

CITY OF WHITING – SEPTEMBER 21, 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, September 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

Mayor Spebar called for a moment of silence for former Councilmember Mateja.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Spebar welcomed Councilmember Suarez.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to suspend the rules to hold the Public Hearing on Ordinances Nos. CC-2021-2051, CC-2021-2052, and CC-2021-2053 regarding the Civil City, Sanitary, and Library budgets. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes stated that the Public Hearing notice was published by DLGF.

Mayor Spebar opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2051 Civil City 2022 Budget.

Mayor Spebar asked for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2051.

Mayor Spebar asked a second time for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2051.

Mayor Spebar asked a third time for comments; hearing none, Mayor Spebar moved onto Ordinance No. CC-2021-2052.

Mayor Spebar opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2052 Sanitary District 2022 Budget.

Mayor Spebar asked for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2052.

Mayor Spebar asked a second time for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2052.

Mayor Spebar asked a third time for comments; hearing none, Mayor Spebar moved onto Ordinance No. CC-2021-2053 Library 2022 Budget.

Mayor Spebar opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2053.

Mayor Spebar asked for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2053.

Mayor Spebar asked a second time for comments on Ordinance Nos. CC-2021-2053.

Mayor Spebar asked a third time for comments; hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed. Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to return the meeting to the regular order of business. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the September 7, 2021 Regular Common Council meeting. Councilmember Michko made a motion to accept the minutes from September 7, 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:

- The 9/11 ceremony honored the victims of the tragedy, as well as paid tribute to police, fire, and service personnel along with military veterans. Mayor Spebar was proud for the City to host it and to be apart of it.
- The Arbor Day ceremony was September 17. Mayor Spebar thanked the Park Department and Superintendent Cruz for their hard work, and they were able to plant more memorial trees this year since they did not have a ceremony last year due to Covid.
- There was a concert at Sheridan Plaza on September 17, and Mayor Spebar heard that everything went well and is looking forward to there being more events of that nature at Sheridan Plaza.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilmember Sarvanidis advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance No. CC-2021-2051, an ordinance for the civil city budget for the year 2022 for possible 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2052, an ordinance for the sanitary budget for the year 2022 for possible 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2053, an ordinance for the library budget for the year 2022 for possible 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2056, an ordinance that establishes a new special revenue fund for the proceeds from the Community Crossings Grant for possible 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2054, an ordinance fixing the annual salary for all elected officials for possible 1st and 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2055, an ordinance fixing salaries and compensation of officers and employees of the police and fire departments and employees of the City of Whiting for possible 1st and 2nd reading.

Councilmember Sarvanidis advised the Council that he will also be presenting Resolution No. CC-2021-08, a resolution transferring funds received under the Cares Act CDBG reimbursement; Resolution No. CC-2021-09, a resolution declaring the Court Donations Fund dormant; Resolution No. CC-2021-10, a resolution amending Resolution No. CC-2014-07 to eliminate the

cash funds for the parking booths and gate house and establishing a change fund for the park operation at the Whiting Lakefront Park Office.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #34, 510-511, 1317-13720, & 13723-13766 in the amount of \$70,849.92. Councilmember Michniewicz 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.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

None.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2051, an ordinance for the civil city budget for the year 2022. Specifics were discussed at the prior Council meeting.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2051 to 2nd reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2051 in title only;

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2051 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
CIVIL CITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2052, an ordinance for the sanitary budget for the year 2022. Specifics were discussed at the prior Council meeting.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2052 to 2nd reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2052 in title only;

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2052 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
SANITARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2053, an ordinance for the library budget for the year 2022. Specifics were discussed at the prior Council meeting.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2053 to 2nd reading. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2053 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2053 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2056, an ordinance that will establish a new special revenue fund for the proceeds from the Community Crossings Grant.

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2056 to a 2nd reading. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2056 in title only;

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE
PROCEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT**

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Haynes to make all preparations necessary for a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. CC-2021-2056 to be held at the Common Council meeting on October 5, 2021 for the purpose of appropriating the Community Crossing Grant Funds. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2054, an ordinance fixing the annual salary of all elected officers of the City of Whiting. This ordinance reflects a 2% increase.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2054 in title only;

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS
OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY IN JANUARY 2022**

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2054 to a 2nd reading. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2054 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY IN JANUARY 2022

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2055, an ordinance fixing salaries and compensation of officers and employees of the Police and Fire Departments and employees of the City of Whiting. The ordinance reflects a 2% increase.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2055 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 2022

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2055 to a 2nd reading. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2055 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 2022

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Resolution No. CC-2021-08, a resolution appropriating funds and transferring said funds to the General Fund received under the Cares Act CDBG reimbursement. The reimbursement monies received from Lake County for CDBG Cares Act reimbursement are appropriated to Fund 151 in the amount of \$5,457.00.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2021-08 in title only;

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE CARES ACT CDBG REIMBURSEMENT AND AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF CARES ACT FUNDS FROM CDBG TO THE GENERAL FUND

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2021-08. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Resolution No. CC-2021-09, a resolution declaring the Court Donations Fund dormant and authorizing the transfer of remaining monies to the General Fund. The City of Whiting Court was abolished effective 12/31/2019 and since there is no longer a City Court, the City no longer needs the Court Donation Fund and there are monies which remain in the fund after the court closure. The Clerk-Treasurer has requested authority to transfer the monies remaining in Court Donations Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,513.01.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2021-09 in title only;

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE COURT DONATIONS FUND DORMANT AND AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF REMAINING MONIES TO THE GENERAL FUND

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2021-09. Councilmember Michko seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Resolution No. CC-2021-10, a resolution amending Resolution No. CC-2014-07 to eliminate the cash funds for the parking booths and gate house and to establish a change fund for the park operation at the Whiting Lakefront Park Office. The Park Department has moved their office to the Whiting Lakefront Park and the Park Department no longer has Whiting Parking Booths and gate houses. The Park Department will be receipting rentals and other revenue at the new office. The bank fund will be no more than \$400.00.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Resolution No. CC-2021-10 in title only;

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. CC-2014-07 TO ELIMINATE THE CASH FUNDS FOR THE PARKING BOOTHS AND GATE HOUSE AND ESTABLISH A CHANGE FUND FOR THE PARK

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2021-10. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

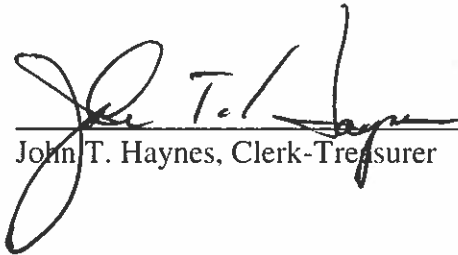
Councilmember Michko presented a Certificate of Appointment for Chris Sarvanidis to the Economic Development Commission. The term will commence on September 1, 2021 and will end on January 31, 2023. Councilmember Michko made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appointment. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Councilmember Turpin asked about the procedure for calling on trains blocking the park and how long someone should wait until they call someone to help let people out of the park. Mayor Spebar stated that they have had discussions where anything from a half hour to an hour or later would be appropriate to call the police.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Councilmember Michniewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

