

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting – January 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk-Treasurer. All Council Members were present. Also in attendance were Roger Nawrot, Pat Cummings, Candie Drake, Chris Covert, Carol Middlebrook, Skip Parmley, Neil Brioli, Dave Thomas, Butch Luke, Jason Quirk, Augie Mauer, Steve Brooks, Mary Ann Swope, Drew Adams, Bill Gumm and Steve Vojtko.

The floor was opened for 2009 Council President nominations. Council Member Gelow motioned to retain Carolyn Higgins as Council President. The motion was seconded by Council Member Colpitts. There being no further nominations, Sue called for a vote and Carolyn Higgins was unanimously elected to remain as Council President for 2009.

Council Member Gelow nominated Dana Groves to serve as Council Vice President for 2009. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mell. There being no further nominations a vote was called and Dana Groves was unanimously elected to serve as Council Vice President for 2009.

President Higgins announced commissions for 2009 as follows: John Gelow, Utilities; Jack Mell, Streets; Dana Groves, Parks and Cemetery; and Ron Colpitts, Police, Fire and Ambulance. Pat Cummings will represent the Town on the Area Plan Commission.

Minutes:

Vice President Groves motioned to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2008 General Meeting as written. Seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

Council Member Gelow moved to accept the minutes of the December 29, 2008 Special Meeting as written. Seconded by Council Member Mell and passed unanimously.

Recognition of Visitors:

President Higgins welcomed everyone in attendance and acknowledged special guest Dave Thomas of the St. Joseph County Council.

Employee Reports:

Roger Nawrot:

- Was previously told that the work on the ditches would begin right after Thanksgiving but nothing has begun to date. He contacted John Law of the drainage board and was informed that work will begin by weeks end.

Bill Gumm:

- Reminded everyone of the Intergovernmental Meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Fire Station on January 31st.
- The Fire Department is holding a Vegas Night fund raiser on Saturday, January 24th.

Augie Mauer:

- Spent most of the money approved for the dump truck refurbishment.
- Reports that leaf pick up will resume as soon as weather permits.
- Snow removal from downtown is scheduled to begin tomorrow with the remaining corners done on Thursday.

President Higgins stated that snowplowing is done at Augie's discretion.

Pat Cummings:

- He and Roger requested \$750,000 through MACOG as part of the proposed \$12 million state stimulus package.

Roger reports that these must be "shovel ready" projects. Included would be sidewalks, curbs and overlay of streets. President Higgins asked for a priority list of projects to be considered for the February 10th meeting.

- Reports that the building permit issued for Joe Laureys' grocery store includes \$10,100 for sidewalk escrow and asked for Council input on this.

Council Member Colpitts stated that we have an ordinance in place that requires sidewalks and it needs to be enforced. This was put in place because it was determined that sidewalks were important to the Town and he believes that the vision of the master plan is to create connectivity. Vice President Groves stated that an important part of the Master Plan was to promote connectivity throughout the Town. Pat stated that he will inform Mr. Laureys.

New Business

Awarding of Contracts:

Building Inspector: One bid was received. Bob Middlebrook would like to continue as Building Inspector for 2009. The terms of the contract would remain the same as 2008. Council Member Mell moved to accept the building inspector contract with Bob Middlebrook. Motion seconded by Vice President Groves and passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement: One bid was received. Bob Middlebrook would like to remain the Code Enforcement Officer for 2009. The terms of the contract would remain the same as 2008. Council Member Mell moved to accept the code enforcement contract with Bob Middlebrook. Motion seconded by Vice President Groves and passed unanimously.

Town Hall Cleaning: One bid was received. Michelle Thompson's bid would remain the same as 2008 cleaning services. Council Member Mell moved to accept the contract for town hall cleaning services with Michelle Thompson. Motion seconded by

Vice President Groves and passed unanimously. President Higgins asked if this contract includes cleaning of the Marshal's Department. Chris Covert replied that it does not.

Engineering Services: One proposal was received for engineering services for 2009 from Roger Nawrot and Abonmarche Consultants. This contract includes an approximate 3% cost increase over the 2008 contract. Council Member Mell moved to accept the engineering contract with Abonmarche Consultants for 2009. Motion seconded by Vice President Groves and passed unanimously. President Higgins expressed thanks to Roger and staff for the excellent and clear invoicing provided.

Attorney Services: Several proposals were received for legal services for 2009 and reviewed. Council Member Gelow moved to accept Bill Herrbach's proposal to continue providing legal services for 2009. His contract represents a reduction in hourly charges from \$140 to \$125 as well as a separation of administrative assistant services at \$25 per hour and phone calls at \$25 per hour. Council Member Mell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Humane Society: Council Member Mell moved to accept the animal control contract for 2009 with the Humane Society. Seconded by Vice President Groves and passed unanimously.

President Higgins reminded everyone that all contracts are prepared yearly.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Ordinance #1205, an ordinance amending refuse removal rates, was read in its entirety by President Higgins for the first reading.

Ordinance #1163, an ordinance amending subdivision regulations, was passed previously in February of 2007. In review it was discovered that this ordinance was not sent to Area Plan for their review and recommendation. The Council has now received the Area Plan approval for Ordinance #1163 and it is being presented once again for Council approval.

Upon the recommendation of Area Plan, Council Member Mell motioned to accept Ordinance #1163 as written. Seconded by Council Member Gelow, Ordinance #1163 was passed unanimously.

Council Reports:

President Higgins

- Reminded all department heads of the budget workshop tomorrow at 4 PM.

Council Member Gelow:

- Commended Jason and the other employees on an outstanding job on East Michigan Street.

- Thanked Augie and crew for a good job with snow removal.

Council Member Colpitts:

- Reminded Sue that a wage ordinance will be needed for Tom Baker at the January 27th meeting.
- Would like to have a Community Clean Up Day that would include painting of the viaduct wall.

Council Member Mell:

- Seconded Council Member Gelow's thank you to the town crew for a job well done. Also thanked Jason and Nick for an excellent job.

Vice President Groves:

- Attended a reception recently and accepted an award for the biggest Hackberry tree in St. Joseph County. The tree, located in Memorial Park, has been nominated yearly since 1996 by Dwain Kern.
- Would like to assist in a community cleanup in preparation for our 175th anniversary next year.

Public Comment:

Skip Parmley:

- Was in attendance representing American Legion Post 297 to express their concerns with the water problem at their establishment. This is the first time in 40 years that they have had a water problem. They recently lost four days business pumping water and had lost three business days two weeks prior for that same reason. They ask for assistance in alleviating this issue.

President Higgins stated that the Council recognizes the value of the American Legion and promises that everything that can be done will. She directed Augie to meet with Mr. Parmley at the Legion to discuss their situation.

Augie stated that the water table is very high and is causing standing water under the viaduct as well. He informed the Council that the railroad recently installed a new culvert under the south shore tracks to help with the water situation.

Neil Brioli stated that that this is definitely the worst that the water has ever been and questioned if something has been done or not done to cause this situation.

President Higgins asked Mr. Parmley and Mr. Brioli to put together a very strong letter to be sent to the St. Joseph County Drainage Board in care of John McNamara. They were asked to drop it off at the town hall to be forwarded to Dave Thomas of the St. Joseph County Council as well. Mr. Thomas stated that he will speak to Mr. McNamara about this situation tomorrow.

Steve Vojtko:

- Questioned whether the ditch running north along Timothy Road from Marvel Lane would also be cleaned. Pat will look into this.
- Asked if furnace runoff is prohibited from being drained into the sanitary sewer by our ordinance. Pat stated that he did not think it was prohibited but will look into it.
- Would like to be notified when a date is set for a community clean up so that he could try to arrange for a hazardous waste cleanup at the same time.
- Informed the Council that the Ag Department should get a big chunk of stimulus money and suggested that this could be a good opportunity for the town to get funding for a sewer project.

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

Council Member Mell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Gelow the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer