

CITY OF WHITING – JANUARY 2, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA**

The Common Council of the City of Whiting met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilwoman Greer.

I. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman, and Unate were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak, City Attorney Sejna and interested citizens.

Councilman Zubeck was unable to attend the meeting.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 19, 2006, regular Common Council meeting.

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve said minutes, as submitted. Councilwoman Unate seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, and Unate voted aye. Councilman Stolman abstained from voting, due to his absence at said meeting. Vote: 5 ayes, no nays, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 27, 2006, special Common Council meeting.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to approve said minutes, as submitted. Councilman Stolman seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS OR REMONSTRANCES

None.

IV. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Stahura wished all present a happy and productive New Year, and thanked everyone for their help and hard work in 2006.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that Resolution No. CC-2007-01, approving an Intralocal Agreement between the Redevelopment Commission and the Board of Public Works and Safety, will be presented for Council consideration.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak stated that, since all outstanding claims were approved at the December 27th meeting last week, no claims will be presented tonight.

Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak reported that she will file a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for the following individuals:

- Mayor Joseph Stahura, because of the business *Cheap Seats*, operated by his wife
- Councilman Chris Sarvanidis, because of his wife's business, *Region Signs*
- Administrative Aide Rudy Wunder, because of his contracting business
- Councilman Spebar, because he is employed by the City of Whiting as Assistant Street Commissioner.
- Councilman Bruce Stolman, because he is a Whiting Fireman and another one because his wife works for ReMax Realty and may act as Buyers Agent representing the City of Whiting.
- Annette Perz, a Park Board member whose trucking business works for the City of Whiting occasionally.

Mayor Stahura noted that all conflicts of interest are reported openly on an annual basis, in compliance with the City Ethics Ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak informed the Council that she did not receive the final property tax draw for 2006 on December 29th, as hoped. She was informed that the checks should be ready to be picked up this coming Thursday.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

No report was given.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No report was given.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that Resolution No. CC-2007-01 authorizes an Intralocal Agreement between the Redevelopment Commission and the Board of Public Works and Safety, as has been done in the past, to allow these entities to work together on projects to the advantage of the City. This Agreement will include installation of the new traffic signal light at the intersection of Indianapolis Boulevard and Community Court/120th Street; the redevelopment project for the former Illiana Hotel; the Standard Avenue/Front Street/121st Street Reconstruction Project; and construction of new homes on New York Avenue. Councilman Sarvanidis noted that, in some instances, the Board of Public Works and Safety will lead the project, using TIF revenue where allowed; in other instance, the Redevelopment Commission takes the lead because of certain statutory advantages that the Commission has.

There being no questions, Councilman Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2007-01 by title only.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INTRALOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF WHITING BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
SAFETY AND THE WHITING REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adopt Resolution No. CC-2007-01. Councilman Spebar seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman, and Unate voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Spebar moved to nominate Councilman Chris Sarvanidis to be Council President Pro Tem for 2007. Councilman Stolman seconded the motion. Mayor Stahura asked three times for other nominations. Hearing none, nominations for Council President Pro Tem for 2007 were closed.

Councilman Spebar moved to elect Councilman Sarvanidis as Council President Pro Tem for 2007. Councilwoman Greer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman, and Unate voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sarvanidis thanked the Councilmembers for appointing him Council President Pro Tem for another year.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Councilman Sarvanidis informed the Council that U.S. Congressman Peter Visclosky will be at City Hall on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Unate moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MARGARET DREWNIAK, Clerk-Treasurer