

CITY OF WHITING –FEBRUARY 17, 2015

**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, February 17, 2015, 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

Mayor Stahura, Councilmembers Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Stolman and Zubeck were present, constituting a quorum. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Haynes, City Attorney Sejna and interested citizens.

Councilwoman Greer was unable to attend as well as Councilman Spebar due to a fall sustained while working today.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Stahura asked for consideration of minutes February 3, 2015 regular Common Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Michko made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting. Councilman Sarvanidis seconded the motion. Roll Call: (All) Council members Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Stolman, and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 5 ayes, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS OR REMONSTRANCES

None.

IV. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

None.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Sarvanidis introduces Resolution No. CC-2015-01 approving an Intralocal Agreement between City entities for new construction.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Accounts Payable Voucher Check #s 19078- 19151 with an addition of Check # 19152 in the amount of \$250.00 and Payroll # 140 inclusive for approval.

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

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilman Stolman presented a recap of January 22 meeting:

- Ed Salata Chief Operating Officer from the YMCA came by to introduce himself to the group, and to describe some of the services which will be offered at the Whiting YMCA in the Community Center. Many of the YMCA's offerings, including recreational, various instructional, and children's after school programs are relevant and complementary to the interests of the group.
- The Mayor attended the meeting to explain his desire for the group to coordinate a needs and feasibility study to identify possible school related capital projects.
- The Mayor announced the addition of a 4th City College scholarship award for a resident high school graduate. The 4th scholarship is to be designated for a deserving student who plans to attend a vocational or trade school.
- Recycling bins will be ordered and placed into the cafeteria as they arrive. The bins will be used to recycle plastic bottles and aluminum cans only. The youth advisory council will provide initial instruction for use of the bins and assist in monitoring student participation.
- The idea of setting up a Mini Libraries in the YMCA was discussed. The YMCA will be invited to host the Mini Library, and if accepted, the library will be presented to them by the City and placed in an appropriate location inside the building.
- Superintendent Martinez again brought up the issue of traffic flow around the school building during school starting and dismissal times. A discussion took place about how well drop-offs and pick-ups work when there is a Police Officer is present during those times. The Mayor stated that the City will look into the costs of providing an officer at those times on a continual basis.
- The need for swift and accurate communication between the School, Police/Fire and City officials during local and School emergencies was discussed. Due to the pending county wide dispatch, the question of how these needs will be met going forward needs to be addressed.
- The City will partner with the Library to come up with a plan for the recycling of books, instead of having it done by a third party.
- The Library is offering income tax filing help sessions with certified tax assistants. Visit the library to sign up for a session or call 659-0269 for more information.
- The reconciliation of shared service hours has been completed, resulting in a total carryover of 13.5 service hours owed by the School to the City.

Next Meeting at the Library on 2/19/15 @ 3:30 PM.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Sarvanidis introduced Resolution No. CC-2015-01 which approves an Intralocal Agreement between City entities for the new construction of a Public Works Facility and

Whihala Beach Park Improvements. This Resolution contains two Intralocal Agreements one between the Board of Public Works and Safety and the Whiting Redevelopment Commission for the Improvements to the Whihala Beach Park Area that will include a new clubhouse, garage addition, and renovations to the park and trail areas. The second Agreement is also between the Board of Public Works and Safety, the Whiting Redevelopment Commission, and the Whiting Sanitary Board for the new construction of a Public Works Facility and Animal Control Building. The Board of Public Works and Safety will manage both projects.

Councilman Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2015-01 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING INTRALOCAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
VARIOUS CITY ENTITIES REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC
WORKS FACILITY AND WHIHALA BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Councilman Sarvanidis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2015-01. Seconded by Councilman Stolman. Roll Call: (All) Council members Jennings, Michko, Sarvanidis, Stolman, and Zubeck voted aye. Vote: 5 ayes, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Stahura announced that the construction of the new Restaurant in the Park is going to be delayed. Due to the storm that took place on Halloween, the Notice to Proceed had been pushed back in order to address the issues that need to be fixed before construction could begin. Results came back and it was suggested that the building be raised three feet. The Army Corp of Engineers have communicated that they intend to revise the City flood plan and the restaurant would now be inside the flood plan which in turn creates another set of issues. It looks like as of now that the only solution is to tear the entire building down and start from scratch. Instead of working with the existing building the decision was made to obtain new bids and new design for the restaurant.

Mayor Stahura touched base on the comment regarding the scholarships that are available. The scholarships have been increased this year from three college bound scholarships plus a new trade/vocational scholarship, but also will be raising the amount of the scholarship from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 per school year.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Brian Ciers – 1831 LaPorte asked if there was consideration of having a dog park close to the new Animal Control building.

Mayor Stahura states that several years ago the City met with the City of Hammond and concluded that the Whiting/Robertsdale area would have access to one city dog park and beach. At that time, the City of Hammond chose to make a dog park at the first opportunity and the City of Whiting agreed once the Whiting Park Project was complete a dog beach would be provided by the BP basin. The City of Hammond hasn't gotten any further in their plans for the dog park. The first location for the dog park would be the former Eggers property that would be eventually be deeded to Hammond from Whiting in return for the Roex property. That project is stalled for

some reason on Hammond's side. The second property would be to try to carve out area at Amoco Park near 129th Street. The third area would be at Forsythe Park.

James Toth – 1206 West Fred Street stated that something needs to be done in regards to people shoveling snow back into the street after the plows have gone by. He has had to go Indianapolis for a funeral and before he left, he spent six hours shoveling the street for six houses and when he came back, his vehicle was plowed in.

Mayor Stahura stated that the Council has discussed this issue recently and the City Officials and City Snow Plowers are just as frustrated as you are. An Ordinance with tickets and fines could be passed, but it is difficult to administer a program like that because there has to be people to carry out the repercussions and will have to go through the court systems. There have been a few things put in the local paper the WriteStuff through the years, but it doesn't seem to make a difference.

Councilman Sarvanidis stated that the Council has started researching as to what they can do and what other communities are doing in regards to this issue. The pros and cons of drafting an Ordinance and issuing along with how it's approached. All avenues are being pursued.

Councilman Jennings thanked Mr. Toth because he phoned him about this problem. After he and Mr. Toth spoke, Highland came out with an Ordinance regarding snow in the street. This has been an ongoing issue for years. He has passed out letters to his neighborhood asking them not to push the snow into the street and it still continues. There is a turnover in our community so when new people come into our community they are unaware they are not to put snow into the street. He prefers a sign along with the other literature that is passed out to be placed on each block.

Mayor Stahura states that each spring, letters are sent from the Code Enforcement Officer for things to look for in spring and summer with keeping violations in order. A letter can be put out in the fall addressing the issues of the snow. This will give people a fair warning about the snow.

Tom Michniewica- 1506 Fred Street stated that he also has a problem with the snow being shoveled into the street and when plows come by, the snow is pushed back.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilman Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Councilman Sarvanidis seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer