

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 27, 2007

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Granat made the motion to approve minutes as written with Wickberg making the second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Granat made the motion to approve the claims in the amounts of \$195,538.05 and \$170,827.78 with Childress making the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy asked the Council to give approval to lend monies from the Rainy Day Fund to Debt Lease in the amount of \$24,000.00 for the bond payment for the Police Station, which is due in December and also for the Rainy Day Fund to lend money to the Fire Fund in the amount of \$30,000.00 to pay the Volunteer Firemen, for a total of \$54,000.00. Debt Lease and the Fire Fund will repay the above amounts when we receive our tax money from Porter County. Childress made the motion to approve the above loans providing that the Rainy Day Fund is paid back when tax money is received, Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

Pomeroy also asked the Council if there would be a Christmas Decorating Contest this year. Council agreed by consensus to have the contest with 1st place paying \$75.00, 2nd place paying \$50.00 and 3rd place paying \$25.00. Karen Pisowicz and Shirley Babcock volunteered to do the judging on December 21st and 22nd. They asked the residents who would like to enter the contest to call the Town Hall so that they would not be missed.

Pomeroy also advised the Council that the Town Hall would be closed on November 28th because of a Keystone seminar.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Lyp said he would have a hunting ordinance ready for next meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Allen advised the Council that the hunting ordinance needs to have the fines increased from the current amount of \$25.00 because a resident said that he would gladly pay this fine to hunt within Town limits. The Police Commission recommends \$250 for 1st offense; \$1,000 for 2nd offense and \$5,000 for each additional offense. This amount was later reduced to \$250, \$1,000 and \$2,500 (see below). Lyp said he would have ready for next meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Craig said the Fire Department was hosting an Open House and Toys for Tots toy drive on December 1st from 9:00 am until Noon. The Fire Department is also collecting non perishable food from now until December 17th any time from 6:30 am until 2:30 pm. The Fire Department is also having a CPR class on December 8th from 9:00am until needed. The fee is \$35.00 for non-residents and everyone must register because of a class limit of 15.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Brenda asked the Council to approve a change order bill for LGS Plumbing, contractor for Oak Hill Lift Station renovation; because a driveway was poured after they had submitted a bid for the project and was not included in the original bid. The amount for pouring this driveway was \$2,420.00. She also requested approval for replacement of a gravel parking area that also was not there when the bid was submitted this also included removal of clay and additional backfill sand in the amount of \$1,970.00. Also included in this change order bill was additional fence posts and material in the amount of \$1,266.00 for a grand total of \$5,656.00. Childress made a motion to accept the change order only for the \$2,420.00 for the driveway with Snyder making the second, Vote 5-0. Childress stated to get the other amounts approved they need to come to the next Council meeting and present their case in order to get approval for the other change orders, the Council agreed by consensus.

PARK DEPARTMENT:

Miller reported that vandalism continues to be a problem at all the parks. Porter Cove Park has experienced the most vandalism. The Park Board has discussed many options at their November 20th meeting to help curb vandalism at Porter Cove Park. The Park Board will continue to work with the Homeowners Assoc. at their January 15th meeting to arrive at a practical and economical solution.

Indian Springs and Lake Charles Parks will be closed December 15th for the winter months.

The Porter Park 2nd Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 1st from 1:00pm until 3:00pm for ages 1-10.

Porter Park's 5 year Plan is moving along. The Park Board will be providing a survey on the Town's website after their December 18th meeting. Hard copies will be available at the Town Hall and Hageman Library for those who don't have computers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sewer connection for Porter County resident Mark Zaranski of 60 E. Oak Hill Road.

At last Council meeting he was advised to attend Chesterton Sewer meeting and ask permission. Brenda who attended that meeting said that he did not show at Chesterton's meeting and was not present tonight. Attorney Lyp advised the Council to remove from agenda.

Munson Place Bond reduction. Attorney Lyp advised the Council to also remove this request from agenda since they have not contacted anyone with any information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Opening of bids for a new Fire Truck.

Childress asked for clarification that the money was coming from CEDIT in the amount of \$85,000.00 and that the Redevelopment Commission approved \$100,000.00 for a total of \$185,000.00 for a new Fire Truck. The Council and Chief Craig all agreed. Attorney Lyp opened the following bids:

1. FIRE SERVICE, INC. of St. John, Indiana \$220,530.00 and included Performance Bond.
2. GLOBAL EMERGENCY PRODUCTS, of Aurora, Il. \$187,500.00 and included Performance Bond.
3. RENEWED PERFORMANCE of Tipton, Indiana \$192,376.00 and included Performance Bond.
4. ALEXIS of Alexis, Illinois \$179,612.00 and included Performance Bond.
5. GLOBAL FIRE PROTECTION, received in the mail, is not a bid, but as built drawings for the Building Dept for the Travel Port on Highway 20.

Attorney Lyp said he would check all bids after the meeting and would advised Chief Craig if everything was in order and would let him know, and if everything is in order he recommends that Chief Craig come to the next meeting with his recommendation to the Council.

Salary Ordinance for 2008 Ordinance 2007-16

Granat made a motion to number and read by title only with Childress making the second. Vote 5-0. Childress read. Childress said he had a problem with the Park Board giving a Park employee a 22% raise when the Council had agreed to only a 3% raise for employees, and now they are cutting back because of funding problems. He suggested that the Council reduce their budget and put that amount into the Rainy Day Fund until the Park Board adjust the salary to agree with the Council's recommended 3% raise. Zathoe Sexton, Park Board President, said that there are 5 parks and are adding the 6th park to maintain and the Park has the smallest budget in the Town. She also stated that renting the Porter Community Building brings in approximately \$30,000 a year in revenue for the Parks which is second to the Building Department. Zathoe also stated that an employee needs to be paid for their value and Stephanie Miller was only making \$10.61 an hour. She also noted that 2 Council members were present when this raise was awarded and they said nothing. She feels the Park budget needs to be increased and the Council needs to honor the Park Boards judgment in this matter. Childress responded with the Fire Chief is on call 24 hours a day and our Police Department also does a great job and he is sure they would like to see a 22% raise also. He also said that the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. are working with less funding than they should be. Childress also noted that the Park Dept. also received the same amount of CEDIT money as all other departments. Granat said that there are outstanding Police Officers that she would love to recommend a 22% raise to but the money is not there. Snyder said that the Park Board members are very qualified to run the Park department and is appalled to think that Childress feels they are thumbing their nose at the Council. James Miller asked the Council if it is right for the Park Administrator to work for laborers wages. He also reminded the Council that the total bottom line of the budget remained the same. President Sexton stated that the Park's salary is another ordinance and has nothing to do with the ordinance that is being addressed. He told Childress to go to the Park meeting and address the Park Board on this issue. Snyder made a motion to suspend the rules and have 2nd reading and Wickberg made the second. Vote 3-2 with Childress and Granat voting no. Sexton told Pomeroy to place the Salary Ordinance 2006-16 on the next agenda.

Amending Employee Handbook - Schooling

Granat stated that in the original draft this section was deleted but by oversight was not done and requested to have this removed now from the handbook. Lyp stated that since the handbook was not adopted by an ordinance that the Council needed to make a motion to do so. Granat made a motion to strike the section "Schooling" to be removed from the handbook, Childress made the second. Vote 5-0 to accept. Lyp said he would write a memo for the employees to sign acknowledging the removal from handbook and would have for next meeting.

Hunting Ordinance revisited by Lyp.

Lyp suggested to the Council to change the fines to \$250, 1st offense; \$1,000, 2nd offense and \$2,500 for reoccurring offenses. He advised the Council to adopt this revisions of fines from \$25.00 to the above amounts to amend the Violation Ordinance. Childress made a motion to amend the violation ordinance referring to hunting from \$25.00 to \$250 for 1st offense, \$1,000 for 2nd offense and \$2,500 for reoccurring offenses, Granat made the 2nd. Vote 5-0. Childress then made a motion to suspend the rules and Granat made the 2nd. Vote 5-0. Childress then made a motion to adopt with Granat making the 2nd. Vote 5-0. Lyp then noted that the Town had 30 days to advertise this ordinance but it is in effect as of now.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Sexton reminded the residents that there are seats open on all Boards and Commissions and to have their Letters of Interest to the Council by December 15.

Sexton told the Council there is a meeting in LaPorte on November 29th @ 5:30pm regarding funding.

The Council agreed to have the final meeting in December on December 27th at 6:30pm since the regular meeting falls on Christmas Day. This is a must attend meeting for year end business.

Dated this _____ day of December, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Sandi Snyder

Jennifer Granat

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer