

CITY OF WHITING –AUGUST 18, 2015

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

The Common Council of the City of Whiting met in special session on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Stahura presiding.

Mayor Stahura introduced the new Councilman Mark Murzyn.

Councilman Spebar explains that in a situation like this, there would be an open caucus among the affected precincts. In this case, through research done by the County, at the time Councilwoman Greer was elected there was only one precinct and state law states that you cannot have a caucus with only one precinct. After consultation with Mayor Stahura and the Precinct Organization a recommendation was made and then had to be approved by the County Chairman which is the process that is taking place tonight.

At this time, Mayor Stahura swears in new Councilman Mark Murzyn.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Stahura reads into the record the notice to the public published in the Times on August 7, 2015 that there will be a special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Whiting, Indiana on Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm held in the City Hall Conference Room, Whiting City Hall, 1443-119th Street, Whiting, Indiana.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers
2. Any other matter to come before the Council with suspension of rules.

II. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Accounts Payable Voucher Check #s 2936-2940, 2942, 2947-3035, 86-88E, and Payroll #163 for approval.

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

Councilman Sarvanidis made a motion to suspend the rules to introduce Ordinance NO. CC-2105-1941 and to address a letter from the Lake County Democratic Central Committee Chairman, John Buncich. Councilman Spebar seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

Councilman Sarvanidis introduced Ordinance NO. CC-2015-1941 which makes amendments to Whiting municipal code Chapter 3, section 14, animal waste, and section 18, Dogs in City Parks. The existing code indicates there are no dogs allowed in any City Parks at any time. Amended Section 14 includes terminology changes due to the fact the original Ordinance is dated. Amended Section 18 states that dogs can be allowed in specific areas of the Lakefront Park while being under restraint. This will include the Lakefront Park Boardwalk and adjacent bicycle path, including the park entrance sidewalks to the boardwalk due to the connection of the two. The exclusions are: the entire area south of the park road, and areas north of the waterfront Boardwalk which will include the Formal Gardens, the Gazebo, and the Pier. Dogs will also be allowed on the Whiting Lakefront Trail which includes the bike path from New York Avenue to the Whiting Lakefront Park and the Front Street spur. There will be no dogs allowed on Whihala Beach during the time the beach is open; however dogs will be allowed on the beach under restraint when the beach is officially closed for the season.

Councilman Sarvanidis reads Ordinance NO. CC-2015-1941 in title only:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3-14 ANIMAL
WASTE AND SECTION 3-18 DOGS IN CITY PARKS AND TO PERMIT
RESTRAINED DOGS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF CITY PARKS

Councilman Spebar presented a letter from the Lake County Democratic Central Committee Chairman, John Buncich regarding the replacement for Councilwoman Greer in its entirety.

Councilman Jennings asked if anyone was aware if there was a longer sitting Councilwoman than Councilwoman Greer in the state.

Mayor Stahura stated she was elected in 1986 and served 29 years. He will be in Indianapolis tomorrow and will research to see if there was anyone that served longer than Councilwoman Greer.

Mayor Stahura stated that there was confirmation that there will be only two precincts opened during the election in the fall since there are no other races in the city.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Tom Michniewicz asked if the Ordinance included the walking bike path at the west end of the park.

Mayor Stahura stated that yes, it does include that area. He also is going to schedule a meeting with the park and enforcement staff to discuss how to handle the situation and signage throughout the park.

Mayor Stahura informed the Council that the bids were opened this morning at the Board of Public Works and Safety for the Public Works Facility and looks significantly under budget.

Councilman Zubeck asked for an update on the Lakefront Restaurant.

Mayor Stahura stated that the restaurant is on stand still at this time, but is receiving many, many calls. The Point needs to be fixed and litigation is ongoing as well.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilman Sarvanidis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Councilman Jennings seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer