

# CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 pm

## Minutes

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** and the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Council President Joe Siefker.

**ROLL CALL** was taken by Clerk Treasurer, Erica Salmon. Present were Council President Joe Siefker, Vice President, Anna Pea; Council Members Mark Reynold, Brian Gritter and Nicole Bell. Also present were Director of Planning and Redevelopment, Christine Owens; Town Manager, Andrew Klinger; Director of Public Works, Steve Yagelski; Chief of Police, Michael Crooke; Street Supervisor, Ben Lipps; financial consultant, Greg Guerrettaz; and Attorney, Darren Chadd. Minutes were taken by Clerk Treasurer, Erica Salmon.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Minutes, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Motion and second to approve Consent Agenda  
by Bell and Gritter. **APPROVED 5-0**

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS (*Maximum 5 minutes*)**

**Ted Brindle** 12215 Sunrise Drive – Mr. Brindle thanked the town for snow removal, but asked about Buck Creek road being plowed after blowing and drifting. Mr. Brindle commented about the website being out of date. Mr. Brindle suggesting posting reports like the sewer rate study online.

**Carolyn Mangold Black** 6763 W US 40 – Asked for an explanation for why her property could be annexed. Does not want her property to be annexed into Cumberland.

**Jim Lathrop** 12114 Emory Drive – Expressed concern about 21<sup>st</sup> Street trail being blocked with snow. Asked town to consider snow removal on that trail. Asked council to address concerns that the new Buck Creek trail might not be conducive to runners and bikers.

**Doug Schildmier** 5409 W US 40 – Stated that his family has farmed his property since 1846. His family and others have livestock. Mr. Schildmier is concerned that Cumberland rules will restrict those activities and others. He stated that his taxes will be 22% higher after annexation. Stated he had not heard a positive comment in three meetings regarding annexation. Asked how the town has the right to annex farm land. Mr. Klinger answered that the rules for annexation are set forth in state statute.

**Danny Marlatt** 6358 W 100 S – Mr. Marlatt owns property at 6297 US 40. He agrees with Mr. Schildmier's comments and things annexation should be voluntary.

**Mr. Barker** (no sign in sheet) – Asked if the new ground that gets annexed will have the same rules as Cumberland. Owens answered that some entitlements will go forward with the property. Property owners will have to get permits from Cumberland. Mr. Barker stated that the standards were much different between Hancock County and the Town. Siefker stated that the town has to look to the future and be responsible to the people in the town already, control the growth of the town and protect property owners. Pea stated that high quality development will raise property values for everyone.

## STAFF REPORTS

Andrew Klinger, Town Manager

Contractor has erected the concrete for the entryway sign that was knocked down. Painting happening today. Klinger attended the Economic development council was this afternoon. The Economic council is celebrating their success and expects new projects to come to Hancock County.

1782 statement has come in, financial consultant has reviewed and proposed a plan of action that CT will pursue ASAP. St. Johns church has a letter of intent with Giant Eagle. Giant Eagle has submitted a request for a c3 designation for zoning. Public Hearing for zoning is scheduled for February at 1pm in room 1821 of the City County Building. Town would prefer a c3c designation that would encourage pedestrian friendly, transit oriented development. Giant Eagle plans to demolish the church and other structures to put in a gas station.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Ordinance 2014-20

Guerrettaz referenced his Oct 9<sup>th</sup> rate report that recommended a rate increase. Guerrattaz stated that the Sanitary board wants to phase the increase in over 3 years. He stated that the infrastructure under the ground is in need of repairs. The last increase was in 2001. In 2003 there was a decrease. Original recommendation was a 35% increase. Actual increase will be 5% each year for the next 3 years.

- Public comment opened at 7:35

**Jim Lathrop** 12114 Emory Drive – Stated that rates do have to increase, but 5% seemed like a lot. Asked if there was a way to connect with another system like Marion County. Guerrettaz answered that Cumberland investigated that possibility 10 years ago and the initial charge was very high.

**Albert Tartaglis** 12146 Abel Cir – Asked council if they would be willing to cut their pay to help fund improvements. Yagelski answered that utilities are a separate entity that can only be funded with user fees. Tartaglis asked about specific projects that need improvement. Yagelski stated projects to improve capacity. Tartaglis asked if it would be easier to bond for the improvements over time.

**Ted Brindle** 12215 Sunrise Drive - Stated that he thought there was a lot of information missing from the report, asked council to table a vote until all the information could be provided.

**Lyle Dory** (no sign in sheet) - Asked about bonding procedures. Guerrettaz explained that underwriters buy the bonds and the sale is put out to bid. Mr. Dory agreed with Mr. Brindle and asked council to table the vote.

- Public comment closed at 7:55

Guerrettaz discussed the information that Mr. Brindle said was missing. Guerrettaz explained the large amount of detail and analysis that was provided. Pea stated that many expenses have gone up since the last increase such as health insurance, cost of living etc. Siefker discussed cost savings measures that have already taken place. Stated we have been investigating for a year and have done everything we can.

Motion and second to approve Ordinance 2014-20  
by Gritter and Pea. **APPROVED 5-0**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Consideration of Ordinance 2014-14  
US 40 East Phase 2 Annexation

Christine Owens, Director of Planning

Owens stated that provisions in the annexation ordinance allowed farming, livestock and other land use entitlements to continue. The ordinance will be effective 90 days after filing. Siefker stated that we are trying to be responsible to all the people of the town. He doesn't want uses that will hurt the residents to be allowed. Pea stated that being served by sewer will increase the property values.

Motion and second to approve Ordinance 2014-14  
by Pea and Bell. **APPROVED 5-0**

1977 Police Pension Update

Andrew Klinger, Town Manager

Chadd presented a fact sheet listing advantages, disadvantages and procedures for joining the plan. Klinger stated that the primary concerns are the financial impact and how we can fund it. Initial impact would be approx. \$30,000 annually. PERF requires an 11.2% employer contribution, the 1977 plan would require a 21% contribution as well as the costs of running the required commissioner board. Public Safety LOIT could fund this. Implementation would be for 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Indianapolis Digital Billboard Conversion

Mark Reynold, Councilor

Reynold discussed proposed zoning changes for billboards and that they negatively impact property values. Indy Rezone will create new classifications for zoning that are simpler. The Billboard lobby has written their own ordinance. Would request that council write a letter to ask that ordinance be put back to IndyRezone and be drafted by professional planners who represent the interests of the citizens.

Council Consensus Reached

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS**

Pea asked citizens to remonstrate at the zoning public hearing for the St. John's property

Seifker stated the trails are not built to standards of using a vehicle for plowing. Utility trucks should not be allowed on the trails.

Citizens asked for an update on street lights. Lipps responded that a new contractor is in place and the initial order will take about 6-8 weeks.

Citizens expressed concern about the Buck Creek trail and asked council to confirm that the trail will be for runners and bicyclists.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

HVAC Improvements Additional Appropriation

EOY Financial Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:55pm