

CITY OF WHITING – JANUARY 3, 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, January 3, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilman Stolman.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. MINUTES

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 6, 2011 regular Common Council meeting.

Councilman Spebar made the following correction to said minutes:

- Page 3, *New Business*, Paragraph 2, third line: change ‘Council Chambers’ to ‘the Conference Room’, to correctly read ‘...schedule a special meeting of the Council on Tuesday, December 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.’

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

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the December 27, 2011, special Common Council meeting.

Councilman Spebar made the following correction to said minutes:

- Page 2, third paragraph, second line: add the word ‘meet’, to correctly read ‘Unobligated funds are being transferred to meet current running expenses...’

Councilman Spebar moved to approve said minutes, as amended. Councilman Zubeck 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 acknowledged the years of service of each of the Councilmembers, in order of length of service at the end of 2011:

- Councilwoman Millie Greer: 26 years

- Councilman Chris Sarvanidis: 16 years
- Councilman Larry Jennings: 12 years
- Councilman Steve Spebar: 12 years
- Councilwoman Rebeca Unate Michko: 9 years
- Councilman Ken Zubeck: 8 years
- Councilman Bruce Stolman: 8 years

Mayor Stahura congratulated them all on their new terms, noting that between Council service and his terms as Mayor, he is beginning his 29th year of service, which qualifies him for a pension.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Spebar stated that Resolution No. CC-2012-01, which approves changes to the City fee schedule, will be presented tonight for Council consideration.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Adam will have no new Accounts Payable Vouchers for consideration until next meeting.

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 Spebar moved for suspension of rules for possible action on Resolution No. CC-2012-01. Councilman Sarvanidis seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman, and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar stated that Resolution No. CC-2012-01 ratifies the following amendments to the fee schedule:

1. Fees established /amended by the Board of Public Works and Safety, sitting as the Whiting Park Authority;
2. Fees established by the Board of Public Works and Safety, sitting as the Whiting Water Board; and
3. Fees established by the Whiting Board of Sanitary Commissioners.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar read Resolution No. CC-2012-01 by title only.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FEES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE APPLICABLE
GOVERNING BOARDS AND AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF SAID FEES TO
THE CITY OF WHITING FEE SCHEDULE

Councilman Spebar moved to adopt Resolution No. CC-2012-01; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 7 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stahura noted that the Board of Sanitary Commissioners decided to assess a \$100 fee for a dumpster box for those residents who request one for construction projects. The cost to the City for renting these dumpsters is about \$400 per box.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Clerk-Treasurer Adam requested approval to advertise a meeting of the Finance Board for the next Common Council meeting.

Councilman Stolman moved to hold a meeting of the Whiting Finance Board at the next Common Council meeting on January 17, 2012 and to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Adam to publish legal notice of said meeting. Councilwoman Greer seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stahura stated that his Council Committee appointments for 2012 will be the same as in 2011.

Councilman Spebar nominated Councilman Sarvanidis as President Pro Tem of the Common Council for 2012. Councilwoman Greer seconded the nomination. Mayor Stahura asked three times for other nominations; hearing none, Councilman Sarvanidis was elected President Pro Tem of the Common Council for 2012 by acclamation.

Councilman Spebar nominated Councilman Sarvanidis as Ordinance Committee Chairman for 2012; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Mayor Stahura asked three times for other nominations. Hearing none, Councilman Sarvanidis was elected Ordinance Committee Chairman for 2012 by acclamation.

Councilman Sarvanidis nominated Councilman Spebar as Finance Committee Chairman for 2012; seconded by Councilman Stolman. Mayor Stahura asked three times for other nominations. Hearing none, Councilman Spebar was elected Finance Committee Chairman for 2012 by acclamation.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Bryan Ciers of 1831 LaPorte Avenue stated that, for building permits, the threshold amount of \$250.00 should probably be raised to about \$500.00, as costs of building materials have increased but the threshold for needing to purchase a permit has remained the same for some time. Mayor Stahura thanked Mr. Ciers for his observation and stated that his comments will be considered by the Council.

Councilman Spebar informed the Council that he will be resigning as President of the Whiting Plan Commission, having served in that capacity for 15 years. Whiting Plan Commission Vice President Jack Jaros has expressed interest in taking over as Plan Commission President. Councilman Spebar thanked City Attorney Sejna for always making that job easier for him.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilwoman Michko moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41p.m. Councilman Jennings seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MARK S. ADAM, Clerk-Treasurer