

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting – May 10, 2011

President Higgins called the meeting to order with Vice President Colpitts, Council Member Groves Council Member Vojtko and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt present. Council Member Gelow was absent. Also in attendance were Roger Nawrot, Pat Cummings, Chuck Leone, Eric Walsh, John Julian, Mary Ann Swope, Jack Mell, Ken Davis, Augie Mauer, Jason Quirk, Cal Dittmar, Jeff Roseboom, Doug Glon, Ken Carter, Mike Shilts, Rusty Hessel, Debbie Hessel, Carol Middlebrook, Bob Middlebrook, Linda Wogatzke, Paul Wogatzke, Mary Countryman, Becky Jose, Debbie Martin, Zachary Martin, Nathan Martin, and Dawn Krueger.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2011 Executive Session and April 26, 2011 General Meeting was made by Council Member Groves and seconded by Vice President Colpitts. Motion passed 4-0.

Employee Reports

Chuck Leone

- Has been working on gathering samples of employee complaint forms and will have several for Council review.
- Continues work on Water Works Bond Refunding documents.

Roger Nawrot

- Requests that the Council approve the Advertisement for Bids for the 2011 Sidewalk Project. All bids are to be received by 4:45 on June 14th and opened at the 5 PM meeting.

Vice President Colpitts moved that we allow Roger to advertise for bids. Council Member Groves seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

A set of plans will be available for review following the meeting with a cover sheet that needs Council signatures. A set of plans will also be available in the Clerk's Office for public review.

Pat Cummings

- He and Council Member Groves met with Gene Baughman regarding the farmers market in the park. They plan to start June 25th and are working on details to be presented at the next meeting.
- Pat stated that he wanted to inform the Council that the sewer rate ordinance adopted in 2007, because it was unknown what South Bend might do with their rates, included a tracking factor. The tracking factor works the same as our electric ordinance, allowing us to adjust our rates by including the tracking factor. This is based strictly on increases that we must pay to South Bend. We have experienced an increase from the City of South Bend every year and will see another increase each year for the next four. Pat presented information to the Council prepared by Umbaugh and Associates that shows the approximate increase to our customers.

President Higgins read the information aloud for the public. She stated she worries that the cost of our utilities are prohibitive for attracting new residents and that those on a fixed income will be affected adversely. She also feels that the Town needs to consider again building our own sewer plant.

The approximate additional sewer cost for homeowners would be \$1.02 per 1000 gallons of metered water usage. Pat stressed that this tracking factor has nothing to do with operating & maintenance and is due only to the increase the Town must pay to the City of South Bend.

Council Member Vojtko stated that he believes that it is time to revisit building our own plant as there are many grants available. John Julian of Umbaugh stated that the new figure for average sewer cost to be eligible for grants is \$68 per month per home and the majority for the Town is currently much less than that amount.

President Higgins asked Pat to put a committee together to look into building a sewer plant. Chuck stated that he would not be involved in rate negotiations with the City of South Bend but could assist with the other.

Pat informed the Council that this tracking factor will be included in the Town sewer rates as allowed in the 2007 sewer rate ordinance.

Town Logo Contest Winner Presentation

The Council held a contest to select a logo that best represents the town. Waste Management sponsored the contest by donating an iPad 2 in addition to the \$100 prize offered by the Town Council. Council Member Groves announced that the winner was entry #52 – the Town Clock and introduced winning artist, Paul Wogatzke.

Rusty Hessel and Kevin Boyce of Waste Management presented the iPad 2 to Paul and Council Member Groves presented him the \$100 check.

Paul thanked everyone and said he was honored as there were many wonderful entries.

Vice President Colpitts thanked Waste Management for their partnership and commitment to the Town. President Higgins thanked Rusty Hessel and Waste Management.

New Business

- Refunding of the 1980 and 2000 Water Works Revenue Bonds

Eric Walsh of Umbaugh presented information to the Council and Sue regarding the refunding of the 1980 and 2000 Water Works Revenue Bonds. Outstanding bonds, interest rates for new bonds, costs involved and savings were explained by Eric. Umbaugh estimates that the Town would save approximately \$49,000 over the remaining term of the bonds and all associated costs would be covered in the refunding.

A brief background on the proposed refunding of the Water Works Revenue Bonds was given. John Julian noticed the market was moving in the right direction late last year and approached the Town about possibly refunding the bonds. The goal would be to refund these bonds at a better interest rate with costs included and no extension of time on the bonds. Because the market has been up and down over the last few months it has not been feasible until recently. The agreement put the Town under no financial obligation unless it is possible to proceed with the refunding at a benefit to the Town.

Council Member Vojtko asked for our current debt limit. John Julian referred to page 8 in the presented information but explained that there is no statutory limit for utilities. Utilities are only limited by strength of financial situation in the utility. He estimates that the Town could borrow another \$1,000,000 without any increases. He feels that we are in good shape financially – just cash poor. This refunding will free up approx \$73,000 by removing the restrictive covenants with the old bonds that require those monies be held in reserve. The current bonds were reflective of requirements in the 1980s and the market no longer requires those reserve funds. The refunding will free up capital and allow us the use those funds in addition to the interest savings..

- Ordinance #1244 – An Ordinance concerning the refunding by the Town of its Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 1980 and Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 2000.

Vice President Colpitts motioned that we hold the first reading and Council Member Groves seconded the motion. President Higgins called for a roll call vote as follows:

Vice President Colpitts: Aye Council Member Vojtko: Nay
President Higgins: Aye
Council Member Groves: Aye

Motion passed 3-1.

Council Member Vojtko sees we are saving money on annual payments but can we postpone to see where to use the money?

President Higgins read Ordinance #1244 by caption only.

Vice President Colpitts moves that we hold the second reading of Ordinance #1244. The motion was seconded by Council Member Groves and President Higgins called for a roll call vote as follows: seconds . Carolyn voice vote as follows:

Vice President Colpitts: Aye Council Member Vojtko: Nay
President Higgins: Aye
Council Member Groves: Aye

Motion passed 3-1.

President Higgins read ordinance #1244 by caption only for the second reading.

No amendments were offered.

Vice President Colpitts moves to suspend the rules to adopt Ordinance #1244 on the day of its introduction. Council Member Groves seconded the motion. President Higgins called for a roll call vote as follows:

Vice President Colpitts Aye Council Member Vojtko: Nay
President Higgins: Aye
Council Member Groves: Aye

Motion fails due to lack of unanimous vote. This will be set for consideration at the next meeting.

John Julian stated that if he has the indication of where the Council is going and if it seems there is a desire to move forward they can complete negotiations for interest rate and set a closing date. This would allow the Council to hear the third reading and adopt at the May 24th meeting or a special meeting.

President Higgins expressed that the sense of the Council is to continue with preparing rate and closing documents. Chuck feels it is appropriate that this be set for third reading at next meeting

- Purchase of Land

The Council has received two appraisals.

Vice President Colpitts motions that we take under advisement the two proposals received to give everyone a chance to review them. Vice President Colpitts stated that when considering land purchase, we are required to get two appraisals and can offer only the average of those two. He feels that if we read the dollar amounts it would allow everyone to know the appraised value and could interfere with negotiations. Chuck feels it is probably not appropriate to read the appraisal amounts at this time but if there is a public information request it may be necessary to disclose those amounts.

Vice President Colpitts requests that we schedule an executive session to discuss the purchase of this land. The Council set an Executive Session for May 18th at 8:30 AM.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- Ordinance #1243 – A salary ordinance for town employees.

Council Member Vojtko moves to waive the rules to adopt Ordinance #1243 at its introduction. Council Member Groves seconded the motion and President Higgins called for a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion to waive the rules for Ordinance #1243 passed 4-0.

Carolyn read Ordinance #1243 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt Ordinance #1243 was made by Council Member Vojtko and seconded by Council Member Groves.. Motion to adopt Ordinance #1243 passed 4-0

Council Reports

Vice President Colpitts

- Reminded everyone that Saturday, May 21st is Community Day.

- Waste Management has again donated a dumpster for use by Town residents.
- The Committee has a list of projects or residents are encouraged to just get out and do something.

Council Member Groves

- Informed the Council that long time Cemetery Board Member, Harry Tolmen, has resigned. The Cemetery Board recommends the appointment of John Michalski to fill the vacant position. President Higgins asks that this be advertised and we see if there is any other interest.

Public Comments

Dawn Krueger – Home Town Days

- Spoke with Jason about having the “Water Wars” on Bray Street and any problem it might cause with electric lines and reports that it would be fine.
- Spoke with Augie about handicap parking and he reports that the whole first row at the park will be used for this.
- Working with Chris from the FD about fireworks. They are waiting for insurance information from Night Magic.
- Turned in the use permit to school but they are awaiting insurance and bond.
- Announced that this year’s Home Town Days Parade Grand Marshal will be Mary Ann Swope.
- They are still collecting donations for fireworks.
- Will present a packet to the Council as soon as all details are complete.

Boy Scouts in attendance are looking for projects for their Eagle Scout. Their mom, Debbie Martin, stated that the main requirement is that the project must benefit the community. They live on the outskirts of Town but love New Carlisle so they wanted to do something in the Town. They will do labor and try to get donations for the project materials. They will manage and execute the project but asked if a Town representative would like to be the actual project manager. They will meet with Council Member Groves following the meeting.

Becky Jose

- Is Regent for St. Joseph County DAR. Their chapter has taken care of the monument in the New Carlisle Cemetery and would like to continue if needed.

President Higgins would like a wreath for the Town to place at the monument for Memorial Day and asked Sue to purchase one.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Groves and seconded by Vice President Colpitts. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Carolyn Higgins, Council President

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer