

**PORTER BUDGET HEARING
PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL**

President Jennifer Granat called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were: President Jennifer Granat, Sandy Boothe, Paul Childress, Sandi Snyder, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Fire Chief Lewie C Street Department Supervisor Tom Troy and Building Commissioner Dave Babcock. Absent were Vice-President William Sexton, Police Chief John Lane and Public Works Supervisor Scott Guy who was attending a seminar.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

President Jennifer Granat called three times for any opponents, there were none.

Granat called three times for any proponents, there were none.

Granat then closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Granat asked for approval of August 10th minutes. Boothe made the motion, Snyder seconded. Boothe and Snyder yes, Granat and Childress voted present. Motion was tabled until next meeting September 14.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Claims: Sewer totaling \$46,596.92. Childress questioned \$2,000. for Keystone renewal contract. Granat advised not to pay until Attorney Lyp reviewed contract. Claims were approved for \$44,596.92. Paul made the motion, Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Claims: August 1-20, 2004 totaled \$53,511.53. Boothe made the motion to approve with Snyder making the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Payroll: ending August 15, 2004 totaled \$47,345.00. Boothe made the motion to approve with Snyder making the second. Motion carried 4-0. Childress questioned Snyder about hiring an employee to the Park Dept. without notice to Town Council for approval. Snyder apologized for not informing them. The new employee was hired to replace an employee that went back to college. The Council wants everyone to be consistent with policy. William "Bud" Tilden stated that State Law allows the Park Dept to hire employees without Council approval, since they are a separate entity. Attorney Lyp will also look into this law.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Karen "Snook" Pisowicz questioned why there was no representative from the Police Dept.? Granat stated that Chief John Lane was not feeling well and that he had nothing to report.

Linda Hodges asked why the Assistant Chief Jim Menn wasn't there to represent the police dept. Granat repeated nothing to report.

Linda Hodges, Police Commissioner, asked if all police cars are numbered and marked. Granat stated that the cars were numbered but not all cars marked with decal. They are not decaling the Chief's car, Detective car, and 2 others that are retiring in 19 months. Granat said that it is not cost effective to mark the 2 cars retiring. The replacement cars will be marked when they receive them.

REPORTS FROM THE TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy said that Karl Cender, financial advisor, has recommended that the 2004 appropriations needed to be reduced by approximately \$250,000.00, in doing so would avoid major reductions in the 2005 budget. Pomeroy, Childress and Cender will meet to recommend the cuts to liaison and department heads. Council approved by consensus 4-0.

The Taste of Porter committee approached the Council for insurance for the August 28 event. Pomeroy checked with General Insurance Co. and Chris Craig, the town's insurance agent said that The Taste would have to get their own insurance since they were a not-for-profit entity.

Pomeroy also stated that the Town Hall would no longer be open on Saturdays, August 28 would be the last day. The reason being that only 3 people came in for the whole summer excluding a few people wanting beach passes.

ATTORNEY

Patrick Lyp stated that the Town was being sued by Paul Nelson who wanted re-zoning for a parcel of land on Old Plover Road which the BZA has denied. The court date is September 17, 2004 and he will ask for a continuance. An Executive session is being held prior to the court date.

Also he said he would look into expanding the Police Commission and Stormwater Board to 5 members each.

FIRE

Lewie Craig said he was informed by the insurance adjuster that his automobile and fire equipment was under-insured. By consensus the Council appointed Sandi Snyder to check into this matter and also check on getting quotes from other insurance companies.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Troy, sitting in for Scott Guy who was attending a seminar, said that Dune Acres has contacted the street department for sweeping their streets. Scott sent them a letter stating that the cost would be \$60.00 an hour which includes wages, fuel and maintenance. The Council agreed by consensus 4-0. Snook Pisowicz asked if they needed a contract and stated a contract was not needed.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Dave Babcock had 3 new contractors bringing the total to 285. Childress made a motion to approve the licenses and Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2004-12 to update the 1993 ordinance was approved on first reading 4-0. Childress made the motion and Boothe made the second. Childress and Boothe wanted more time to read before finalizing. Ordinance 2004-12 was placed on the next agenda.

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

The Council approved 4-0 to approve and agreement with the National Lakeshore to allow them to reserve \$30,000 this year for trail planning, design and construction within their boundaries for the hike/bike trail. Childress made the motion and Snyder made the second. The National Lakeshore needs a letter from the town stating the above. Lyp will draft a letter and Childress will sign. This needs to be approved by September 30th.

DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Attorney Lyp said that the Town has several options: the Town can file a lawsuit to recover money owed, place a lien on the property including foreclosure or with an agreement with Indiana American Water Co. can have their water turned

off. Granat stated that Attorney Dave Hollenbeck is consulting with IAWC to have an agreement written to shut off customers water. This was also tabled until Sept. 14th meeting.

NO NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

GRANAT:

- Able Disposal contract is becoming due. By consensus 4-0, Childress will review.
- Women's restroom is still backing up. This matter was referred to the Redevelopment Commission which financed the new Town Hall.
- Meetings and workshops were scheduled as follows:
 - September 2 – 4:00 Department Head evaluations
 - September 8 – 6:00 budget workshop
 - September 13 – 6:00 employee handbook workshop
- Granat regretfully announced the resignation of Jennifer Gadzala from the Stormwater Management Board.

Roger Abraham reminded the Council that Part "C" of the MS4 deadline is due Nov. 4, 2004 and the cost is \$20,000. plus Town Planner, Jim Mandon, fees. The council approved \$15,000. for Haas & Associates to begin the process and wanted an update before spending the other \$5,000.

The Council will review Jim Mandon's costs. Childress made the motion and Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

With no objections the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

President, Jennifer Granat

Vice-President, William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

Sandi Snyder

ATTESTED: _____
Clerk-Treasurer, Carol Pomeroy

This _____ day of _____ 2004.