

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE INDIANA
BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

PRESENT: President Gallo, Presiding; D. Peffer, Recording; Council Members Bricklemyer, Geesey, Hartman, Jobe, Jones, Kravetsky, Shively, Simmons, Thompson and Thorell; Borough Manager Gabler; Mayor Hood; Wayne Kablack, Esquire; Chuck Kelly, IFA; Dr. Rhonda Luckey, IUP; Betsy Lauber, Downtown Indiana; Randy Wells, Indiana Gazette; Celeste Gossman, Renda Broadcasting; Pastor Bob White; and approximately thirty (30) visitors.

President Gallo called the meeting to order, at 7:00 PM.

Prior to asking Pastor Bob White to lead an opening prayer, Pres. Gallo reminded everyone to keep Councilman Petrosky in their thoughts. Petrosky is at home recovering from recent transplant surgery. Councilwoman Jones then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pres. Gallo asked for a Roll Call. All Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Petrosky.

Pres. Gallo announced an Executive Session would be held later, after adjournment of the Regular Meeting.

There was a motion by Geesey, second by Kravetsky, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of May 4, 2010, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Jones, second by Geesey, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2010, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Simmons, second by Kravetsky, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 18, 2010, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Jones, second by Simmons, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 25, 2010, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Jones, second by Shively, to approve the Financial Reports for April 2010 as presented. Motion Carried.

Pres. Gallo stated the outdoor dining with alcohol issue would be addressed during Unfinished Business. Gallo asked that anyone planning to address that issue during Public Participation should wait until then to do so.

The following action occurred during Public Participation:

- ◇ Stanley Jake, of Iselin, recently attended the Memorial Day observance held at Memorial Park. It was sponsored by the American Legion, and Mayor Hood was

a speaker. Mr. Jake feels that Memorial Day is actually at the root of our country, and it should be honored as such. Jake encouraged Council to support legislation to permanently designate May 31st as Memorial Day. This would be similar to how the Fourth of July is nationally recognized as Independence Day.

- ◇ Betsy Lauber, Downtown Indiana, invited everyone to attend the “Lovin’ Downtown” activities planned for this Friday, June 11th, from 5 – 8 PM. Lauber stated there will be great food, live music, sidewalk sales and something for everyone.

The following action occurred during the Committee Reports:

ADMINISTRATION:

- ◇ The Committee recently met with the County and reviewed plans for development of a parking lot at the location of the former jail. The County is requesting that we transfer ownership of an area 11’ X 100’ adjacent to the north side of the jail. Chairwoman Jones stated the Committee didn’t feel it was in the best interest of the Borough to turn the land over, but they have asked Solicitor Kablack to come up with an agreement between the two bodies to utilize the property.
- ◇ There was a motion by Jones, second by Geesey, to advertise an amendment to the Non-Management Pension Plan to explicitly provide participants who terminate employment prior to becoming vested a right to receive a refund of their employee contributions. Motion Carried.
- ◇ There was a motion by Jones, second by Thorell, that Nicholas Karas be appointed to the Indiana Borough Planning Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Nancy Fricke, who recently resigned due to moving from the area. Motion Carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- ◇ Chairman Simmons stated all of their activities were discussed and acted upon at the Special Council meetings held May 18th and 25th. The resolution regarding rules and regulations for the outdoor dining with alcohol was amended to change the ending time from 11:00 PM to 10:00 PM; the Sunday hours were changed from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM; and there will be no outdoor dining with alcohol during Homecoming weekend.
- ◇ Simmons stated there were no new items to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- ◇ There was a motion by Kravetsky, second by Shively, to advertise an ordinance providing for the installation of stop signs, both westbound and eastbound, on Gompers Avenue at Tenth Street. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- ◇ There was a motion by Hartman, second by Thorell, to advertise Indiana Borough’s revised Pretreatment Ordinance. Motion Carried.
- ◇ The southern edge of the box culvert over Whites Run at Maple Street is in need of repair. Chairman Hartman stated this will involve approximately \$5,000 in

Liquid Fuels money, but the work can be done in-house using Street Department personnel and equipment.

- ◇ A summer help college student has started to mow the abandoned properties, such as 640 and 805 Oak Street. We will be keeping track of his expenses, and then we will lien the properties. Those liens will have to be satisfied before the property can be sold. Solicitor Kablack stated that in addition to the mowing expenses, there will be daily fines added to the total. According to Kablack, we can accumulate everything at once and take it to the Magistrate's Office.
- ◇ After reviewing the Public Works monthly report, Councilman Bricklemyer questioned whether Maple Street was going to be repaved in its entirety. Borough Manager Gabler stated that between IUP and the borough's paving program, it will be.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

- ◇ The spring planting was performed, and plans are being made for the fall planting.

RECREATION COMMISSION:

- ◇ The financial situation is improving, and the Borough has received its payment for the First Quarter.
- ◇ If White Township doesn't want to pay for some remaining equipment at the garage, which includes a truck, trailer and Kubota mower, it will be put out for bid.
- ◇ The summer programs have started.
- ◇ Discount ticket sales are doing well. Councilman Hartman encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to purchase tickets to area amusement parks at reduced prices.
- ◇ The July Commission meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 2nd.

Police Chief Sutton was away on vacation, but everyone received a copy of the Police Department Report for May 2010. Council also received a copy of the Parking Department statistics for May 2010, as well as May 2009 for comparison.

IFA Representative Chuck Kelly stated May was a very busy month with 42 calls, but there was a zero dollar loss in the Borough. Fire Department personnel assisted with the Memorial Day traffic accident on Route 422, which resulted in a fatality.

The following action occurred during Dr. Luckey's report:

- ◇ Luckey invited Council to be her guests at tomorrow's "Picnic in the Grove" at IUP. In the event of inclement weather, the vouchers Luckey distributed will be honored at a later date.
- ◇ Luckey thanked Mayor Hood for providing a warm welcome to future IUP students and their families, who were visiting recently.
- ◇ Summer session is underway for approximately 3,000 students. Some of which are taking classes on-line.

- ◇ IUP representatives will be meeting soon with Chief Sutton and Councilman Simmons on ways to promote civility and prevent violence.
- ◇ IUP has closed admissions for first-year students for the fall semester.
- ◇ Councilmen Simmons and Gallo recently went to Pittsburgh with some IUP representatives for a Summit meeting. Simmons stated it was a very worthwhile experience, and the Fire Department hopes to enlist their help with some grant writing.

President Gallo read a prepared statement voicing his appreciation for the hard work that each member of Council has been doing. Gallo hopes that the people, who only come to meetings when hot topics are being discussed, will start to attend on a regular basis. Gallo said Indiana is one of the finest communities around, and he feels very privileged to be able to serve as President of Borough Council.

The following action occurred during Mayor Hood's report:

- ◇ The American Legion had asked Mayor Hood to serve as Master of Ceremonies for their Memorial Day program. A gentleman asked if it would be alright to place a picture in front of the podium, and Mayor Hood replied yes. It turned out to be a picture of Joe Goodrich, a former Indiana Borough Police Officer, who is now a fallen soldier.
- ◇ Mayor Hood thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.
- ◇ The IUP Parent Orientation Program has started at IUP, and Hood is pleased to be able to participate in that several times a year. Hood then asked if Councilwoman Jones would be able to fill in for him on June 22 and June 25, at Stauffer Hall, at 9:00 AM. Hood will be out of town and unable to attend.
- ◇ The Air Show is taking place at the Jimmy Stewart Airport this weekend.
- ◇ Hood encouraged everyone to attend the Flag Day Ceremony on Monday, June 14th, at the Indiana Elks.
- ◇ Hood asked that everyone keep the military personnel in their thoughts and prayers.
- ◇ Pres. Gallo appreciated the fact that the American flags were displayed on the poles for Memorial Day.

The following action occurred during Unfinished Business:

- ◇ Vernon Blystone, 664 Stuchell Road, reiterated his objections to the idea of outdoor dining with alcohol. Blystone stated the sale of alcohol on our sidewalks will not equal prosperity in our town. Blystone stated change is not always better.
- ◇ Timothy Johnson, 55 South 14th Street, feels the proposed amendment is very ill-advised. Johnson suggested that instead of using alcohol, perhaps we should trust God to do a better job.
- ◇ Stanley Jake, of Iselin, stated that if Council can't listen to its constituents, then it could be time for changes.
- ◇ Joe Perseo, 256 North 5th Street, stated he and his wife, who are visually impaired, walk up and down Philadelphia Street quite often. Perseo is concerned

- about whether they will be able to pass by these tables without interference and will they be encountering people that have been drinking too much. Perseo isn't sure this will make for a good environment. His wife feels that sidewalks are meant to be walked on, not sat on. Perseo urged Council to think of the pedestrians and what they would be exposed to.
- ◇ Glenn Propst, 1374 Trim Tree Road, considers himself a life-long resident of Indiana County and even though he has lived in other communities, he hasn't found one that he likes better. Propst stated he was very disheartened after the last meeting and couldn't believe that Council had voted in favor of the proposed amendment. Propst was raised with an alcoholic and abusive father. He knows first hand the damage that alcohol can cause, and he considers it to be Public Enemy #1.
 - ◇ Councilman Simmons then responded that everyone has been talking about alcohol abuse, but this is simply dining with a drink. Simmons asked that Council focus on what this really is, rather than what it isn't.
 - ◇ Mike Barbor thanked Council for taking the time to look at this issue rationally and in a logical way.
 - ◇ Becky Perseo, 256 North 5th Street, expressed concern about how the tables are going to be placed exactly. Councilman Simmons assured her there will be plenty of room to walk around.
 - ◇ Luke Summerfield expressed his sympathy to Mr. Propst for the environment he was raised in, but not everyone that drinks is like that. It is a matter of personal responsibility. Summerfield stated there are laws and regulations to prevent problems, and he appreciates the fact that Council voted in favor of this amendment. Summerfield stated that is a way for Council to thank those people that are responsible in their drinking and how they handle themselves. Summerfield just doesn't think everyone will see the road to Perdition that they are expecting.
 - ◇ Pres. Gallo then explained that Council is made up of twelve (12) members. Three (3) representatives from each of the four (4) Wards in the Borough. Gallo introduced the following four Chairpersons: Councilwoman Jones of the Administration Committee; Councilman Simmons of the Community Development Committee; Councilman Kravetsky of the Public Safety Committee; and Councilman Hartman of the Public Works Committee. Gallo explained that all matters begin at the Committee level and then are brought to Council for action. Gallo stated the monthly Committee meetings are advertised, and he encouraged citizens to attend those as well.
 - ◇ Mayor Hood then stated he was prepared to take action on the ordinance dealing with outdoor dining and alcohol. After careful consideration, Hood stated it was his decision to veto the ordinance adopted by Council at the May 25th Special Meeting.
 - ◇ A motion was then made by Simmons, second by Geesey, to override the Mayor's veto. During discussion, Councilman Hartman again voiced his objection to the idea of outdoor dining with alcohol. Hartman feels it is a bad law, and he worries about how this will adversely affect the Police Department staff. Councilman Geesey stated Chief Sutton helped to prepare the rules and regulations for this

Under New Business, Diane Peffer reported that the recent Relay for Life was a huge success. Over \$145,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society. The Indiana Borough Bunion Busters won an award for the Top Government team and raised over \$6,200 for this very worthwhile cause.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM, upon a motion by Kravetsky and a second by Geesey.