

**CITY OF WHITING – MARCH 20, 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, March 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. with Councilman Sarvanidis presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilman Spebar.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**II. MINUTES**

Councilman Sarvanidis asked for consideration of the minutes of the March 6, 2012, regular Common Council meeting.

Councilman Jennings moved to approve said minutes, as submitted. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Council members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS OR REMONSTRANCES**

None.

**IV. REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Councilman Sarvanidis reported on behalf of Mayor Stahura. He announced that the St. Balderick's event will take place on March 31, 2012 at Temple court. Temple Court will be closed that day from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. If the tents are not removed, the street will remain closed until noon on April 1, 2012.

Councilman Sarvanidis reported that the City will be receiving Community development block Grants this year for 2013. When the times comes to receive those funds, the Council will need to take appropriate action

**V. STANDING COMMITTEES**

Councilman Spebar reported the following will be presented tonight for Council consideration:

- For third and final reading on Ordinance No. CC-2012-1871, which allows for the issuance of tax anticipation warrants.
- For possibly three readings, Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872, concerns the issuance of liquor permits.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Adam presented Accounts Payable Voucher Checks #14433 - #14496 inclusive for approval and Payroll ID#s 19, 20, and 21.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Adam reported the City might receive its 1782 by the end of the week. This is the first step in certifying the budget. Hopefully by the end of March the 2012 budget should be certified.

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

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

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

Councilman Spebar reported that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1871 allows the issuance of warrants. This ordinance was explained in detail at the last Council meeting. Councilman Spebar motioned for third and final reading of Ordinance No. CC-2012-1871. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Greer. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmember's Greer, Jennings, Spebar, Stolman, Michko and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1871 by title only for third and final reading:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO MEET CURRENT RUNNING EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE ISSUER IN ANTICIPATION OF AND NO IN EXCESS OF CURRENT TAXES ASSESSED IN THE YEAR 2011 FOR COLLECTION IN THE YEAR 2012, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY LOAN TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOANS AND THE SALE OF SUCH WARRANTS TO THE ORIGIANL PURCHASERS; AND APPROPRIATING AND PLEDGING THE TAXES TO BE RECEIVED IN SUCH FUND TO THE PUNCTUAL PAYMENT OF SUCH WARRANTS INCLUDING THE INTEREST THEREON.

Councilman Spebar introduced Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 which allows the issuance of liquor permits. Councilman Spebar explained the State has always issued liquor retailer permits but new legislation requires cities or town which have a population less than five thousand, to enact an enabling ordinance consenting that liquor retailer's permits may be issued to applicant in respect to premises located within the City of Whiting. To enact the Ordinance as soon as possible, an emergency clause had been attached.

Councilman Spebar introduced Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 by title only for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF LIQUOR RETAILER'S PERMITS TO APPLICANTS FOR PREMISES LOCATED WITHIN WHITING, INDIANA AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY.

Councilman Spebar moved to pass ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 to second reading as there were no questions. Councilwoman Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF LIQUOR RETAILER'S PERMITS TO APPLICANTS FOR PREMISES LOCATED WITHIN WHITING, INDIANA AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY.

Councilman Spebar moved for suspension of rules to consider Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 for possible third and final reading. Councilwoman Greer seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Spebar, Stolman, Michko and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 to third and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stolman. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Greer, Jennings, Spebar, Stolman, Michko and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1872 by title only for third and final reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF LIQUOR RETAILER'S PERMITS TO APPLICANTS FOR PREMISES LOCATED WITHIN WHITING, INDIANA AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Councilman Sarvanidis asked if the public had any question or comments.

Lindy Fisher, 1834 Pennsylvania Avenue expressed her concern on the recent burglaries. She asked if the City is stepping up patrols and asked for suggestion on protecting her property. Councilman Sarvanidis said that he understands Ms. Fisher's concerns. He said the citizens must remain vigilant and watch out for each other. Councilman Sarvanidis said the police are working on this. He asked if Chief Miller had anything to add. Chief Miller responded that if a citizen sees anything out of the ordinary to call the police immediately. He said there were several instances where neighbor heard or saw something suspicious but they did not report it to the police.

Councilman Zubeck said that there have been a couple of incidents this week. He has spoken to Chief Miller and noticed police patrols have increased. He urged everyone to be vigilant, watch out for your neighbors and call police if they notice anything suspicious. Councilman Zubeck mentioned that the police have made a few arrest involving recent burglaries.

Councilman Jennings said that if anyone sees anybody going door to door they should call the police because all solicitors doing business within the City of Whiting require a temporary business license. He said people should not live in fear; the police need the citizen's help and they should take the responsibility by calling the police if they notice anything out of the ordinary.

Councilman Sarvanidis said that the Crime Watch group reports monthly in the WRite stuff. He mentioned the group meets monthly at Calumet College and they share information regarding crimes with neighboring communities.

Marie Rokicki, 1739 Central Avenue, said she has been a citizen of Whiting for the past eight years. Her former neighborhood in Chicago formed a neighborhood crime watch group. Each night a member of the group would walk the area and report any suspicious activity to the police via walkie-talkie. Chief Miller said that the City of Whiting did form a neighborhood crime watch group several years ago but as the months passed by, membership dwindled. Councilman Sarvanidis said that the citizens should call if they notice anything out of the ordinary; there are cars out on patrol and they will respond.

Shawn Turpin, 1825 Oliver, said the crime watch meetings are held the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Calumet College. At those meetings, they mention it was important to leave lights on in your home and to watch out for your neighbors. Mr. Turpin mentioned that there are areas in the city where additional street lights might help. Councilman Sarvanidis said the Mayor and Council are open to any suggestions from the citizens. Councilman Jennings said there was an area in his district that had a graffiti problem; a light was installed and since that time, there has been no graffiti.

Ms. Rokicki said that often times, the foliage on the trees block the street lights. Councilman Zubeck said that sensor lights on the front of homes and garages are helpful. Councilman Sarvanidis said if someone rings your doorbell and you don't answer, make sure they leave your property.

Mr. Fred Stansy, 1605 Ohio Avenue asked if the people that have recently been caught were local or from out of town. Chief Miller said that it was a local person. Earlier in the year, a gypsy scam that target elderly people was committed by a burglary ring from the North side of Chicago. Councilman Jennings stressed the importance of knowing your neighbors.

Mr. Bryan Ciers, 1831 LaPorte said that Neighborhoods Inc. is distributing benches for the cities of Whiting, East Chicago and Hammond. This might enable people the opportunity to get acquainted with their neighbors.

Ms. Lindy Fishers asked if there was any way of informing the public of what is happening. Ms Fisher was informed that the WRite stuff has a monthly crime watch article. The city also posts it crime reports on the city's web site in a timely manner. It was suggested that the citizens could be alerted through e-mails or monthly water bills. Councilman Jennings said that many senior citizens do not have computers so this would not be an option for them. Ms. Fisher suggested that some of the students from the high school could volunteer distributing informational flyers to the seniors.

Councilman Sarvanidis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing their thoughts and concerns and reminded them that they could call anytime with information they wish to share.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilwoman Michko moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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MARK S. ADAM, Clerk-Treasurer