

COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

Present were council members President Greg Stinson, Vice President David Phillips, William Lopez, Attorney Laura Frost, Attorney Gregg Sobkowski, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Jay Craig, Park Director Brian Bugajski, MVH Director Sarah Olson and Building Commissioner Michael Barry. Council member Brian Finley was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – CEDIT

Stinson open the public hearing at 7:01 and asked if anyone was opposed or in favor of the public hearing regarding the additional appropriation for CEDIT. No one answered and he closed the public hearing at 7:02.

PUBLIC HEARING – RE-ESTABLISHING CCD RATES

Stinson opened the public hearing at 7:02 and asked if anyone was opposed or in favor of the public hearing regarding re-establishing the CCD rates. No one answered and he closed the public hearing at 7:03.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wagner made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Lopez made a motion to approve the claims and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Annette Hanson 218 Dunes Highway 12, is from the Izaak Walton League Porter County Chapter requested approval from the Council to hold a “Gnomes Day Out” Fairy Festival and Art Show at Hawthorne Park on Saturday, June 12, 2021 with a rain date of Saturday, June 26th. The three-part festival is planned to feature a marketplace with Fairy-themed wares and food for purchase, a children’s activity/craft area, and an area featuring fairy/woodland themed art and artists. The festival is free and open to the public, but the Izaak Walton League suggests a donation of \$15/child to offset costs to participate in the activity/craft area. The event is expected to draw around 250 participants, and has a COVID-19 safety plan submitted to the Porter County Health Department. All food vendors are approved by the Porter County Health Department. Any proceeds from the festival would be used by the Izaak Walton League for

youth nature conservation education. Insurance, portable toilets, and sanitation stations will be provided by the Izaak Walton League. Chief Spanier noted that she would need an Assemblage permit. Lopez made a motion to approve and Phillips made the second and the vote 4-0, motion passed.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy explained to the council that Indiana Dunes Lakeshore had a hydrant break underground and they did not know it. Their January and March sewer bill has almost doubled and they are asking for an adjustment. The council agreed to go back for 3 years for each billing period and take the highest bill for January and March bill. Since they have paid both bills the council agreed to adjust their billings in the amount of \$1,779.73. Lopez made the motion to adjust the January and March bills to reflect an adjustment of \$1,779.73 for the two billing periods and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Spanier congratulated Lieutenant Joseph Torok and his retirement is March 24th and wanted to thank him for 27 years of service. He will be very difficult to replace. He noted that at the last Police Commission meeting, they agreed to do a promotion from within the police department to fill his spot. There are 3 highly qualified candidates that would like to be promoted. They are going to have an executive session next Tuesday the 30th of March and their regular meeting directly thereafter to do a promotion of one of the three officers from part time to full time with a lateral transfer. Spanier is hoping to get someone hired before summer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

MVH Director Olson announced that spring cleanup is starting on April 12th and run through April 23rd. She said the rules still apply to leaves and brush.

PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

Park Director Bugajski gave an update on the new floor in the Community Building. 95% of the floor has been removed and will start laying new floor tomorrow and hope to have it finished by next week. He asked for a request to move forward with contracting with Abonmarche Consultants for procurement and construction oversight of the Lake Pratt walkway, the project was advertised and opened bids last week, they were the lowest and most responsive bidder

and that was a contract in the amount of \$14,900 and is part of the Lake Michigan Coastal program grant. Bugajski noted that this is a 50/50 grant and half of this money will come out of the park's operating budget and the other half will be paid from the grant. Stinson asked for a motion to approve the bid from Abonmarche in the amount of \$14,900 for the Lake Michigan Coastal AT Lake Pratt project with \$7,450 will be paid for out of park operating budget, Wagner made a motion to approve the bid with park operating budget paying \$7,450 and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

Stinson stated that he has spent numerous hour at Hawthorne Park with his dogs and commented how nice it looks and well-kept it is.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER REPORT

Building Commissioner Barry presented 15 new contractors for approval. Lopez made a motion to approve the 15 new contractors and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2021-02 TEMPORARY SIGNS – REVISED

Stinson read Ordinance 2021-02 by title only and noted that this was tabled at the last meeting to make changes to the language and asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-02, Phillips made the motion and Lopez made the second, Sobkowski noted that once the council takes action on this ordinance it will go back to Plan Commission. Stinson said that if the council adopts this tonight then it will go back to the Plan Commission for their approval or rejection. Attorney Laura Frost stated that if they reject the ordinance it will come back to the council and they will decide which version they want and vote on it the way the council changed it and it will go into effect. If the council does not vote on it the second time then it goes into effect the way the Plan Commission originally sent it. Stinson asked for a vote, vote 4-0, motion passed and Ordinance 2021-02 is adopted and it will go back to Plan Commission for their April meeting for their consideration.

STRING ALONG QUILTS

Stinson said at last meeting a representative from String-Along-Quilts came to the council requesting for a couple of presenters to sell their patterns and the council made a motion for the vendors to be able to sell their patterns Phillips made a motion to allow the vendors to sell their patterns at their event and Lopez made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2021-04 Additional Appropriation –CEDIT

Stinson read Ordinance 2021-04 by title only and asked for a motion to suspend the rules to have second reading on this Ordinance 2021-04n Wagner made the motion to suspend the rules and have second reading and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed. Stinson

read for the second time by title only and asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-04 and Lopez made said motion and Wagner made the second, 4-0 motion was adopted.

ORDINANCE 2021-05 RE-ESTABLISHING CCD RATES

Stinson read Ordinance 2021-05 by title only and stated there is no rush on this, to place on next agenda. Phillips asked what the current rate now since it is going up to .05? Stinson noted that the current rate is .0396. Stinson stated that the last raise was in March of 2017. He noted that it goes down a little bit each year and since the process is so lengthy and time consuming, our financial consultants suggest that we wait until it drops to a sufficient rate. He noted that .05 is the maximum allowed for CCD rates.

ORDINANCE 2021-06 Amending Employees handbook – Bridging Benefits

Stinson read Ordinance 2021-06 by title only and asked this be placed on next agenda for second reading.

ABONMARCHE – PROJECT DIRECTIVE 002

Stinson turned this over to Barry to present. Barry stated that this is for the Comprehensive Plan. They have already sent a revised version with a corrected signature box. This is to update all the maps in the Comprehensive Plan. The 1st map that they have to correct is the existing Land Use map and once this is corrected then they will work on Future Land Use maps. There is a not to exceed fee of \$5,000 which is probably twice as much that is needed and that is so they do not have to come back and ask for approval. Stinson asked for a motion to approve the Abonmarche Project task Directive 002 not to exceed \$5,000, Wagner made motion and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2021-07 – COVID SICK LEAVE

Stinson did first reading by title only, he clarified that we passed this in January and since we have a policy in place for employees to stay out for a variety of reasons and was covered until the end of 2020 and that law expired and the council implemented this policy and allowed it to run through March 31st. He stated that vaccines are not completely available to everyone depending on your age group. This ordinance will extend it to May 31st by then we should be ahead with vaccinations. Since this is time sensitive because the original ordinance will expire on March 31st he asked for a motion to suspend the rules to have second reading. Wagner made motion to suspend the rules and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed. Stinson preformed second reading by title only and asked for a motion to adopt. Lopez made a motion to adopt this ordinance and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lopez thanked Joe Torok for his service and wished him well.

36 CP

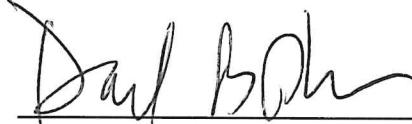
Stinson said that pursuant to Indiana Code ~~37~~-07-04-13 that he has received the 2020 TIF Management Annual Report from the Redevelopment Commission.

Phillips made a motion to adjourn and Wagner made the second vote 4-0.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2021.



Greg Stinson, President



David Phillips, Vice President



Erik Wagner



William Lopez

ATTESTED


Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer