

**PORTER METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION  
Porter Town Hall**

November 28, 2005

President Bill Donley called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were commission members Brian Dahlin, Linda Hodges, Karen Pisowicz, Council liaison Jennifer Granat, and Police Chief Jamie Spanier. Also present were Porter Town Council President Bill Sexton, and Vice-President Sandy Snyder.

Dahlin made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Pisowicz seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chief Spanier gave his reports. (See attached) The entire commission complimented the force on gas off duty usage. Overall activity is down from the previous month.

Spanier reported the newest officer (Scott Cornelison) has been cleared by the Pension Board and will begin his four-five week training on December 2.

Cornelison will be ready for solo patrol in January.

Spanier said in January, Officer Jason Casbon will be assigned as a part-time detective filling the spot previously held by Spanier.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Noise Ordinance - There was continued discussion on the noise ordinance involving the Commission, Chief Spanier, Liaison Granat and attending Council members and the audience.

Major points included:

- A) The ordinance should be freestanding instead of inclusion in the current zoning ordinance.
- B) Use of legal fireworks would be limited to July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:01 p.m. to July 4 to 12:01 p.m. and on December 31 from 12 to January 1 12:00. Fireworks that leave the ground and explode are not legal.
- C) Spanier said that a zoning violation cannot be enforced by the Police but rather the Building Commissioner.
- D) Attorney Lyp had suggested increasing the proposed fine for violation for a third offense from \$250.00 to \$500.00.
- E) Lyp also suggested minor changes using the words 'whereas and guests'.
- F) Change parade ordinance – in Section 2(d) to Town of Porter.
- G) Lyp asked that we eliminate the finance sentence in Sect 4. He would like to add "any costs incurred by the Town of Porter to collect any fine, including but not limited to court costs and attorney's fees, shall be reimbursed to the Town of Porter by the violator".
- H) He would like the last sentence of Section 7 deleted.
- I) Should a fee be charged for the permit if one were issued for special events where loud noises were allowed?

From the floor, there was comment by Debbie Childress who was in attendance representing Splash Down Dunes as their general manager. Her concerns were that if the ordinance was not written correctly, future councils could shut down her business. If permits were issued, she felt that they would be at the discretion of current councils. She said in their business, music increases attendance.

Hodges wants an ordinance that covers all noise and not just one for Splash Down Dunes. Her concern is that if you make an exception for one company after the ordinance is passed, the next company will come along and request an exception for them.

Sexton said the current zoning ordinance addresses only those sounds from Industrial districts. Splash Down falls in the Business 3 district.

Dahlin said the noise ordinance addresses "normal range". He thinks this is vague and doesn't aid the police in enforcement.

After more discussion on tabling the matter until the January meeting, Dahlin said this ordinance has been going in circles for months between the Police Commission, Plan Commission and the Town Council. He suggested a workshop including all entities to get final language hammered out and to get the ordinance adopted as soon as possible.

President Donley agreed but said whatever the recommendations, the final decision would be up to the Town Council.

Sexton said he wants Lyp in attendance at such a workshop to provide legal advice. The workshop was set for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. or immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Storm Water Management Board meeting.

The Noise Ordinance was tabled until the workshop.

With no information on the Beach Parking Ordinance from the attorney, it was tabled.

The Police Dispatch Rules and Regulations was also tabled until the attorney could make his recommendations.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dahlin asked for permission to send a letter to Indiana Department of Transportation calling attention to the dangerous intersection at US Hwy 20 and Waverly Rd. (see attached)

After reading the letter, commission complimented Dahlin on the precise and articulate way he described the problem. Members of the Town council in attendance concurred with their opinion.

Dahlin was in contact with State Rep. Charlie Brown who has agreed to look into the town's request for addition traffic signals and delayed signals.

Liaison Jennifer Granat addressed the matter of reducing the Police Commission back to three members. She apologized for taking the matter to the public before asking the commission for their input.

Each of the attending members voiced their opinion on the matter. Pisowicz said that the group works good together and that new member Dahlin has proven an asset to the commission. Dahlin thanked her and said he felt the group was adjusting and now coming together. His recommendation is to leave it at five members.

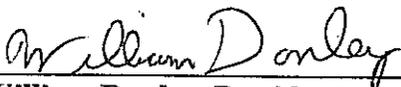
Hodges said that Dahlin had been a good contributor. She has served on both five and three member boards and said she would be in agreement with any decision that the Council makes on the matter. She said no matter what decision is reached, the Commission receives great input from the Chief and that Spanier had been a good choice for this transition period.

President Donley said he had been a member of the Town Council and the three-member board. With five members now, he believes many new ideas have been brought to the table.

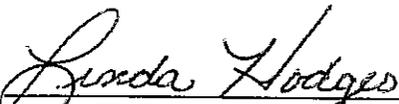
Granat thanked them for their input and said perhaps this should be left at five members for another year. The decision is to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

With no other business, Dahlin made a motion to adjourn. Pisowicz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

In absence of Secretary Rita Newman, Vice- President Linda Hodges respectfully submitted these minutes.



William Donley, President



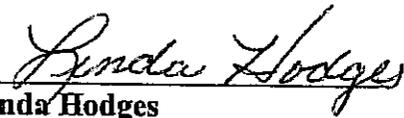
Linda Hodges, Vice-President



Brian Dahlin, Commissioner



Karen Pisowicz, Commissioner

Attest:   
Linda Hodges

Minutes approved this 20 day of Nov, 2005