

REGULAR MEETING – January 15, 2008

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday evening, January 15, 2008, at the hour of 7:30 p.m., local time, in the Common Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Ron Meer.

Roll call was authorized and the following were noted present and/or absent:

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Patricia Boy, Marc Espar, Phillip Jankowski, Robert McKee, Ron Meer, Willie Milsap, Richard Murphy, (7).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Joe Doyle and Angie Starks (2).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

President Meer inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 2, 2008 and hearing none, the minutes were approved as printed.

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

Council President Meer reported on the Workshop that took place. Mr. Meer stated that the Council will be following procedures more accurately and there will be Standing Committees formed of three (3) Council members along with Special Select Committees and additional liaisons. The completed list of Committee Assignments will be brought to the next Council Meeting (February 5, 2008).

President Meer stated that a draft of the 2008 Committee Assignment list can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Councilman Murphy reported on the Redevelopment Commission Meeting. Mr. Murphy stated that Andrew University students will be presenting their final presentation of the North End Plan, Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Councilman Murphy stated that Tuesday, January 22, 2008 there will be a Plan Commission Meeting where the Lohan Anderson Plan will be considered for adoption.

Council President Meer advised that several Ordinances that are brought to the Council will be referred to Committee. Mr. Meer stated this committee then will convene and have a public meeting for the public's input and gather information regarding the Ordinance and report back to the Council at the Second Reading of the Ordinance.

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Oberlie spoke regarding the status on the grant application for the historic line car from the South Shore. Mayor Oberlie advised the Council before going any further on this project the City will need to hire a Rail Car Historian to help plan the future of the project.

Mayor Oberlie stated for everyone to become acquainted and understand what goes on in various departments in the City is to have a Department Head to attend each meeting to present what their department is about.

Brian Payne, Airport Manager did a presentation for the City Council regarding the daily functions, procedures and orientation of the Michigan City Municipal Airport.

Mr. Payne advised Mr. McKee of the marketing statistics the Michigan City Airport uses.

Mr. Payne explained how the youth can get involved in the Young Eagles Program.

Councilman Milsap and John Pugh, Plan and Inspection Director discussed the status and condition of the old Clark Gas Station property on Michigan Boulevard. Mr. Pugh stated that Code Enforcement personnel will continue to keep in touch with the owner.

PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications

RESOLUTIONS

There were no Resolutions

ORDINANCES

The Deputy Clerk read on first reading by title only, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2009 CHANGING THE TIME OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL.

Introduced by: Joseph Doyle

Willie Milsap
Robert McKee

Councilwoman Boy and President Meer stated that we need the input of the public regarding the time change of the Council Meetings before making a decision.

Councilman Milsap and McKee stated their opinions regarding this Ordinance.

Joan Chumley, 832 Pine Street advised the Council reasons why they should vote against this Ordinance.

Sharon Carnes, 414 E. Coolspring requested the Ordinance be read in its entirety; Ms. Carnes commented that she agreed with Ms. Chumley regarding her feelings against the time change of the Common Council meetings.

Hazel Thomas, 120 N. Woodland Avenue stated her concerns regarding the time change in Council meetings.

Janet Smith, 402 E. 8th Street apposed the change in time in the Ordinance and stated it should stay as is.

Larry Sylvestri, 414 E. Coolspring agreed that the Council meeting time shouldn't change and stated his reasons.

Council President Meer stated this Ordinance will not be referred to committee.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other comments or questions by the Council or public and there being none the Ordinance was laid over for second reading.

The Deputy Clerk read on first reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4010 BY ESTABLISHING THE POSITION AND SALARY OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
Introduced by: Pat Boy

Speaking to this Ordinance was Mayor Oberlie and Council President Meer referred this to the Council's Finance Committee. Councilman Espar, chair of the Finance Committee stated that the meeting would be held Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., City Hall and advised the Clerk's Office to secure a room for the meeting

Council President Meer asked if there were any questions or comments by the public and advised this Ordinance will not be referred to a committee. President Meer stated This Ordinance was laid over for second reading.

The Deputy Clerk read on first reading by title only, **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, Introduced by: Pat Boy (DECREASE: #9000 Riverboat Unappropriated \$51,451.78, #0101 General Fund \$51,451.78, INCREASE: Transfer of funds, Salaries & Wages, FICA, PERF, Health Insurance.)**

Councilwoman Boy explained the transfer of funds of the appropriation.

Council President Meer asked if there were any questions or comments by the public,

hearing none and this will not be referred to a committee, the Ordinance was laid over for second reading.

The Deputy Clerk read on first reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE OF THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4008 REGULATING THE USE OF FIREWORKS IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**
Introduced by: Phil Jankowski.

Councilman Jankowski stated the original Ordinance No. 4008 did not state the fines; this amendment will correct this matter. Mr. Jankowski also advised that the Ordinance had not been published in the news paper.

Council President Meer asked if there were any questions or comments by the public and advised this Ordinance will not be referred to a committee. President Meer stated this Ordinance was laid over for second reading.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was new businesses

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilman McKee asked the Finance Committee to prepare an analysis to promote or train within that department as opposed to hiring an individual.

Council President Meer thanked Mayor Oberlie and State Senator Jim Arnold for helping get Senate Bill No. 242 which was filed on January 4, 2008 regarding tax delinquent properties in the county.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Joan Chumley, 832 Pine Street commented on the timeframe and reason of the next Council Work Shop.

Council President Meer addressed Ms. Chumley regarding her questions.

Ms. Chumley asked the Council if in the future to schedule work shops at 7:00 p.m. so the public could attend.

Ms. Chumley thanks Councilman Murphy for his efforts regarding the Brewery and the North End development project. Ms. Chumley questioned the future of the Boulevard Gardens.

Ms. Chumley announced George & Ruby's Restaurant located at Tennessee Street and 9th Street has just opened and invited the community to stop and try them.

Keith Devereaux, 221 Columbia Street stated his concerns regarding guns and the crime going on his neighborhood, police protection and what is being done.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Milsap, supported by the majority of the Council, and there being no further business to transact, President Meer declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:22 p.m.).

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk