

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting – May 24, 2011

President Higgins, Vice President Colpitts, Council Member Gelow, Council Member Vojtko and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt were present. Also in attendance were Andrea Halpin, Roger Nawrot, Pat Cummings, Sen. Jim Arnold, Lauren Arnold, Rich Mrozinski, Beverly Mrozinski, Tom Baker, Jack Mell, Mary Ann Swope, Mary Countryman, Dawn Ebersole, Jill Doll, Davy Doll, Mike Shilts, Ken Davis, Jason Quirk, Bob Middlebrook, Augie Mauer, Jim Niedbalski, Michelle Niedbalski, Chris Antonucci, and Jeff Roseboom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Higgins welcomed Sen. Jim Arnold who was in attendance to give a brief synopsis of issues that were addressed in the last session. Sen. Arnold reported the following: the Senate was in session although the House did leave the state; the smoking ban did make it out of the house but did not make it out of committee in the Senate; Sunday sales of alcohol did not go anywhere; redistricting resulted in big changes this year; 231 bills proposed were sent to Gov. Daniel's des. Sen. Arnold stated that he was very disappointed with the changes made affecting teachers and education during the session but feels that they may be addressed again in the next session. Sen. Arnold also met recently with representatives of the proposed power plant.

Call to Order

President Higgins called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Vice President Colpitts moved to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2011 Public Hearing as written. Seconded by Council Member Gelow, the motion passed 4-0.

Vice President Colpitts moved to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2011 General Meeting as written. Council Member Vojtko seconded the motion which passed 3-0. Council Member Gelow abstained.

Vice President Colpitts moved to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2011 Executive Session as written. Council Member Vojtko seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Recognition of Visitors

Chief Tom Baker introduced the newest addition to the Marshal's Department, Jim Niedbalski, his wife Michelle and daughter Bailey. The Council welcomed Jim to the Town.

Employee Reports

Chris Antonucci

- The Fireman's Ball will be June 11th.

Bob Middlebrook

- Asked if the Council has decided about requiring permits for satellite installation and registration of the installers.

Vice President Colpitts and Bob will meet next week to go over the satellite issue.

- The Town currently has no drainage ordinance and we need to have one.

Drainage was discussed and Roger reports that he will need to get with John Byorni as drainage is covered in the subdivision ordinance but not generally.

Vice President Colpitts motions that Roger prepare a drainage ordinance. Council Member Gelow seconded the motion.

Council Member Vojtko asked what this ordinance would cover. Roger replied that it would be commercial areas and improved property not already covered by ordinance.

Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Refunding of Water Bonds

John Julian was in attendance to present numbers that will be finalized with adoption of Ordinance #1244. He presented a handout containing information for amortization of new bonds, interest rates and projected savings,

Vice President Colpitts stated that in being on the Council because he is not an accountant or attorney that they must surround themselves with experts. He feels that John Julian and Umbaugh are experts who have done a lot for us over the years and done an excellent job.

Council Member Vojtko: Will the interest from the previous proposal which was \$150,000 and the current proposal which is \$196,000 be offset by premium?

John Julian: Yes, it would.

Council Member Vojtko: Is there is any way we can not pay interest for those approx four months:

John Julian: No.

Council Member Vojtko: Can we pay these bonds off early with no penalty:

John Julian: We cannot.

Council Member Vojtko: Can we write it so that we could pay them off early?

Mr. Julian: We could not at this interest rate. Generally pay off is 8-10 years.

Council Member Vojtko: Will our payments increase?

John Julian: They actually decrease.

Council Member Vojtko: Can we shorten payment time?

John Julian: We could have but this is the way that these bonds are structured. They used this structure because it frees up the \$72,000, reduces the annual payments and gives us dollars in current years that will help in covering costs today. They felt the reduced annual payments would be the better way to go for this financing.

President Higgins stated that, to reiterate what Vice President Colpitts said, we have always had a very good working relationship with and assistance from Umbaugh. This Council has tried to surround themselves with good people including Umbaugh and Leone Halpin for their expertise.

Ordinance #1244

President Higgins read Ordinance #1244 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Vice President Colpitts moved to adopt Ordinance #1244. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gelow and President Higgins called for a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Council Member Gelow:	Aye	President Higgins:	Aye
Vice President Colpitts:	Aye	Council Member Vojtko:	Aye

Motion passed 4-0. President Higgins reports that Council Member Groves also expressed her support of this ordinance to her prior to the meeting.

New Business

- Disposition of 1988 Chief's vehicle.

Sue reports that the Fire Department would like to sell the 1988 Chief's vehicle which was purchased solely by the FD through donations and fund raisers but is titled to the Town. Andrea stated that this is owned by the governmental units and included in the intergovernmental agreements.

Ken Davis reports that the FD would like to use funds from the sale of this vehicle to pay for some additional equipment on the new vehicle.

Roger suggested that the Council declare the 1988 Chief's vehicle surplus and then put it up for sale.

Vice President Colpitts motioned that the 1988 Chief's vehicle be declared surplus and that it be put up for silent auction with proceeds put into the general fund.

Vice President Colpitts revised his motion to read that the Council declare the 1988 Chief's surplus and solicit bids. Council Member Vojtko seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Employee Reports Continued

Andrea Halpin

- Reports that she and Chuck have been working with Umbaugh on the refunding of the Water Works Bonds.
- She has been working on several issues not for public consumption.
- Review of the statement of benefits for personal property for Airgas is complete and ready to be forwarded to them.

Roger Nawrot

- Reports that the 2011 Sidewalk Project bid ad was in Friday's paper and they have already sold two sets of plans.

Pat Cummings

- Did some work on the TE Project, reviewing very preliminary plans, some measurements, etc.
- Will be on vacation next week. Roger will be the contact person for H&G should the viaduct project begin while he is away.

Kenny Davis

- Is working on a specification sheet for an ambulance purchase proposed for 2012. He met with a salesperson from Marque Ambulance today that brought out a model that would not fit in the building. They would like to retain the old ambulance for other things they are looking into. He will have more information at the Intergovernmental Meeting on June 25th at the Fire Station.
- Would like to fill the fourth full time EMT position in the next few months.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #1245 – A salary ordinance for a town employee.

Vice President Colpitts moved to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1245 on the day of introduction. Council Member Vojtko seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

President Higgins read Ordinance #1245 in its entirety.

Vice President Colpitts motioned to adopt Ordinance #1245. Seconded by Council Member Vojtko, the motion passed 4-0.

The new temporary part-time employee at the Water Treatment Plant is Aaron Keehn.

Council Reports

Council Member Gelow

- Reviewed preliminary TE Grant plans and made a trip to the west end with Pat, Dana and Sue to get a better idea of the proposed layout.

Vice President Colpitts

- Community Day was held last Saturday with many people participating. The pavilions were stained and mulch was put down around the trees at the park. Members of the Wesleyan Church helped with planning for the day and also had many people participate. The dumpster at garage was filled this year.
- Would like President Higgins to approve a committee to work on Community Days for next year as this is a good project and there are some people who are very enthusiastic about it. He will bring recommendations to the council for President Higgins to appoint a committee.
- Asked about progress on the employee form discussed at the last meeting. Andrea replied that Chuck is working on this.

President Higgins complimented Vice President Colpitts and Council Member Groves for spearheading the Community Day Committee and the Wesleyan Church members for all of their work.

Vice President Colpitts recognized town employee George Bladecki for going above and beyond again this year on Community Day.

Council Member Vojtko

- Reports that we have a new hummer for the Marshal's Department and asked Tom Baker to provide some background on it.

Tom reports that we received the hummer from the military at no cost except for transportation to bring it here. His son is a mechanic in the military and has gone over it thoroughly. He spoke with Olive Township Trustee John Michalski who is going to supply some funding to convert it to haul a gurney, etc in emergency situations. He also spoke with Ken Davis and they are enthusiastic about having it for use in case of emergency.

- 125 Zigler Street.

Council Member Vojtko asked for further info on Vice President Colpitts' idea to donate the house to a family or non-profit organization.

Vice President Colpitts stated that this house is the town's property and it is a liability. We may have to tear it down and pay associated costs unless another option is found. He spoke with Chuck and Andrea regarding his idea to donate the house to an organization willing to restore it for a family in need and was told that if the charity is a 501 3 (c) (non religious) it could be donated. There is a group called Housing Opportunities that has reputable builders that come in and do the work and then the houses are given to a family. They are currently working to find homes for several families in our area and he would like them to come and give a presentation on what they do. Repair of the home would get it back on the tax rolls and he feels that this is our best option. He is waiting to hear from the representative from Housing Opportunities and will follow up before the next meeting.

Council Member Vojtko stated this would be an owner occupied home and he feels it would be win-win.

- IACT had health insurance information at the last seminar they attended and he asked if the Town had checked into it.

President Higgins reports that both she and Vice President Colpitts spoke with the IACT Medical Trust representative at the seminar and then she and Sue met with him here. Sue is submitting information for a proposal.

President Higgins

- The Memorial Day parade is Monday. She and Council Member Groves will be in attendance at the Cemetery and present a wreath from the Town.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

- Sue reported that the American Legion Auxiliary will hold Poppy Days this Saturday, May 28th.

Public Comments

Jack Mell

- Inquired about the status of 417 W. Michigan Street.

Vice President Colpitts explained that the property was sold at auction. The person who purchased it is just going to sit on it and has no intention of doing anything with it until he is able to take ownership and our hands are basically tied until he does.

Council Member Vojtko asked who the owner of record is. Andrea stated that the current owner has abandoned it but if he were to pay up the back taxes he would have to bring to code.

Bob Middlebrook will be following the process very closely and contact the new owner as soon as he takes position

Bills to be Paid:

Vice President Colpitts moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vojtko and passed 4-0.

Adjournment

Council Member Gelow moved to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Vojtko seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer