

**CITY OF WHITING – JANUARY 19, 2021**

**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, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

Mayor Spebar read the Notice of Publication sent to the Times on January 6, 2020 regarding the scheduled meeting of the Common Council on January 19, 2021.

This is to notify you that the January 19, 2021, 6:30 PM meeting of the Common Council will be held at Whiting City Hall, 1443-119<sup>th</sup> 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 January 5, 2020 Regular Common Council meeting. Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to amend the minutes which should read 2020-2034 instead of 2019-2030 on Page 3. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Michko made a motion to accept the minutes from January 5, 2020 as amended. Councilmember Turpin 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 reported that new Probationary Fireman Jim Augustyn and new Probationary Police Officer Alejandro Compose were both sworn in this morning.

**V. STANDING COMMITTEES**

Councilmember Zubeck advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance No. CC-2021-2036, an ordinance amending all applicable subsequent amending ordinances to revise the City of Whiting fee schedule for various departments for 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2035, which is an amendment to Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033 to add an additional level of salary to general – temporary laborer classification for 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037, and ordinance regarding the fee schedule related to the operation of the Mascot Hall of Fame for possible 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings.

Councilmember Sarvanidis advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038, an ordinance amending the municipal code with respect to our water rates and charges and all previous ordinances applicable; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039, an ordinance amending the municipal code with respect to our sewer rates and charges and all previous ordinances applicable; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040, an ordinance that amends the prior ordinance regarding collection of municipal solid waste. Councilmember Sarvanidis advised that all three of these ordinances have the extraordinary emergency clause applied and will be taken to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.

**VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER**

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #12795-12804, 12806-12841, 25 (Zero Ck), 465E-467E, Two Credit Amounts total amount of \$30,716.35. Councilmember Michko moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye.

**VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

None.

**VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

None.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2036, an ordinance amending all applicable subsequent amending ordinances to revise the City of Whiting fee schedule for various departments.

Councilmember Zubeck explained that the Common Council enacted Ordinance No. CC-2004-1666 to establish a schedule of fees to be charged for permits, licenses, and specific services rendered by different departments, commissions, and boards in the City of Whiting. The City

administration is requesting an increase in certain fees and the establishment of new fees based on the current operation and philosophy of the city animal shelter.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2036 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2036 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD. NO. CC-2004-1666 AND ALL APPLICABLE  
SUBSEQUENT AMENDING ORDINANCES TO REVISE THE CITY OF WHITING  
FEE SCHEDULE FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2035, an ordinance amending the 2021 Civil City salary ordinance to add an additional level of salary to general – temporary laborer classification.

Councilmember Zubeck explained that the Common Council previously adopted Ordinance No. CC-2020-2033 to set salaries for the employees of the Civil City for 2021. The Mayor has requested that two additional salary levels be added to the Part-time Laborers/Maintenance Workers position in the General – All Departments & Funds Category.

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2035 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2035 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. CC-2020-2033  
THE 2021 CIVIL CITY SALARY ORDINANCE TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL LEVEL  
OF SALARY TO GENERAL – TEMPORARY LABORER CLASSIFICATION

Councilmember Zubeck introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037, an ordinance regarding the fee schedule related to the operation of the Mascot Hall of Fame.

Councilmember Zubeck explained that the Whiting Common Council authorized the initial operating fees for the facility in Ordinance No. CC-2018-1998 and amended those fees in Ordinance Nos. CC-2020-2023 and CC-2020-2026. After review, the MHOF staff is recommending further revisions to the fee schedule as well as establishing new fees. Councilmember Zubeck listed highlights from Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037 as follows:

1. The Common Council hereby repeals Exhibit A” of Ordinance No. CC 2020-2026 and replaces it with Exhibit “A” which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

2. The new proposed fees and the amended fees in Exhibit "A" are hereby approved and are designated in *italics*.
3. The new fees/rates shall be effective March 1, 2021.
4. Any provision of Ordinance Nos. CC-2018-1998, CC-2020-2023, and CC-2020-2026 not specifically modified herein shall remain in full force and effect as enacted.
5. Any Ordinance in conflict herewith is repealed.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. CC-2018-1998 AND ORDINANCE NOS. CC-2020-2023 AND CC-2020-2026 REGARDING THE FEE SCHEDULE RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE MASCOT HALL OF FAME

Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Zubeck read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2037 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. CC-2018-1998 AND ORDINANCE NOS. CC-2020-2023 AND CC-2020-2026 REGARDING THE FEE SCHEDULE RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE MASCOT HALL OF FAME

Councilmember Sarvanidis introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038, an ordinance amending Whiting Municipal Code Section 16-76 which is the schedule of water rates and charges and all previous applicable ordinances.

Councilmember Sarvanidis explained that the schedule of water rates and charges will be frozen at the 2020 level until such time as a new water rates and charges ordinance is adopted by this Council. This Ordinance shall be effective retroactive to January 1, 2021 and rates and charges shall not be increased above those in effect on December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA, AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-76 SCHEDULE OF WATER RATES AND CHARGES AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES

APPLICABLE THERETO AND DECLARING AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmember Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-76 SCHEDULE OF  
WATER RATES AND CHARGES AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES  
APPLICABLE THERETO AND DECLARING AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to suspend the rules to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading with the extraordinary emergency clause attached. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Councilmember Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2038 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-76 SCHEDULE OF  
WATER RATES AND CHARGES AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES  
APPLICABLE THERETO AND DECLARING AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039, an ordinance amending Whiting Municipal Code Section 16-168 which is the schedule of sewer rates and charges and all previous applicable ordinances.

Councilmember Sarvanidis explained that the schedule of sewer rates and charges will be frozen at the 2020 level until such time as a new water rates and charges ordinance is adopted by this Council. This Ordinance shall be effective retroactive to January 1, 2021 and rates and charges shall not be increased above those in effect on December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-168 RATES AND  
CHARGES ESTABLISHED FOR SEWERS AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES  
APPLICABLE THERETO AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-168 RATES AND  
CHARGES ESTABLISHED FOR SEWERS AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES  
APPLICABLE THERETO AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to suspend the rules to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading with the extraordinary emergency clause attached. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Councilmember Zubeck seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2039 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING WHITING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16-168 RATES AND  
CHARGES ESTABLISHED FOR SEWERS AND ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES  
APPLICABLE THERETO AND TO DECLARE AN EXTRAORDINARY  
EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis introduced Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. CC-2017-1968 relating to the collection of municipal solid waste.

Councilmember Sarvanidis explained that the Common Council now wishes to repeal a section of Ordinance No. CC-2017-1968 and to freeze the schedule of rates and charges for the collection of municipal solid waste at the levels for 2020 until a rate and charges ordinance is adopted. This Ordinance shall be effective retroactive to January 1, 2021 and rates and charges shall not be increased above those in effect on December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. CC-2017-1968 AND DECLARING AN  
EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. CC-2017-1968 AND DECLARING AN  
EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to suspend the rules to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading with the extraordinary emergency clause attached. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2040 in title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITING, LAKE COUNTY INDIANA,  
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. CC-2017-1968 AND DECLARING AN  
EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

At this time, the Council would like to hold its annual Board of Finance meeting. This meeting is required per IC 5-13-7-5. As a result, Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to use this portion of the meeting to hold the required annual Board of Finance meeting and for myself to

serve as Chair (with the ability to vacate for nominations and voting purposes). Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Let the record show that the Board consists of the Council, along with the Mayor and Clerk Treasurer.

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented correspondence for Notice of Meeting to the public sent to the Times on January 6, 2021.

This is to notify you that the Board of Finance acting as the Common Council of the City of Whiting will hold its annual meeting during their regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at Whiting City Hall, 1443-119<sup>th</sup> Street, Whiting, Indiana.

President Pro Tem Sarvanidis convened the meeting of the Whiting Board of Finance, first order of business is to elect a President and Secretary:

Councilmember Michko nominated Councilmember Zubeck for the office of President of the Whiting Board of Finance. Councilmember Sarvanidis asked three times for nominations. There being no other nominations, Councilmember Michko made a motion to accept the nomination of Councilmember Zubeck as President of the Whiting Board of Finance. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Councilmember Zubeck was elected by acclamation.

Councilmember Michniewicz nominated Councilmember Sarvanidis for the office of Secretary for the Whiting Board of Finance. Councilmember Sarvanidis asked three times for nominations. There being no other nominations, Councilmember Zubeck made a motion to accept the nomination of Councilmember Sarvanidis as Secretary for the Whiting Board of Finance. Councilmember Turpin seconded the nomination. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Councilmember Sarvanidis was elected by acclamation.

Board Secretary Sarvanidis presented the possible approval of City of Whiting Investment Report. The report has been received from the Clerk-Treasurer and reviewed by the Board. The report lists financial institutions that The City of Whiting has relationships with (all of which are approved by the State of Indiana.) The report also contains the State of Indiana's full list of depositories approved to hold public funds. And lastly, a copy of the City of Whiting investment policy is included. Let the record show that the Clerk-Treasurer has reviewed the current investment policy and recommended no changes. Councilmember Michko made a motion to accept the report as submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



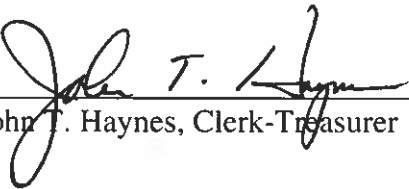
Councilmember Turpin made a motion to adjourn the Board of Finance Meeting and return to the regular council meeting. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Turpin asked what the plan is for the MHOF to open. Mayor Spebar advised that while they do not have an opening date in mind based on Governor Holcomb's executive order, they are looking at taking appointments for craft classes in February which will be a limited amount of people.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

  
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John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

