

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 27, 2003

Mr. Forbes called the St. John Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Following the Pledge of Allegiance there was a moment of silence for the troops.

Roll Call - Roll call was taken with the following members present: Michael Forbes, President; Jerome Rudy, Vice-President; Kristie Aldridge, Member; William Winterhaler, Member; Gregory Volk, Member; Steve Kil, Town Manager; David Wickland, Town Attorney; and Sherry Sury, Clerk-Treasurer.

Approval of minutes of the February 27, 2003 Town Council meeting - Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2003 minutes as they are presented to the council. Motion unanimously passed.

Public Hearings

Community Development Block Grant – Y2003 – Mr. Wickland confirmed the proofs of publication are in order. Mr. Forbes gave the opening remarks of what the grant is and the application process; the amount this year is \$32,660. Public Comments: Mr. Joe Hero, 11723 S Oak Ridge Dr. recommends the money be used for storm drainage in front of the Dairy Queen on Rte. 41 and curbs for handicap access. Margaret Sabato, Executive Director of South Lake County Services, would like \$3,000 allocated to their program, which provides transportation for St. John residents. Mr. Forbes read Resolution #03-03-27; referenced the Affirmative Action Program Implementation Section 3 and the Lake County, IN Section 3 Understanding. Short discussion regarding where the money can be spent. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve and adopt Resolution #03-03-27 for Community Development Block Grant Funds applying the money to: \$3,000 to South Lake County Community Services for fuel and the balance for handicap access for parks and handicap curb cuts as needed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider Ordinance #1280, Malsch property / Naples Development annexation – Mr. Wickland confirmed the proofs of publication are in order. Lake Central School Corporation does not want to be included in this annexation and may want their property considered for annexation in another 30 – 60 days. Mr. Michael Muenich, Attorney for Malsch family gave an overview of the property and the proposed development. Discussion ensued regarding public notice and the actual acreage to be annexed at this meeting. Mr. Rudy questioned the Lake Central property being surrounded by Town property. Lengthy discussion regarding separate properties and Sanitary/Water district ability to provide services to development, zoning and park area. Public Discussion – Mr. Joe Hero remonstrated against annexation because the advertisement was for entire area including school district; and the fiscal plan must take in the SD/WD interceptor; and R-1 zoning. Also the school's separate annexation means they are hostile to this annexation and the community will lose an athletic facility. Mr. Ed Vargo, Lake Central School Board stated they want out of the annexation at this time. Mr. Hero stated there should be a moratorium on annexations until there is a park ordinance, where the developer gives land for a park. Further discussion by council regarding zoning. See tape recording incorporated by reference. **Mr. Rudy suggested the annexation be discussed at the joint study session with SD/WD. He then motioned that the ordinance be tabled until the next Town Council meeting. Motion died due to no second. Ms. Aldridge motioned, seconded by Mr. Volk, to approve the annexation excluding Lake Central 40 acres, on R-1 zoning. Motion passed all ayes except one nay by Mr. Rudy.**

Old Business

Consider application to install water and sewer lines for Petitioner: Sandra Jostes (Approved by Sanitary and Waterworks District Boards) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to approve and authorize the Town Council President to sign both the Grant of Right for Sewer Lines and the Grant of Right to Install Water Lines for Sandra Jostes as identified by the document signed by the Water and Sanitary Districts respectively. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #03-03-27A, expressing support of Smart Governance Alliance (Mission Statement Incorporated) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge/Mr. Volk, that the Council approve and adopt Resolution #03-03-27A of Mission Statement of the Smart Governance Alliance. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Consider Ordinance #1285, the establishment of “Code of Ethics” for Town Officials – Discussion regarding Section 7 political contribution covered by State law; gifts; and comparison to a resolution passed by Munster. Indiana University is making a model document for cities. Mr. Wickland advised that Section 7 regarding prohibition on accepting political contributions be deleted. Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, that the Council unanimously consider Ordinance #1285 establishing rules of conduct and ethics for town officials with the following amendments: striking in its entirety Section 7; adding in its entirety the two sentences from Section 11, Review of Resolution from the Munster resolution having to do with revisions every four years. Motion carried. Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to adopt Ordinance #1285 with the amendments in Section 7 and the review policy to be added at the end. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Ordinance #1286, Mapping Fee Ordinance – Including Schedule of Fees – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, that the Council unanimously consider Ordinance #1286, ordinance creating Electronic Map Generation Fund. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to adopt Ordinance #1286, an ordinance to create a map generation fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Ordinance #1287, Amendment to Parking Regulations for Ventura Estates – Mr. Kil stated that Police Chief Guzik requested additional changes to the ordinance. Mr. Winterhaler motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to table Ordinance #1287. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Ordinance #1288, adopting Subdivision Control Ordinance (favorable recommendation from Plan Commission) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to unanimously consider Ordinance #1288; an ordinance amending the St. John Subdivision Control Ordinance as recommended by the Plan Commission. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge; to adopt Ordinance #1288, an ordinance amending the St. John Subdivision Control Ordinance as recommended by the Plan Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution #03-03-27B, supporting the Lake County Council in opposing reduction of Lake County’s portion of Riverboat Admission Tax – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve and adopt Resolution #03-03-27B, being a resolution of the Town of St. John opposing the reduction in the County and the Town’s portion of the Riverboat Gambling Admission Tax. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution #03-03-27C, approving Fiscal Plan of Kuiper Annexation request (121 acres at Joliet Street & Parrish Avenue) – Petition has been withdrawn. No action required by Town Council.

Consider Resolution #03-03-27D, requesting State Board of Accounts approval for use of DataMed32 EMS Reporting Software – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to approve and adopt Resolution #03-03-27D, requesting the State Board of Accounts to approve the use of the DataMed32 EMS Software. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Ordinance #1289, re-zone petition of Weston Ridge (Cottage Homes to Planned Unit Development (favorable recommendation from Plan Commission)) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to unanimously consider and adopt Ordinance #1289, an ordinance amending Ordinance #845; and, specifically re-zoning a part of Weston Ridge from an R4 to a PUD as recommended by the Plan Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Ordinance #1290, re-zone petition of Weston Ridge from R-4 to R-2 Residential Development (favorable recommendation from Plan Commission) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to unanimously consider and adopt Ordinance #1290, an ordinance amending Ordinance #845, re-zoning a portion of Weston Ridge from R-4 to R-2 as recommended by the Plan Commission. Motion unanimously carried.

Consider proposed 2003 Road Project (\$100,000.00 limit) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to award the engineering services for the 2003 Road Project to Haas & Associates based on their proposal dated March 27, 2003. Motion carries unanimously.

Consider proposals submitted for Boundary Survey and Topographic Survey of Town property at West 93rd Avenue and Civic Drive (\$3,000.00) – Mr. Rudy said that the Town never said they would provide topographical survey; the Town did say they would provide a scaled plan for each site; however, the plan could not be found. He believes boundary survey is necessary and to decline the topographical survey unless the Town must do it. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to award the creation of a Boundary Survey for the Town owned property in the amount of \$1,400.00 as identified in the March 4, 2003 proposal from Plumb Tuckett and Associates. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider budget and date for 2003 Fireworks display – Ms. Aldridge motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve not to exceed \$9,850.00 for the 2003 Fireworks display. Motion carried unanimously. Fireworks will take place Saturday, July 5th.

Girls Softball – consider assistance with regard to construction of storage building / concession stand at Heartland Park – Girls Softball agreed to pay all material costs. Mr. Rudy would like more specifics on the plan: how much will material costs, cost to Town for labor, overall drawing of building. Mr. Tom Case from Girls Softball understood that the details were to be worked out with the Park Department. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to agree in principal to work jointly with the Girls Softball to construct a concession stand but withhold the signature on the agreement until 1) we get an agreement for the work, 2) a more detailed break down of the Public Works labor, 3) some drawings sufficient to build it to the expectations of Girls Softball, and 4) the full cost of the water tap is included. Motion carried unanimously.**

Girls Softball – consider waiver of building permit fees of storage building / concession stand at Heartland Park – water tap waiver must be done by Waterworks District. **Mr. Rudy**

motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to waive the building permit fee for the Girls Softball concession stand in the maximum amount of \$187.50. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider purchase of “Traffic Analyzer” (quotes submitted) – Mr. Volk questioned where the money is coming from. 50% is from MVH budget and 50% from Police Department budget (from their special equipment fund). Both do not affect general fund. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge; to approve the purchase of HI-STAR traffic data collection system in the amount not to exceed \$4,304.00 based on the quote from the Hoosier Company Inc. dated February 25, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider request to purchase “Air Compressor” by Public Works Department along with maintenance agreement (quotes submitted) - The cost will be split 25% each between the cable television fund, MVH motor equipment, Sanitary District, and Water District funds. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,341.50 for an Ingersoll Rand air compressor: one half of the cost will be from the MVH motor equipment fund and the cable television fund. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider team sponsorship for St. John Youth Baseball in the amount of \$250.00 (approved by St. John Parks & Recreation Dept) – Mr. Winterhaler motioned, seconded by Mr. Volk, to sponsor the St. John Youth Baseball for 2003 in the amount of \$250.00. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider team sponsorship for St. John Girls Softball in the amount of \$250.00 (approved by St. John Parks & Recreation Dept) – Mr. Volk motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to contribute \$250.00 to the St. John Girls Softball League. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider approval of Invoice #1014 for WWPT Capacity Project in the amount of \$56,821.80 (approved at SD / WD 03/17/03 meeting) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to approve Invoice #1014 for the Town of Schererville in the amount of \$56,821.80 for St. John’s share of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Consider appointment to Quad-Town Safety Village – Mr. Forbes recommends Mr. Kenneth Gembala and received a letter from him accepting the position. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to appoint Mr. Kenneth Gembala from the Town of St. John as a Citizen Board Member to the Quad-Town Safety Village. Motion carried unanimously.**

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council –

Mr. Rudy - would like update on the Ice Arena project. Status consists of reimbursements due for utility bills etc. and payment from customers on outstanding bills. Mr. Wickland agreed to provide the update.

Ms. Aldridge – Park Board wants to know who pays electric bill. Mr. Rudy suggested the cost be split 50/50 Park Board / Town Council in 2003.

Mr. Forbes – expenditure request for Mr. Foley to attend Building Inspector Training, a two-day class held at the Munster Town Hall; tied in with SGA. to pay \$150.00. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge to approve the \$150.00 training expense for Mr. Foley.**

Mr. Forbes also mentioned the flyer circulating in St. John from the St. John Chamber of Commerce. They are looking for St. John families of the military (son, daughter, husband or wife) who are presently in the military. The St. John Chamber of Commerce will be honoring these families at a special Blue Star Service Dinner.

Mr. Forbes also stated that the Waterworks District Board has been approached to place antenna on top of our water towers; who should negotiate contract? Conclusion: both the Waterworks District Board and the Town Council should approve contract and split revenue; the Waterworks District Board should take the lead on negotiating the contracts.

Clerk-Treasurer – Ms. Sury mentioned that the Park Board does not have enough money in their budget for the electric payment. They may need a temporary loan to be paid back at the end of the year. Cash Flow Analysis – will be an ongoing report; may need to make a temporary loan with the Town if the tax draw does not arrive.

Staff – Mr. Kil has copy of maintenance agreement from Steven Campbell and Associates for the communication equipment at the Police Dept. The request to purchase is \$2,190.00 for monitor and phone usage for their reporting. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,190.00 to Steven Campbell and Associates for the equipment maintenance based on their proposal dated March 10, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.**

Payment of Bills - #7313 through #7473 in the amount of \$674,221.87 for the Corporation; #6047 through #6080, in the amount of \$180,445.49 for the Sewer Utility – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to pay of vouchers #7313 through #7473; and vouchers #6047 through #6080. Motion carried unanimously.

Business from the Floor – None.

Adjournment – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 9:22 P. M.

Attest:

Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer