

CITY OF WHITING – DECEMBER 7, 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, December 7, 2021 at 6:32 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Michko was absent.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the November 16, 2021 Regular Common Council meeting. Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to accept the minutes from November 16, 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:

- Thanked the staff for helping on the Christmas Parade. The parade went very well.
- Mentioned a problem property located at 2422 Schrage Ave. There is a demo order out on the property, but it took some time to get in contact with the owner. BP is purchasing the property and will demolish it.
- The Redevelopment Commission approved to form a Purchase Agreement for the property located at 1928 New York Ave.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilmember Sarvanidis advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance No. CC-2021-2059, an ordinance to amend the 2022 Civil City Salary Ordinance to add additional levels of salary to the museum department and revise the animal control department for possible 1st and 2nd reading; Ordinance No. CC-2021-2060, an ordinance restricting the sale of animals at pet shops within the City of Whiting for possible 1st and 2nd reading.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #522E-523E, 13990-14049, & November Payroll in the amount of \$581,072.20. Councilmember Turpin moved to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher Checks as submitted. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Sejna reported that the Redevelopment Commission will be closing on the property located at 1700 Center Street on Thursday. The Board of Public Works opened bids this morning to demolish 5 properties that the Redevelopment Commission owns. This is a CDBG project so it will take some time. The properties are 2209 Indianapolis Blvd., 2213 Indianapolis Blvd., 1653 Center Street, 1922 Front Street, and 2217 New York Ave.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2059, an ordinance to amend the 2022 Civil City Salary Ordinance to add additional levels of salary to the museum department and revise the animal control department. At the request of the Mayor, a few additional levels have been added and some changes have been made to certain positions. There are two new positions to the MHOF and one to the animal control and those positions and rates are the following:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Bi-weekly</i>
<i>Office Manager</i>	<i>Level 4</i>	<i>1,850.00 (reduced)</i>
	<i>Level 5</i>	<i>1,892.08 (reduced)</i>
	<i>Level 6</i>	<i>2,006.73 (reduced)</i>
<i>Special Events Coordinator</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>1,850.00 (reduced)</i>
	<i>Level 4</i>	<i>1,985.40 (new)</i>
<i>Graphics Designer</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>1,850.00 (reduced)</i>
	<i>Level 4</i>	<i>1,985.40 (reduced)</i>
	<i>Level 5</i>	<i>2,141.12 (new)</i>
<i>Animal Control Kennel Manager</i>	<i>Level 1</i>	<i>1,520.00</i>
	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>1,680.00</i>
	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>1,800.00</i>
	<i>Level 4</i>	<i>1,920.00</i>

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2059 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. CC-2021-2055
THE 2022 CIVIL CITY SALARY ORDINANCE TO ADD ADDITIONAL LEVELS
OF SALARY TO THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT AND REVISE THE ANIMAL
CONROL DEPARTMENT TO REFLECT BI-WEEKLY RATES

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2059 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-2021-2059 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. CC-2021-2055
THE 2022 CIVIL CITY SALARY ORDINANCE TO ADD ADDITIONAL LEVELS
OF SALARY TO THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT AND REVISE THE ANIMAL
CONROL DEPARTMENT TO REFLECT BI-WEEKLY RATES

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2021-2060, an ordinance that restricts the sale of animals at pet shops within the City of Whiting. Councilmember Sarvanidis explains the ordinance in the following detail:

A significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities where the health and welfare of the animals are not adequately provided for (“puppy mills” and “kitten mills,” respectively). According to The Humane Society of the United States, it is estimated that 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies a year in the United States and that most pet shop dogs and cats come from puppy mills and kitten mills.

The documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills includes over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal to non-existent veterinary care; lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter; lack of socialization; lack of adequate space; and lack of adequate exercise.

The inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet shops in some cases. These health and behavioral issues, which may not present themselves until sometime after the purchase of the animals, can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers.

Current Federal, State and County regulations do not adequately address the sale of puppy and kitten mill dogs and cats in pet shops. Prohibiting the retail sale of puppies and kittens is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills and is likely to increase demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations.

Since the Whiting Animal Control Shelter operates as a no-kill shelter, the city receives many abandoned and surrendered animals from across Lake County. Whiting Animal Control would benefit in many ways from an increased demand for animals from animal shelter.

Across the country, thousands of independent pet shops as well as large chains operate profitably with a business model focused on the sale of pet services and supplies and not on the sale of dogs and cats. Many of these shops collaborate with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on their premises.

This Ordinance will not affect a consumer's ability to obtain a dog or cat of his or her choice directly from a breed-specific rescue organization or a shelter, or from a hobby breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs or cats are bred or can confer directly with the hobby breeder concerning those conditions.

The Mayor, the Whiting City Council and Whiting Animal Control believe it is in the best interests of this City to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the City and its residents, protect the citizens of the City who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, promote community awareness of animal welfare, and foster a more humane environment in the City.

Section 2. Restrictions on the Sale of Animals

No pet shop shall sell, deliver, offer for sale, barter, auction, give away, or otherwise transfer or dispose of cats or dogs. Nothing in this section shall prohibit pet shops from collaborating with animal care facilities or animal rescue organizations to offer space for such entities to showcase adoptable dogs and cats.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2060 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE SALE OF ANIMALS AT PET SHOPS WITHIN THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2021-2060 to a 2nd reading. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2021-2060 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE SALE OF ANIMALS AT PET SHOPS WITHIN THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Michniewicz made a motion to change the meeting time of the December 21, 2021 Common Council meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

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

