

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ST. JOHN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MAIN MEETING ROOM
10955 W. 93RD AVENUE, ST. JOHN, INDIANA
July 23, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Barenie called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Pledge of Allegiance recited at Redevelopment Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mark Barenie, President; Michael Forbes, Vice-President; Gregory Volk, Member; Michael Fryzel, 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. Absent was Jerri Teibel, Member.

Approval of minutes: June 18, 2009 Regular Meeting and June 25, 2009 Regular Meeting
– Mr. Fryzel motioned to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2009 Regular Meeting and the June 25, 2009 Regular Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

Public Hearing

Resolution # 09-07-23, a resolution for a reduction in appropriations

Proofs of Publication – Mr. Austgen stated that the Proofs of Publication are in evidence, published in both **The Times** and the **Post Tribune** on July 13, 2009.

Opening Remarks – Ms. Sury stated that the appropriation to pay garbage fees from the general fund is no longer needed and the DLGF approves this reduction by order.

Town Council Comments – None

Open to the Floor – No comment

Closed to the Floor

Mr. Forbes motioned to adopt Resolution #09-07-23. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

New Business

Consider Resolution # 09-07-23A, a resolution to write-off un-collectible bad debt – Mr. Fryzel motioned to adopt Resolution # 09-07-23A. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

Consider appointment(s) to the St. John Plan Commission – Mr. Volk stated that there are two vacancies and one is the resident position. **Mr. Volk nominated Mrs. Dawn Pelc** who he selected from the applications they received last fall and stated that he spoke with her and she is still interested. **Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.** Mr. Forbes added that she is going to complete the term left vacant by Jay Dahlin which expires 12/31/11.

Mr. Forbes stated that for as long as he has been involved, a member of the Council has been on the Plan Commission and he is comfortable with that. **Mr. Forbes nominated Mr. Volk for**

the Council position. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion passed with a vote of 3 ayes and 1 nay by Mr. Fryzel. Mr. Fryzel stated that it is his opinion that Council members should not sit on the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission is made up of residents and employees by law or elected officials, but he believes that Council members being on the Plan Commission may bring issues to the Town Council and they would receive double voting. That is why he said no. Mr. Volk added that this term is for five months, until 12/31/09 and they can revisit it at that time.

Consider annual payment to the St. John Fire Department for maintenance of the Training Site in the amount not-to-exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) – Mr. Forbes motioned to authorize the payment. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

Consider approval of the 93rd Avenue and Kardel Drive Storm Water Project – Mr. Pharazyn stated that the project is designed to eliminate the problem of water collecting on the north side of 93rd Avenue just west of Kardel where it floods over the Street and they will also be able to fill in the majority of the ditch that lies on the south side of 93rd Avenue that runs parallel to 93rd Avenue between North Olcott to Belmont. Mr. Pharazyn clarified that this will not completely drain the north side of 93rd Avenue in a significant rain event. Mr. Fryzel mentioned that this plan would leave one homeowner without the ditch filled in and asked that section be filled in. Mr. Pharazyn stated that he could do that with some contingency money (\$3,000) he has and asked the Council to give him some wiggle room with a not to exceed amount of \$67,000. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Forbes motioned to approve the 93rd Avenue and Kardel Drive Storm Water Project for an amount not to exceed \$67,900. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.**

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council

Mr. Fryzel brought up closing the back school gate at Lake Central High School. Chief Frego stated that it is not the Town's gate. Mr. Kil stated that the school is not going to look favorably on this and Mr. Fryzel stated that the problem is not with the buses but with the vehicles. Discussion ensued regarding the tentative meeting to be set up.

Mr. Volk stated that the Schafer Drive drainage project is complete.

Mr. Forbes stated that at the Sanitary District meeting this past Monday, Alex Monanteras tendered his resignation. He has retired and is moving to Tennessee. They will need to go through their applications again to fill his spot. Mr. Fryzel suggested that the Town present him with a plaque for his years of service.

Mr. Forbes stated that both he and Mr. Pharazyn received a call from Mr. Scheidt. Mr. Pharazyn added that Mr. Scheidt is definitely still experiencing flooding. Discussion ensued and Mr. Forbes and Mr. Pharazyn will both call Mr. Scheidt.

Clerk-Treasurer – None

Staff

Mr. Mainwaring gave his report for the month of June.

Chief Willman gave the June Fire Department Activity Report.

Chief Frego gave the Police Department's Activity Report for the month of June. He added that the National Night Out will be held on August 4th.

Superintendent Sobek stated that they are finishing up the summer park programs in the next week or so. They have had good turn outs all summer. The last summer concert is this Saturday they have been averaging 250-300 at each concert. Mr. Barenie added they had a great volleyball program this summer.

Mr. Pharazyn stated that 500 meters have been replaced and the following projects have been completed: Schafer Drive/ Lantern Woods drainage project, landscaping at the water tower at the Gates of St. John and the Schillton Drive curve and road restoration project.

He stated that they began the 90th Avenue and Schillton Hills project this morning. They have applied 7.8 tons of cold patches throughout the Town, are in process of collecting branches (chipper) from some of the storm damaged areas of Town and have been ramping up their mosquito abatement activities.

Mr. Fryzel thanked the Public Works Department for the good job they did cleaning up after the wind damage. He also mentioned that a couple of the Town's employees lost a loved one the past week. Rachel Wilkinson, the Administrative Assistant in the Fire Department lost her father and Bill Dodaro, President of the Police Commission, his wife lost her brother. He would like to express their condolences to those two families.

Mr. Kil stated that they had a meeting with representatives of INDOT on site with; Walsh & Kelly, the general contractor, and REX Construction, the underground contractor, regarding the project at 93rd Avenue and Route 41. Things are not going as smoothly as planned, there are some conflicts with NIPSCO; there are conflicts with some of the Town's utilities. They do not expect anything to start before the first week of August.

Mr. Kil stated that **CNN Money Magazine** selected St. John as #48 and he has received a lot of e-mails and phone calls from residents congratulating them on that. This designation will be added on the website and put on the water bill. Discussion ensued. He stated that next year they will have a **Town Planner** where St. John will have their own calendar, a woman in Schererville is designing it, it does not require any funding from the town and she wants to showcase our #48 on the cover. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kil stated that he had a request regarding the Prairie West Park bathroom facility to become handicap accessible. They can pave the area in front of the facility and he received a cost from Rock Solid Paving for \$2,800; when they are in the area they can get the work done. If only a sidewalk is done, the cost would be \$1,000 less. This was something they had planned to do but has not gotten done. The funds would come out of Park Impact Fees. Mr. Austgen concurred that the Town Council can make that decision and the money can come out of Park Impact Fees. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Forbes motioned to approve the \$2,800.00 asphalt project. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.**

Payment of Bills for the Corporation – APV's - #8119 - #8313 – Mr. Forbes asked Mr. Pharazyn about a bill on page six for just under \$3,000.00 to Redbud Landscape, grounds clean up multiple locations. Mr. Pharazyn stated that this was for the Town entrance in Edgewood on Calumet and 93rd, 85th and Alexander and other locations, clean up and re-mulch. Mr. Pharazyn

stated that the invoices are itemized for the locations. Mr. Forbes also asked if Mr. Pharazyn was going to follow up on the old bills from Schilling Lumber, discussion ensued. Mr. Pharazyn stated and the only reason he would not assign an account would be if funds did not exist in an account. Ms. Sury verified that it is not a problem to hold the payment for these bills until the problem is resolved. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Forbes motioned to approve payment of the bills minus (#8282) the \$554.73 for Schilling Lumber** (he didn't total so whatever it comes to). **Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.**

Public Comment

Ms. Patricia Esbrook, 10622 Maloian Drive – stated that she has a complaint and a request. She referenced incidents in her neighborhood (near 109th or #231) that have been going on over the summer, have escalated and asked that additional patrol officers be provided for short period of times during the evening. She stated that these incidents have been called in to the Police Dept on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and believes these are school children doing pranks. It began with toilet papering trees; a new tree was cut and there is now writing on the lawn of four or five houses. Discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated that this activity has been linked to Lincoln School. He stated that three individuals were apprehended that were breaking into cars that particular evening and assured her there will be additional patrols there. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment – Mr. Fryzel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer