

**TOWN COUNCIL – GENERAL MEETING  
124 E. MICHIGAN STREET, NEW CARLISLE, INDIANA  
AUGUST 26, 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, Ken Davis, Jason Quirk, Sandy Colpitts, Mary Ann Swope, Marcy Kauffman, Carolyn Middlebrook, Kathy VanLue, Brian Woodcox, Dale Woodcox, Mike Johnston, Chris Antonucci, Jim Ford, Tim Kaminski, August Mauer, Tom Roesner, Bob Middlebrook, Bill Gumm, Mike Tuszynski, Andy Myer, Tony Bellegante, Jim Spite, Brian Countryman, Brian Gray, Kaylor Keck, Mike McClaren, Mickey Mouse, Stan Minasian, Bryan Bradshaw, Ken Shipley, Tom Pietrzak, Joshua Schweizer.

**Minutes**

Council Member Gelow moved to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2008 General Meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

**Employee Reports**

**Pat Cummings**

- They have gone through approximately 1/3 of the Code Book and will continue when Bill Herrbach returns from vacation.
- The Cemetery Board may want to make changes to rates and charges.
- Construction on the Walnut Road water main for Air Gas will begin soon.

**Augie Mauer**

- Exploratory jetting on East Michigan Street has revealed that both lines are intact but  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of sand. He would like Council approval to have Abe's Free Flow "bucket out" the lines at a cost of approximately \$5400 - \$9000 as this is the only way to get the sand out.

Roger stated that this should alleviate the flooding issue.

Council Member Mell moved to authorize up to \$9000 to bucket out both lines. Motion seconded by Council Member Gelow and passed unanimously.

Augie would also like to camera the lines to be sure there are no leaks in the pipes. He will get cost estimates for the next meeting.

Roger will contact the State prior to doing the project to see if the state will help with the cost as the lines are in the right-of-way.

President Higgins changed the order of the agenda at this time to address two issues this evening.

### **Council Reports:**

- President Higgins responded to the Herald Argus article regarding park fees.

As an elected official she feels it is her responsibility to watch out for the taxpayers of the Town of New Carlisle. Therefore she can't have any special projects, hidden agendas, nor favor one group over another. She must be totally impartial with her focus on all people in the Town. In this year's budget we are allotting \$64,000 for our Town's parks from property taxes. A portion of this funds the Summer Park's Program which is a wonderful program. A good number of these children are not Town residents nor are they charged anything for participation. We have a number of things we want to do in the park including walkway and gazebo repairs as well as purchase of new equipment. At the workshop she stated she feels that since there are so many people who use our park and are welcome, the most feasible way to help with costs would be that when groups such as the little league holds sign up and the family lives outside the Town limits they would be assessed \$1 - noting we certainly aren't going to charge to play Frisbee or walk with your significant other as mentioned in the Herald Argus.

- Excerpts of comments made regarding the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Herald Argus article:

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Middlebrook spoke on behalf of the Fire Department in response to an article. Before beginning he stated that he does believe that Ron was misquoted in the article but was asked to read his statement anyway.

"The man elected to be the Chief must make life or death decisions under the most extreme conditions" and "he is selected from the most experienced, highly trained and most dedicated members of the Fire Department. A man would never be considered for the job whom we could not trust with our lives." "I have been on the department for 35 years and seen a lot of people come and go. Only the best ones stay with it and only the best of the best are elected to lead us. Bill Gumm has our confidence and we will give him our loyalty as long as he is our Chief.

Vice President Colpitts stated that a conversation took place between he and Council Member Gelow at the work session concerning the fire department budget. He does not look at a fire chief in the same way the firemen do. He looks at the business aspect as well and feels that all departments must be able to justify what they spend their dollars and cents on and it the Council's responsibility to oversee that. He said further that he was misquoted and that it is very unfortunate that the reporter took snippets of what was said by both he and President Higgins and sensationalized them. He called the Editor yesterday and they immediately re-wrote the story and took the comment section off.

Vice President Colpitts apologized again for the report and stressed that no one ever questioned the credibility of the Fire Chief. He understands totally having someone you have confidence in and depend on when the going gets tough. He assured the Firemen

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that he is here to work with them stating "I appreciate everything you do and don't ever think for a minute or let anyone tell you that I don't because I do appreciate everything you do."

Council Member Gelow

- Proposed that all meetings of any kind be taped from this date forward.

Council Member Groves:

- Lincoln Highway Kiosk Dedication will be October 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

President Higgins:

- An invitation is extended by the Community Church to everyone to attend a service honoring Police, Fire and EMS at 11:00 September 7<sup>th</sup> at the church. A service to honor deceased firemen will be held prior to that at 10:30 at the cemetery. A pot luck dinner will follow the church service.

Vice President Colpitts:

- Reports that he and Ken Davis met with Dawn Krueger of Hamilton Communities recently regarding their consideration of having an ambulance service on site 40 hours per week.

A major concern would be that contract services with ALS could run calls outside of Hamilton Groves as well as those calls generated by Hamilton Grove. Kenny is currently working on a study to determine the feasibility of the Town placing an ambulance on site. They have an ambulance bay and would like one ambulance and 2 people 40 hours per week. He reports that currently 27% of calls come from Hamilton Grove. He will schedule a meeting with Ambulance Billing Services Consultants.

President Higgins stated that we need to work very hard to make this work. All Council Members were in agreement.

- Vice President Colpitts reports that he has received the resignation of Deputy Marshal Bobby Heflin effective August 25, 2008.

Vice President Colpitts moved to accept the resignation effective August 25, 2008. Council Member Mell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business:**

- New Prairie Little League Lease Agreement

Council Member Groves reports that Little League Attorney Scott Keller's recommendations were sent to Bill but the agreement had not been revised.

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Vice President Colpitts objected to Item #6 as a 50% reduction is already given to not-for-profit organizations by ordinance.

Council Member Groves asks that this be reviewed and corrected and a special meeting be held to get this approved as soon as possible. She will forward suggested corrections to Bill Herrbach.

- Random Drug Testing

Tim Kaminski stated that the employee handbook already allows any non-safety sensitive employee to be randomly tested. Vice President Colpitts feels that random drug testing should absolutely be mandatory anyway. Tabled for input from Mr. Herrbach.

Public Comment:

Bill Gumm:

- The Ladder truck responded to a working fire on the roof of 5-Star Sheets.
- Bill reports that he has taken an active role in setting the 2009 budget meeting with Sue and Yvonne several times.

Bill continued discussion of the misquote in the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Herald Argus in the “hope to gain a little bit of credit back for 19 years of hard work.”

Vice President Colpitts stated that this was discussed at length in the meeting last night and he felt everyone came away with an understanding that nobody questioned Bill’s credibility as a fireman or fire chief. It was a misquote and he knows it made Bill mad and it made him mad, too. He apologized once again for not calling on Friday due to personal reasons.

President Higgins stated that “it must be said again that never once was Bill Gumm’s quality as a fireman ever questioned. There is nothing but the greatest praise for Chris Antonucci before him and Bill now. We do respect them and we truly appreciate the time they give to the Town. This is an unfortunate situation, but as Ron said, we must work to put this behind us because we must work together.”

Council Member Groves moved to pay all bills as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

Council Member Mell moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Groves and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Attest:

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Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer