

ST. JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
St. John Municipal Building Main Meeting Room
10955 W. 93rd Avenue, St. John, IN
April 22, 2010

(Note: This meeting followed the Redevelopment Commission Meeting which met at 7:00 P.M.)

Mr. Barenie called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M. The following members were 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 and Chip Sobek, Parks Superintendent.

Approval of minutes: March 11, 2010 Regular Meeting; March 25, 2010 Executive Session and March 25, 2010 Regular Meeting - Mr. Fryzel motioned to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2010, Regular Meeting, the March 25, 2010, Executive Session and the March 25, 2010, Regular Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.

Bid Opening – Storm Sewer Installation at the Norfolk Southern and CSX Railroad crossing on Joliet Street

Mr. Austgen stated that the Proofs of Publication of Notice to Bidders indicate timely publication two times in the **Northwest Indiana Times** on March 25th and April 1st as well as in the **Post Tribune** on the same dates. Verification is the affidavit, is in conformance with law and the publications have been properly made.

Mr. Austgen opened and read the following bids. (Exhibit A Attached)

Mr. Fryzel motioned to take the bids under advisement. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.

New Business

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project bid award - Mr. Forbes motioned to award the bid to DeBoer Egolf Corporation in the amount of \$47,022.00. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider renewal of the Town's Property and Casualty Insurance – Mr. Kil stated that their current premium is \$119,621.00; the renewal came in at \$115,115.00; they are going to realize an annual savings of \$4,506.00 with their current carrier. **Mr. Forbes motioned to authorize the renewal of the Property and Casualty Insurance. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.**

Consider authorization of Allied Waste contract, extension of Year Four (4) Option – Mr. Kil stated that Mr. Jim Metros with Allied Waste was there to discuss the extension. Allied Waste has merged with Republic and are now called Republic Services. Mr. Metros stated that they could hold the Town's rate at \$15.82 for the current year. There would be no increase until May, 2011; typically they figure a 5% increase per year to cover fuel increases. Because prices are starting to stabilize they can propose a rate increase of 4% per year for the next three years. They are not asking for a fuel escalator clause. They would like to add a clause that if fuel would raise over \$4.00 in years two, three and four, they would like to open up and renegotiate

the contract, there would be no obligation to do this. Mr. Metros approved a one month extension of the existing contract to give the Council time to discuss the new proposal. **Mr. Fryzel motioned to accept the one month extension at the current price of \$15.82 and to authorize this matter to be placed on the next Town Council agenda in May. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.**

Consider renewal for Employee Health Insurance – Mr. Kil introduced Karla Cohen with the Braman Agency who is the Town's current Insurance Agent for property and casualty as well as the Town's health care insurance. He stated that after researching different options including the IACT Medical Trust. They came up with two choices: a PPO option and a HSA option. The PPO option would raise their rate 8%, the renewal came in at 24.5%, they did get some relief, but it still came in at 21.5%. Mr. Kil added that it is important for everyone to realize that the Town went from an annual premium of \$576,283.00 to \$700,183.00 which is basically a \$126,900 increase in one year. It doesn't seem feasible that the Town could absorb an increase like that. The HSA would be a 4.4% increase.

Ms. Cohen then gave an overview of the two plans as well as a flex plan where the money goes into a medical spending account for the calendar year.

Mr. Kil recommended to the Town Council that the Town retain their current provider, United Health Care, and that they offer two plan designs to the Town Employees. The first a PPO, option F41, which is a balance PPO; which is an increase of 8% over their current premium. The second is an HSA Plan which is an increase of 4.4% along with that is the option of a Flexible Spending Account.

Mr. Volk motioned to accept the Town Managers recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider Ordinance #1509, an ordinance regarding the Fee Structure for Temporary Turn-Off / Turn-On for customers of the municipal water utility (favorable recommendation from Waterworks District Board) – Mr. Austgen stated that a fee is being established and validated by Ordinance by the consideration the Council is making this evening. The Water Board met and reviewed the procedures related to temporary turn ons and turn offs of service and ultimately did a cost basis analysis. That cost base analysis is referenced in the body of the Ordinance and attachment of verification of same is made to the Ordinance. This Ordinance meets the requirements of law for the Council's consideration if they are so inclined.

Mr. Forbes motioned to consider Ordinance #1509 on first reading. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Forbes motioned to adopt Ordinance #1509. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Resolution #10-04-22, a resolution for additional appropriations of the St. John Farmers Market Fund - Ms. Teibel motioned to adopt Resolution #10-04-22. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion unanimously passed.

Resolution #10-04-22A, a resolution authorizing a Temporary Transfer and Loan of Funds - Mr. Forbes motioned to adopt Resolution #10-04-22A. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Resolution #10-04-22B, a resolution authorizing and approving entry into a Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Schererville - Mr. Forbes stated that this is the result of efforts by himself and Mr. Barenie. It is an agreement to trade off and use each other's Building Inspectors. This has been done in the past; it's just now a formal agreement. It's documentation to let everyone know where the Inspector is, what they are doing and if one Town uses the Inspector more than the other Town by the end of the year, there is an equalizer where the other party would pay the dollar amount associated with that individual's work. **Mr. Forbes motioned to adopt Resolution #10-04-22B. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion unanimously passed.**

Mr. Austgen stated that the Town has received a copy of the counter approved resolution and counter signed Joint Interlocal Agreement. So, upon the Council's processing of signatures, the recordation of the Agreement may be made and formalized.

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council

Mr. Fryzel stated that the roadway on Park Drive at the Gates of St. John has not been repaired. This was discussed a month ago that the road needs to be repaired and it has not yet been repaired. Discussion ensued and Mr. Kil will drive down the road tomorrow and check it out so it can be fixed.

Clerk-Treasurer – None

Staff

Mr. Sobek stated that they are getting ready for the summer programs; the brochures should go out the early part of May.

Chief Frego read the March Report for the Police Department. He added that they received the shipment of the laptops they received from the grant and mentioned that the department has outdated vests; they are looking at grants to offset the cost of purchasing new vests.

Chief Willman read the March Report for the Fire Department.

Mr. Kil reported the following:

- The last day to sign up for the garage sale is April 27th.
- Farmers Market begins the following Sunday and runs May through October.
- Roads have been identified that need patchwork and would like authorization for Robinson Engineering to prepare a brief set of specs and then go out for bids. The bids will come in at a unit cost by location of the repair so adjustments can be based on available funds. **Mr. Forbes motioned to authorize Mr. Kil to get the bid specs from Robinson Engineering and authorize him to then go out for bids. Seconded by Mr. Volk. Motion unanimously passed.**

- Mr. Rainwater donated a parcel of property right off of Oakwood and Patterson to the Town for a park. Mr. Rainwater has asked Mr. Kil over the last couple of years to put equipment up at the park. They put up a slide, some benches, and things like that. The Town has not had the means to put up new playground equipment. Mr. Rainwater would like to donate \$23,000 to the Town for the purchase of equipment for that Park. The Town would still be responsible for the installation, the wood carpet and the kid timbers to enclose the site. Mr. Sobek has taken this to the Park Board and has found the equipment he would like and it would cost close to \$23,000. Mr. Austgen stated that the Town needs the get the donation from Mr. Rainwater before they can order the equipment. **Mr. Fryzel motioned to accept the donation. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.**
- The map supplied by the Election Board for the upcoming election does not include portions of the Town that were lawfully annexed. The residents of the annexed areas need to go to their previous polling places. The State Election Board did not address these matters in time for the election. The majority of the residents involved live in Tiburon; and have not been advised of where to vote and that they need to identify themselves as St. John residents. A door hanger flyer will be distributed to the residents by the Town in these areas that will provide direction on the voting location.

Mr. Forbes suggested that the Town Council send a letter to Mr. Rainwater and present him with a plaque thanking him for donating the land for the Park and the playground equipment.

Payment of Bills for the Corporation – APV's #7509 - #7665 for \$915,836.76 - Mr. Forbes motioned to authorize payment of bills for the Corporation in the amount of \$915,836.76. Seconded by Ms. Teibel. Motion unanimously passed.

Public Comment

Tim Foley, 11245 West 80th Court – Referenced the agreement with Schererville regarding the building inspections, asked who discussed the agreement with Schererville, asked for the qualifications of the Schererville Inspector and that of the individual doing the inspections presently for the town. Mr. Austgen interjected that this is not the time or the place to have this discussion and that this discussion not be on the public record.

Adjournment – Ms. Teibel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer