

**OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 6, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Tim Nelson
Mike Webber
Kathy Kniola
Scott Lehmann
Nate Ball

MINUTES

Kathy Kniola moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 regular monthly meeting and the February 16, 2017 special meeting. Mike Webber seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

Tim Nelson stated that the Community Room bathroom renovation is finished and the Council is pleased with the results. Tim Nelson stated that he received a call from Rick Calinski, a Public Relations representative from NIPSCO stating that he received our letter regarding LED street lights in Town. He stated he would share our letter with their engineering team and discuss our requests.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department – Marshal Reeder reported that the Town’s Code Enforcer has found 45 homes in Town with no address numerals on the front of their homes. Letters will be sent to these residents. He also discussed the new mandatory 800 megahertz radios to be purchased throughout Porter County. This is a potential cost to the Town of \$200,000 for the fire and police radios.

Plan Commission – Mike Falk stated that 25 Hillcrest Road has now been secured. The Town Attorney will begin the lien process. He stated that a draft of the Building Codes should be ready for the next Plan Commission meeting and will thereafter be submitted to the Town Council.

Waterworks – Chuck Litzkow stated that 26 residents have late water bills. He also stated that any resident wishing to opt out of the waterline insurance must call the insurance company directly. The Water Department is not able to opt out for a customer.

General Code – Dick Meister stated that they are still working on the sign ordinance. When it is finished, it will go to the Plan Commission and then the Town Council for approval.

ADA – Sara Anderson thanked the Council for the renovation of the Community Room bathrooms which now includes ADA facilities.

CLAIMS

Mike Webber moved to approve the January 2017 claims as read by the Clerk-Treasurer. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott Lehmann moved to accept the General Code recommendations regarding skateboarding in the Town. An ordinance will follow for Town Council consideration. Nate Ball seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Nelson read in total Ordinance 827 (Peddlers) for the first reading. Kathy Kniola questioned whether the Peddler Ordinance should include exceptions for non-profit groups such as Girl Scouts and similar organizations.

Scott Lehmann moved to increase the membership size of the Environmental Advisory Board by one member as requested by Susan Mihalo, Chair of the Board, effective February 1, 2017. Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tim Nelson discussed the pending 30-day public notice request issued by IDNR in connection with Arcelor Mittal Burn Harbor LLC's permit application (LM-206) for annual sand dredging. A letter to IDNR requesting that Arcelor Mittal be required to deposit the dredged sand on the beach rather than offshore will be written. The Council agreed that Tim Nelson would send the letter to IDNR.

Discussion was held regarding the February 13, 2017 letter from the Animal Control Committee. Mike Webber moved to change the name of this committee to "Animal Committee" as opposed to "Animal Control" per the request of Karen Berrier, Chair of this committee. Nate Ball seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was unanimously passed. Note: Clerk-Treasurer has been instructed to prepare an ordinance for this change. Kathy Kniola moved to allow dogs on the beach from Labor Day to Memorial Day as suggested by the General Code Committee and requested by the Animal Control Committee. Scott Lehmann seconded the motion. The vote of the Council was as follows: Kathy Kniola, yes; Mike Webber, yes; Scott Lehmann, yes; Nate Ball, yes; Tim Nelson, opposed. The motion was passed four to one. Note: The Clerk-Treasurer has been instructed to prepare an ordinance for this change. The Council discussed the third request made by the Animal Control Committee which would allow dogs on the beach for a two-week trial period during the month of June 2017 from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Kathy Kniola stated that the Council would need more information regarding the "policing" of dog waste on the beach before the Council could make a decision on this request. Scott Lehmann opposed this request due to children playing in the sand on the beach and possibly ingesting harmful bacteria.

Kathy Kniola stated that Paul Labovitz, Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, has suggested that the Town explore whether there are any FEMA grant options available for homes along the lakefront. He stated that FEMA has "pre-disaster" grant programs that could possibly be a source of funds to be used to protect property along the lakefront.

Kathy Kniola also reported that Paul Labovitz, Superintendent, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, has consented to the Town using Boat Club Road as an emergency exit. Mr. Labovitz stated that the Park Service will contact our Street Department to arrange for clearing of brush and debris from Boat Club Road to make it more passable in the event of an emergency.

RESIDENT REMARKS

Wally Sampson, 9 Ogden Court, commented on the huge cost of new mandatory police and fire radio upgrade. He also opposed allowing dogs on the beach during the summer months and stated that many residents do not pick up after their dogs in Town.

Chuck Litzkow reminded residents that the Fire Department will be holding their St. Patrick's Day Party on March 25, 2017.

COUNCIL REMARKS

None

No further business coming before the Council, Mike Webber moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Kniola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Tim Nelson, President

ATTEST:

Jean Manna, Clerk-Treasurer