

TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING
124 E. MICHIGAN STREET, NEW CARLISLE, INDIANA
MAY 13, 2008, 7:00 P.M..

President Higgins called the meeting to order with Vice-President Colpitts, Council Member Mell, Council Member Groves, Council Member Gelow and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt present. Also in attendance were Roger Nawrot, Bill Herrbach, Larry Brown, Pat Cummings, Chris Covert, Theresa Barnes, John Mrozinski, Kim Mrozinski, Tim Kaminski, Deb Adnson, Drew Adams, Amy Moore, Joyce Ratasepp, Robert Hollingsworth, Bill Gumm, Jim Ford, Augie Mauer, Neil Brioli, Jason Quirk, Candie Drake, Mary Ann Swope, Carol Middlebrook, Michelle Thompson, Kathy VanLue, Dawn Ebersole, Dave Hoffman and Ken Davis.

Dave Hoffman of Hoffman Benefit Group, Inc. gave a presentation on proposed insurance plans for Town employees. Schedule of benefits, cost/savings analysis and plan comparisons were distributed to the Council and employees for review.

Employee and Council questions were answered following the presentation. President Higgins thanked Mr. Hoffman for the informative presentation.

Minutes

Council Member Mell moved to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2008 Executive Session as written. Motion seconded by Council Member Groves, passed unanimously.

Council Member Mell moved to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2008 General Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Vice President Colpitts, passed unanimously.

Employee Reports

Bill Gumm

- The Fire Territory Committee met April 19th. There have been many legislative changes and the committee continues to research fire territories. He was told that the Olive Twp. Trustee is not interested in becoming a fire territory at the present time.
- The Firemen's Ball is scheduled for June 14th.
- The Intergovernmental Meeting will be June 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Larry Brown:

- Spoke with Bob Middlebrook recently regarding businesses in Town. Most communities require businesses to register with the town/city. Both Larry and Bob feel that it would be in the best interest of the Town to issue some type of registration. This is to be an agenda item for the May 27th meeting.

Pat Cummings:

- Was approached by Cooreman Real Estate Group regarding placing advertising benches in Town.

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An agent from Remax Irish explained that they would like to put 6' vinyl park benches, with an advertisement for Remax on the back, in various areas around Town.

This was tabled until a written proposal is received.

- Reports that the Cemetery Board recommends Rich Kopkowski to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of John Gelow.

Vice President Colpitts moved that Rich Kopkowski be appointed to the Cemetery Board. Seconded by Council Member Mell, passed. Council Member Groves abstained.

- Will be completing review of the public works section of the code book on Thursday with Roger.
- Reports that the Town does have an ordinance prohibiting pumping storm water into the sanitary sewers.
- During a temporary power outage on Marvel Lane the sewer flows at the lift station remained high. Pat believes that the Town's sewer line on Marvel Lane, installed in the 1950s, is the biggest problem as opposed to sump pumps pumping ground water in the sewer system as he previously believed.

Pat asked for Council approval to have Abe's Free Flow televise and clean the lines. Cost would be \$1750 for 550' of televising and cleaning. Roger reports that the cost to televise the entire run would be \$6,000.

Following much discussion, Council Member Gelow moved to spend no more than \$6,000 for televising and cleaning of the lines from the viaduct lift station west to Race Street. Seconded by Council Member Mell and unanimously approved.

Bill Herrbach:

- Would like to attend the IMLA Conference in June. The cost is \$260 with an additional \$139 for the room for one night in Indianapolis.

Vice President Colpitts asked if the Town could share costs with the other towns Bill represents. Bill will check with the other Towns and report back to the Council.

- Continues work on the codification. Many ordinances have separate penalty provisions and he would like to have all penalties and fines in one appendix. This would make referencing penalties as well as changing them in the future much easier.
- We will need to send all ordinances passed since June of 2007 to the codification company

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Council Reports:

President Higgins:

- Is bothered greatly that vacations are not approved. She distributed copies of a proposed form that would be filled out by each employee, including supervisors, for vacation, personal and professional leave. The forms would need to be filled out at least one day in advance of the leave day and returned to the Clerk's Office. She proposes that each employee request be approved by the department supervisor. Department head requests would be approved by a Council Member.

Vice President Colpitts moved that the new leave request form be implemented as well as added to the employee handbook if required. Motion seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

- Reported as a follow up to the discussion at the April 22 meeting that tax monies were not used for funding the Cemetery until 2006. Since that time the amount of tax monies used have increased to an estimated \$46,844 for the current year. She feels that this needs to be looked into very carefully.

Council Member Mell:

- Wants an explanation as to why the Town Hall renovation has not been completed and asked that someone from Brown and Brown attend the next meeting. Pat stated that he will have a representative here for the May 27th meeting.
- Inquired about the completion of the street project on Marvel Lane. Pat reports that they need the correct temperatures to be able to finish.

Council Member Groves:

- The Park Board recommends hiring Kari McLaughlin as the Summer Parks Program Director.

Council Member Groves moved that Kari McLaughlin be hired to fill the position of Summer Parks Program Director at the same salary as last year. Seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

Vice President Colpitts:

- Would like to look seriously at annexation as soon as possible, beginning with the three businesses just over the LaPorte County Line

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that we currently provide water and sewer services for. He would also like to look at possibly annexing the Allegheny property prior to something going in on that property.

Council Member Groves stated that the Steering Committee has recommended that annexing to the west be a high priority.

Bill stated that we would need to begin by speaking with the LaPorte County Commissioners. We have in the past done only voluntary annexations. He will have information for the next meeting.

Vice President Colpitts suggested that the industrial area east of Town be considered for annexation as well.

- Has reviewed the list of possible sidewalk programs and would like to look very seriously at implementing a program.

Roger suggested possibly a 10-15 year plan.

Clerk-Treasurer Report:

- Reported that, with a tremendous amount of help from Larry Brown and Chris Covert, the records in storage at the old building have been sorted. A list of records for destruction was presented per Ordinance #1014. Reports that she would use Mountain High Shredding of Mishawaka for the document destruction and certification.

Vice President Colpitts moved that the Council approve the list of records presented for destruction. Seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

- Distributed a Money Handling Policy to be implemented in the Clerk's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Neil Brioli:

- Asked that parking be prohibited on the west side of Bray Street in the 100 S. Block and both sides of Michigan Street in the 300 W. block during Home Town Days.
- Informed the Council about The Remembrance Ride and The Ice Cream Run, two motorcycle rides that would be coming through Town with 300-400 riders in each. He distributed info to the Council as well as the Marshal's Department on each.

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- The Legion will again sponsor a Welcome Home at the Legion during Home Town Days July 25, 26 and 27th.

Amy Moore:

- Requests information on dangerous dogs as she and another neighbor have concerns regarding dogs in her neighborhood.

Larry stated that our ordinance cites behaviors that would be deemed dangerous as opposed to breeds of dogs and he would be happy to discuss this if they would like to come and see him.

Drew Adams:

- Would like permission to burn a large brush pile on his property.

He was asked to contact Fire Chief Bill Gumm.

Theresa Barnes:

- Feels that clarification is needed regarding sump pumps discussed at previous meetings as many people drain washers into their sump pumps.

Clarification was made as follows: Pumping of ground water into the sanitary sewer system is prohibited.

Council Member Gelow moved to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mell, motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Mell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Groves the meeting was adjourned.

Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer

