



**TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**May 4, 2010 - 7:30 PM**

The Town Council meeting was held May 4, 2010. Mayor Kerry Abrams called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** The following were in attendance: Mayor Kerry Abrams, Deputy Mayor Bill Harrington, Councilman Al Bruno, Councilman Bob Kuhs, Councilman John Leeds, Councilwoman Judy Leonard, Councilman Kevin Morton, Town Planner Henry Burden, Treasurer Peter Kirksey, and Carla Sexton, Recorder

**ABSENT:** Chief Joseph Swam and Legal Counsel John Buck

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Pleasant View Baptist Church is holding the "Month of Caring". On May 1<sup>st</sup> they helped several residents with dental screenings and cleaned up Marina Park. On May 15<sup>th</sup> additional screenings at the Fire Station and clean up. On May 28<sup>th</sup> a banquet type picnic from 4 – 8 at Marina Park for everyone.

**MINUTES**

- **MOTION** by Councilman Kuhs to approve April 6, 2010 minutes, **seconded** by Councilman Morton. **All were in favor. VOTE: 6-YES, 0-NO.**

**SAFETY SLOGAN**

- Mayor Abrams presented the safety tip for the month of May, "Summertime Safety".

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Willard Heuser asked council for an update on High St. Bridge; the following was discussed.
  1. Freedom of Information request and the cost to provide the documents requested.
  2. Structure is located on private properties and is not town owned.
  3. The town is continuing to seek funding through the Federal Government.
  4. Cost to repair structure for town is more costly than for an individual homeowner.
  5. Mr. Heuser made no attempt to contact his insurance company.
  6. It was noted that before the structure failed Mr. Heuser has a chain across the access point posted "out of bounds".

**LEGISLATIVE**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Real and Personal Property Tax Rate** any changes are needed by May 22<sup>nd</sup> and reported by May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Certificate of Event** – May 16<sup>th</sup> (Melanie Orr Daughters 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Party) **MOTION** by Councilman Kuhs to approve May 16<sup>th</sup> Certificate of Event, **seconded** by Councilman Bruno. **All were in favor. VOTE: 6-YES, 0-NO.**
- **Certificate of Event** – July 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> (Vacation Bible School) **MOTION** by Councilman Morton to approve July 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Certificate of Event, **seconded** by Councilman Kuhs. **All were in favor. VOTE: 6-YES, 0-NO.**
- **21 High St.** waiver of penalty for water and sewer invoices was discussed. **MOTION** by Deputy Mayor Harrington to deny request for waiver of penalty for 21 High St., **seconded** by Councilwoman Leonard. A letter will be sent advising that he can relinquish the hookup as an option. **All were in favor. VOTE: 6-YES, 0-NO.**

- **Schedule Public Hearing for Budget** – copy of budget and worksheet was provided to council for review. Any questions should be directed to Mr. Kirksey or Mr. Burden.
- **Town Sign Presentation**, Melissa Harbold provided a handout of several options for a town sign and held a discussion concerning lighting, location, cost and VFW sponsorship. She will continue to work on suggestions from discussion. A location will also be determined to see if a second sign will be required.

### **REPORTS to COUNCIL**

- **Town Treasurer** provided a report and reminded everyone we are trying to maintain cash flow, but have not received all state revenues.
- **Town Planner/Public Works** provided a report and council discussed. Several items came up concerning trucks and equipment parking at maintenance building, Jefferson Hall parking lot repairs, and income from envelopes at ramp.
- **Legal Counsel** absent no report
- **Chief of Police** e-mailed report to council

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

- **Councilman Al Bruno** suggests that in order to increase productivity and the rhythm of the meetings, he would like the Town Council Work Session be moved to the middle of the month or between the regular sessions as well as to make it a regular voting meeting. Discussion of a Charter change and a Charter review committee was established, members are Councilman Bruno, Councilman Leeds, Councilwoman Leonard, and Councilman Morton
- **Councilman Bob Kuhs** – no report
- **Councilman Kevin Morton** advised planning and zoning needs some updates and Mark Stewart is moving out of town so they are looking for new members. He would also like to see Mr. Burden have more power to approve permits that should not go to P & Z. Mr. Burden to discuss 66B regulations with P & Z Chairwoman Luongo.
- **Deputy Mayor Bill Harrington** would like to see Council down sized from 6 members to 4 members.
- **Councilman John Leeds** provided River Sweep update, 37 helpers at Marina Park and Al had 12 working in Jefferson Hall Parking lot.
- **Councilwoman Judy Leonard** advised the parking lot at Jefferson Hall looks really nice from the cleanup efforts of Albert and the tenants. The tenants have also planted flowers in the beds of the parking lot at their own expense and is very pleased with their efforts. . She and Al sat with Henry to review budget and process and suggested to everyone the need to understand all aspects of the budget before making a vote. She thanked Henry and recommended to everyone to do the same.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **MOTION** by Councilman Morton to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issue at 9:51; **seconded** by Councilman Leeds. **All were in favor. VOTE: 6 -YES, 0 -NO.** Council advised they would not be coming back into open session.
- Mayor Abrams adjourned meeting.