

TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING
124 E. MICHIGAN STREET, NEW CARLISLE, INDIANA
MAY 27, 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, , Pat Cummings, Chris Covert, Jason Quirk, Candie Drake, Jill Doll, Davy Doll, Brian Thompson, Augie Mauer, Debbie Adnson, Jim Banaszak, Kenny Davis, Jack Huston, Chris Antonucci, Jim Ford, Werner Moser, Drew Adams, Bill Gumm, Marcy Kauffman, and Mike Johnston.

Minutes

Council Member Gelow moved to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2008 General Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Council Member Groves, passed unanimously.

Employee Reports

Chris Covert

- A rough draft of the new Marshal's Department SOP will be ready for the next meeting.
- The replacement radar trailer will be arriving soon.

President Higgins thanked Chris Covert and Brian Thompson for stepping up to the plate these last few days.

Pat Cummings:

- Met recently with IMMUDA for the true-up with AEP. This will need to be included in the tracking factor and Umbaugh will figure this for a cost of \$900.00.
- Presented a letter received from Embarq concerning the agreement for pole attachment signed previously. The wording of the original document stated a term of 30 years but should have read terms in five year increments renewable for 5 terms.

Vice President Colpitts moved to accept the amended agreement. Seconded by Council Member Groves, passed unanimously.

- In reference to the ground water issue, flows have gone down. The lines were viewed with a camera and cleaned and he reports that the lines looked good. The issue was found to be laterals from residences on Marvel Lane and Zigler Street, affecting 20-30 homes.

Pat distributed copies of the letter he prepared to be delivered to residents stating that pumping ground water into the sanitary sewer is prohibited.

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President Higgins expressed concern with putting an additional burden on residents in these economic hard times.

Resident Drew Adams stated that he feels that the Town should make a good faith effort before homeowners are asked to dig into their pockets.

Augie stated that there are two lines starting at the Roloff/Adams property. One runs to the viaduct and is currently plugged. The second runs to the Niespodziany Ditch and is open. He stated that perhaps we could put individual drains into this line.

President Higgins asked that Roger send a letter to the State regarding the plugged line. Augie stated that the Town will be working with the State to clean this line.

Marcy Kauffman suggested that, because this could drag on for months if residents don't have the funds, the Town share in the costs with homeowners as money would be recouped in savings on sewer costs.

President Higgins closed the public discussion and stated that the Town will continue to explore options.

Council Member Groves suggested holding off on delivery of the letter until other avenues are explored.

Vice President Colpitts stated that he feels the bottom line is that there is an ordinance in place prohibiting storm water into the sanitary sewer.

The Council gave approval for the letter Pat prepared to be delivered.

Groundwater and storm water are to be placed on the next agenda as old business.

Bill Gumm:

- Reports that repairs are currently being made to #943 and #951.

Bill Herrbach:

- Spoke with the LaPorte County Commissioners concerning annexation and reports that they were very receptive. They asked that we prepare a description of the area being considered.
- Has received no corporation papers for New Prairie Little League as requested and the Town is unable to move forward with a lease agreement with the Little League for the concession stand/restroom facility until received.
- Spoke with the codification company and has received an extension of the legal review until June 27th. We will need to include the new Police SOP.

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- Trail Creek will pay the full amount of the IMLA Conference in Indianapolis.
- Submitted the PUD Ordinance to the Area Plan Office for review.

Ken Davis:

- Will have a billing agency agreement prepared in the next few weeks.
- Had a repeater fail two weeks ago and had one loaned temporarily to the Ambulance Service. Reports that we must now replace the repeater at a cost of \$1,950.40. This amount will be covered by ambulance funds.

Council Member Mell moved to authorize Ken to purchase the new repeater. Motion seconded by Council Member Groves and passed unanimously.

Roger Nawrot:

- Sidewalks have been installed on Race Street by Weiss Homes.

Old Business:

Brown & Brown – Town Hall Renovation

- Council Member Mell was satisfied with the work and update following his meeting with Eric of Brown and Brown. There are, however, still issues to be resolved.

Sidewalks

- President Higgins read a letter from Olive Elementary student Aidan Cotter expressing concern about the sidewalks in Town.

Roger reports that 50-50 programs usually work well and that there is a “Safe Routes to School Grant” available for sidewalk repair/installation. The grant application just closed for this year so we would need to look into this next March or April.

It was decided that Council Members would review sidewalk options and then select a plan and how to prioritize installation and repair at the next meeting.

Tax Abatement:

- Bill reports that we are currently limited by state statute on commercial abatement as opposed to manufacturing.

New Business:

- Bill gave the highlights of the ordinance. Of major concern is ADA compliance with a 5’ clearance.

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Resident Jack Huston, owner of Huston Hardware, expressed concern with this ordinance being too restrictive. President Higgins asked that Pat look into Mr. Huston's property and work with him.

The Council felt that the fee listed on Page 2 of the Café Ordinance should be set at \$10.00 annually. Bill will add this to the ordinance.

Vice President Colpitts moved to send the Café Ordinance to Area Plan for review and professional recommendation. Seconded by Council Member Gelow and passed unanimously. Bill will fill in the Annual Fee and forward to Area Plan.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Ordinance #1196 – An Ordinance setting Ambulance Fees

Vice President Colpitts moved to waive the rules and pass Ordinance #1196 tonight. Seconded by Council Member Mell, passed unanimously.

President Higgins read Ordinance #1196 in its entirety.

Council Member Mell moved to adopt Ordinance #1196. Motion seconded by Vice President Colpitts and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #1198 – An Ordinance of Compensation of Town Employees

Council Member Mell moved to waive the rules and adopt Ordinance #1198 tonight. Council Member Groves seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

President Higgins read Ordinance #1198 in its entirety.

Council Member Mell moved to adopt Ordinance #1198. Motion seconded by Council Member Groves and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #1197 – An Ordinance Regarding the Parks Department

President Higgins read Ordinance #1197 by caption only for the first reading.

Council Reports:

President Higgins:

- Tony Catanzarite will give an insurance presentation at the Town Hall on June 2nd at 3:30 p.m.
- Read a letter from Olive Elementary student Miah Nickerson expressing her concerns about the pot holes in the streets in Town.

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Vice President Colpitts:

- Reports that Chris is ready to go ahead with the new building as soon as the electric department completes the move to the new Walnut Road building.

Council Member Groves:

- Expressed thanks to Twin Silos Nursery for landscaping the two Town entrance signs and also to all of the volunteers who planted the planters.
- Reports that one piece of playground equipment was rescued and is now at the Town garage.

Following much discussion as to what could be done with this piece of equipment, it was determined that it would have to be placed in a silent auction.

Vice President Colpitts stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 10th several people will be out of town. Following discussion the June meeting was changed to Wednesday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer