

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
St. John Municipal Building Main Meeting Room

June 3, 2004

Mr. Fryzel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Michael Fryzel, President; Jerri Teibel, Vice-President; Gregory Volk, Member; Charles Pearson, Member; Mark Barenie, Member; David Austgen, Attorney; Steve Kil; Town Manager; and Sherry Sury, Clerk-Treasurer.

Approval of the minutes of the April 6, 2004 Joint Executive Session; the April 15, 2004 Regular Meeting and the April 22, 2004 Regular Meeting – Mr. Pearson motioned to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2004 Joint Executive Session; the April 15, 2004 Regular Meeting and the April 22, 2004 Regular Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Old Business

Ordinance #1348, an ordinance concerning the acquisition, construction and improvement by the Town of St. John, Indiana, of certain sewerage works, the issuance and sale of sewerage works revenue bonds to pay the costs thereof – Mr. Volk stated that the area needs to be annexed into town before they commit any money and so they would have control over the development. The cost of the interceptor sewer should be placed on the developer. Mr. Fryzel stated that they need to get infrastructure into place before the developments come into town and not to work piecemeal. Mr. Austgen stated that at the June 17th meeting, the council would consider on second reading the system development fees to be paid for by the new utility customers. Discussion followed. **Mr. Barenie motioned to adopt Ordinance #1348. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Motion passed with four ayes and one nay by Mr. Volk.**

New Business

Consider purchase approval for new “Aerial Fire Unit” in the amount of \$679,000.00 (\$279,000 through Cumulative Fire Fund and \$400,000.00 through St. John Marketplace Bond Issue) – The Town would use the State Bid Program for this purchase. **Mr. Barenie motioned to authorize the purchase of an Aerial Fire Unit not to exceed \$679,000.00 with the stipulation they do not sign the contract until the bonds are secured for the \$400,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Motion passed with four ayes and one abstention by Ms. Teibel.**

Position of Chief of Police (pending formal recommendation of The Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners) – Mr. Pearson read a statement stating that he had the opportunity to review all the applications and agreed with the Police Commissions’ recommendation. Mr. Volk asked how the commission advertised for the job. Discussion ensued. Mr. Austgen stated there is no legal requirement for advertisement. Mr. Volk stated that due to the controversy around the police department, he is not going to support the nomination of Mr. Frego. Mr. Fryzel asked Mr. Volk to clarify, if he is not satisfied with the police commission or the police chief. Mr. Volk stated that the police commission gave false statements to the media. Mr. Fryzel commented that you cannot believe everything you read in the newspaper. **Mr. Pearson motioned to accept the recommendation of the Police Commission and authorize the hiring of Fred A. Frego as the Chief of Police of St. John, Indiana. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Roll call vote: Ms. Teibel, aye; Mr. Volk, nay; Mr. Pearson, aye; Mr. Barenie, aye; Mr. Fryzel, abstain. Motion passed with three ayes, one nay and one abstention.**

Ordinance #1352, zone change for Lake Hills Development (pending formal recommendation of Plan Commission) – Mr. Volk stated that he is not opposed to project; but is concerned with the multi-family portion, which is 45% of the development. He stated there were 46 permits for duplexes in the last five months. Mr. Fryzel is also concerned about multi-family housing however this development will be a centerpiece to this community. **Ms. Teibel stated that per the formal recommendation from the Plan Commission, she motioned to adopt Ordinance #1352. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Motion passed with four ayes and one nay by Mr. Volk.**

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council

Mr. Fryzel read a statement thanking and commending the Police Commission for the time they spent since January 1st in the hiring of a new officer, the new police chief and the new reserve officers. Indiana Code gives the Town Council the authority to give the Police Commission members a salary, however they have chosen not to do that, this is all volunteer time. He also thanked and commended Captain Johnsen for the great job he has done in the absence of the chief since March 19th of this year.

Clerk-Treasurer –None.

Staff

Mr. Kil announced that SBC Ameritech plans to hold a press conference at the Town Hall on Tuesday, June 8th, at 11:30 a.m. to announce they would be offering DSL High Speed Internet service to St. John. It is available right now.

Payment of Bills - #7646 through #7846 in the amount of \$851,813.93 for the Corporation – Mr. Volk asked if the bills for the 93rd Avenue improvement project were complete. Mr. Kil stated that the total cost of landscaping is \$28,000.00. Mr. Volk also asked about a bill for five council badges. **Ms. Teibel motioned to approve payment of vouchers #7646 through #7846 in the amount of \$851,813.93 for the Corporation. Seconded by Mr. Barenie. Motion unanimously passed.**

Ms. Sury administrated the oath of a Police Chief to Mr. Fred A. Frego.

Public Comment

Phyllis Bergiel, 14350 West 101st Avenue – referenced the previous Town Council meeting and the utility boundary expansion. She stated that she and another resident met with Mr. Kil and suggested ways to correct the problem. Mr. Kil was asked to explain to the residents in attendance the discussion they had. He stated that they would lose 30% property tax replacement credit if it were placed on the rates instead of the taxes. The rates would jump up about 30% higher. The financial advisor cannot answer the other question as he is presently out of the country. Upon his return Mr. Kil will met with him. She suggested that the council put the meeting agendas on the website and Mr. Fryzel stated that they are doing that now.

Ron Jeziut, 10630 West 93rd Street – stated that he is concerned about the V3 development, which would be 908 families. Mr. Kil stated the correct numbers are 462 families: 15 estate lots, 241 single-family lots, 90 duplexes and 116 town homes. Mr. Jeziut hopes there will be enough space on the roads.

Ruben Hinojosa, 6425 Jefferson Street, Hammond – stated that he is strongly opposed to any type of police misconduct or police corruption and picketed out front against one of the applicants applying for the chief of police in St. John. He was deeply concerned that if the applicant, ex-chief John Cory, would have been considered he would have been bringing a lot of bad baggage to this very good town. Having been raised right outside this area on Sheffield Avenue and a Lake Central graduate; he believes the Police Commission did a full, thorough and impartial investigation of all three applicants. He commended the St. John Police Commission for doing that and commended the Town Council for selecting whom, he believes, is a good applicant. Also, he extended his best wishes to Mr. Johnsen.

Adjournment – Ms. Teibel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Attest:

Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer