

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members also present were Vice President Jon Granat, Michele Bollinger, Micheal Genger and David Babcock. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Building Commissioner Arthur Elwood, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer and Park Superintendent James Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Babcock made a motion to accept the minutes as written for February 12, 2008 and Genger made the second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Bollinger made a motion to accept claims as presented in the amounts of \$183,173.41 and sewer claims in the amount of \$140,676.56 Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

A resident of Porter Cove asked why the street lights were not lit on Lincoln Street. Brueckheimer responded that she has been in contact with NIPSCO and they said there are problems with the transformer and they will fix as soon as possible.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy presented an Ordinance for establishing the Redevelopment Fund for Keystone. Genger made a motion to number and read by title only Ordinance 2008-06 and Babcock made the second. Vote 5-0. Genger made a motion to suspend the rules and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Babcock made the motion to have second reading by title only and adoption with Bollinger making the second. Vote 5-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Lyp had no report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Spanier reported that Comcast has installed the new phones lines and there are no problems except for voice mail which should be fixed in the next day or so. Spanier also noted that he has received the Federal grant money for bullet proof vests that the Council had approved earlier, and asked to pay this bill Granat made a motion to pay for the bulletproof vests with the grant money and Genger made the second. Vote 5-0. Bollinger asked the Council if it were possible to add a street light at the West entrance of Hunters Glen which is very close to Highway 20 and another at the second entrance of Oak Hill and Pheasant Run. She also noted how fast cars come off Hwy 20 and if someone is turning into the subdivision that it is hard to see the entrance to Hunters Glen. Bollinger also requested a stop sign or yield sign at the corner of Quail Ridge & Pheasant Run. Granat asked if there are other roads that need street lights. Babcock suggested that Spanier & Brueckheimer do a study. The Council agreed by consensus that a street light is not needed at Pheasant and Oak Hill but to install a street light at Oak Hill & Quail Ridge.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Craig thanked the Street Department for helping them out at Porter Beach. The Fire Department and an ambulance could not get up the hill and the Street Department came out and cleared and salted the road for them.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer also thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for helping with the snow removal during the last snow storm.

Brueckheimer also asked patience from the residents in subdivisions with snow removal, they will always clear the main roads first. She also requested not to park on the road whenever possible during a snow storm and to remove the basketball hoops that are still in roadways in subdivisions. The Street Dept only has 100 tons of salt left and will only be using at intersections and hills. They are mixing salt with cinders to make it go further. Brueckheimer also told the Council that she has hired a new full time employee. She also reminded the Council of a workshop on March 4th at 6:30pm.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller reminded Council and residents that March 15th at 10:00am sharp is the Easter Egg Hunt. The age limit is 1-9 years old.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Elwood stated that there are 11 new contractors that need to be approved. Babcock made a motion to accept the new contractors and Bollinger made the second. Vote 5-0. Granat asked Elwood about the house on 23rd Street that burned a few months ago. Elwood said that the insurance company and mortgage company have not settled yet. Granat noted that he did not want another situation as a few years ago when a burned house sat for 2 years. Lyp commented that in a timely manner the Council can contact the Porter County Health Department if it becomes a nuisance.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2008-05 WBEZ TREMEONT PLACE PUD.

Written Commitments for Tremont Place PUD Ordinance 2008-05. Lyp stated that there are a few changes before the council can agree to the commitments. **1.** In paragraph 2 the amount of time has been increased to 180 days for WBEZ because of the lawsuit that they have filed against the Town of Porter needs to be dismissed which WBEZ will do but WBEZ cannot apply for their FCC permit until this is done so the time limits needs to be extended to do this. **2.** The tower space needs to be increased from 1 to 2 antennas because the frequency for the Fire Dept. and the Police Dept. are not the same and they cannot co-exist on the same antennae. These 2 spots will be free of charge to the Town or any other Town entity. The minimum height will be 250 feet for these antennas. Bollinger made a motion to accept the revised written commitments and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Babcock made a motion to have 2nd reading and adoption of Ordinance 2008-05 with Genger making the second. Vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Utility Board. The Council agreed by consensus that they need a Service Board rather than a Utility Board, the reason being that a Utility Board must have a licensed Engineer sitting on the Board. Babcock wants to check on IC 36-9-23 to see what the requirements are to establish this Board. The matter was tabled until next meeting. Bollinger asked the Council about privatization for the sewer system. Babcock stated that he felt with the amount of repairs and upgrading that is needed he felt no one would be interested. Bollinger said that

she felt it is important to look into that you never know. Sexton also noted that the Town would also have to absorb costs for some of the upgrades. She also stated that she is not for or against selling but feels that it should be looked into. Attorney Lyp told the Council that the bottom line is that if someone did buy the sewer system they would be looking for profits not as an affordable service to the residents. This usually does not mesh. Also he noted that the Council would lose all control over the sewer system. The Council appointed Babcock and Bollinger to explore the options of selling the sewer collection system.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None.

Bollinger made the motion to adjourn and Granat made the second.

Dated this _____ day of March, 2008

William F. Sexton, President

Jon Granat, Vice President

Michele Bollinger

David Babcock

Micheal Genger

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer