

## COUNCIL MINUTES

July 27, 2021

Present were council members President Greg Stinson, Vice President David Phillips, Erik Wagner, Brian Finley and William Lopez, Attorney Gregg Sobkowski, Police Chief Todd Allen, Fire Chief Jay Craig, Park Director Brian Bugajski, Building Commissioner Michael Barry, and Public Works Superintendent James Spanier.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Finley made a motion to adopt the June 22, 2021 minutes as written and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Phillips made a motion to approve the claims and sewer adjustments as presented and Finley made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jennifer Klug, Franklin Street, requested council minutes be posted as draft on the website because more residents will become involved. Stinson noted that posting draft minutes will not get people more involved and told Pomeroy to post draft minutes when available.

James Wagner N. River Drive, raised concerns about safety issues of people riding their dirt bikes and ATV's down the road when people are walking on the street. Wagner also noted that a resident is working on an outboard motor at 9:30pm and revving the engine. Stinson said if there is a noise problem or riding on the road to call the police while it is happening. Nothing can be done afterwards. Wagner also stated that a resident has made a dirt bike trail on his property. Stinson stated that a resident can ride their ATV's or dirt bikes on their own property.

Lori Coppinger, Franklin Street, noted that she has a child enrolled at the Discovery School and has applied for an assemblage permit at Discovery Charter school. She is very concerned about things that are happening at the school and wants to have a protest against their rules regarding face mask etc. Stinson said that the town does not have any authority over how their school is run. They are part of the education system. As long as they do not block the traffic and it is a peaceful protest they have a right to your opinion.

Brett Bottorff State Street, said he bought a house at Porter beach last year and he has a few issues regarding Porter beach parking passes, he would like a permit issued for golf carts to park in lot. Stinson said that the ordinance would have to be changed because it involves registering your vehicle by showing your registration, a golf cart does not have vehicle registration so that is an issue. Each permit issued is assigned to a specific vehicle and with the registration it has the license plate number and all information for police to see that the permit is issued to the right vehicle. A golf cart does not have a registration and would not be able to be checked.

His second question was about residency that they need an Indiana driver's license to receive a town of Porter rate. He stated that his primary residence is in Illinois and has a house at Porter Beach and would have been denied a permit. Stinson noted that this year only Porter residents could receive a permit. Other years anyone could get a permit by showing driver's license and vehicle registration and were charged the appropriate rate. Bottorff noted that he is paying property taxes here and should qualify as a resident. Stinson also noted that he is not registering his vehicle in Porter and so we are not receiving tax money. Stinson said that the council will look into this later in the year when they do a new ordinance.

#### CLERK TREASURE REPORTS

Pomeroy stated that she has received \$57.00 from Anton Insurance with regards to Workmen's Comp audit and would like approval to enter into appropriation 101-001-342 liability insurance, Wagner made the motion to enter \$57.00 into appropriation 101-001-342 and Finley made the second, motion passed 5-0.

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

None

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Allen presented an assemblage permit for the Porter Volunteer fireman 5K run on July 31 for approval. He noted that everything was in order including insurance, Finley made a motion to approve the assemblage permit and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0 motion passed.

Allen also presented an assemblage permit for Spring House Inn to have an outside event with music from 3:00pm to 11:00pm he noted that he does not have a copy of insurance but they said they will provide it later. Phillips made a motion to approve the assemblage permit pending receiving a copy of their insurance and Finley made the second, vote 5-0 motion passed.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Public Works Superintendent Spanier sent out for quotes for a 2021 Ford 550 dump truck. Spanier noted that the quote was generic because no one has any dump trucks. Spanier said that he received only two quotes, the lowest offer is from Castle Ford for \$56,524 minus a trade in of \$4,000 for a total of \$52,524. Spanier noted that with the current problem with employees he is going to also get quotes to equip the truck with a plow and a spreader box to use as a spare plow or for a non-CDL driver. Finley made a motion to approve buying the Ford 550 dump truck and Wagner made the second, motion passed 5-0.

Spanier also said that he received a Workmen's Comp audit refund from Anton insurance and wants it entered into appropriation 201-001-342 in the amount of \$5,740, Lopez made a motion to enter refund in appropriation 201-001-342 and Phillips made the second, vote 5-0.

Spanier also thanked his employees for working overtime last weekend.

#### PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

Park Director Brian Bugajski reported that the Duneland Seniors group had approached him with three separate requests requiring Council approval. The first was to request permission to hold a White Elephant fundraiser at the Community Building on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The event would only be for Duneland Seniors members and the funds raised would be used for Duneland Seniors activities. Lopez made a motion to approve the request, Finley made second and the motion passed 5-0.

The second Duneland Seniors request was to use the East Shelter at Hawthorne Park free of charge on September 5<sup>th</sup> for a member's picnic. Bugajski explained that the group uses the Community Building free of charge due to the building's original intent of being a senior center, but shelters are not covered by that policy. Wagner made a motion to approve the request, Phillips made the second and asked what the value of a shelter rental was. Bugajski stated that a normal shelter rental is \$50, and \$25 if a non-profit. Wagner made a motion to approve the request and Lopez made the second, motion passed 5-0.

The third Duneland Seniors request was to hold their annual Health and Wellness Fair on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm at the Community Building. Bugajski noted that while the event is hosted by the Duneland Seniors, it is open to the public at large and features several health screenings, preventative testing, and flu shots by Walgreens. Lopez made a motion to approve the request and Wagner made a second and motion passed 5-0.

Finally Bugajski reported that the department had received a Workman's Comp audit refund from Anton Insurance in the amount of \$217.00. He requested to receipt that amount into appropriation 216-001-342, Park Liability Insurance. Finley made a motion to approve the request and Wagner made the second, motion passed 5-0.

#### BUILDING COMMISSIONER REPORT

Building Commissioner Barry presented 12 new contractors for approval, Lopez made a motion to approve the 12 new contractors and Finley made the second, vote 5-0 motion passed.

Barry said he received a letter regarding the Waverly Road Little Calumet bridge next to the pedestrian bridge and Porter County will be rebuilding that bridge. They will be acquiring a small piece of property from the Park and we should be receiving an offer soon.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT – FIRE DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL PARK

Stinson asked for a motion to approve the mutual aid agreement between the fire department and National Park, Lopez made a motion to approve the mutual aid agreement between the fire department and National Park and Finley made the second, vote 5-0, motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stinson reminded all employees and department heads to send a voided check to town hall for direct deposit for payroll by Friday.

Finley made a motion to adjourn and Phillips made the second, motion passed 5-0.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

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President, Greg Stinson

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Erik Wagner

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Brian Finley

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Vice President David Phillips

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William Lopez

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasure