

CITY OF WHITING – MARCH 2, 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, March 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

Mayor Spebar read the Notice of Publication sent to the Times on February 25, 2021 regarding the scheduled meeting of the Common Council on March 2, 2021.

This is to notify you that the March 2, 2021 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 February 2, 2021 Regular Common Council meeting. Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to accept the minutes from February 2, 2021 as submitted. 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 the following:

- Dave Cunningham has retired as the Whiting Fire Chief and Don Harbin will take over as Acting Fire Chief. Mayor Spebar wishes them both well.
- Starting this month, the MHOF will be opening during a specific time on Wednesday's for senior gatherings.

- As for the proposed settlement with Hammond, due to the litigation and the proposed agreement, the City will be paying less in year 10 of this agreement than we would have been paying this year which is a significant savings. There was a long process with a mediation between the city's involved in the litigation and Hammond.

Councilmember Turpin questioned whether the mediation involved only Hammond and Whiting or all of the surrounding City's involved in the litigation. Mayor Spebar informed the Council that the mediation involved all of the City's involved, not just Whiting and Hammond.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented February 16, 2021 Civil City Check #26, 470-473E, 12889, 12891-12909 & 12911-12937 amount of \$85,105.86. Councilmember Michko moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented March 2, 2021 Civil City Check #474E, 12938-12973, Refund Cks & February Payroll amount of \$560,427.96. Councilmember Michko moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes reported that he gave the Council the 2020 Financial Report that shows the Cash Fund balances and how the City has been able to increase the reserves. The City will need to continue to maintain the budgets because in 3-4 years the AV for the BP Refinery personal property will go below base which is \$246,000,000.

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

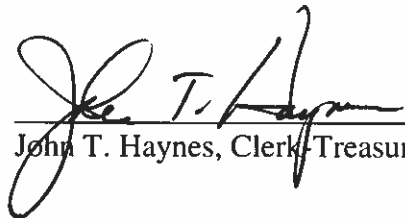
Paul Czapkowicz asked if Chief Cunningham was still working or if his retirement was effective immediately. Mayor Spebar answered that Chief Cunningham is still on the payroll, but his retirement started immediately to use up his vacation and terminal leave due to provisions in the Fire Department contract. Mr. Don Harbin will be Acting Fire Chief until early June.

Councilmember Turpin asked if there was any update on the state's status with Covid-19. He noticed that more states were starting to open up more. Attorney Sejna responded that all that has changed is that last Wednesday, Governor Holcomb extended the emergency and the rule about the color coding for an additional 30 days. Since Attorney Sejna checked last, Lake County was at a 1 when we were originally at a 3.

Councilmember Turpin asked if there was any new information on the Park Department meeting with the trains and Police Department. Mayor Spebar stated that they are working with BP and Cleveland Cliffs on an agreement for east end access.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Michniewicz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

