

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 26, 2008

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Granat made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Bollinger made the second. Vote 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Bollinger made a motion to approve the claims as presented in the amounts of \$174,806.52 and \$89,243.84 and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy presented a Resolution for the Council's consideration for borrowing money from the Redevelopment Commission earlier in the evening in the amounts as follows: General Fund \$310,400, MVH Fund \$131,000.00, Fire Fund \$11,600 and Park Fund \$27,000. Genger made a motion to number and read by title only and Bollinger made the second, vote 4-0. The Resolution was numbered 2008-06 and read by Pomeroy, Vote 4-0 to approve.

Pomeroy presented numerous options of bills for the new software for billing sewer, trash and storm water fees. The Council agreed by consensus to use the card stock billing which costs \$672.25 per 10,000 and the software which costs \$16,700.

Pomeroy also stressed that all department heads need to only spend money that is necessary. Pomeroy reminded everyone that the State still has not approved the 2008 budget and she did not expect it to be approved until September or October. The Council also agreed and instructed Pomeroy to send a memo to all department heads reflecting to hold down spending.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Spanier stated that he had received an assembly permit for the Art Fair on August 2nd & 3rd at Hawthorne Park. He also noted that they had submitted their liability insurance. Granat made a motion to approve the permit and Bollinger made the second. Vote 4-0.

Spanier also reminded residents to be a good neighbor, during the July 4th holiday, about shooting off fireworks. He reminded residents that the hours for fireworks are from June 29 to

July 9th, excluding July 4th, 5:00pm until 2 hours after sunset and on July 4th from 10:00am until midnight only.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief Craig was absent.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Brueckheimer was absent

PARK DEPARTMENT
No report

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
Elwood presented the Council with 6 new contractors which Bollinger made a motion to approve and Genger made the second. Vote 4-0.

Elwood told the Council that he had sent a registered letter to the owner of 2 cabins at Porter Beach that he has proceeded to have the cabins condemned. Elwood noted that they were not habitable and not safe.

OLD BUSINESS:
Business Registration Ordinance.
After much discussion Genger suggested that the ordinance should not apply to residential home businesses not having employees or foot traffic from customers, which the Council agreed to. Pomeroy was advised to take language out from Section 2, 3 and 8 and to add language for a fine of \$50.00 per day for not complying.

Waverly Road Truck Route.

Sexton said that he does not think Waverly Road can handle the traffic of trucks because the road is too narrow and the road base is questionable. He noted the reason that he first brought this up is because there are approximately 36 trucks daily using Lincoln Street, he saw a child run between 2 cars and almost was hit by a truck. He feels the truck traffic needs to be reduced for the business section and looking for a solution.

Gene Chemma suggested extending Woodlawn Avenue to Jackson Blvd. if the Town can acquire the property to do so.

Elsie Maher lives on Waverly Road and stated there is too much traffic and is against making Waverly Road the truck route.

Warren Thiede, the Town Engineer, doubts that the bridge over I-94 and the bridge of the Little Calumet River are structurally safe. Also he said core samples would need to be taken of the road base.

Patricia Nicholson also stated that she is totally opposed because of the children that walk the road and live there.

Jennifer Klug told the Council to be very careful about changing the route to Waverly Road.

The Council agreed by consensus to have Attorney Lyp send a letter to the City of Portage to have their garbage trucks find a different route to Able Disposal in Chesterton. Sexton suggested having a volunteer do a truck count on Lincoln Street and identify who the trucks are. Granat suggested maybe a Boy Scout could volunteer for the job.

Employees Health Insurance renewal.

Steve Brady, United Health care representative gave the Council a spreadsheet of 5 different health insurance companies that he submitted the proposals. He told the council that originally United Healthcare was increasing the insurance by 6.5% but now the increase is only 3% which would only be a \$21.14 increase per employee. He also noted that United Healthcare is a cutting edge insurance company and said that they will also do the Cobra Section 125 paperwork for free. United is also adding 100% preventive health care without charging which will save \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually. Genger made a motion to renew the employees health insurance with United Healthcare Bollinger made the second. Vote 4-0.

New Business

Resolution 2008-05 expanding the TIF district

Genger made a motion to number and read by title only the above resolution for expanding the TIF district and Bollinger made the second. Vote 4-0.

Porter Beach – Erica Brandstetter request.

Erica stated that she went before the TAC meeting board and they recommended that she was to ask the Council for a permit for approval of building a deck/walkway between 2 cottages on lots 22 and 17. This deck/walkway would span 14 feet across a public alley. Erica said the retaining wall near the cottages is rotting and this deck with hand railings would make it much safer. She noted that the alley is not used much. Attorney Lyp said there would be a concern of the Town's liability if some should fall or get hurt that the Town would get sued. Granat asked if the cottages are sold. Lyp stated that a lot things need to happen before the Council agrees to anything. Lyp said he has not determined whether there needs to be a public hearing or if Brandstetter needs to do a formal petition. The Council, by consensus, agreed to have Lyp prepare a draft license agreement containing hold harmless language. Pomeroy was advised to put on next agenda.

Council Comments:

Granat, a Storm Water board member, asked for consensus for paying for reports and annual reports for doing the MS4 documentation. The Council agreed by consensus that the Public Works Department would pay for this to be done. Bollinger made a motion to adjourn and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

Dated this 8TH day of July, 2008.



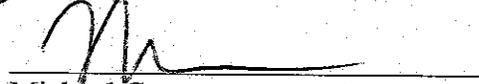
William F. Sexton, President



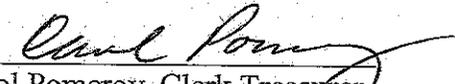
Jon Granat, Vice President



Michele Bollinger



Micheal Genger

ATTEST: 

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer