

CITY OF WHITING – OCTOBER 9, 2012

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

The Common Council of the City of Whiting met in rescheduled regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Mayor Stahura.

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.

Mayor Stahura read aloud in its entirety Notice of this rescheduled meeting of the Common Council, which was faxed to The Times and the Post Tribune on September 26, 2012. The meeting was rescheduled from October 2nd to October 9th.

Councilman Spebar moved for suspension of rules to hold a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 and Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881. Councilwoman Greer 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.

Clerk-Treasurer Adam presented Proof of Publication of tonight's Public Hearings, which was published in The Times and the Post Tribune on September 12 and September 19, 2012.

Councilman Spebar explained that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 is the Civil City Budget for fiscal year 2013. The Budget shows a modest increase as it absorbs salary and insurance increases for the coming year. The State will not certify the Budget until sometime early next year. The issues of a potential increase in Assessed Valuation of BP and the amount of tax cap losses are not known at the present time. The City will not know exactly how much revenue to expect until the Budget is certified and these issues are factored in.

Mayor Stahura opened the Public Hearing and asked a first time for Public Comment on Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880. No one spoke.

Mayor Stahura asked a second time for comments, pro or con, on the 2013 Civil City Budget. No comments were made.

Mayor Stahura asked a third and final time for comments on the 2013 Civil City Budget. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880.

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 is the Sanitary District Budget for 2013. In accordance with new State law, the Common Council, as the fiscal body of the City, must adopt this Budget. The Sanitary District Budget for the coming year increases slightly over 1% as it absorbs salary and insurance increases for the coming year. The Sanitary Board gave a

favorable recommendation on this Budget at the Board's September meeting. As with the Civil City Budget, until the time of State certification, potential revenue can only be estimated.

Mayor Stahura opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 and asked a first time for public comment. No one spoke.

Mayor Stahura asked a second time for comments, pro or con, on the Sanitary District 2013 Budget. No comments were made.

Mayor Stahura asked a third and final time for comments on the 2013 Sanitary District Budget. Hearing none, the Mayor 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 September 18, 2012 regular Common Council meeting.

Mayor Stahura asked that, under Attendance, it be noted that the Mayor was attending Mayor's school in Indianapolis and that Clerk-Treasurer Adam was on vacation.

Councilman Spebar moved to approve said minutes, as amended. 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 informed the Council that, for the third consecutive year, Recycling Director Harbin has submitted a winning application for the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) annual conference. Whiting was selected as a Green Community, and won the distinction of Green Community of the Year award in its population class against local communities such as Munster, Dyer and Schererville.

Mayor Stahura reported that the City of Whiting also won State Solid Waste Management District Award for the recycling program the City operated in conjunction with the School City of Whiting and the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Jennings noted that the City was acknowledged at the last Solid Waste Management District meeting. Mr. Harbin brought home the actual awards; the City will try to get copies made of the trophy for its partners in the recycling venture, including the Lake County Solid Waste Management District, so each entity will have a trophy on display. It was noted that Whiting's alley tote program has generated 100% recycling participation. Each year there is a decrease in packer tonnage removed and an increase in recyclables tonnage from Whiting.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Spebar stated that the following will be presented tonight for first and possible second readings:

1. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880, the 2013 Civil City Budget;
2. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881, the 2013 Sanitary District Budget;
3. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882, the 2013 Salary Ordinance for Civil City Employees; and
4. Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883, the 2013 Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Adam presented Civil City Accounts Payable Vouchers Checks #8E, #1851, #15333 - #15410 inclusive for approval.

Clerk-Treasurer Adam presented one amendment to the list of claims, payable to George Stoya for prep work for securing title procedures for a local tax sale, in the amount of \$375.00.

Councilwoman Michko moved to approve said APV Checks, as amended, for payment; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Sejna informed the Council that she was in Court on Friday and obtained four properties for the City in tax sale. It will be a while until the title is obtained, as all four will require quiet title action. Included were the Morrison property at 2436 Schrage Avenue; one of the Jurek properties at 2536 Schrage Avenue; 1205 Euclid Avenue and 1543 Steiber Street. All had been nuisance properties.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilman Stolman reported that the Shared Services Committee will meet on Thursday, October 18th.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880, the 2013 Civil City Budget, was discussed at tonight's Public Hearing.

Hearing no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 by title only for first reading.

ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

There being no questions, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 to second reading. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 by title only for second reading.

ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 is the 2013 Sanitary District Budget, as discussed at tonight's Public Hearing.

There being no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 by title only for first reading.

ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 to second reading; seconded by Councilman Jennings. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 by title only for second reading.

ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

Councilman Spebar explained that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882 is the Salary Ordinance for City employees for 2013. Most City employees will receive a 1 ½% pay increase, with the Police and Fire Departments receiving a 2% increase per contract.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882 by title only for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2013.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882 to second reading. Councilman Stolman seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882 by title only for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2013.

Mayor Stahura noted that he and the Clerk-Treasurer have created an Excel spreadsheet to do the salary calculations quickly and easily; they will proofread the results carefully to make sure all figures are accurate.

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 is the 2013 Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials. After not receiving an increase in 2012, elected officials will receive a 1 ½% increase next year, the same as most City employees.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 by title only for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 to second reading; seconded by Councilwoman Greer. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 by title only for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mayor Stahura commented that Skeeter's Diner is now officially open. Councilman Sarvanidis reminded all present that the next Council meeting will be held October 23rd, two weeks from tonight.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Councilman Jennings seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MARK S. ADAM, Clerk-Treasurer