

CITY OF WHITING – MAY 15, 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, May 15, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilman Zubeck.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Councilwoman Unate was unable to attend the meeting.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved for suspension of rules to conduct a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771, which establishes a new fund for proceeds from the BP property tax appeal settlement and allows for appropriation of those monies. Councilman Spebar seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak presented two Proofs of Publication of Legal Notice of this Public Hearing, which was published in The Times and the Post Tribune on Wednesday, May 2, 2007. The Clerk-Treasurer read pertinent sections of the advertisement aloud.

Mayor Stahura asked a first time for public comment on Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771. No comments were made.

Mayor Stahura asked a second time for comments on this Ordinance. No one spoke.

Mayor Stahura asked a third and final time for public comment on Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771. Hearing none, Mayor Stahura closed the Public Hearing and returned the meeting to the regular format of the Common Council.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the May 1, 2007, regular Common Council meeting.

Councilman Stolman moved to approve said minutes, as presented. Councilwoman Greer 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 informed the Council that he will be out of town on vacation for a few weeks, starting tomorrow. He stated that Economic Development Director Kark will handle any City issues or problems while he is gone.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771, discussed during tonight's Public Hearing, will be presented for possible third reading.

Councilman Spebar stated that Resolution No. CC-2007-09 and Resolution No. CC-2007-10, both authorizing temporary loans, will be presented tonight for Council consideration.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Drewniak presented Civil City Accounts Payable Vouchers #1290-#1373 inclusive for approval.

Councilman Spebar moved to approve said Vouchers for payment; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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 first and second readings on Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771 took place at the last Common Council meeting, and the Public Hearing on this Ordinance took place tonight. Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771 establishes a new fund to deal with the proceeds of the BP property tax settlement money, and provides for the appropriation of those monies.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Sarvanidis moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771 to third and final reading. Councilman Stolman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2007-1771 by title only for third and final reading.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND TO DEAL WITH
PROCEEDS FROM THE BP PROPERTY TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT AND
TO APPROPRIATE MONIES THEREIN

Councilman Spebar moved for suspension of rules for possible action on Resolution No. CC-2007-09 and Resolution No. CC-2007-10. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar explained that both of these Resolutions authorize a temporary loan to deal with shortfalls caused by a delay in tax revenue draws. Resolution No. CC-2007-09 provides for a loan of \$200,000.00 to the Park and Recreation Fund, of which \$100,000.00 will come from the Park Nonreverting Capital Fund, and \$100,000.00 will come from the Street Light Fund. This temporary loan is to be repaid by December 31, 2007.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar read Resolution No. CC-2007-09 by title only.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LOAN OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FROM THE PARK NONREVERTING CAPITAL FUND AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FROM THE STREET LIGHT FUND FOR A TOTAL OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) TO THE PARK AND RECREATION FUND OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA

Councilman Spebar moved to adopt Resolution No. CC-2007-09; seconded by Councilwoman Greer. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar stated that Resolution No. CC-2007-10 provides for a loan of \$75,000.00 from the Police Pension Fund to the Fire Pension Fund. This temporary loan is to be repaid by December 31, 2007.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar read Resolution No. CC-2007-10 by title only.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LOAN OF SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000.00) AS NEEDED FROM THE POLICE PENSION FUND TO THE FIRE PENSION FUND OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA

Councilman Spebar moved to adopt Resolution No. CC-2007-10; seconded by Councilman Sarvanidis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stahura returned the meeting to the regular format of the Common Council.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Sarvanidis presented a Form CF-1, Compliance with Statement of Benefits, for City residential tax abatement for the property at 1935 New York Avenue.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to accept said Form CF-1; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Jennings commented that this particular residence should be in the final year of the residential abatement program.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Councilman Zubeck commended the Building Commissioner's newsletter as an excellent way to communicate with residents as to his work in the City. Mayor Stahura stated that the newsletter will be sent out with the next water bills, and noted that Kathy Kazmierski does an excellent job typing and formatting that newsletter.

Councilman Jennings thanked the Mayor for choosing a 4th District resident to run the City while he is gone. Councilman Spebar wished Mayor Stahura a safe and enjoyable vacation, and City Consultant Owens joined him in that wish.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m., seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MARGARET DREWNIAK, Clerk-Treasurer