

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ST. JOHN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MAIN MEETING ROOM
10955 W. 93RD AVENUE, ST. JOHN, INDIANA
AUGUST 28, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Fryzel called the meeting to order at 7:25 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; Mark Barenie, Member; Michael Forbes, Member; David Austgen, Attorney; Steve Kil, Town Manager and Sherry Sury, Clerk-Treasurer. Also in attendance were: Fred Frego, Police Chief; Fred Willman, Fire Chief; Bob Pharazyn, Director of Operations; Chip Sobek, Parks Superintendent and John Mainwaring, Code Enforcement Officer.

Approval of the Minutes: July 17, 2008 Executive Session, July 17th and July 31, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes – Ms. Teibel motioned to approve the minutes as read. **Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.**

New Business

Ordinance #1473 – amending Salary Ordinance #1456 and #1465 (amendment to language) - Ms. Teibel motioned to adopt Ordinance #1473. **Seconded by Mr. Barenie. Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 nays by Mr. Volk and Mr. Forbes.**

Resolution #08-08-28, a resolution for a transfer of appropriations – Mr. Barenie stated this is contradictory from what they discussed a couple of months ago and questioned why are they transferring training money to an equipment account when they have a special revenue account to buy the capital equipment. Ms. Sury explained the line items of each fund and how the money needs to be moved within the funds, not different accounts, for the payment of bills. Discussion ensued. Mr. Barenie stated that he would like to discuss this with the Town's Financial Advisor, Mr. Bennett. **Ms. Teibel motioned to defer to the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.**

Ordinance #1476 – an ordinance annexing certain real property to the Town of St. John: Petitioner: CWS (Mike Muenich) – Mr. Kil stated that Mr. Kuiper has been working on an amendment to this ordinance. Mr. Austgen stated that the ordinance is the subject of a voluntary annexation petition comprised of four separately owned parcels that are adjacent to the voluntary annexation petition parcels that were considered in the last meeting. These have been compiled together in a single annexation ordinance by their contiguity and relationship to each other. This ordinance is an introductory ordinance. The notices will go to the newspaper for the public hearing to be held on the September 25th meeting and if this ordinance is considered this evening on the cleaned version (it will be reviewed again and verified as clean because of the information that came together in the last 24 hours) a public meeting on September 25th on these parcels will be conducted. These will include the three parcels, CWS, Krilich and Sikma.

Mr. Kil stated that the only one they have in front of them is a petition from Schilling for the Schulte piece. Mr. Austgen recommended that the Council favorably consider the initial reading of this ordinance to allow the public hearing to be held. The Council will have a month to review everything, the fiscal plan, the proposed resolution to adopt the fiscal plan and the clean annexation ordinance with the clean petition for voluntary annexation by these separate

property owners. **Mr. Forbes motioned to consider Ordinance #1476 on first reading. Seconded by Mr. Barenie. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Forbes motioned to schedule a public hearing on the said ordinance on September 25, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Barenie. Motion unanimously passed.

Resolution #08-08-28A, a resolution pertaining to the Fiscal Plan for the annexation petition of CWS – Ms. Teibel motioned to introduce the Fiscal Plan for CWS, also Krilich and Sikma and place on the September 18, 2008 Town Council agenda for adoption. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.

Release of Georgiou’s Addition Letter of Credit (favorable recommendation from Plan Commission) – Ms. Teibel motioned to release the Letter of Credit for Georgiou’s Addition. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion unanimously passed.

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council

Ms. Teibel questioned the status of the scanning process for the website and Ms. Sury advised that Jeff in I.T. has been routinely receiving the documents. Ms. Teibel also mentioned that she has volunteers and food vendors waiting to hear about the Fall Festival and Haunted House. She went back the past two years to see how much was spent on the Haunted House and how much they got back. She would like the budget not to exceed \$12,000; she is okay with doing numbered tickets for accountability, and said it would be nice if someone from the Clerk’s office would come out and get the money. She does not want to go with pre-sale tickets because of the possibility of someone scanning and copying the tickets.

Mr. Barenie stated that he is concerned because the past two years the Haunted House has had a big deficit and feels that it should be mandated that it make money this year or it’s done. Discussion ensued. He stated that he would like the Clerk-Treasurer to commit to have someone from her department volunteer to go to the Haunted House and handle the funds. Mr. Fryzel stated that it would be easy to have a girl instead of working the day, work out there at night. Ms. Teibel added that they have town workers that volunteer out there. Ms. Sury stated that she is concerned her clerks have other evening commitments and with her staggered office hours, it would be an imposition upon the office and their duties. Ms. Teibel stated that she would like them there the hours of the Haunted House, which are 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and on Friday’s and Saturday’s the hours are 6:00 p.m. to Midnight. The event runs from the 10th of October through the 31st, for three weeks. The festival is different; the food vendors are not paying anything because it was so successful. Mr. Barenie stated that he would like one person on staff as a central person and that Mr. Kil will be making all the orders for the Haunted House and the Taste of St. John. **Mr. Barenie motioned to recommend that the Town of St. John continue with the Haunted House with a budget not to exceed expenditures of \$12,000.00; the Haunted House must actually turn a \$10,000.00 profit for it to be considered next year. The Clerk-Treasurer will have a member from her office at the Haunted House on a daily basis to collect the funds and balance out and make the deposits. Mr. Kil, the Town Manager, will do all the ordering of the \$12,000.00 of budgeted items and he will prepare bi-weekly updates of how they are doing.** Mr. Kil stated that for the record, that anybody buys anything without his knowing about it, it is immediate grounds for termination. Ms. Teibel added that the \$12,000.00

budget actually covers the Haunted House and the Taste of St. John Festival. **Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Forbes asked why the police call out sheets (monthly police report) was not in his packet. Ms. Sury stated that she does not prepare the packets and referenced the minutes. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Austgen stated that he has been made aware of a personnel matter and employee circumstances that he has been asked to investigate and research. Pending completion of that investigation and research he would recommend that status quo be preserved in compensation status of all the employees in the town. He will be prepared next month to make a report to them. He also asked there be an Executive Session at either the meeting on the 18th or the meeting on the 25th, perhaps both depending upon whatever additional information the Council may need in advance of the meeting. His recommendation would be that a motion be made for status quo preservation of employee compensation through September. **Ms. Teibel motioned for status quo preservation of employee compensation through September. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Fryzel mentioned that there is a Food Drive for the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana on September 11th at the Jewel store in Dyer.

Mr. Sobek reported that the Fall Program Guide would be sent out this week.

Mr. Pharazyn reported that the Scheidt drainage project has been finished. There were two points in the sewer line that ran between the houses that had obstructions in them which will add about \$5,000.00 to the project. There is some asphalt and landscaping that needs to be done. After the last heavy rain Mr. Scheidt was pleased with the results, he had no flooding.

He added they have begun inspecting for parkway hazards, trees blocking signs, and explained the process. He also advised the Council that they are going to be starting a minor water meter replacement project on approximately 300 – 400 water meters in town that are due for replacement. After this initial batch of meters are in compliance as far as the age and years of service of the meters, they will begin on an annual basis repairing or replacing meters greater than 12 years in age.

He also reported that the Public Works Department was requested by the Department of Homeland Security to help clean up the damage from the tornado. He spent a couple of days in Highland and 3-4 days in Griffith. He received a thank you phone call from the Public Works Director in Griffith and he complimented the assistance received from St. John.

Chief Frego gave the July Summary Report for the Police Department. He added that their first Nite Out was a success, about 300 people attended. Mr. Austgen asked Chief Frego if he tracks the number of traffic infraction deferrals and he stated yes. Discussion ensued. Mr. Austgen stated that the officers are doing a terrific job in that program.

Chief Willman gave the July Summary Report for the Fire Department.

Mr. Mainwaring gave the August Report for Building & Planning and Code Enforcement.

Clerk-Treasurer – None

Payment of Bills for the Corporation - #8453 - #8641 in the amount of \$1,057,278.94 – Ms. Teibel motioned to accept vouchers #8453 - #8641 in the amount of \$1,057,278.94 payment of bills for the Corporation. Seconded by Mr. Barenie. Motion unanimously passed.

Public Comment – None

Mr. Austgen asked Chief Frego is the town is holding a specific ceremony or remembrance for September 11, 2008. Chief Frego stated that in the past they have been invited to participate in connection with the Eric Graf display on 77th and Ticonderoga, due to the road construction it will not be held at the location it will be held at the South Chicago Heights Memorial Park and they have been invited to participate, to date there has been no decision on his part, it should be a voluntary basis on the part of the police officers and he's sure they'll get some response. Mr. Austgen stated that Schererville would be holding a specific ceremony on Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 P.M. in the downtown area. There will also be a service on September 11th at 8:30 A.M. on the east side of the old courthouse in Crown Point.

Adjournment – Mr. Forbes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

Attest:

Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer