

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2007

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Vice President Lorri Wickberg, , Council members Sandi Snyder, Jennifer Granat and Paul Childress , Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, , Police Chief James Spanier, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Public Works Director Karl Bauer and Park Superintendent James Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Wickberg made the motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2007 with Snyder making the second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Granat made the motion to approve claims as presented and Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

OPENING OF WHEEL LOADER BIDS:

Pomeroy opened 2 bids packages. The bids were Hardings at \$99,073.36 and Roland Machinery at \$82,905.00. Wickberg made the motion to accept the bids and have Bauer and the Town Engineer Shem review, Snyder made the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Karen Pisowicz of McDashwicz Drive asked the Council if they knew why the Comcast cable office closed in Chesterton since the Council told them to keep it open a few years back. Lyp is reviewing and will report back at next meeting.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy introduced Ordinance 2007-03 amending Ordinance 2005-10 setting Stormwater fees. Childress made the motion to number and read and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Childress also made the motion to suspend the rules and have second reading by title only, Granat made the second. Vote 5-0. Childress also made the motion to adopt with Granat making the second. Vote 5-0.

Pomeroy also stated that the Treasurer of the Pines Condos Homeowners Association contacted her and they want to be added to Regional Industries trash pick-up since their contract was expiring April 15th. By consensus the Council agreed that they should contact Regional Industries since we have an ordinance that states if over 4 complexes they enter into their own contract.

Pomeroy also asked the Council for direction. Her office removed the \$5.00 recycling fee for 2-4 complexes on 23rd Street in the amount of \$708.00 for 5 people because of a misunderstanding. The Council advised her to reverse that amount to their accounts if they are offered recycling as stated in Ordinance 94-18. She said that she had contacted Regional Industries and they will pick up recycling at that site.

Pomeroy also told the Council that she has received a phone call from a homeowner that is selling their house and at present time the house is empty and wants the trash fee removed. Pomeroy said she

feels this would create a problem because the office would not know when to start rebilling and to whom when the house is sold and Regional Industries will still bill the Town. The Council said that they want to review the Ordinance 95-03 and will make a decision at next meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Spanier thanked the Chesterton Police Department, Chesterton Fire Department, Department of Natural Resources, Porter County SWAT team, Karl Bauer and everyone that helped the Porter Police Department in the recent home invasion/robbery/suicide. He said this was a great example of inter-agency cooperation.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

- R.V. Sutton will be starting some repair work in Porter Cove within the next 2 weeks at the following addresses 1300 Essex, 1320 Admiral Drive and 1582 Commodore.
- 2004 Smoke Testing. Bauer will be sending out letters to businesses and residents who showed that they had some sort of connection to the sanitary line other than their lateral.
- Shem and Bauer met with Indiana American Water Company regarding adding water lines to Porter Beach and Sunset Avenue. Bauer is hoping that IAWC will contribute to hiring an outside contractor to put a bid package together and will also contribute to the cost of construction as they have done for other towns. IAWC would not commit to anything at this point. Roberto Pena will get back to him.
- Sidewalks. Bauer has compiled a list of sidewalks that need replaced plus a new sidewalk in Dune Meadows to the Park, for a total of approximately 3,500 feet. He would like to put this out to bid and use the money from CCI. Council wants the list for next meeting.
- Paving projects. Bauer and Shem have rated all roads and he has prepared a list that would cost \$388,943 not including Baillytown and \$412.00 if including Baillytown. Bauer would use the money in LR&S, MVH and Major Moves to pay for this. Council wants the list for next meeting.
- Spring Cleanup is this week.
- Public Meeting for opening bids for the Oak Hill Pump Station will be April 17th at 3:00pm at the Town Hall. Pomeroy was advised to advertise.

PARK DEPARTMENT:

Miller reported that the Park Easter Egg hunt was a success with approximately 200 kids participating. Miller thanked the following: American Legion Post 503 for their help and support, Jewel for donating 90dozen eggs, Starbucks for refreshments, Girl Scout Troup 82 for coloring the eggs, Chesterton Tribune for the ad and the follow-up pictures and the Park Board for their help. The Community Center will be busy with rentals starting this weekend until fall. He said there are a few dates still available. Wickberg said that she is a Chairman for the Rebuilding Duneland Together and asked any residents to contact her to donate their time to help make improvements to Porter Parks.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

Brueckheimer asked the Council for permission to purchase address numbers for the Town Hall's front and back door and signage for Town Hall's hours. The address numbers would be 8 to 12". The Council agreed by consensus.

She also asked the Council if she could remove the shrubs at the Town Hall that have been damaged from the winter salting of sidewalks. Council agreed by consensus.

Brueckheimer reported that a property owner on Wood Street filled in a swale when he created a driveway and he has been notified that he is in violation and needs to correct this. The owner is out of town and will contact her next week.

Brueckheimer and Bauer are addressing the drainage issues at Marquette & Johnson roads.

She advised the Council that all silt fences are back up and she would like the Council to add some building violations to the violations ordinance so that she can issue tickets for contractors that keep violating building codes.

Sexton asked her talk to the contractor that is building the new house on Woodlawn in Chesterton because they are parking on the Porter side and making ruts on a Porter resident property.

OLD BUSINESS:

Signature Graphics tax abatement. Attorney Robert Welsh representing Signature Graphics apologized to the Council for not filing the CF1 forms since 2002. He stated that they have increased their assessed valuation from \$672,370 to \$2,801,200. When filing the first CF1 they predicted 15 new employees and have hired 42 for a total of 143 employees with an increase in salaries from \$312,000 to \$2,000,484. He said that the company will file the CF1 for 2007, 08, 09 and 2010. By consensus with the exception of Granat who was not in favor of the abatement in 2000 when this abatement was issued agreed not to revoke this abatement.

Travel reimbursement ordinance. Pomeroy presented the ordinance and Childress felt it was not needed since all employees need to turn in receipts to get reimbursed. Attorney Lyp felt this should be added to the Employees Handbook and Council agreed. This ordinance was not read or passed.

NEW BUSINESS;

Snyder stated that the Council should change the May 8th meeting to May 9th because of Election Day. The Council agreed by consensus. The Council also agreed by consensus to change the meeting time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm permanently.

Jennifer Klug of Lincoln Street raised her concern that since all precincts will now be voting at the Town Hall about the limited parking. She does not feel the parking is near adequate and voters may not vote because of this and this may infringe on their right to vote. She would like the Council to question Porter County about this and see if they can add another voting place. Granat stated that the Council should place blockades for the Laundromat for their business and should add more handicap spaces. Sexton said additional parking is available along the alley that the Town owns and could be roped off. William Cantrell of Waverly Road suggested that voters go to the Court House and vote now, to help alleviate the parking problem. He stated that the law has changed and this can now be done. Cantrell suggested that the Council should work with County to find additional voting locations before the primary in November. Attorney Lyp who is also on the Election Board said if acceptable voting sites can be found arrangements can be made for another polling site. Porter Park is no longer acceptable because of the incline for the disabled. Lyp said that when it comes to the convenience of voters versus full accessibility to the disabled the later will trump the others. The Council will get in touch with the Election Board.

COUNCIL COMMENTS;

Sexton advised the Council that he will be on vacation for the April 24th meeting.

Granat made the motion to adjourn with Wickberg making the second.

Dated this _____ day of April, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Sandi Snyder

Jennifer Granat

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer