

CITY OF WHITING – NOVEMBER 4, 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, November 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

Mayor Spebar read the notice of the Common Council meeting change sent to the Times on October 22, 2020 regarding the meeting of the Common Council on November 4, 2020.

Due to election day, the Common Council of the City of Whiting has rescheduled its meeting from Tuesday, November 3, 2020 to Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

Mayor Spebar read the Notice of Publication sent to the Times on October 30, 2020 regarding the scheduled meeting of the Common Council on November 4, 2020.

This is to notify you that the November 4, 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 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.

Mayor Spebar asked if there was any media or public on the phone call. Paul Czapkowicz from The Times was on the phone call.

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.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the October 20, 2020 Regular Common Council. Councilmember Michko made a motion to accept the minutes from October 20, 2020 as submitted. Councilmember Michniewicz 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 Spebar stated that the Rescue Boat that was purchased a few months ago, has been tried out by members of the Police, Fire, and Park Departments. The boat was taken from the launch and past the pier and it handled well. Fire Department Captain Don Harbin was on the boat during the launch and explained that there was no problem putting the boat in the water. Captain Harbin also stated that the capacity is over 2,000 pounds which will be plenty amount of weight during a rescue and during the launch they experienced about 5 foot waves once they got into open water which the boat handled well and made for a smooth ride.

Mayor Spebar reported that going forward, the Fire Department will work with the Coast Guard on training on the operation of the boat with the Police Department, Fire Department, Park Department, and the lifeguards.

Mayor Spebar also reported that the Chamber is experiencing financial problems. They are in the process of transitioning The Write Stuff which will have a November issue, but will not have a December issue. They have worked out a deal with the Times to give them a discount on printing going forward. The Redevelopment Commission approved a \$5,000.00 grant specifically for startup costs. The CIC has pledged \$3,000.00 for the same purpose.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #455E, 12416-12418, 12423-12425, 12470-12507, 12509-12514, & October Payroll total amount of \$763,626.53. Councilmember Michniewicz moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye.

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes reported that State Board of Accounts had started their audit for the years 2018 and 2019. This will take them roughly 4-6 weeks and will cost an estimated \$15,500.00 which could go lower or higher. Councilmember Sarvanidis was on the phone call with them earlier today around 1:00 p.m. which was an introductory phone call and explained what they will be doing.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

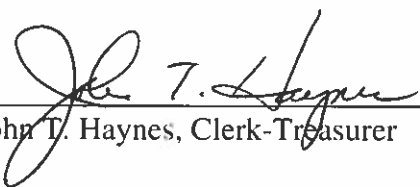
Councilmember Turpin asked about what will be going into the commercial property at the corner of Indianapolis Blvd. and Atchison Ave. Attorney Sejna and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes said they do not know. Mayor Spebar informed the Council that they have sent Building Commissioner Hrinyo over to the property a few times to try to connect with the owner to find out exactly what is going on, but as of right now the City does not know their plans or scope of their work being done.

Councilmember Michko questioned about what was going on with the water rates. Clerk-Treasurer Haynes explained that Attorney Sejna and himself attended the Hammond Council meeting on October 26, 2020. Clerk-Treasurer Haynes was able to speak at the meeting in regard to the numbers that Mayor McDermott was discussing, and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes informed the Hammond Council that those numbers were inaccurate. Also, Clerk-Treasurer Haynes indicated that Hammond did not give proper notice to taxpayers, so they had to table the water rate ordinance. A special meeting will be held November 16, 2020 and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes and Attorney Sejna will attend that meeting as well.

Councilmember Sarvanidis thanked Attorney Sejna and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes for their efforts with the possible water rate increases.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Michko moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

