

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2007

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Also present were Council members Lorri Wickberg, Vice President, Sandi Snyder and Jennifer Granat. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer and Park Superintendent James Miller. Council member Paul Childress was absent.

### **MINUTES:**

Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2007 as written and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0 to approve.

### **CLAIMS:**

Granat made the motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$116,528.32 with Snyder making the second. Vote 4-0 to approve.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Tim Wynn of 215 Rankin Street asked why the fire hydrant at Francis and Beam was replaced in the middle of the sidewalk. Brueckheimer commented that Indiana American Water Company was requested to move the fire hydrant back and failed to do so. They will come back and fix at their expense.

Rita Newman, 315 Franklin St. reminded residents that the next meeting for the sesquicentennial celebration will be November 5 at the Public Works Building.

Zathoe Sexton, 351 Waverly Road, announced that the Halloween party will be October 19<sup>th</sup> at Hawthorne Community Building from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for ages 1 thru 10. There will be a games, story telling and food available. Also a costume judging contest will take place with William Sexton and Rita Newman as the judges.

### **CLERK TREASURER REPORT:**

Pomeroy advised the Council that she had received a small tax advance from Porter County in the amount of \$171,250 which also included Excise tax. Pomeroy has also spoke to Municipal Code that is preparing the Codification and they hope to send the 1<sup>st</sup> draft by next week and then after reviewing it will take about 6 to 8 weeks to print. Presented were 8 new contractors for a total of 315. Granat made the motion to approve and Wickberg made the 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 4-0.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Lyp advised the council that he had been in contact with Attorney Robert Welsh who represents Ray Cahnmann of Porter Beach that is requesting an alley vacation be placed on the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attorney Welsh will advertise for this public hearing.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Spanier asked the Council to have Trick-or-Treat night on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Council agreed by consensus.

The Chief also reminded residents to lock their vehicles due to at least 12 break-ins in the Porter Cove subdivision. He also reminded residents to report suspicious behavior at the time not the next day so that they can respond.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

Brueckheimer reported that:

- The utility pole at U.S. Hwy 20 and Highway St was hit again and NIPSCO will be moving the pole back another 5 feet. She also requested putting 2 “No Trucks Allowed” signs facing East and West to prevent trucks using this road.
- R.V. Sutton has fixed the “sink hole” at 151 Waverly Road for \$1,914.00. This “sink hole” was caused by a collapsed line.
- Leaf Collections: she will have a schedule ready for the next meeting.
- Meter Reports: Brueckheimer was happy to report that there were no sewage overages for last month.
- Brueckheimer asked the Council to look at upgrading Truck #18 that is used for the Porter Beach snow removal. She would like this done before the snow season.
- She also asked that candidates running for office keep their political signs off of Town and State easements. She has had numerous complaints.
- She also asked the Council permission to use the Public Works Bldg. to hold an auction on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 4:00pm for the sesquicentennial celebration. The Council agreed by consensus.

**PARK DEPARTMENT:**

Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FIRE CONTRACT:** Chief Craig had concerns about the payment to the Volunteers being paid on or before December 31. Lyp advised him that if he has the money he can pay before with Council’s approval. Lyp also advised the Council to ratify this contract. Granat made a motion to accept and Snyder made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 for passing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE: 2007-15 for building commissioner.**

Snyder made a motion to number and read by title only amending the salary ordinance to read \$32,000 - \$35,000 for Building Commissioner. Granat made the 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 4-0. Snyder made a motion to suspend the rules and Wickberg made the 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 4-0. Granat made a motion to have 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approval with Snyder making the 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote 4-0 with motion passing.

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION 2007-05.**

This resolution supports the continued independence of the Westchester Public Library operated by and for the benefit of the citizens of Westchester Township. It is opposing any attempt to diminish its role as a valued institution as would surely result from any consolidation and loss of local control. A state study is trying to consolidate schools and libraries to reduce overhead and administrative expenses. The likely consolidation would be WPL and Porter County Library system which both are not receptive to nor see any savings or substantial advantage to consolidating. Sexton urged the Council to adopt this resolution. Granat stated this would be a major loss for the community and its children. Library Board members Rick Hokanson and Vern Odom presented facts to the Council about how much Hageman Library is used plus a background history. Hokanson urged residents to attend a meeting that is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Porter Town Hall. Granat made a motion to number and approve the above resolution 2007-05, Snyder made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and vote was 4-0 to approve.

**MALFUNCTIONING SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN NATIONAL PARK.**

Brueckheimer and Sexton attended a meeting with Porter County Health Department and Save the Dunes representatives to discuss 5 failing septic system within the Town’s corporate limits but are within the National Lakeshore which are leasebacks. There are a total of 30 failing systems outside Town of Porter that also needs to be addressed. Sexton advised that the Town and the Town of Chesterton need to work together to get this matter solved. Jennifer Klug asked about the leasebacks that are in the Town limits and Sexton advised that they are under the control of County.

**NORTHWEST INDIANA FORUM:**

This presentation was cancelled due to illness.

Snyder made a motion to adjourn with Granat making the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2007

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William F. Sexton, President

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Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

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Sandi Snyder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Granat

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

