

**CITY OF WHITING – OCTOBER 23, 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 23, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation from Councilman Spebar.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

Councilwoman Greer was unable to attend the meeting.

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 October 11, 2012 by Clerk-Treasurer Adam. The meeting was rescheduled from October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**II. MINUTES**

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 9, 2012 rescheduled regular Common Council meeting.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to approve said minutes, as submitted. 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 stated that he shared information concerning foreclosures in Lake County through 2012 with all the Council members. The Mayor noted that Whiting has fared well in the present volatile housing market in terms of percent foreclosure, and hopefully will improve with time.

Mayor Stahura announced that he will be unavailable for a few weeks; Councilman Sarvanidis will handle Council business in his absence.

**V. STANDING COMMITTEES**

Councilman Spebar stated that the following will be presented tonight for possible third reading:

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 #15412 - #15493 inclusive for approval.

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

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

No report was given.

## **VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Councilman Stolman reported on the Shared Services Committee October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- It was noted that traffic congestion during school opening/dismissal was being compounded by the crossing guards, who stop traffic as each individual student arrives to cross. They will be taught by the Whiting Police Department to queue the students to reduce the number of crossings and improve traffic flow. A new crossing guard will be hired soon to help as well.
- Tailgating at the home football games in the municipal lot was discussed. Some adults appear to be consuming alcoholic beverages while tailgating, which is highly visible due to the proximity to Galvan Stadium. Due to the school's firm position on alcohol use on its property, action prohibiting drinking in the municipal lot may be required.
- The City is planning to dedicate the new tennis court area to Mary Lou Piatek Daniels this spring tennis season.
- After making inquiries, the listing of the Whiting Public Library or of the Whiting High School smokestack as Historic Register items appears unlikely.
- The safety issue of the Comcast truck angle parked on New York Avenue is being handled by the Police Chief.
- The School City of Whiting has contracted Cintas to handle their cafeteria mat cleaning, which used to be done using the City pressure washer. Cintas will provide additional cost effective services to the school for other needs as well.
- The School has submitted a proposal to cement a section of the parkway along Oliver Street to facilitate the dropping off of students for the school day, especially during winter months.
- As a result of ideas expressed on the Code Red process with the City safety team, the School provided an additional playground gate at the southwest corner to better evacuate students to City Hall should a Code Red occur while playground is in session.
- The issue of children being left past closing time at public places such as the Library came under discussion. The City team will meet to review policy on this issue. The current practice of calling DCS Child Protective Services cannot provide a timely response.
- To help stop non-resident students from registering as residing at rental addresses of other families, the School has begun a policy which requires the landlord to sign an affidavit stating that he is aware of an additional resident living with his tenant. The School has requested a copy of the City rental registration file to assist with this process.

The next meeting of the Shared Services team will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at the Whiting Public Library.

Mayor Stahura stated that the request for cementing the parkway on Oliver Street has been approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety. However, plans to dedicate the tennis courts

are not public knowledge at this point, nor have those plans been finalized, so the Shared Services team needs to understand that discretion is important.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880, the 2013 Civil City Budget, was described in detail at the last Common Council meeting.

Hearing no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 to third and final reading. Councilwoman Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1880 by title only for third and final reading.

**ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES**

Councilman Spebar stated that Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 is the 2013 Sanitary District Budget, as described at the last Common Council meeting.

There being no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 to third and final reading. Councilman Jennings seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1881 by title only for third and final 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 3% increase per contract. There are proposed amendments to this Ordinance to bring uniformity to certain salaries, as follows:

- Page 1, General-All Departments, Secretary/Clerk Part-time: five levels added
  - Level 6            14.99 per hour
  - Level 7            16.20 per hour
  - Level 8            17.53 per hour
  - Level 9            19.39 per hour
  - Level 10          20.99 per hour
  
- Page 1, Mayor’s Office, Administrative Assistant:
  - Level 3            1,487.53 is an increase of \$18.74.
  
- Page 2, Interpreter to City Court: \$12.04 per hour is an increase of \$0.16.

- Page 2, Street Commissioner,
  - Level 1: 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.57.
  - Level 2: 1771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 4: 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
- Page 2, Engineering Administrator's Department, Engineering Administrator:
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 4 2,217.61 is a decrease of \$125.77
- Page 3, Building Commissioner's Department, Building Commissioner:
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
- Page 5, Economic Development Director
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 4 2,217.61 is an increase of \$15.97
- Page 5, Community Development Director
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
- Page 6, Park Authority: Park Superintendent
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.
- Page 6, Park Authority: the salary for the Assistant Park Superintendent is deleted in its entirety.
- Page 7, Motor Vehicle Highway: the salary for Electrical Helper Full Time has been deleted in its entirety.
- Page 8, Whiting Municipal Water Works, Superintendent:
  - Level 1 1,492.59 is an increase of \$0.55.
  - Level 2 1,771.90 is an increase of \$0.02.
  - Level 3 2,098.24 is an increase of \$0.02.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar moved for approval of all amendments presented. Councilman Sarvanidis seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stahura thanked the Council for approving these amendments, which provided a necessary adjustment after decades of manually calculating salary increases and then switching to spreadsheet calculations. Salaries should now be consistent across all departments.

Hearing no questions, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882, as amended, to third and final reading. Councilman Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All)

Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Spebar, Stolman and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 6 ayes, no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1882, as amended, by title only for third and final 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.

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.

Hearing no questions or comments, Councilman Spebar moved to pass Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 to third and final reading; 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 Spebar read Ordinance No. CC-2012-1883 by title only for third and final reading.

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

Mayor Stahura stated that the City employees will soon be notified of their pay increase by letter.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that the next regular Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, which is Election Day.

Councilman Sarvanidis moved to reschedule the next regular Council meeting to the following day, Wednesday November 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Councilman Spebar seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

None.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Councilman Jennings seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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MARK S. ADAM, Clerk-Treasurer