impressed with Catalyst of Michigan City. Catalyst will rebuild the website from the ground up. Pomeroy is to provide all information to the company and charge just \$100.00 per month. All links to the town will be available also. Childress moved to accept Catalyst. Sexton made the second. Motion carried 4-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT- Granat was hoping to have an in depth report having called County after the last meeting. The County is reorganizing and she will contact them after the first of the year. In the meantime, Granat has been working with Menn on ordinances to address the animal control. She thanked the Street Department for their help with the animals and will have a complete report on January 11, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

LAKESIDE FINANCIAL RETIREMENT GROUP – Tim Rice and Jocelyn Hebschman introduced Chip Mang who will be joining the five-member group. The Council is currently working on the handbook. They are looking at an alternative retirement plan for the town employees. They are working on a 457 Plan for Porter. They presented their credentials and said because this is just beginning there is not a lot of money to be made at this time. Participation is critical for the plan to work. Anyone who receives a paycheck from the Town of Porter would qualify (commission members etc). They would like to conduct a simple survey through the payroll and then have one-on-one meetings with employees to explain their plan. This plan would be of no cost to the town. Childress said that he felt the group should proceed. Rice said that 20-25 participants would be needed. By consensus, the survey will be mailed with the last paycheck in December.

APPROPRIATION REDUCTION ORDINANCE 2004-19 –When questioned, Pomeroy said that the State Board of Accounts said that it needed to be an ordinance not a resolution to correct typing errors. Sexton motioned to number and read the ordinance. Childress seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Rucpich read. (See attached). Childress made a motion to suspend the rules for second and third reading and read by title only. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Childress made the motion to accept Appropriation Reduction Ordinance 2004-19 and Boothe seconded. The ordinance was approved 4-0.

PARKING ORDINANCE ORDINANCE 2004-22- Granat said that all members should have received proposed amendments about one month ago. The Plan Commission unanimously recommended (after a public hearing). The Commission was looking at three sections: definitions, outdoor storage of personal property, and additional parking regulations. Sexton made a motion to amend sections 7, 35, and 179 and to number and to have the first reading only. Childress seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Rucpich read. Copies will be available to the public and the matter will be put on the January 11, 2005 agenda.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS RESOLUTION 2004-06 - Sexton made a motion to accept the resolution. Childress seconded. Childress then commented that in the General Fund – the MVH, Park, and Fire were not appropriated properly. All were requested to reduce 10% and stayed on budget. All of these departments stayed under budget. He then addressed

the Police Dept. Their budget was \$991,776.00. The Department overspent at least \$28,738.60. He said that the new police chief must control cost much better than it was done this year. Motion carried 4-0. Rupcich read the resolution. (See attached)

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS (see above)

Claims: November 20-30, 2004 - Childress made a motion to approve the \$32,298.25. Boothe seconded. Passed 4-0.

Claims: December 1-10, 2004 - Childress made the motion to approve the \$139,982.66 in claims with Boothe seconding. Motion carried 4-0.

Payroll: November 30, 2004 - Sexton moved to approve payroll of \$53,224.61. Boothe seconded. Carried 4-0.

Sewer Claims: November 24- December 10, 2004 – Sexton made the motion to approve \$50,648.38 with Boothe seconding. Passed 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL- Sexton brought up the need for the Redevelopment Authority. Shortly there will be no reason when the final bills are paid. Sexton then made a motion to dissolve the Authority after payment of the bond. Childress seconded. Motion carried 4-0. A final report will be needed from one of the committee members. If no one – Childress will do it again this year as he did last year.

Granat said there would be a Christmas Decorating Contest this year. Entries will be accepted until the 17th of December. There will be three prizes - \$75.00, \$50.00, and \$25.00. Judging will be done on December 22. from 7:00 to 10:00. Judges will be Sherrill Newman, Karen Pisowicz, and Linda Hodges.

Applications have been received for openings in the town. Interviews will be on December 17 beginning 3:00. Brian Moore will not be seeking reappointment to the PCCRVC, so they will be looking for applications.

Susan Neubauer sent a letter thanking everyone for their input to the Aid for Military Heroes in Duneland. They raised \$3500.00. Tracy Frye was also instrumental in the fund raising.

All Council members have been sent letters from children at Yost inviting members to speak. Granat suggested that they be brought to the Town Hall for a tour and a demonstration of duties.

She wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and thanked Anton Insurance for the refreshments.

Boothe made a motion to adjourn. Sexton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

President Jennifer Granat

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

ATTESTED _____
Carol Pomeroy Clerk Treasurer

This _____ of _____ 2004