

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2003

Mr. Forbes called the St. John Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:02 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 April 24, 2003 Town Council Regular meeting - Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge; to accept the minutes of the St. John Town Council meeting of April 24, 2003 as presented to the Council. Motion unanimously passed.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Consider amendment to Ordinance #1285 “Ethics Ordinance” – Discussion regarding two definitions of “town”; Mr. Rudy would like statement requesting independent contractors working for the Town to voluntarily waive the privilege of representing others before the Town while they are employed by the Town. Mr. Wickland believes it would be unlawful for this statement to be included. **Mr. Rudy motioned to decline and deny the revised Ordinance #1285 as presented to the Council. Motion died due to lack of second. Ms. Aldridge motioned, seconded by Mr. Volk, to accept Ordinance #1285, the Ethics Ordinance, with the revisions that were placed in Section 2, striking Town; and Section 7, placing the semi-colon. Ayes: Mr. Forbes, Ms. Aldridge, Mr. Volk; Nays: Mr. Rudy and Mr. Winterhaler. Motion carries 3 – 2.** The second reading of the ordinance will be next month.

Position Description for Town Manager’s Administrative Assistant – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve the Position Description for the Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager as presented to the Council. **Ayes: Mr. Rudy, Ms. Aldridge, Mr. Winterhaler, Mr. Volk; Nay: Mr. Forbes. Motion carries 4 – 1.**

Consider Ordinance #1295, Impact Fee Ordinance (favorable recommendation from Plan Commission – Resolution #PC 03-05-07) – Mr. Rudy stated the language is retroactive to November 22, 2002; fees are not retroactive. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, that the Council unanimously consider on first reading Ordinance #1295, Replacement of the Impact Fee Ordinance. Motion unanimously passed. Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, that the Council adopt on second reading Ordinance #1295, an ordinance replacing the Impact Fee Ordinance for the Town of St. John. Motion unanimously passed.**

Consider Ordinance #1296, amending the Town of St. John Personnel Policy Manual, specifically for “Full-Time EMT’s / Firefighters” – Mr. Rudy questioned why the ordinance states it’s an emergency ordinance. Mr. Kil will remove that wording. Mr. Rudy also questioned why the EMT’s and Firefighters would receive substantially more benefits than the other municipal employees. Mr. Kil states the benefits are based on the standard for 24-hour shift employees and is equal to the municipal employee’s benefits. Mr. Volk also does not understand the math involved in these calculations. **Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge to table the consideration of Ordinance #1296 to the next study session. Motion unanimously carried.**

Consider Resolution #03-05-22, a resolution concerning Year 2004, 2005 & 2006 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, that the Council approve and adopt Resolution #03-05-22 the Application of Community Development Activities including the Exhibit A attached, and to authorize the Town Council President to sign the agreement. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider Resolution #03-05-22A, a resolution appropriating the money related to the “Electronic Mapping Fees” – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to approve and adopt Resolution #03-05-22A, an appropriation of \$10,000.00 for the Electronic Map Generation Fund. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider purchase of additional “Recycling Containers” (Carts - \$30.40 / container x 500 = \$15,200.00, delivery on or about June 12, 2003) – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to authorize the purchase of 500 recycling carts at a total cost with shipping of \$30.40 each. Motion unanimously passed.

Authorization for Clerk-Treasurer to accept pension liability on behalf of St. John – P.E.R.F. – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to authorize the Town Council to sign the resolution authorizing Sherry Sury as Clerk-Treasurer to accept pension liability on behalf of the Town of St. John for the Public Employees Retirement Fund. Motion unanimously passed.

Reports and correspondence

Town Council

Ms. Aldridge would like another Movie Night in June or July. The cost would be \$1,420.00 without Attorney fees, which was a one-time fee. Mr. Rudy would like to delay until later in the summer until there is a better handle on the monies from the draws. Mr. Forbes sees no concern with monies being spent nor does Ms. Aldridge. **Ms. Aldridge motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to approve the Movie Night for Saturday in the Park for an amount not to exceed \$1,400.00 and to authorize the overtime for the Public Works and the Police Department to work there on Saturday, July 26th. Ayes: Mr. Forbes, Ms. Aldridge, Mr. Winterhaler, Mr. Volk; Nay: Mr. Rudy. Motion passed 4 – 1.**

Ms. Aldridge - stated there was a problem on Election Night that there was campaign literature distributed in envelopes that was thrown on yards of residents. She would like to address this in the littering ordinance. This will be discussed at the next study session.

Mr. Rudy - would like an inventory of all cell phones with serial numbers distributed to town employees. Cost of cell phones is increasing dramatically; cost is 40% higher than amount approved last May. Mr. Kil has started a spreadsheet that identifies what has caused the increase in cost.

Mr. Volk – SDWD approved 60 sewer taps for the Olthof Development outside the town boundaries. Developer used agreement letter at County level; the County Plan Commission has denied the zoning request. The developer still needs to go before the County Council. He questions why the approval was not presented to the Town Council first. Mr. Rudy asked if this was a request to reserving taps or a right to connect. The longstanding practice is both boards must approve. He believes they should press for annexation first so the Town gets the full benefit. Mr. Volk stated the property is not contiguous to the Town and not able to be annexed.

Mr. Rudy will draft a letter to SD/WD to ask that requests for sewer and water that are outside the town must go before the Town Council so they can consider annexation.

Mr. Volk - stated the Animal Shelter is in dire need of volunteers. He would like the Council to send a letter to community organizations and churches to find volunteers.

Ms. Aldridge - stated the VFW recognized Steve Kil as the "Man of the Year" last night.

Clerk-Treasurer

Ms. Sury - received an early advance from county in the amount of \$235,000.

Staff

Mr. Kil - stated the Mad Bomber fireworks display will cost \$7,500.00 and will be July 5th.

Payment of Bills - #7628 through #7779 in the amount of \$662,109.97 for the Corporation – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Mr. Winterhaler, to pay of vouchers #7628 through #7779 inclusive for a total of \$662,109.27. Motion unanimously passed.

Business from the Floor –

Patty Byars, 9111 Cline Avenue, Crown Point, IN – has copy of letter from SD/WD to Olthof Development. Concerned the development will be four-plexes, will be approved by the County Council and will become part of Town, as the same person owns the property contiguous to Town. Would like town to rescind approval of taps.

Joe Hero, 11723 S. Oakridge Drive – recommends the Town Council should pass a resolution right now to rescind the sewer taps for Olthof Development.

Tom Busch, 10178 Walsh – asked when the budget process begins and if the department heads present their budgets at the public hearing.

Adjournment – Mr. Rudy motioned, seconded by Ms. Aldridge, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P. M.

Attest:

Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer