

**Rising Sun City Council Meeting**  
**Executive Session**  
**February 7, 2008**  
**6:30 PM**  
**City Hall**

The City of Rising Sun, Indiana met in executive session on Thursday, February 7, 2008 in the conference room at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Those noted as present:

Mayor Bill Marksberry, Councilman Roy Powell, Councilman Lynn Graves, Councilman Mike Padgett, Councilman Bud Radcliff, Councilman Steve Slack, and City Attorney Lane Siekman.

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9)

“Personnel Evaluation”

Mayor Marksberry opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

**Rising Sun City Council Meeting**  
**February 7, 2008**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**City Hall**

**Call to order/Pledge**

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Marksberry. All of Council was present.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November 28, 2007 joint City County meeting and the January 7, 2008 Council meeting had been previously distributed to Council and Mayor Marksberry. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve both the November 28, 2007 minutes and the January 7, 2008 minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Padgett; motion carried 5-0.

**Reports of Committees, Boards, & Departments**

**EDC**

Clerk Gipson informed Council and Mayor Marksberry that EDC President Gary Green was out of town. Gipson stated a meeting had been held with Green, Ron Hocker, Connie Smith, and City Attorney Lane Siekman regarding the EDC Budget process and such. Siekman stated the meeting went well and Hocker is to propose an Ordinance or Resolution for the County too review regarding this process.

**Utility Service Board**

Trey Clifton Utility Superintendent informed Council and Mayor Marksberry of upcoming USB projects:

- Grand Victoria Shore Power—this ultimately brings the casino to land based power. The project is planned to begin in March 2008 and will take a couple weeks. They will have to back feed from one line but shouldn't need a planned power outage.
- Award of Excellence WWTP—Clifton presented a plaque which was awarded to Rising Sun for the 2008 Engineer Excellence Award for the Engineering and Design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Wireless Internet—Clifton reported there are currently 313 total customers. They have been operational for 2 years and 3 months and have 8 towers in operation.

### **Project Manager—Mike Northcutt**

Project Manager Mike Northcutt reported on the following items/projects:

- **Fifth Street Project**--Northcutt requested approval for Change Order #1 a decrease of \$5,698.29 for Lykins Contractors Inc. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Padgett to approve Change Order #1 on this project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Powell; motion carried 5-0.
- **Presbyterian Church** --Northcutt also informed the Mayor and Council the actual cost of Change Order #6 for the baseboard in the sanctuary at the Presbyterian Church was \$6,898 almost \$1,000 below anticipated costs.
- **Presbyterian Church**—Northcutt presented cost for tables and chairs for the facility in the amount of \$6,229.72. This breakdown includes the purchase of 150 chairs from BizChair.com at 22.99 for a total of \$3,448.50 and 24 tables from competitiveedgeproducts.com at 115.88 for a total of \$2,871.24. Council requested Northcutt get another couple quotes before placing this order. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve the purchase of these furnishings at a cost not to exceed \$6,229.72, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Graves; motion carried 5-0.

### **Police Department**

Police Chief David Hewitt informed Council and Mayor Marksberry all the officers have completed Driving Simulation Training and several have already booked 16 hours of continuing education. He stated it is required by the State of Indiana that Officers get 16 hours of continuing education each year—but the Department SOPs require 32 hours of continuing education. According to Hewitt he received 16 hours of credit at the Association of Chiefs of Police Mid Winter Conference and was reappointed to the Board of Directors. This appointment allows Hewitt to be more aware of issues or concerns that might have an effect on the City of Rising Sun—it could then be relayed to local and state representatives. Mayor Marksberry mentioned the Police Department has been visiting the school on a random basis. Hewitt reported complaints of speeding and not stopping at stop signs. He reported the in-car cameras are ordered. The paperwork has been submitted and the cameras should be

in operation within the next month. Chief Hewitt has been working on updating policies for the Department—looking into Officer Accreditation on a State and National level. Hewitt reported Officer Rimstidt and Joey located a missing woman in Switzerland County on January 27th. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> person Joey has assisted in locating—and this continues to be a great asset to the RSPD. David stated he plans to condense the 2007 Year End Report to go in the local paper.

### **Tourism**

Sherry Timms, Executive Director of Tourism presented a report to Council and Mayor Marksberry. See Attached Exhibit A.

### **Historic Downtown Main Street**

Jerry Caruso, Director of Historic Downtown Main Street informed Council and Mayor Marksberry of his activities in the past few weeks. See attached Exhibit B.

### **Park Board**

Jamie Bell, Park Director informed the Mayor and Council there was 29 events at the Senior Community Building in January. She is currently working on written policies for Volunteering/Cancellations and Public Participation at meetings. They have a new website at [enjoyrisingsunparks.com](http://enjoyrisingsunparks.com). The Park Board slogan is “Add a little shine to your life. A few of the programs to be offered this summer are Fitness 101, Gardening 101, and Photography 101. Jamie reported she has a meeting with representatives of the Aurora YMCA, which is going to be shutting their doors soon. Bell also reminded Mayor Marksberry and Council the Park Board would like to have access to a couple of the seasonal workers.

### **Petitions or Comments from Citizens**

No one present with petitions or comments.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Project Leader/Dispatch**

County Commissioner Todd Walton informed the Mayor and Council the County hired Joey Teke as the 911 Director replacing Myrle White. County Councilman Dill Dorrell stated Stowell had come to the County meeting but County Officials wanted to wait until this hire was made before making a decision on this issue. The project will be discussed at their March meeting and can be addressed at the joint City County meeting in April.

It was discussed that the next joint City County meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Senior Community Building. Clerk Gipson and County Auditor Connie Smith will set the Agenda for these meetings.

### **New Business**

#### **Ohio County Community Foundation**

Peg Dickson, OCCF Executive Director presented the Mayor and Council with information for the pass through account set up for the Veteran’s Tribute Tower. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Powell to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement and commit \$1,000

to start up the pass through account, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Graves; motion carried 5-0. Information on the 2007 Endowment funds will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

### **Community Event Funding Grants**

#### **Event Grant 2007-13 “Walk Rising Sun” –Grant Report—Cheri Hall**

Cheri Hall reported to the Mayor and Council that the first “Walk Rising Sun” was a huge success. The plan is to hold this event on an annual basis. She informed everyone of the Health Fair scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Grand Victoria. Hall also stated the 5 year grant reporting requirement to the State for RSMC will be complete at the end of this year.

#### **Matt Mobley—Animal Shelter Issues**

Matt Mobley presented information to Council and Mayor Marksberry. See Attached Exhibit D. Mobley brought several volunteers with several puppies from the shelter available for adoption. He requested the City match the payroll of the position up to 70%. He would increase hours at the shelter 8% (to 25 hours per week). He requested Council and Mayor Marksberry come to the shelter to see what is done there. Mobley thanked the City for the contribution to the spay and neuter clinic—but stated the city does not contribute to the actual Animal Shelter Budget. Councilman Slack stated the City totally funds the spay and neuter program and you can’t use City funds for a County Employee. After further discussion Councilman Radcliff stated Mobley should come to the next joint City County meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00

#### **Ron Eads—Shiner Pride Car Show Grant Report 2007-06 Grant Request 2008-09**

Ron Eads presented a grant report for Event Grant 2007-06 the “2007 Car Show”. He thanked the City for their continued support for the event. Eads also made request \$20,625 for funding for Event Grant 2008-09 the “2008 Car Show” scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>. Ron stated the Band organizes this event but it has truly become a city event. He reported he had requested an additional \$1,500 for advertising, a new banner, and door prizes. After further discussion a motion was made by Councilman Graves to approve this funding request for Event Grant 2008-09, the “2008 Car Show”, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Powell; motion carried 5-0. Several Band students presented a framed picture to the Mayor and Council and again thanked the City for their continued support.

#### **Event Grant 2008-08 “Fireworks” Larry Gipson--Lion’s Club**

Larry Gipson made a request for \$10,000 for funding for Event Grant 2008-08 “Fourth of July Fireworks”. After further discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve this funding request for the 2008 Fireworks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Graves; motion carried 5-0. Gipson thanked the group for their continued support.

#### **Request for Proposals—Legislative Lobbyist Services**

Mayor Marksberry presented 2 proposals to the Council for review:

Lewis Kappes	\$3,000
Ice Miller	\$4,000

Marksberry stated the request for proposals didn't get out as planned and since the session has already started it may not be the time to change in midstream. It was the determination of Council to leave things as is right now. Council had been contacted by County Officials as this is a shared expense.

**Resolution 2008-2 “2008 Additional Appropriation”**

Resolution 2008-2 “2008 Additional Appropriation” was presented to Council. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve Resolution 2008-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Padgett; motion carried 5-0.

**Miscellaneous**

Mayor Marksberry informed Council he planned to sponsor the Special Olympics with a donation of \$500 for their current fundraiser. He stated there are 4 local people a part of Special Olympics. After discussion Councilman Graves made a motion for Council to sponsor the Special Olympics with a donation of \$500 as well, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Slack; motion carried 5-0.

**Wellness Program—Fitness membership**

There was discussion regarding information which had been sent to Council prior to the meeting about Fitness Club membership for city employees. See Attached Exhibit D. After several years of research and a possible reduction in health insurance costs—a motion was made by Councilman Slack to approve this cost at a 60/40 split with RSMU, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Graves; motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney Lane Siekman stated it was discussed that EDC funds would all funnel through one entity—City or County—most likely City. Attorney Ron Hocker is preparing documents for the County to address this.

**Adjournment**

After the reviewing and signing of claims, and with no further business; a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Padgett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Graves; meeting adjourned.

Attest:

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Rae Baker Gipson,  
Clerk Treasurer

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William A. Marksberry,  
Mayor

**Tourism Report to City Council Feb 7**

**The Tourism office has been busy developing a new brochure, video and tag line. The new tag line will be Rising Sun: Brighten your horizon.**

**We have also been busy planning and implementing programs sponsored by the grant we received from the state of Indiana. Included in this group are projects with the school. We cosponsored a trip to the Shakespeare Festival, are working on a painted flowerpot project for outside each window of the elementary middle school. We have also sponsored assemblies.**

**As a part of the artist development component, we have planned a Creativity Workshop for March 14-16. Nationally known speaker and author Eric Maisel from San Francisco will be the main speaker along with Mary Pierce Brosmer of Women Writing for a Change in Cincinnati. There will be a large juried art show at the Pendleton called Great Escapes at the Pendleton Art Center in April and May. The last show brought 150 pieces of art from artists from 5 states. We are also planning workshops for artist development including colored pencil, pastels, watercolor, and mixed media. These workshops will take place during April, May, June and July.**

**We have posted these events on all appropriate websites in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. We have sent over 5000 pieces of bulk mail and emailed more than 7000 brochures.**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Death by Chocolate Contest will take place on March 8 in conjunction with Easter basket, bonnet, centerpiece and coloring contests sponsored by Historic Downtown.**

**We are busy planning for the Studio Tour April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We have designed a brochure and made a media plan.**

**We will also have a full page ad in the Big Ten Tournament program. It will be in Indianapolis. The ad will feature an old Shiner letter jacket with headline Change Your Game Plan and promote Rising Sun as a weekend getaway and arts community.**

**I spent the day yesterday with Brian Blackford, director of development for Indiana Tourism and Eric Freeman newly hired director of the Indiana Artisan project. The Indiana Artisan project is sponsored by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in partnership with Office of Tourism, Indiana Arts Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture. Rising Sun has been identified as a community to play a major role in this pilot project that will take place during this year.**

**Rising Sun was also named one of the 10 best towns for artists in the United States by Arts Calendar magazine-a national arts publication.**

Report to City Council February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Our annual Main Street Historic Downtown Program meeting was held on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Main Street's newest board member is Steve Patz, school superintendent. Lane Siekman and Debbie Abrams were voted for another three-year term.

Board President Bill Dichtl, Kent Abraham, Jeannie Eldridge, Joann Hamilton and myself met on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, to organize a formal grand opening of the Heritage Hall on Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> during the National History Month. Tentative plans include a sit down dinner, entertainment, and special invited guests. This will be by invitation and have a nominal cost for the evening's festivities.

We are advertising for artists to apply for our 2008 extended Stipend program. We have funds to support four more artists for the twelve-month period and received an extension for this initial grant from the Regional Foundation on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. A revised artist application by Rachel Slick will be submitted for approval at our next Stipend meeting, Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Snack Shack has reopened. The new owner is Everett Boggs and the menu is basically the same as the previous owners. There is a "New Business Open" sign ordered for their use.

The Promotions committee of Deborah Muenchen, Jodi Coles, and Jim Moody have our 2008 Easter events planned to co inside with Sherry Timms Death By Chocolate this coming March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will add a bunny-coloring contest, Easter Bonnet and table Tops to our Easter Basket contest. Our theme is **Bunnies, Baskets and Bonnets OH MY!**

Stephen Cotton a student at the University of Cincinnati is working on his MBA in Marketing. He will be canvassing Rising Sun and surrounding communities to gather marketing data pertaining to perception, visiting habits and preferences in Rising Sun. This will reinforce his MBA project through the University of Cincinnati.

I've drafted an application process for those wishing to use the Heritage Hall (former 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church) and forward it to Lane Siekman's office. It's modified after the Community Center's format. We will finalize the paperwork and present it to those requesting to use the hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Caruso  
Director

# Ohio County Animal Shelter

The Ohio County Animal Shelter, "OCAS" has been under a evolved philosophy since 2004. It may be best described as a Right to Life, Animal Friendly attitude. This evolved attitude has brought this shelter up to speed to the times, and to the demands, safety and attitudes of the community it serves!

The OCAS has created and developed many new and diverse programs. Programs that revolve around the community and the animals that this shelter serves. Most of the programs are Community Involvement Programs. Programs that encourage the community to get involved with the operation and the cause's of the OCAS.

The most effective and pro-active program that has been developed is the Spay and Neuter Program. This program is, exclusively funded by the city of Rising Sun. This program has been in place for three years running. The OCAS has just recently seen the effects of this program. We are just now receiving ever so slightly drop in numbers of strays in the county. This level of commitment equates to \$10,000.00 per year. This program contributes to the altering of over 400 animals every year. This equates to stopping the birth of over 5000 animals every year.

One of the most successful programs include the community youth. The responsible youth of the community, come to the shelter on most every Thursday evening and Saturday morning. They do this on there own time. That give these animals at this shelter a opportunity to experience the affections that they would normally receive at a home of there own. These youngsters walk the dogs and train them to leashes. Giving the animal a better chance of being adopted by the public. It gives this animal a sense of confidence that it would not get other wise. These animals learn the social skills they need to be adopted. The effect on some of these animals has been very dramatic. Taking dogs that had very little chance of adoption and turning them around and into very good animals. At times, giving that animal the only chance possible to be adopted.....

The OCAS Foster Care Program has helped many animals. This program allows families that either do not want a full time pet to have one for a short time. This allows families that want to care for a special needs animal the chance for that animal to heal at a home or have there babies at a home. This is a very successful program..The OCAS, has developed a Courtesy Listing Program. The OCAS will list a member of the communities animal on our web site, while this animal remains in the home. Allowing the shelter to handle more animals with out the added stress to the shelter.

The web-site, this is by far the most important tool at the shelters disposal. For with out this web-site, the community would not enjoy such a good adoption rate at there shelter..Approximately 90% of the adoption are generated from this web-site.[www.ocas.petfinder.com](http://www.ocas.petfinder.com), this is the web-site of your shelter. The shelter adds every animal taken in to this site. It receives approx. 12 emails a day on the animals it serves. Because of this tool, the shelter has placed animals in homes as far away as Vanooover, Canada and Kissemmee, Florida. The shelter has placed animals in as many as 35



different states. The web site is at, no cost. Donated site space from Petfinder.com. As the shelter can be seen at ; [www.ocas.petfinder.com](http://www.ocas.petfinder.com). You can read about prior adoptions and success stories.

Placing as many as 20 at a time in rescues . Rescues as far away as Minnisota and Wisconsin. The rescues insure that these animals will live out a full life in home in there areas. These animals find there new homes by way of transporters. Groups of Animal friendly people that will transport these animals from this shelter to the shelters in other states. At times, changing transport vehicles as many as 5 times before reaching there final destinations. All of this is done at no cost to the shelter.

The greatest evolutionary step this shelter has taken is the installation of 800 feet of chain link fence. Creating two large animal runs. Allowwing these animals to maintain a social setting. Giving them every chance possible to to maintain the best adoptable demeanor.

The OCAS's operating hours are as follows;Monday, Teusday, Friday, Saturday-9 am. to 12 noon. Thursday, 6pm to 8pm.

\*That equates to a 14 hour work week. \*

In the last 3 years, the shelters averages 933 animals per year.

Based on hours of operation, the shelter takes in on average 1.28 animals per hour.

Average adoption rates hovers around 92%.

Equates into 853 per year.

Based on hours of operation, the shelter adopts 1,17 animals per hour.

Collectively, the shelter handles, on average 2.45 animals every hour of operation.

With the city of Rising Sun, generating , on average. 70% of all the animals the shelter handles.

That equals to , 653 animals every year.

Equates to an average of, .896 animals per hour of operations.

At an average of 92% adoption rate, equates into, average 600 animals per year.

Based on the operating hours, handling on average a .896 animals ever hour, for the city aone.

1.72

Because of the large amount of animals that this shelter handles on a hourly basis, allows for no time to maintain the shelter to a respectable level. The shelter can not be maintained to a healthy level. Handling, on average 2.45 animals every hour. These figures do not reflect the work that is associated with the maintenance of the shelter, the answering of any calls. the travel time associated with the calls or any additional time required to work with the animals that are at the shelter.As it does not reflect any work that is required on the shelter it self.

The Shelter as a industry, euthenizes on average, 60% of the animals it takes in.

Using that number, this shelter would put down, on average 560 animals per year.

That equates into , on average\$15.00 per animal = \$8400.00 per year.

At a disposal cost of over \$1200.00 pre year.

With the savings, from the donation of food and pet supplies, over \$3800.00 per year.

That equates to a possible savings of \$13,400.00 annually.

This well demonstrates the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the OCAS. As a result of the efficiency and the additional funds saved by the OCAS. It has allowed the installation of the Internet, for use of the Web-site as well as offset the increasing cost of gasoline. The creation and implementation of better Vet care and greater community involvement programs.

What the shelter is asking for from the city council is simple, match the payroll to Management up to 70% or roughly \$10,000.00 annually. As a result of the additional funds, the shelter will increase the operating hour by 80%. Having a work week of 25 hours, allowing the Management Staff to have the time required to fulfill their obligations to the demands of the community it proudly serves. With an end result of a much lower stray animal population, greater services offered to the community.

This shelter has evolved to a level that, it has been used as a model for many start up shelters. It has been used as a learning station for other Animal Control Officers. As well as the Management Staff has been asked to speak to other Community leader throughout southern Indiana. To aid those shelters in the pursuit of their own evolutionary desires. Among one of the improvements this shelter is partially responsible for is the creation of the shelter in Switzerland County. The creation of that shelter has aided in the reduction of stray animals in Ohio County as well.

The OCAS realizes the Ferrel Cat population that exist in the city of Rising Sun. The OCAS will seek out donations to fund a catch and release program. This program will include the capture, sterilization and release of ferrel cats. In concert with a city wide ordinance that requires all cat owner to register and alter their cats, in the period of less than two years. The cat population can be reduced by two thirds.

With all this being said, it is time for the city to evolve. Put forward the requested funding, as to be a part of the progressive evolution of your community animal shelter.

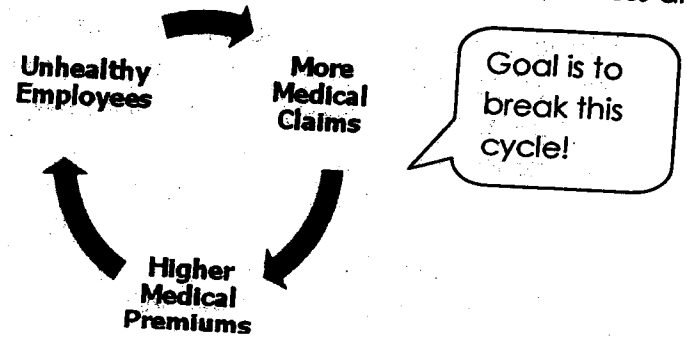
Thank you very much for any and all considerations, Matt Mobley.  
Ohio County Animal Control Officer

Proposal  
to  
City of Rising Sun:

Objective: To expand our Wellness Program by offering local health club membership to employees of the City of Rising Sun.

Background: Like most utility organizations across the nation, the City of Rising Sun is faced with a workforce that is aging and health care costs that seem to be rising year after year. The average age across all departments is 47-1/2. In 2005 we implemented our HRA program to lower the company's medical insurance expense while keeping the "out-of-pocket" costs for employees as near to the previous deductible amount as possible.

I spoke to Melissa Clifford, of Strategic Benefits to inquire if this type of program would automatically lower our insurance rate. She stated that our premium increases are strictly based on the amount of claims from the previous plan year. Of course the best management practice is to prevent claims from happening. She said that is why many companies have offered fitness programs to help employees maintain a healthier lifestyle and thus avoid sickness and injury.



Furthermore, I spoke to the RSMU administration to see if they would also be interested in participating in such a program. They were favorable to implementing an employee wellness program to include health club membership.

After discussions with the ownership of Extreme Fitness located on Main Street in Rising Sun, we proposed an amount to provide this benefit to all City employees. The offer is as follows:

- Payment of \$8,500 annually.
- Access to all exercise facilities for City of Rising Sun Employees and their families during your regular business hours.
- This does not include tanning services.

- Term of the agreement would be one year
- Renewal will be negotiated at year-end based on usage, number of employees and other pertinent factors.

Situation: The ownership has accepted this proposal. Therefore it is being presented to the City Council and Utility Service Board for approval.

The cost is a very competitive price based on 35 employees and their families which computes to just over \$20/month. The payment of \$8500 would be divided 60%/40% between the City and Utilities.

City = \$5,100 / Utility = \$3,400

Funding: As of January 31, 2008, 50% of our employees have HRA balances in excess of their 2007 distribution amount. Two employees have not used any of their HRA funds and now have balances in excess of the \$5000 cap amount. If this pattern continues through 2008 our distribution into the HRA fund will be approximately \$6,500 less than in 2007. This savings could then be used to provide the funding for the Wellness Program. Another funding source could be interest made on Investments.

Conclusion: Most of the programs added to employee benefit packages are additional operating costs to the company. However, by adding this program to our benefit package, we may actually produce a cost-savings to the company through lower insurance claims. In addition, it keeps employees on the job and this means better customer service overall and we are helping to support a new business in the community.

Ultimately, our goal is to change the cycle as presented above to:

