

CITY OF WHITING – APRIL 17, 2012

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, April 17, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilman Sarvanidis.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Councilwoman Greer was unable to attend the meeting.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the April 3, 2012, regular Common Council meeting.

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS OR REMONSTRANCES

None.

IV. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Stahura reported that the City of Whiting has received an award from a national conference in Dallas, Texas, 'Waste and Recycling News', for cities with a population of 100,000 and under. The Mayor congratulated the City green team, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District, and Recycling Director Harbin for this accomplishment.

Mayor Stahura thanked everyone for their help with the Historic Preservation Conference last week, which went very well and got an extremely positive response. He thanked everyone for their team effort in showing Whiting at its best.

Mayor Stahura reminded everyone to visit the Whiting exhibit at the South Shore Visitors & Convention Center, which is an interesting and well thought-out display.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that the following will be presented this evening:

1. Resolution No. CC-2012-04, which approves a Form SB-1 for a new house at 1620 Center Street; and

2. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1873, which regulates pawn brokers, 'cash for gold' businesses, and scrap dealers in the City of Whiting.

Councilman Spebar presented the following for Council consideration:

1. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1874, which amends Whiting municipal code regarding beach parking and resident only parking.

#### **VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER**

Clerk-Treasurer Adam presented Accounts Payable Voucher Checks #14575 - #14639 inclusive, Check #14641, and Payroll #24 for approval.

Councilwoman Michko moved to approve said Checks and Payroll for payment. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Sejna informed the Council that the City of Whiting filed an application with the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission for a liquor license for Oil City Stadium. The Public Hearing before the Lake County Alcohol and Tobacco Board is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Stahura noted that State statute written in the 1980s allowed the City of Whiting to apply for an additional liquor license beyond existing licenses for a community center/sports complex. This City-owned license, if obtained, will allow the City to hire a concessioner to run the Oil City stand provided they agree to comply with all State laws and provide insurance.

#### **VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

No report was given.

#### **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that Resolution No. CC-2012-04 begins the process of applying for residential tax abatement by approving a Form SB-1, Statement of Benefits, for a new home at 1620 Center Street.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2012-04 by title only.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FORM SB-1, STATEMENT OF BENEFITS, FOR UNIT 2, BLOCK 2, LOT 7, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1620 CENTER STREET AS DESCRIBED IN THE DRAWING OF LAKEFRONT COMMONS, UNIT 2, A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT TO THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA BY TORRENGA ENGINEERING, DATED JUNE 17, 2003 AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE LAKE COUNTY RECORDER

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adopt Resolution No. CC-2012-04; seconded by Councilman Stolman. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sarvanidis introduced Ordinance No. CC-2012-1873, which regulates pawn brokers, 'cash for gold' businesses and scrap dealers in the City of Whiting. Councilman Sarvanidis noted that these types of businesses are increasing, and there are certain concerns that need to be addressed, as other local communities have done. Highlights include:

- Pawnbrokers need to be licensed by the City of Whiting as well as the State
- It will be unlawful to pay cash for scrap metal or merchandise received; business check or in-store credit will be the only allowed payments
- Detailed records will have to be kept, either by computer or ledger in English, including descriptions of all items brought in and photographs of same.
- Customers must present valid photo IDs for all transactions

Councilman Jennings noted that there are house parties where broken gold jewelry can be sold. Discussion ensued; the main problem occurs when stolen items are sold for profit, which this Ordinance will help prevent.

Councilman Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1873 by title only for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO  
REGULATE PAWN BROKERS, 'CASH FOR GOLD' BUSINESSES AND SCRAP  
DEALERS

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1873 to second reading; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1873 by title only for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO  
REGULATE PAWN BROKERS, 'CASH FOR GOLD' BUSINESSES AND SCRAP  
DEALERS

Councilman Spebar explained that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1874 adds additional 'No Beach Parking' areas and 'Resident Only Parking' areas, per request of the Street Commissioner and Chief of Police.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1874 by title only for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO  
AMEND THE WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING BEACH

PARKING AND THE RESIDENT ONLY PARKING SCHEDULE AND ANY ORDINANCES APPLICABLE THERETO

Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1874 to second reading; seconded by Councilman Zubeck. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1874 by title only for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO AMEND THE WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING BEACH PARKING AND THE RESIDENT ONLY PARKING SCHEDULE AND ANY ORDINANCES APPLICABLE THERETO

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Sarvanidis presented two Form CF-1s, Compliance with Stated of Benefits Real Estate Improvement, an annual filing for continued tax abatement for the following properties:

- Memory Makers photography studio, located at 1530-119<sup>th</sup> Street, for commercial tax abatement; and
- Whiting Clean Energy Inc., located on Standard Avenue, for industrial tax abatement.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to accept both Form CF-1s, as presented. Councilman Stolman seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Councilman Spebar informed the Council that there was a robbery at the City Garage last January, during which six protective metal planks for the walkways on Cleveland Avenue were taken. A City employee, Chris Micus, spotted the missing planks in a yard near the Whiting Community Center; Police reports were filed, and the planks were recovered.

Building Commissioner Mike Hrinyo commented that the address on the SB-1 approved at tonight's meeting should properly read '1620 Center Court', not Center Street. The address will be verified, and an amendment will be made if needed.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilman Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Councilwoman Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



MARK S. ADAM, Clerk-Treasurer