

**NEW CARLISLE TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING**  
**124 E. MICHIGAN STREET, NEW CARLISLE INDIANA**  
**APRIL 8, 2008, 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Higgins. Present were Vice President Colpitts, Council Member Mell, Council Member Groves, Council Member Gelow and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt. Also in attendance were Sen. Jim Arnold, Lauren Arnold, Bill Herrbach, Larry Brown, Mary Ann Swope, Jason Quirk, Kathy Van Lue, Tom Keen, Marcy Kauffman, Chris Covert, Tracy Grimm, Jack Daly, Pat Cummings, Bob Middlebrook, Tim Kaminski, Jim Ford and Augie Mauer.

**Minutes:**

Council Member Gelow moved to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2008 General Meeting as written. Seconded by Council Member Groves and unanimously approved.

Council Member Groves moved to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2008 Special Meeting as written. Seconded by Council Member Mell and approved. President Higgins abstained.

Council Member Mell moved to waive the rules and move Sen. Jim Arnold to be first on the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Groves, motion passed unanimously.

Senator Jim Arnold was in attendance this evening to give residents a brief recap of the last session:

- House Bill 1001 passed giving immediate property tax relief of approximately 27.7%. He feels that this will create a tremendous shortfall for local governments and that we may possibly end up paying more in taxes with the 1% sales tax increase and possible Local Option Income Tax adoption. He distributed copies of estimates of impact on local government with the passage of this bill.
- Immigration issues were very big.
- Expects Local Government Reform to be the main topic of the next session.

**Employee Reports:**

Larry Brown:

- Reports he has obtained quotes for replacement of the two cars scheduled to be cycled out this year and is currently trying to find a local dealer willing to get within \$500 of the QPA price.
- Suggested possibility of one of the marshal's dept. vehicles scheduled to be cycled out this year be kept as a town vehicle for meter reading, meetings, etc.

Vice President Colpitts stated that he spoke with Pat who felt that one of the cars would work well for Town use.

Vice President Colpitts moved to keep one unit cycled out of Marshal's Department use for use by the Town Crew. Seconded by Council Member Mell, passed unanimously.

**NEW CARLISLE TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 8, 2008, PAGE 2**

- Would like to schedule a meeting with the Town Code Committee next week.

Bill Gumm:

- Gave a Fire Department Update: 152 Runs in the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 2008  
29 Members currently on roster  
Augie & Jason now certified  
New grass rig was used at I/N Tek
- Thanked the Marshal's, Ambulance and Electric Departments for their assistance with recent calls.

Pat Cumming:

- Reports sewer flows have tripled raising the Town's costs significantly. He believes this is due to sump pumps pumping into the sewer system.

Following much discussion Pat was asked to identify the problem and determine a plan of action on this issue. Bill Herrbach will determine if pumping sump pumps into the sewer system is legal.

- Distributed a sample park ordinance for Council review.

Bill Herrbach suggested wording in the sample ordinance allowing the Park Board to acquire real and personal property be changed to recommend acquisition of property. Vice President Colpitts suggested wording regarding contracts be changed to recommend as well. Pat will prepare a rough draft ordinance for the April 22 meeting.

- Would like a change order for Walsh & Kelly to mill and pave East Chestnut Street from the east drive of the bowling alley to Filbert Street. They are willing to do this at last year's cost.

There is sufficient money budgeted in MVH but not yet available. This was tabled until the next meeting to allow Pat time to speak with Walsh & Kelly.

- Received three quotes for the electric department addition. He accepted the lowest quote for two additions (42 x 34 at \$23,020 and 42 x 100 at \$40,876) from Moore Brothers of Dowagiac. He will be installing cubicles in the office as well as a restroom with shower.

President Higgins questioned why use of the house currently on the property was not considered for storage of records and the office. Because Pat has already signed a contract for both additions without the Council's approval or knowledge it was determined that it is too late for consideration of use of the house.

Vice President Colpitts expressed his dissatisfaction as a Council Member with the way this project was handled and stated that parameters must be set to ensure this does not happen again.

**NEW CARLISLE TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 8, 2008, PAGE 3**

Bill Herrbach:

- Prepared resolutions for tax abatement for the April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- Met with Bob Middlebrook as well as the realtor reference 230 E. Michigan Street. The realtor is in the process of working on the property.

**Old Business:**

- Lincoln Highway Kiosk: Council Member Groves showed the proposed design of the kiosk. Placement in front of the town hall was previously approved.

Council Member Mell moved to accept the proposed kiosk design. Seconded by Vice President Colpitts the motion passed. Council Member Groves abstained.

- PUD Ordinance Discussion: Bill will prepare a rough draft for the next meeting.
- Historic New Carlisle Tree Planting: HNC will be doing their annual tree planting on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Vice President Colpitts moved to waive the \$2.00 fee for tree planting in tree lawns. Motion seconded by Council Member Mell and passed. Council Member Groves abstained.
- Sewer Adjustment at 129 E. Front Street: The homeowner had a pipe in the crawl space under the home break during the cold weather resulting in a 22,000 gallon usage, approximately 20,000 over her monthly average, for the month of February 20-March 20.

Council Member Mell moved to adjust the water portion of the bill for 129 E. Front Street to an average usage for the past 12 months. Council Member Groves seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Council Reports:**

President Higgins:

- Reports that restitution in the amount of \$80,473.56 was made for Cathy Keck. The Prosecutor's Office has made no determination in the case to date.

Council Member Mell stated that he spoke with Mark Roule of the Prosecutor's Office and feels that the Council and citizens do have a voice in this case.

Vice President Colpitts asked that it be noted that restitution was made on behalf of Mrs. Keck.

- Will institute a new procedure for the April 15<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard. Those who wish to speak will be asked to sign in with their name and address. Each person will be allowed three minutes. An opportunity to sign up to speak will be offered before public speaking begins and again after.

**NEW CARLISLE TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 8, 2008, PAGE 4**

Vice President Colpitts:

- Requested executive sessions be scheduled for department head reviews. He feels these should be done on a yearly basis.

Executive sessions were scheduled:

April 22 at 5:30 – Pat Cummings  
May 13 at 5:30 – Larry Brown  
May 27 at 5:30 – Kenny Davis

Council Member Mell:

- Asks that Council Members please review the Sidewalk Café Ordinance included in their packets. This ordinance was tabled previously and he would like to see it looked at again.

**Public Comments:**

- Mary Ann Swope: Was able to track down the owner of the property across from the cemetery, has left a message and is awaiting a return call. She will keep the Council informed.
- Jack Daly: Asked if the I/N Tek proposal is available for public review.

Mr. Daly was informed that copies of all information are available in the Clerk's Office.

Council Member Gelow moved that all bills be paid as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mell and unanimously passed.

Council Member Mell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Gelow the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Attest:

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Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer