

**Minutes of the Trail Creek Town Council Meeting for:
December 18, 2007**

(A complete transcript is available in the Clerk's office on tape # 330)

The regular meeting of the Trail Creek Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 18th, 2007 at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Council members present were: Council President Jeff Studtman, Councilman Ron Lombard, Councilmen Dan Tompkins, Councilman John Bayler, Councilman Jamie Baldwin, Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs and Secretary Cindy Kautz.

Following presentation of the minutes of the regular Council meeting on November 20th, Councilman Ron Lombard moved for approval. Councilman John Bayler seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs reported that the Town is in good sound financial position. A CD is maturing 12/25/2007 and ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) will be transferred to the checking account. The Town will be receiving some monies this coming Friday, December 21st from the County. Councilman Jaime Baldwin moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Councilman Dan Tompkins seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Claims –Claims against the town in the amount of FORTY THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT DOLLARS and 83/100 (\$43,248.83) were presented. Councilman Jaime Baldwin moved for payment, Councilman Ron Lombard seconded and the vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

REPORTS:

ATTORNEY: A new Fireworks Ordinance was presented by Attorney Herrbach who stated that he included three (3) new State statutes which have been included in this new draft. This new ordinance will not affect this years New Years Eve so the Council may wait until the next meeting to pass the ordinance.

Attorney Herrbach also presented an Employee Handbook. The risk management office for our insurance coverage indicates that the Town of Trail Creek needs to have an employee handbook. This book covers things such as nepotism, discrimination, grievance procedures and a number of issues which have been needed by the Town. This was presented to the Council for their perusal. The items listed can be fine tuned and put into a handbook and given to Town employees. Attorney Herrbach is waiting to hear from Bob Lindenmeyer regarding how many hours a town employee must work to have the benefit of health insurance.

Attorney Herrbach addressed the issues regarding Hydronic Heaters. There has been an Ordinance regarding this, there is also a County Ordinance regarding this issue. The County has stated that they would assume responsibility for supervising the furnaces in the Town of Trail Creek and the County would cover the cost of doing this. They would like everyone to be uniform in the County. Attorney Herrbach is waiting for a letter from the County Commissioners confirming this, if he receives this confirmation it will not be necessary for the Town to have their own ordinance, they can simply adopt the LaPorte County ordinance.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Not present.

ENGINEER: Engineer John Doyle stated that Walsh & Kelly was in Trail Creek. They backfilled curbs and removed covers on the drains so that would function, they basically have done all that they can do until Spring when grass seed would be planted and things cleaned up.

MS4: Kate Doyle had nothing new to report.

PARK DEPARTMENT: Nothing to report. Clerk Anne Dobbs asked Council President Jeff Studtman if the baseball check would be deposited before December 31st, 2007. Councilman Jeff Studtman stated that Chris Willoughby was to bring the check to the Town Hall before the end of the year. He will contact Mr. Willoughby to remind him.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Nothing new.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR: Bruno Uryga had attended a refresher class regarding Indiana codes that apply to plumbing. He has also approved occupancy for a house on Johnson Road and there is another home on Johnson Road pending.

POLICE DEPT: Marshal Todd Klosinski presented the reports from October and November. He stated that Officer Dick will be starting his training at the academy on January 15th, 2008; he will be at the academy until May 2nd, 2008.

STREET DEPARTMENT: No report.

NIRPC: The NIRPC meeting was held. A resolution was passed to poll the Legislature and research the South Shore Plan to extend to Munster, Lowell and Valparaiso.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance regarding Hydronic Heaters and Fireworks was tabled until the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Membership dues for South Shore Clean Cities were addressed by Councilman Dan Tompkins. He asked that the Council stay a member of this organization. The dues are THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) per year. An invoice was presented to Clerk Dobbs. A motion was made by Councilman Ron Lombard and seconded by Councilman John Bayler. The vote was unanimous.
2. The regular Trail Creek meeting has been rescheduled for January 22, 2008 as the January 15th meeting date conflicts with IACT in Indianapolis. John Bayler and Warren Schacht will be attending the IACT meeting.
3. Appointments for 2008 were addressed. Councilman Ron Lombard moved to accept the nominees for the four year appointments. Councilman Dan Tompkins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The one year appointments were tabled until the next meeting when all these individuals will have been contacted. Clerk Dobbs was contacted by Paul Foreman, the former plumbing inspector, who has expressed an interest in becoming the towns plumbing inspector again.
4. The election was held for the council president for the year 2008 and for the president pro-tem. John Bayler nominated Ron Lombard for Council President, Dan Tompkins seconded. Jeff Studtman nominated Jaime Baldwin for Council President, there was no second. The Motion to elect Councilman Ron Lombard as President was unanimous. Nominations for President Pro-Tem were made: Councilman Dan Tompkins nominated John Bayler and Councilman Ron Lombard seconded, the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comments: Ron Lombard stated that it has been a pleasure serving with Dan all these past years. Many council people and residents commented on Dan's devotion to the town and help through the years.

Council Comments

Clerk's Comments: Anne M. Dobbs praised Secretary/Chief Deputy Cindy Kautz for all that she had done while she was out of the office.

A presentation was presented to Councilman Daniel W. Tompkins for recognition of 36 years of public service to the Town of Trail Creek and for all that he has done for the Town of Trail Creek.

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Dan Tompkins for 36 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Town of Trail Creek.

Refuse and recycling will be delayed one day.

There being no further business or comments Councilman John Bayler moved for adjournment at 8:00 p.m. Councilman Ron Lombard seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Attest: _____

Anne M. Dobbs, Clerk-Treasurer