

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE INDIANA  
BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

PRESENT: President Simmons, Presiding; D. Peffer, Recording; Council Members Bricklemyer, Gallo, Geesey, Hartman, Jobe, Jones, Kravetsky, Petrosky, Shively, Thompson and Thorell; Mayor Hood; Chief Sutton; Solicitor Kablack; Public Works Director Fairman; Code/Zoning Director Kirk; Fire Chief Kelly; Dr. Rhonda Luckey, IUP; Peter Roquemore, IUP Student Representative; Jay Knarr, Downtown Indiana; Randy Wells, Indiana Gazette; Maria Miller, Renda Broadcasting; and approximately thirty (30) visitors.

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

After a moment of silent reflection, Councilman Petrosky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pres. Simmons asked for a Roll Call, and all twelve Council members were in attendance.

There was a motion by Kravetsky, second by Bricklemyer, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of April 5, 2011, held at 6:15 PM, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Bricklemyer, second by Jones, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held April 5, 2011, at 6:30 PM, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Geesey, second by Thorell, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held April 5, 2011, at 6:45 PM, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Jones, second by Kravetsky, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2011, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Jones, second by Thorell, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 19, 2011, as written. Motion Carried.

There was a motion by Thorell, second by Shively, to approve the Financial Reports for March 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

Council adjourned into an Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

Council reconvened into Regular Session at 7:48 PM.

Pres. Simmons announced the purpose of the Executive Session was for personnel matters.

Prior to Public Participation, Pres. Simmons stated a number of people in attendance were probably at the meeting due to the television show filming and helicopter crash that recently occurred. Simmons stated that while Council welcomed comments from the

public on the crash, this meeting would not be a forum for answering questions and exchanging opinions on the incident. Simmons also explained that it was the television show that approached the borough about filming in Indiana, and the show's producers could have filmed in Indiana whether they asked to do so or not. Simmons stated it seemed better for the film crew to be guided by Indiana officers rather than having them work on their own.

The following action occurred during Public Participation:

- Paul Lyter, 1051A Washington Street, questioned the relationship between the Indiana Borough Police Department and the show doing the filming. Lyter doesn't see how anything positive could have come from participating in this project. He feels the purpose of the Police Department should be to promote order in the community, rather than have it look like they are working against IUP. Lyter said the portrayal of the IUP campus in a negative way on the show could create problems for IUP students trying to get jobs. Lyter also wrote a "Letter to the Editor" that appeared in the *Indiana Gazette*, and he feels this has definitely put a strain on the Town-Gown image that we are always talking about.
- Dr. Kitty Hood, 541 Chestnut Street, questioned who thought this would be a good idea. Hood feels there should have been some conversation about this before it happened, and she wishes we would have said no when approached. Hood hopes an open forum is planned to discuss this event further.
- Theodore Reddinger, 6021 Crimson Hawks, was visiting in the apartment that the helicopter blades crashed through. Reddinger stated there is a lot of misinformation going around and contrary to previous reports, there was a lot of structural damage done. While the use of the helicopter maybe wasn't part of the agreement between the show "Campus PD" and the Indiana Borough Police Department, the show does use a good bit of aerial footage on a regular basis. Reddinger then wanted to publicly commend all of the emergency personnel for the excellent job they did in dealing with the situation. Reddinger then made the following two requests: (1) When the FAA is finished with the investigation, the report should be released to the public; (2) that we sever all ties with the G-4 project.
- Elizabeth Shields, 3351 Crimson Hawks, expressed her frustration at being "sold out" to a reality TV show on G-4. Shields thought that Indiana was a beautiful place to live and attend college, but Shields now feels like she has been violated. Shields had observed the helicopter outside her window just minutes before it crashed, and she is deeply troubled to realize that it could have been her residence that it crashed into.
- Jennifer Flickinger, 252 Church Street, asked Council to consider changing an ordinance that currently prohibits chicken coops within borough limits. Flickinger and her family are interested in having a few backyard hens to supply her family with fresh eggs, but no roosters. According to Flickinger, Pittsburgh and several other cities have approved it as an Urban Homesteading "green

project”, and she doesn’t feel a few chicken coops is going to defile the air or make us look like a bunch of rednecks.

- Nathan Decker, 145 Oak Street, complimented the great job of the emergency personnel and especially the police officers who responded to the crash site. Decker is a Criminology major, and he sees the Campus PD program as showing there are consequences for bad and illegal behavior. Decker stated IUP’s reputation shouldn’t be damaged, and he feels it is the violators that should be to blame.

The following action occurred during the Committee Reports:

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

- Kim Dorchak, of Kotzan CPA & Associates, gave a detailed report on the annual audit of the Borough’s records, and informed the Committee that she had issued a clean opinion. There were a couple of housekeeping issues that have been taken care of, but Nichole Sipos was commended for her performance and for taking an additional class which has helped improve her bookkeeping skills.
- There was a motion by Jones, second by Geesey, to retain Kim Dorchak and her firm of Kotzan CPA & Associates for the next four years, 2011 thru 2014, at a rate of \$14,000 for a basic audit, and \$1,500 for a single for a total of \$15,500. Motion Carried.
- A discussion was held with Roland Francis regarding our contract with Waste Management, which is up in December 2011. The Public Works Committee has been discussing this and since it is a contract, the Administration Committee is studying the options as well.
- There was a motion by Jones, second by Thompson, that we terminate our open-ended contract with the current custodial service and hire two part-time staff, which has been a past practice, for both sides of the Municipal Building and the Community Center building. During discussion, Councilman Hartman stated that prior to hiring anyone, a job description for these positions will need to be developed and it will have to go before the Union as well. Motion Carried.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- Jim Gress presented the Committee with a schedule for this summer’s Farmers Market. As in previous years, they would like to use a portion of the Church Street municipal parking lot for the sale of their goods. They would like to be open on Wednesdays from 4 PM – 6 PM, and on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon. There was a motion by Bricklemeyer, second by Geesey, to approve this request. Motion Carried.
- There was a motion by Kravetsky, second by Jones, to approve the closing of Philadelphia Street, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, from 3 PM to 7 PM, for the annual car cruise. Motion Carried.
- Jay Knarr, Downtown Indiana Manager, urged Council members to attend the Community Development Committee meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to hopefully finalize the BIDD Program.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Chairman Kravetsky offered his appreciation to the police, fire and EMS workers that responded to the accident scene.
- Kravetsky gave an update of the operational plan implemented to bring residences and businesses into compliance with street/house number requirements. As of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 38 properties have been identified and subsequently notified by the Code Department.
- There was a motion by Thompson, second by Hartman, to instruct Solicitor Kablack to draft an ordinance regarding open burning, which was vacated during the Codification process. Currently, there are no safety provisions, approval process or enforcement provisions for open burning. Motion Carried.
- In response to a question from Councilman Thorell regarding future plans for the Wayne Avenue corridor, Chief Sutton stated he and Sergeant Kovalcik will be meeting with Penn Dot in the near future during business hours. Sutton hopes to have a detailed report for the May Public Safety Committee meeting.

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- There was a motion by Hartman, second by Thorell, to approve the bid of Tresco Paving with Option #1 at a cost of \$148,082.07, with the possibility of adding an additional street. Motion Carried.
- The U.V. system at the WWTP was repaired on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We had to go with a rebuilt exchange control panel as ours couldn't be repaired. The cost was \$6,322 and includes a 90 day warranty. However, there is still a problem with our communication board, which allows our SCADA system to talk to the U.V. controller. It is a separate board on the control panel. It was sent out on April 25<sup>th</sup> to see if it can be repaired or needs to be replaced.
- In regard to the garbage contract, RFP's were sent to Hugill, Waste Management and Viola, & Alexander will receive one as well. However, the companies don't want to risk compromising their bids so we might not receive any back. Chairman Hartman also stated the Committee recommends keeping the following three items as part of the contract: once a year roll-off for community collections; special collections for holiday or semester breaks for IUP; and collections for the Parking Garage, Public Works building and Community Center/office.
- The Locust Street project is underway. The contractor held a public meeting for neighborhood residents to explain what was going to happen. Laterals have been installed between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets and the main will be put in shortly. A progress meeting will be held tomorrow night.
- Two trees on the corner of Locust and Fifth Streets, in front of the small church, had to be removed. This street is to be widened, and a line needs to be placed between the curb and the sidewalk.
- The Committee approved Payment Estimate #1 to Terra Works for work done so far.
- After Earthmovers got the termination letter on the Cherry Avenue project, they had 10 days to act. They completed the landscaping within that time period, but we aren't happy with everything. Hartman stated the County will probably continue to hold some money to fix the situation.

- The spring limb collection was completed and 16 ½ tons of chipped limbs were collected & delivered to Blue Spruce Park for use on their trails.
- The Street Crew will be painting and taping crosswalks when the weather cooperates.
- There was a motion by Hartman, second by Thorell, to purchase a new Pelican brand street sweeper to replace a 13 year old machine. The cost is \$149,860 with the trade-in, and it will be purchased with Liquid Fuels money that had been budgeted. Motion Carried.
- The Water Company is replacing the main water line in the 700 block of Nixon Avenue.
- The sealing problem in the Parking Garage has yet to be resolved. Todd Banks will follow-up on this matter.
- The Committee inquired about the sealer for the floor in the Police Garage. Dave Fairman will pursue this matter with the Fire Department to investigate what product was used at their White Township station.
- The Committee is concerned that recycling is down, and the trash collection system may be at fault.
- Councilman Thorell had expressed concerned that the utility lines were not being placed underground at the Locust Street Project. Chairman Hartman stated that is something Council should consider for in the future.
- Hartman did some investigating and found out the Vinegar Hill steps are not in the Historical District. Hartman feels that we should insist the new steps be made out of something other than concrete. Councilman Thorell asked Public Works Director Fairman to check on the leaning of that wall.

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION:**

- They are looking at the trees that were planted on Philadelphia Street, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- The Street Department crew recently planted 30 trees on Water Street, between Third and Fourth Streets.
- Councilman Thorell stated the Shade Tree Commission should be a strong ally in regard to burying utility lines underground.

**RECREATION COMMISSION:** No meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

**INDIANA COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMISSION:**

- Most of the concerns are in regard to what our present tax ordinances are and developing one that everybody in the County agrees to.
- In regard to LST, we won't get any better information from the federal government about the Post Office, but we could cross reference with the state tax list and then send the individuals a bill.
- In the near future, Council will be asked to name someone as the main contact person, along with an alternate.

As Interim Borough Manger, Chief Sutton asked that he be notified of any agenda items for the May 17<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

The following action occurred during Chief Sutton's report:

- Everyone received a copy of the Police Department's Report for April 2011.
- Council also received a copy of the Parking Department statistics for April 2011, as well as April 2010 for comparison.
- Chief Sutton then offered a few remarks in regard to the recent helicopter accident. Sutton stated Borough Council was not involved with that decision making process. Since becoming the Chief of Police, Sutton has always had an open door policy and he would be happy to have a discussion with anyone that has concerns over the recent incident. Sutton explained that the arrangements made with this company absolutely did not involve a helicopter. Sutton commended members of the fire department, police department and medical personnel for the exemplary job they did.

The following action occurred during Code Officer Kirk's report:

- Each member of Council received a copy of the Code Department's Report for April 2011.
- Councilman Thorell commented the Planning Commission minutes are typically attached to the Code Report, but they are never mentioned in Council. Thorell suggested we need to know a little more about that in the future.

The following action occurred during Fire Chief Kelly's report:

- There were 44 calls for service in April. Twelve (12) of them were in the borough resulting in a \$60,000 loss.
- Kelly expressed his appreciation for the great cooperation that existed during the recent helicopter incident. Kelly stated we were very lucky there wasn't a fire or explosion with the amount of fuel involved.

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

- Two joint meetings were recently held between the Borough and IUP. The first was in regard to the Overlay Zone, and the second dealt with violence prevention.
- Luckey also highlighted the remarkable efforts of IUP students in several activities that occurred during the month of April, which resulted in food and cash donations for ICCAP, volunteer service hours to 12 non-profit organizations, and raising awareness of the homeless.
- IUP will be graduating 1,600 students this Saturday.

The following action occurred during IUP Student Representative Peter Roquemore's report:

- Roquemore will be graduating on Saturday, and the ICUC will be finding his replacement for Borough Council.
- Roquemore wanted to thank the IUP students who were in attendance at tonight's meeting.
- Roquemore has been working with groups of students from across the state on how to advocate for higher educational funding in the state budget.
- The semester is almost over, and the students will be heading home. Roquemore thanked Council for the opportunity to work with them.

President Simmons stated the Borough Manager Search Committee has been meeting, and will start conducting interviews tomorrow.

The following action occurred during Mayor Hood's report:

- Hood congratulated Peter Roquemore on his upcoming graduation.
- Hood appreciated Dr. Luckey's comments.
- Hood attended a meeting in honor of NAMI Day (National Alliance of the Mentally Ill).
- Council will be getting a copy of three resolutions that the PLCM will be voting on in June.
- Mayor Hood agreed to a request for Indiana Borough to host a PLCM meeting on April 20, 2012, for approximately 70-80 people. Hood hopes to be able to use the IUP facilities for this.
- Hood also offered his thanks to everyone that helped clear the area where the helicopter incident occurred.
- Hood asked that everyone keep the military personnel in their thoughts and prayers.

There wasn't any Unfinished Business.

There wasn't any New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM, upon a motion by Geesey.