

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2008

The meeting of the Index Town Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Bruce Albert on Tuesday, September 2nd due to Labor Day.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Albert	Karen Sample	Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer
Bob Hubbard	Sean Horst	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Dean Johnson		

The absence of Woods was excused.

Mayor Albert and the Council wished a happy 6th birthday to Addie Johnson.

Minutes from the August meeting were read. Hubbard moved to accept the minutes as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Stowe read the August warrants, numbered 2429 through 2442. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4159.25 and all others were \$3539.53 for a grand total of \$7698.78. Sample moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

During public comments David Cameron said the horseless carriage group will be in town Wednesday September 10th at ten in the morning.

During Council comments, Sample will be researching requirements for Chelan Soper's business application.

Hubbard brought up parking along 5th Avenue. On weekends there have been cars parking at an angle blocking the street. At this stage it doesn't seem worth posting any signs but it may have to be looked at later.

Horst said there will be a celebration for Heybrook Ridge October 4th at the Riverhouse from 2 – 10.

Johnson asked if Crescent Trail would be available to bring back the witchmobile for a hay ride. The trail is posted for emergency vehicles but Albert saw no reason why the Council couldn't consider this. The last time the witchmobile was used it was taken down the paved road and there were some liability concerns from a previous injury. Johnson will come up with a proposal for the next meeting.

The Planning Commission started reviewing the Comprehensive Plan draft. Albert thanked members in advance for their work. A member requested to have his land use application recommended to the Council but as he was not at the Council meeting and no application was presented nothing can be done.

Cross thanked Rob McKibben for the nice job he did covering maintenance while Cross was on vacation. Albert was unable to find a key to the park chain. Cross said this is actually the school chain, but told Albert where the key was kept. Horst asked Cross if there was a tennis net that could be used on the court. Cross has one he pulls out when there are requests, and to let him know if it's needed. Horst thought it might be a good way to settle disputes in town.

Albert has amended the animal control ordinance and presented it for a first reading. He asked the Council to bring their copies back next month prepared to go over the ordinance. One thing in particular is the issue around dangerous dogs.

Information on the land use application process was handed out. Albert has been working with the lawyer and putting in many hours on the code. He would like to give this back to the lawyer and ask him to write the code. Councilmembers agreed.

Stowe gave Councilmembers an invitation from the Sportsmen's Club for a shooting event, along with a response from the Forest Service.

The comment period on a forest practice application for work along Deer Creek has been extended. Albert wrote a letter of comment and asked Councilmembers to review it. Hubbard moved to approve sending the letter and with a second by Johnson the motion carried.

Snohomish County Health District sent a letter asking for funding. No action was taken.

The Index Art Festival group gave a thank you card to the Council.

Albert asked the Council to think about the future of the town as an incorporated entity. It has worked for a hundred years, but the reality is things are getting more complicated for such a small town. Problems with animal control are an example. The town contracts out police services and fire services, and the work that has to be done consumes an enormous amount of time for the mayor. There are reasons to remain incorporated and reasons to not, and Albert asked the Council to consider both with an open mind. David Cameron asked if any difference was made to town revenue as assessed property valuations go up, which it doesn't. Johnson asked if the town would be open to more taxes if unincorporated, which it probably would. Town water would become a water district with commissioners and could be chlorinated. Horst said there are a lot of things the town now enjoys that would be lost. Sample said all autonomy would be lost as the town would become part of unincorporated Snohomish County. Index has the same burdens as larger cities that have banks of lawyers to do the work where Index has Stowe two days a week.

As there was no further business Sample moved to adjourn. Hubbard seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 6th day of October, 2008.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer