

## PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 27, 2007

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Lorri Wickberg, Vice President; Jennifer Granat, Paul Childress, Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer; Attorney Ethan Lowe, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer and Park Director James Miller. Council member Sandi Snyder arrived about 15 minutes later.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Granat made the motion to approve minutes as written, Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Granat made the motion to approve all claims as presented in the amounts of \$197,317.01, \$584,355.60 and Sewer claims in the amount of \$90,136.44, Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

William Cantrell of Waverly Road, thanked the Council for allowing him always to say his opinions.

### CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy presented **Resolution 2007-07**. Approved at November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting without a Resolution granting a loan from the Rainy Day Fund to Lease Rental Fund in the amount of \$24,000 and to the Fire Fund for \$30,000. Childress made a motion to number and read by title only and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

Childress made a motion to number and read **Resolution 2007-08** by title only for Appropriation transfers and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

Pomeroy presented a list of Sewer write offs in the amount of \$12,250 for the Council to approve. The write offs were made because of bankruptcies, foreclosures, sheriff sales etc. The Council agreed by consensus.

Pomeroy presented 2 invoices for the Police Department to encumber for 2008, with the approval of Police liaison Jennifer Granat, in the amounts of \$6,616.35 and \$3,500.00 from Bio-Key. The Council agreed by consensus.

### Christmas Decorating Contest:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place for \$75.00 was Jean Daniels of Burwell Road
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for \$50.00 was W.L. Ryan of North River Drive
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for \$25.00 was Shelley Beare of Waverly Road

Pomeroy presented a request from a senior resident to write off a late fee on her sewer bill in the amount of \$11.07. The reason for the request was she tried to pay her sewer bill before going into the hospital and there were complications and by the time she was released her bill was past due. This is the first time she has been late on her sewer bill. The Council agreed by consensus to write off late fee.

Pomeroy also presented a request from a contractor, Pranger Enterprises, to refund his fee for his contractor's license for 2008. He had submitted his application with the \$100 fee and later decided that he would not be working in the Town of Porter in 2008. Council denied his request.

Pomeroy requested many requests for vacation approval, as per the Employees Handbook, that states an employee must ask approval from the Council if they are carrying over 1 week vacation into the next calendar year. The Council told Pomeroy to correct the handbook to read all vacation time must be taken by anniversary date instead of calendar year, with the exception of one week which may be carried over after their anniversary date with Council approval.

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

None

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT;

Chief Spanier stated that a full time Radio Dispatcher may be resigning and asked the Council if he does resign may he start the process of advertising and replacing him if this does occur. The Council agreed by consensus that he can advertise and fill the position if this occurs.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Craig made a recommendation to buy a new fire truck from Alexis Fire Equipment of Alexis, Illinois in the amount of \$179,612.00 after reviewing all bids submitted. He stated this was the lowest bidder. He said that it takes approximately 240 days to receive the truck after Alexis receives the order. The Council agreed by consensus to order the truck. The Council said that \$100,000 would come from the Redevelopment Commission and the remainder of \$79,612 would be paid from CEDIT from infrastructure line item.

Chief Craig also stated that in the Spring Indiana American Water Company plans to bring a water line down Old Porter Road to Mineral Springs Road to Marquette Street which will include adding 10 new fire hydrants.

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Director Brueckheimer stated that the Town had one overflow on December 12<sup>th</sup> of 31.6 gallons at the Porter Avenue lift station. She said that to resolve this problem they raised the weir to give them more time to get a vacuum truck for pumping. She also noted that Oak Hill lift station is running but is still waiting for NIPSCO to connect the gas and electricity to the new control panel.

Brueckheimer said that on December 23<sup>rd</sup> the Municipal building was without power for 19 hours. She stated that she will ask the new Council to buy and install a new generator.

She also asked residents in Subdivisions and side street to be patient when it snows, because the main roads have to be cleared first.

Shem of Haas & Associates presented a change order and additional compensation for the Oak Hill Pump Station project from LGS Plumbing. Childress questioned why a trench has been left opened for over 45 days. Shem stated that they are waiting for NIPSCO to connect the gas line. Wickberg made a motion to pay \$17,597.77 to LGS Plumbing and Snyder made the second. The vote was Childress and Granat voting nay and Sexton, Wickberg and Snyder voting yes. Vote 3-2 motion passed. The other 2 change orders were tabled until next meeting with the Council requesting that a representative from LGS Plumbing be present. Childress stated that he felt the prices of \$1,970 for a fence was inflated by \$300 and questioned \$1,410 for back fill.

#### PARK DEPARTMENT:

Superintendent Miller said that the December 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Party was a success with over 200 children and adults attending. He also thanked all that volunteered and donated to this party. He also noted that rentals for Hawthorne Park were up \$33,345 over last year.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### **Salary Ordinance 2007-16**

Granat made a motion to adopt the 2008 Salary Ordinance and Snyder made the second. Granat asked Pomeroy if the Park Salary was included on this ordinance and Pomeroy said no the Park Board adopted their own salary ordinance. Childress stated that he is still objecting to the Park Board giving the Park Administrator a 22% raise when the Council had recommended a 3 to 5% raise for employees. He feels this is not fair to all other employees in the Town and Granat also agreed. Vote was Childress voting nay and Granat, Snyder, Wickberg and Sexton voting yes. Motion passed 4-1.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### **Resolution 2007-09 Declaring Financial Emergency.**

Childress made a motion to number and read by title only and to approve with Granat making the second. Childress stated that the reason for this is because of Porter County not paying the tax draws to the Town. He noted that all loans need to be paid back in the same year that they are made and this will extend the deadline to June 2008. Vote 5-0 to approve.

##### **Ordinance 2007-17 Firearms and hunting ordinance.**

Chief Spanier stated that he and the Attorney Patrick Lyp had reviewed this ordinance and that the Police Commission also was in agreement with this ordinance. Granat made the motion to number and read by title only with Childress making the second. Vote 5-0. Childress made the motion to suspend the rules and to have 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Vote 5-0. Granat made the motion to adopt with Childress making the second. Vote 5-0 with motion passing.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sexton acknowledged and thanked the Council for their leadership and dedication to the Council and residents for the past 4 years. He stated that this Council has done an excellent job and did many very positive things. See attached notes for the review of the last 4 years of accomplishments.

Granat made a motion to adjourn with Wickberg making the second.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2008.

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William F. Sexton

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Jon Granat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Bollinger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Genger

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Babcock

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