

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, October 11, 2011

President Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM with Vice President Colpitts, Council Member Groves, Council Member Gelow, Council Member Vojtko and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt present. Also in attendance: Roger Nawrot, Andrea Halpin, Pat Cummings, Eric Walsh, Jack Mell, Jeff Roseboom, Mary Countryman, Chris Antonucci, Mary Ann Swope, Mike Shilts, Jamie Middlebrook, Tim Kaminski, Augie Mauer, Jason Quirk, and Kim Van Slager.

Minutes

Council Member Gelow moved to accept the minutes of the September 27, 2011 General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice President Colpitts and passed 4-0. Council Member Vojtko abstained.

Employee Reports

Augie Mauer

- Reports the new truck will be ready soon.
- Leaf pick-up has begun and will continue daily as long as necessary.

Jeff Roseboom

- The hummer is being painted and the lights and sirens are being installed. As reported previously, the Hummer was donated by the federal government and all improvements including paint, parts and labor have been donated by private individuals and businesses. This vehicle will be shared by the entire town including fire and EMS when needed.
- Department stats for 2011 to date (approximate):
 - Over 2400 calls to date. This number does not include walk ins in the department.
 - Over 275 cases and arrests in New Carlisle since February
 - Investigations have a 95% solved rate and 90% conviction rate with the prosecutor.

Jeff reports that the department is a proactive department as opposed to reactive. He expects these stats to be higher by the end of 2011 but reports that the crime rate is down at this time. Because there is a major highway running through the middle of town it brings many people to and through town. There was significant drug activity in the first half of 2011 but reports that due to a proactive department, there has been a notable decrease.

Vice President Colpitts asked for comparisons of police calls between New Carlisle and other towns .

Jeff reports that Osceola has approximately 700 calls to date, Roseland 1800, Lakeville at approximately 1200 and the Airport 61 calls. Walkerton is currently at approximately 3000 calls but this would include all calls and walk-ins to the department as they dispatch their own.

President Higgins stated that at one time take-home cars had been criticized but statistics prove that take home cars are very beneficial to the community and also promote a sense of pride in the vehicle.

Jeff stated that when using pool cars with officers using the same vehicles, maintenance costs can be \$20,000 in a year. With take home cars the vehicles are better cared for and last longer. Further, with officers travelling to home and back in their squad cars, statistics show a reduction in crime.

Council Member Vojtko stated that he has received a few questions regarding the gun ordinance adopted by the town. There was a lengthy discussion at the recent IACT Conference regarding the senate bill that addressed firearms and he asked for Jeff's opinion.

Jeff stated that our ordinance regards only the discharge of firearms within the town limits and not the buying, possession or carrying of those weapons but asked for Andrea to address this.

Andrea stated that when the committee that passed the new gun law was drafting the law, it was written to specifically not include the type of ordinance that was adopted recently by the Town. The committee that drafted the bill specifically left out language that would infringe on the rights of towns and cities to have non-discharge ordinances.

Vice President Colpitts reports attending an entire session on firearms ordinances and in speaking with IACT Attorney Jodie Woods finds that she also believes that non-discharge ordinances are protected.

Andrea again stressed that this ordinance only pertains to discharge of a weapon and not type, right to carry, possess or purchase a weapon. She stated further that this is a civil ordinance and not criminal. No one will go to jail for it and we were careful to assure that no one who might be defending themselves would be affected by this ordinance. It essentially prevents someone who might discharge a weapon recklessly from doing so.

President Higgins stated that it is her hope that this information dispels the rumors that the Town Council has written and adopted an illegal ordinance.

Chris Antonucci

- The Fire Department took delivery of the new command vehicle on Monday.
- A pancake and sausage breakfast will be held Sunday at the fire station.

Augie Mauer

- Would like to do the same thing with 95 Chevy that was done with the 1988 fire department vehicle.

Andrea stated that the Council will need to declare the truck surplus by resolution. The truck value is needed so that we know which avenue we are allowed to use for disposal. Pat or Augie will get that information.

Andrea:

- Has written a resolution for acceptance of a gift to the New Carlisle Cemetery.

President Higgins informed those in attendance that a bequest of \$20,000 from long time New Carlisle resident Jay Merrill was left to our cemetery. The Town is very, very grateful to Jay for this gift. She suggested that perhaps this could be used to repair some of the oldest stones and suggested that a plaque to honor the bequest be placed at the cemetery.

Roger

- Received the Irrevocable Letter of Credit for PGB Properties/New Carlisle Villas for \$3247. This will protect the town from any costs associated if there is failure in the improvements within three years.

Roger recommends to the Council that the infrastructure be accepted as all required paperwork has been received and he and Pat have inspected the improvements.

Vice President Colpitts moves to accept the improvements to the New Carlisle Villas by PGB Properties LLC. Council Member Groves seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Council Member Vojtko inquired about the status of the water tower painting. Pat reports that they ran into a problem but are on their way and will begin tomorrow. He reports that they should have enough time to complete the project this fall.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- **Ordinance #1249** – An Ordinance Regarding Clothing Allowance.

This ordinance was tabled until the October 25th meeting.

- **Ordinance #1250** – A Salary Ordinance for Town Employees

President Higgins read Ordinance #1250 by caption only for the first reading.

Council Member Vojtko moved to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1250 on the day of introduction. Council Member Groves seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Higgins read Ordinance #1250 in entirety for the second reading.

President Higgins then read Ordinance #1250 by caption only for the third and final reading

Council Member Vojtko asked that Jeff Roseboom explain the reason for this salary ordinance. Jeff stated that the ordinance reflects the increase for the two deputies that are moving to Deputy 3rd Class.

A motion to adopt Ordinance #1250 was made by Vice President Colpitts and seconded by Council Member Gelow. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Ordinance #1251 – An Ordinance Amending the Parking Ordinance (to establish handicap parking spaces on Arch Street)**

President Higgins read Ordinance #1251 by caption only for the first reading.

Council Reports

Vice President Colpitts

- The NCBCA is planning a fund raiser and will work in conjunction with the police department. The “Jail and Bail Fundraiser” will begin with someone requesting an “arrest” and then the person must make bail. The NCBCA would like to use the reserve officers to assist with this fund raiser and plans to make a donation made back to the reserve program. The fundraiser will be held on November 10th and they would like to use the meeting room at the town hall as the “jail”. The “incarcerated” participants will be offered pizza and assorted goodies while they await their bail.

Vice President Colpitts requested permission for the NCBCA to use the meeting room. All Council Members were in favor and Andrea reported that no vote is required.

- Returned from the IACT conference today and feels that there was a lot of good information received including how to be better public officials.
- May be unable to attend the Area Plan meeting next week and there is a proposed ordinance change for New Carlisle on the agenda. President Higgins will attend if needed.
- Asked about usage of the Employee Complaint Form that was designed to allow citizens with complaints or issues to fill them out and have them followed up on by the appropriate person, either the supervisor or council member.

Sue stated that she does not have copies of the form but reports that she has not received any requests for them.

- In respect to the new truck, he would like to be sure that we use the new logo and asks that Pat be sure this is done. Council Member Groves will see that Pat has a digital copy of the logo.

Council Member Vojtko

- Also attended the IACT Conference this week with two of the topics of interest being more efficient utilities and increasing revenues by enforcing existing ordinances. This is especially important as the state takes away more and more revenue. He felt the conference was very informative.

Council Member Groves

- Reports that the Main Street conference is next week that she and Vice President Colpitts will be attending. The Business and Community Association is going to send two members to the conference as well. There are other business owners who have also expressed interest in attending on their own. Following the conference a Main Street committee will be appointed. A rep from Main Street will be here for a presentation tentatively set for November 9th.

President Higgins

- Is concerned about the Town website. She would like to ask Debbie at the Village Florist for a quote to work on ours as the one she does for the florist is excellent.

Vice President Colpitts agreed that the website is of great importance as social media is a tool and way to get messages out.

Council Member Vojtko reports that at the IACT Conference he found that the DNR has grant funds available for planting of trees. He has the application for the grant that must be completed by October 31st.

Public Comments

None

Bills to be Paid

Vice President Colpitts moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vojtko and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Vojtko and seconded by Council Member Groves. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer