

CITY OF WHITING – OCTOBER 6, 2020

**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, October 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Spebar, Councilmembers Michko, Michniewicz, Sarvanidis, Turpin, and Zubeck were present, constituting a quorum. Also, present, were Attorney Sejna and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes.

Mayor Spebar read the Notice of Publication sent to the Times on September 28, 2020 regarding the scheduled meeting of the Common Council on October 6, 2020.

This is to notify you that the Oct 6, 2020, 6:30 PM meeting of the Common Council will be held at Whiting City Hall, 1443-119th Street, Whiting, Indiana, via teleconference. No entry into City Hall will be permitted.

Dial in access number: 866-866-2244
Participant Code: 1641958#

Mayor Spebar asked if there was any media or public on the phone call. Paul Czapkowicz from The Times was on the phone call, along with Nick Suarez of 1648 Sheridan Ave.

Mayor Spebar stated that this meeting is pursuant to suspension of the meeting statutes of the executive order issued by Governor Holcomb as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The allowance of virtual meetings has been approved. Part of the rules for an electronic meeting is that there will need to be a roll call on every vote.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the September 15, 2020 Regular Common Council. Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to accept the minutes from September 15, 2020 as submitted. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, MEMORIALS OR REMONSTRANCES

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented a memorandum addressed to the Whiting Common Council from John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer, regarding the 2021 Sanitary District Budget. The memorandum states that on October 6, 2020 the Board of Sanitary Commissioners during their regular scheduled meeting, provided a favorable recommendation on the adoption of the 2021 Sanitary District Budget.

IV. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Spebar stated that he was very appreciative of the response and good wishes from the residents and from the Common Council. Mayor Spebar also stated that the staff has been very supportive and helpful during this time of transition. Mayor Spebar looks forward to working with the Common Council in the future on many issues.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilmember Zubeck advised the Council that tonight he will be presenting five ordinances. Ordinance No. CC-2020-2028, an ordinance of the Civil City budget for possible 3rd and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2020-2030, an ordinance for the Sanitary budget for possible 3rd and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2020-2029, an ordinance for the Library budget for possible 3rd and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2020-2032, an ordinance regarding the salaries of all elected city officials for possible 3rd and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033 as amended, an ordinance regarding the salaries of the civil city employees for possible 3rd and final reading; Resolution No. CC-2020-13, regarding the transfer of funds within various funds of the City of Whiting.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #439E, 442E-447E, 12297-12308, 12310-12356 & September Payroll total amount of \$765,464.87. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Sejna stated that in the past there have been discussions about golf carts. Over the weekend, Attorney Sejna received an email from one of the Police Officers asking what the City's position was and if there was an ordinance in place. Attorney Sejna responded that they did not have an ordinance in place yet, but she would bring it up to the Council and see what direction the Council and Mayor wanted to go. Attorney Sejna told the Council and Mayor Spebar that she would pull up all the old information she had sent them in the past and put it all together with new information she has and send the information to them again.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Zubeck stated that first up will be Ordinance No. CC-2020-2028. There was a public hearing on this ordinance at the last meeting. Councilmember Zubeck covered a few topics to highlight from this ordinance:

- This 2021 budget is roughly \$26,000.00 greater than the 2020 budget.
- It includes a 1% salary increase.
- It includes a projected 5% increase in medical costs.

- The 457 (b) plan match will increase from 2% to 3%.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2020-2028 to a 3rd and final reading. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2020-2028 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN TAX RATES
ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION NUMBER 2028 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
CIVIL CITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2020-2030, an ordinance regarding the Sanitary budget. There was a public hearing on this ordinance at the last meeting. Councilmember Zubeck covered a few topics to highlight from this ordinance:

- This 2021 budget is roughly \$16,000.00 less than the 2020 budget.
- It includes a 1% salary increase.
- There is a projected decrease in medical costs due to workforce reduction.
- The 457 (b) plan match will increase from 2% to 3%.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2020-2030 to a 3rd and final reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2020-2030 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION NUMBER 2030 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
SANITARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2020-2029, an ordinance regarding the Library budget. There was a public hearing on this ordinance at the last meeting.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2020-2029 to a 3rd and final reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmcmber Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2020-2029 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION 2029 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING PUBLIC
LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033, an ordinance regarding salaries and compensation of officers and employees of the City of Whiting effective first pay in January 2021. At the last meeting they did the 1st and 2nd readings of the ordinance. Since then the ordinance was amended to adjust the salary increase schedule for the Park Department. The amendment is as follows: Under the Park Authority section for Park Maintenance Worker level 4-7 hourly rates. The change from level 3-4 was a 17% increase therefore it was amended to a more reasonable increase. No employee was affected by this change since no employee is above a level 3.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to amend Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033 to a 3rd and final reading. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA, EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY IN 2021

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2020-2032, an ordinance regarding the salary of the elected officers of the City of Whiting for the first pay in January 2021. At the last meeting they did the 1st and 2nd readings of the ordinance.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2020-2032 to a 3rd and final reading. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2020-2032 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY IN JANUARY 2021

Councilmember Zubeck introduces Resolution No. CC-2020-13, a resolution transferring funds within various funds of the City of Whiting. The unencumbered appropriation balance in the various funds of the City of Whiting, Indiana be decreased and the appropriation balance in the following accounts be set forth and increased as follows:

GENERAL FUND	Increase	Decrease
City Buildings-Temporary 411.0140		9,500.00
City Buildings-Other Suppl 429.0000	2,500.00	

City Buildings-Professional	431.0000	7,000.00	
Parks-Insurance	413.0050		20,000.00
Parks-Other Supplies	429.0000	5,000.00	
Parks-Professional Services	431.0000	5,000.00	
Parks-Utilities	435.0000	10,000.00	

CEDIT FUND 209

Special Events	439.0040		30,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	436.0010		40,000.00
Buildings	443.0000	70,000.00	

Councilmember Zubeck read Resolution No. CC-2020-13 in title only;

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2020-13. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented a Collective Bargaining Agreement from the Whiting Firefighters Local Union No. 969. This agreement will extend their existing bargaining agreement currently in place between the City and the Whiting Firefighters. The previously entered into Collective Bargaining Agreement remains in full force and effect until December 31, 2020. Also, considering the current Covid-19 pandemic, the parties wish to extend the term of the current agreement for one year in order to better understand the impact of the pandemic on future revenues. In consideration of said extension, the City will agree to a wage increase for the extended term. The details of the extension are as follows:

1. **ARTICLE III – Term of Agreement** shall be amended to extend the term of the agreement to December 31, 2021.
2. **ARTICLE IV – Salaries and Classifications** shall be amended to provide salary increase of One Percent (1%) for 2021 over the 2020 salaries approved by the Whiting Common Council.
3. All other provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement not specifically modified herein shall remain in full force and effect through December 31, 2021.

The agreement is signed by George Aponte, Local 969 President and Michael Rokicki, Local 969 Secretary-Treasurer as dated of September 24, 2020.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Councilmember Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

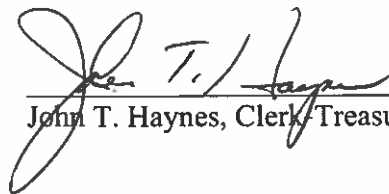
XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Paul Czapkowicz asked if the salary ordinance for the City employees and Elected Officials was 1% across the board. Mayor Spebar informed Mr. Czapkowicz that yes it was a 1% raise across the board.

Paul Czapkowicz also mentioned how he was listening when Councilmember Zubeck presented the budgets and he was going over his information from last year and the numbers did not seem to be matching up. Clerk-Treasurer Haynes told Mr. Czapkowicz that he would investigate the numbers from this year and last year and would reach out to him with the answers regarding his questions.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk/Treasurer