

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2007

Vice President Lorri Wickberg called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members Jennifer Granat and Paul Childress. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Public Works Director Karl Bauer, Park Superintendent James Miller and Police Officer Todd Allen sitting in for Police Chief James Spanier who was at VSA School. Absent were President William F. Sexton, Council member Sandi Snyder, Fire Chief Lewis Craig and Attorney Patrick Lyp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Childress made the motion to approve the April 10, 2007 minutes with Granat making the second. Wickberg made a correction to the minutes that she was House Captain not Chairman to Rebuilding Dune land Committee. Vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Granat made a motion to approve claims in the amounts of \$106,195.11 and \$207,269.22 and Childress made the second. Childress told the Department Heads to be careful of spending because the Town will not receive tax monies until August or September. Granat stated that the Council put a cap on spending earlier in the year. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy told the Council that the Town has received the last draw for 2006 in the amounts of \$143,893.37 and Excise Tax in the amount of \$9,878.93. She also reminded the delinquent sewer customers that their bill needed to be paid by April 30th she also stated that she has collected \$43,000 so far.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Allen reminded the Council that Chief Spanier was at VSA School. He stated that the Police Commission was revising the curfew for the Town and the changes were sent to Lyp to review.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Bauer reported on the following:

- Waverly Road and Lincoln Street should have a street light because of being so dark. He is checking into the costs.
- Bauer has filled out paper work to receive money back from FEMA for the snowstorm in February. He should receive around \$6,500.
- Mosquitoes. He will be placing 4 traps that will capture the mosquitoes and he will send the mosquitoes to Indianapolis to be tested for West Nile virus. He plans on running an ad in the Chesterton Tribune later to remind the residents on how to help rid the area of mosquitoes by doing simple things like emptying water standing in old tires etc. Anti-mosquito pellets will also be put in catch basins to deter the mosquitoes.

- Road paving list. Bauer presented the Council with a list of roads and their ratings that need to be paved. The ratings are #1 as poor and #10 as best. The total for all paving was \$412,466. Childress said that there is only \$200,000 for paving, \$66,400 in LRS, \$100,000 in MVH. and \$40,000 from doing an additional appropriation from LR &S. Do an additional appropriation Childress advised Bauer to start with the rating of “1” and go as far as he could with spending the \$200,000 and bring the list to the next meeting. Vivian Van Keuren of Baillytown subdivision asked what roads would be paved in Baillytown. She was told that Dunes View was a rating of “1” and all other roads were “6” and above. Peter Van Keuren of Baillytown said that the poor roads are affecting their property values and asked if they could cut of the worst parts of the road and do a temporary repair. Bauer said he would look into that and get back with them. Childress stated that the roads there are substandard and narrow and the vehicles are driving on the edge and breaking the roads down. Granat said that the town has never done ratings of all the roads for paving and now has a list to work from in future years. The Council agreed that they would like to do all the roads but cannot afford it at this time. Shem of Haas & Associates said that maybe they could fog seal some roads and that would save some roads for a few years. Fog sealing prevents water from going into the cracks and then freezing and busting the roads.
- Sidewalk list. Bauer said he had \$50,000 in CCI for sidewalks and presented the Council with a list of sidewalks to repair and install. Childress corrected him and said no he only had \$45,000 because the Council had agreed earlier to loan \$5,000 from CCI to CCD to buy 3 police cars. The Council agreed by consensus to repair existing sidewalks before installing new sidewalks in Marquette Point.
- Oak Hill Lift Station. Shem of Haas & Associates said he had reviewed the bids and LGS Plumbing was compliant and the lowest bidder in the amount of \$190,609. He recommended to the Council to accept their proposal. Pomeroy said that there was only \$113,000 in the sewer construction fund. Childress suggested taking CREDIT monies from the 2007 budget that was allocated to the Town Hall, Park Dept, Police Dept and infrastructure to pay for the lift station. Wickberg said this repair has to be done or IDEM will be fining the Town. Childress feels that the Town has 2 years to be compliant since IDEM signed the agreement. Childress said that the letter the Town received from IDEM this week about sewage releases does not mention Oak Hill lift station but Porter Ave and Triangle lift stations. Granat said that the bid was good for 60 days and were opened on April 17th the Council should confer with the Attorney. This was tabled until the next meeting.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller said that the irrigation system is almost complete at Hawthorne Park ball field. He thanked Hunt’s Maintenance and Excavating for installing this at cost only.

Duneland Diamond Baseball team has reserved the Hawthorne Park ball field for the summer.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer presented the Council with 21 new contractors. Childress made the motion to accept with Granat making the second. Vote 3-0.

Brueckheimer reported that she had attended a Flood Management program in Indianapolis last week. She stated that in 2010 that they will be remapping this area.

She presented the Council with the agenda for the Risk Management Committee that will meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

AWARDING BIDS FOR WHEELLOADER:

Bauer and Shem reviewed the bids from Roland Machinery for \$82,905 and Harding's for \$99,307 and both were compliant and recommended that the Council accept Roland Machinery for the wheel loader as the lowest bidder. Childress told Bauer that he does not have the money to pay for it. Childress stated that the Council in October gave him permission to use CEDIT monies to buy a dump truck but at the end of last year he paid for it out of MVH instead. The Council then voted to pay off the \$300,000 loan from the General Fund to Redevelopment Commission so the money is gone. Bauer said that the old wheel loader is unsafe and he will not jeopardize the Town or his employees he will park it. Wickberg wanted to know why this was put out to bid if we did not have the money. She said this has gone on for 5 months and we have wasted everyone's time. Pomeroy said that the MVH fund has \$131,867. She stated that this year's budget has not been approved yet and possibly it could be cut. She does not think the Town will receive the first tax draw for 2007 until maybe late September depending on when the tax bills are sent out. Granat said that the Surety Bond was good for 60 days from March 26th when the bids were opened. Dave Cruise from Roland Machinery said that if he wasn't here when the bids were opened that the Council would have awarded the bid to Harding's. He said that his company has absorbed cost increases to keep his bid low and finds this whole situation very troublesome and now the Council is pulling the plug. Cruise said that he could shave about \$15,000 off the bid if they took off some of the bells and whistles. He asked has the Town thought about leasing. Wickberg personally apologized to Cruise. The Council agreed to table until next meeting.

REVIEW ORDINANCES 94-18 & 95-03

Was tabled until next meeting.

PEDDLERS ORDINANCE

The Police Commission has submitted their recommendations to Lyp to review. They wanted to change from a local background check to a private criminal history check. There is a fee associated with this background check and they wanted the fee attached the application fee. Brueckheimer felt this is what the Town needs because they could also do a background check on new employees. This is recommended by the Risk Management program. The price would be cheaper if a contract is signed and tied together. This was tabled until next meeting since the Attorney was not there.

NEW BUSINESS

PCCRVC- Lorelei Weimer thanked the Council for their cooperation in helping the visitors center secure internet service. Weimer said that the PCCRVC has joined with Save the Dunes Conservation Fund which has resulted with the Center having state of the art stormwater management system. This system includes 2 stage ditches, rain gardens and bio retention swales. Christine Livingston of Save the Dunes passed out literature showing design enhancements for the area. Livingston also thanked Brueckheimer, Bauer and Pomeroy for their help with the septic systems.

STATE PARK LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE

Allen stated that Chief Spanier has given approval for their opening day parade. Rich Arndt of the State Park asked that the bond be waived as in prior years. Childress made the motion to accept their parade application and to waive the bond, Granat made the second. Vote 3-0.

Childress made the motion to adjourn and Granat made the second. Vote 3-0.

Dated this _____ day of May, 2007.

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Jennifer Granat

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer