

CITY OF WHITING – DECEMBER 1, 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, December 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

Mayor Spebar read the Notice of Publication sent to the Times on November 23, 2020 regarding the scheduled meeting of the Common Council on December 1, 2020.

This is to notify you that the Whiting Board of Public Works and Safety, Common Council, Redevelopment Commission, and the Sanitary Commission will meet at their regularly scheduled time on December 1, 2020.

The meeting 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 November 17, 2020 Regular Common Council. Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to accept the minutes from November 17, 2020 as submitted. Councilmember 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

None.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #459E, 12419-12422, 12516-12518, 12574-12576, 12608-12621, & 12630-12655 total amount of \$167,188.14. Clerk-Treasurer Haynes amended the claims to add Plemons & Sons Professional Services for \$2,120.00 and for \$80.00. Also, to add to the claims will be to Sacred Heart Church for their monthly rent in the amount of \$400.00 for December.

Councilmember Michko made a motion to amend the claims. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

Councilmember Michko moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as amended. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Sejna informed the Council that the City of Whiting, along with Highland, Griffith, Munster, and Dyer have joined together and filed two documents for the Hammond Water rate increase. The first document is a petition needed to be filed to the Hammond City Clerk challenging the rate increase. The second document is a petition to the Lake Superior Court asking for a declaratory judgement that the ordinance is not valid. Attorney Sejna will keep the Council advised as the petitions move forward.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to schedule a special meeting on December 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to approve claims and discuss any other matters to come before the Council. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Paul Czapkowicz brought up how the City of Whiting will be doing the Tree Lighting Ceremony this year. Mayor Spebar responded that they are doing it virtually this year in the interest of public safety and to avoid large crowds during the pandemic and growing cases.

Councilmember Zubeck asked if the state provides a listing of active cases, deaths, and age range of anyone in the city limits who has been Covid-19 positive. Attorney Sejna informed Councilmember Zubeck that every day the State of Indiana posts on their website the numbers for the state and then they have it broken down by health districts. Since the state started providing that information, Lake County no longer gives those updates on their website aside from long term care facilities. The state does not break it down by City, but it is believed that the Lake County Facebook page provides the link which you can follow and then break it down by zip code. The only issue with breaking it down by zip code is our zip code also includes Robertsdale.

Paul Czapkowicz asked if the rates that were approved with the Hammond Water Works increases were the same increases that were initially presented. Attorney Sejna answered yes, they were the same and that the only change was they amended out the automatic 3% increase that would have started after 2023.

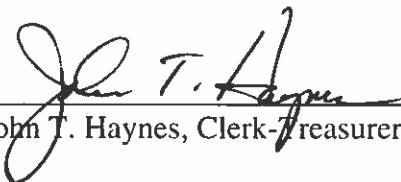
Councilmember Sarvanidis commended and thanked Attorney Sejna and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes for the work that they are doing and continue to do for the Hammond Water Rate issue.

Mayor Spebar thanked Clerk-Treasurer Haynes and his staff that came in the day after Thanksgiving, which is a holiday off at City Hall, to make sure everything was in order for the meeting tonight.

Councilmember Turpin asked how the park was after the windstorm. Mayor Spebar, Attorney Sejna, and Clerk-Treasurer Haynes informed him that the park did flood, but the water has since drained and no significant damage has been reported.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Sarvanidis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

