

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ST. JOHN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MAIN MEETING ROOM
10955 W. 93RD AVENUE, ST. JOHN, INDIANA
March 19, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Barenie called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mark Barenie, President; Michael Forbes, Vice-President; Gregory Volk, Member; Michael Fryzel, Member; Jerri Teibel, 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; Chip Sobek, Parks Superintendent and John Mainwaring, Code Enforcement Officer. Absent was Bob Pharazyn, Director of Operations.

Presentation: Ms. Suzy Barnhart, U.S. Census Bureau – discussion of 2010 Census

Ms. Barnhardt stated the importance of the Census as it effects the amount of money the Town receives from the government; federal, state, and county. As part of the Census Bureau's Awareness Effort, she is speaking to the Council. Each community is asked to have a Complete Count Committee. The Town Council President designates a point person to interface with the Census Committee. The Complete Count Committee will also have representatives from local business, schools, etc., that will assist with the awareness effort. There will be a box at the library with forms and information regarding commonly asked questions and would like a couple of other locations as well. Ms. Barnhardt stated that the Census Bureau is hiring people for 1-2 years, full time with no benefits for the census taking and that she will be available to speak at meetings and events. Discussion ensued. At the conclusion of her presentation Ms. Barnhardt asked Mr. Barenie to sign a document stating that the Census Bureau will work with the Town and the Town will in turn work with the Census Bureau. Mr. Austgen stated that Mr. Barenie does not have the authority on his own just to sign something. The Town Council must take action in a public meeting and added several other additional reasons why the agreement could not be signed at tonight's meeting. The signing of this document will be on the agenda for the first meeting in April.

New Business

Ordinance #1487, an ordinance establishing a Town of St. John Finance Committee - Mr. Forbes motioned to adopt Ordinance #1487, an ordinance establishing a St. John Finance Committee. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 nays by Mr. Fryzel and Ms. Teibel.

Ordinance #1488, an ordinance amending fee schedule for Park Fees – Mr. Kil stated that the Parks Department would like to increase the fees for the Pavilion rental. He also said some people request several picnic tables for their events which must be retrieved from other Parks and involve the use of trucks and park personnel, for this reason a fee schedule was created for tables in excess of the average of six that are located at each park. Ms. Teibel raised a concern regarding item 5 that the words "daylight hours" should be included. Discussion ensued. Mr. Austgen suggested that a phrase such as "after 5 o'clock", "no night rentals/usage", "daytime hours only" be added. It was decided to add the phrase "daylight hours only, dawn to dusk." **Ms. Teibel motioned to approve (consider) Ordinance #1488 with the amendment to #5. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Volk motioned to adopt Ordinance #1488. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider request by Lake Central School Corporation for waiver of building permit fees for cafeteria renovation/expansion – Mr. Tom Dykel from Lake Central School Corporation gave a short overview of the project. Mr. Fryzel stated that in cases like these the Council usually waives 50% of the fee. **Mr. Fryzel motioned to waive the building permit fees for the additional \$1.97 million project at the high school by 50%. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.**

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Ms. Teibel stated that she heard the decision on whether to have the festival was decided by e-mail and would like to go on record as to who is opposed to the festival and who is not. **Ms. Teibel motioned to continue the Town Festival in June.** Mr. Kil stated that he told Ms. Teibel that he sent a certified letter to John Luehrs that they are not going to have the town festival this year. Mr. Forbes asked when the festival was voted for in the past. Discussion ensued. Mr. Austgen interjected that the motion should be seconded before discussion takes place. **Mr. Fryzel seconded the motion. Motion failed with 2 ayes by Ms. Teibel and Mr. Fryzel and 3 nays by Mr. Barenie, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Volk.** Mr. Barenie added that there are budget constraints this year and this would be a year to scale back and prioritize extracurricular functions.

Mr. Volk stated that he was going to bring up the Schafer Drive drainage issue and have Mr. Pharazyn explain the budget numbers. Mr. Kil stated that he has gone through this project with Mr. Pharazyn and that Mr. Faberbock from Robinson Engineering quoted some budget numbers. Mr. Forbes added that the catch basin 18" pipe over by Willow Drive is about \$70,000. Mr. Fryzel expressed concern that the dollar figure is close to the \$75,000 threshold requiring the project to go out to bid. Discussion ensued regarding a motion with a do not exceed dollar figure. Mr. Barenie asked Mr. Austgen for his opinion. Mr. Austgen stated that the engineering firm provided an amount of probable cost; has this estimate for probable cost been backed up by three proposals? Is there a set of specs that have been presented to three qualified contractors? Mr. Kil stated that they have not done that yet, they need to send it out and get three proposals from contractors; however, he wants to ensure the Town Council is on board with this project before he goes out for proposals. **Mr. Fryzel motioned to direct the Town Manager/Director of Operations to solicit proposals based on the engineer's design. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Fryzel asked if a decision has been made regarding the fireworks for this year. Mr. Fryzel suggested they do not have them. He stated that it was close to \$18,000 last year and with the budget constraints and everything else...\$18,000 for 20 minutes. Mr. Volk asked what the total cost is with public works, etc. Mr. Kil said to add another \$3,000 - \$4,000 and that the money comes out of cable TV. Discussion ensued. This item is deferred to the April meeting so that Mr. Kil can provide a 2009 fireworks budget.

Clerk-Treasurer – None

Staff

Mr. Kil reminded the Council that there would be an Executive Session prior to the next meeting at 6:00 P.M. and that there will be a presentation by Dr. Chabot from Lake Central.

Public Comment

Mr. Lee Milazzo, 11735 Homestead Heights Drive – stated that his back yard backs up to the dividing line between an area zoned multi-family homes. He was told there would be a natural buffer or a bike path between the multi-family and single-family homes. He stated that he recently saw a surveyor who stated that he was doing a feasibility study and was measuring for townhomes in the proposed buffer area. Mr. Kil stated that he has not heard anything about this and he talks to the developer almost every day. He does not see how townhomes would fit in that area and believes the odds of this is highly unlikely. Mr. Kil stated that he would check into this the developer and get back with Mr. Milazzo.

Mr. Adrian Bugariu, 11747 West 90th Avenue – stated that he is now having water problems since the park improvements. He referenced a letter that the Council just received tonight. Mr. Kil stated that he is not aware of any problems back there and will have Mr. Pharazyn take a look.

Adjournment – Mr. Forbes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Attest:

/s/ Sherry P. Sury
Clerk-Treasurer