

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 23, 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 and Paul Childress. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Chief of Police James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer and Park Superintendent James Miller. Council member Jennifer Granat was absent.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Wickberg made a motion to accept the minutes as written with Snyder making the second. Vote 4-0.

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Wickberg made a motion to accept claims as presented in the amounts of \$324,844.65 & \$79,311.42, Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

**Nancy Hiatt** of 1297 Essex Drive, President of the Porter Cove Homeowners Association, thanked Chief Spanier and his department of being pro-active with all the recent break-ins in Porter Cove.

**Mark Zaranski** of 60 E. Oak Hill Road, which is in Porter County, renewed his previous request to tap onto the Town of Porter sanitary sewer. Childress asked if he was willing to be annexed into the Town which he replied that his property is only 1/12 contiguous to the Town's limits and his neighbors to the East are not interested in being annexed. Attorney Lyp stated that 1/8 of a persons property needs to be contiguous in order to be annexed even with a friendly annexation. Childress felt it would be terribly unfair to have him hook on the sewer when there are Town residents that do not have sewer. Sexton suggested that the Council review and tabled until next meeting.

**Jennifer Klug** of Lincoln Street, thanked Chief Spanier for putting police business in the Chesterton paper, as before this wasn't done.

### CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy reported 9 new contractor's licenses, Snyder made a motion to approve with Childress making the second. Vote 4-0.

### ATTORNEY REPORT:

Lyp had the quit claim for the Stevens family to sign for their donation of land to the Park Department that is located on Hokanson Road and US Hwy 20 which he gave to Miller to be finalized.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Spanier reminded everyone that Trick or Treat is October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30pm and to be careful driving and reminded residents to be aware if anything looks suspicious and to call the Police immediately not the next day.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Craig reported that the Dive team was called out twice this week. Craig asked if the municipal sign at the Fire station could be removed because it creates a “blind spot” for everyone that is leaving the building including the fire trucks. Brueckheimer said she would check into how it can be removed and would try to salvage the top half of the sign.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer reported that the Beam Street sewer rehabilitation should start in about 10 days and a parking ban will go into effect block by block as needed.

Oak Hill lift station is running on the new pumps, but the generator and panel have not been switched yet because she is waiting for NIPSCO to run the power and gas lines.

Brueckheimer announced the leaf schedule. She asked residents not to put leaves in the curbs but along side of the road. The schedule is as follows the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> district would be the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month, district 2 and 3 would be the second week, district 3 & 4 the third week and district 4 & 5 the fourth week.

She also announced the Friends of Porter first fund raiser for the sesquicentennial fund raiser will be a yard/bake sale on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Public Works building from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

#### PARK DEPARTMENT:

Miller stated that the Halloween party at Hawthorne Park was a success and reminded residents that December 1<sup>st</sup> will be the kids Christmas party from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Miller also thanked Brueckheimer for being a “team player” by chipping all the brush at the park. He also thanked Nancy Hokanson for donating \$100 to buy flowers at Hawthorne Park. Miller also stated that the Park Board met last Saturday to update the “5Year Plan” for the Parks.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### NORTHWEST INDIANA FORUM – EXPANDING THE SOUTH SHORES LINES TO VALPARAISO AND LOWELL (WESTLAKE)

Karen Lauerman of the Forum presented a presentation to the Council and residents about how this would benefit the Town of Porter by creating 26,000 new jobs and development which in return they would be spending more money locally. She also stated that there is a tentative commitment of \$650 million in federal grants but it would still need \$350 million more to complete. Sexton felt this “new line” would have a negative impact for the Town of Porter because the passengers from Valparaiso would no longer be coming to the Dunes Park station. Childress felt this would be no benefit for Porter only to Valparaiso and Lowell.

George Mrak of 140 Pheasant Run read a prepared statement opposing Westlake by creating urban sprawl, congested traffic conditions and raising taxes for something that he does not want and will not use. When he finished the entire room broke out with applause including the Council.

INDIANA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY – WATER FOR SUNSET AVENUE, BERG ST  
Robert Pena and Elizabeth Loudermilk representatives of IAWC said it would cost \$102,000 to lay 2,420 feet of water lines for Sunset Lane which has 27 lots. The cost would rise by another \$5,000 if Berg St. was included. By using the outdated information of 27 lots it would cost the residents \$3,800 apiece which does not include the \$1,500 tap-on fee. Childress stated that the Town has set aside 50% of the CEDIT monies for infrastructure and Pomeroy reminded the Council that they have committed \$180,000 for the Oak Hill lift station upgrade. Sexton asked if the cost could be shared by IAWC and the Town since they use the Town's right-of-way to lay their lines and they profit from it. Sexton also told the residents that at 80% of the residents would have to commit to connecting before the Council would consider. When he asked the audience only 6 people raised their hands. Since Loudermilk had outdated information she was asked to bring updated information and to include Vine and Truman Streets.

COUNCIL COMMENTS;

Sexton announced that Art Elwood has been hired for Building Commissioner/Code Enforcer at the rate of \$32,000 a year.

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

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William F. Sexton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandi Snyder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Childress

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