

CITY OF WHITING – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

**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 Wednesday, September 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Spebar presiding.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Michko and Michniewicz were absent.

II. MINUTES

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the August 2, 2022 Regular Common Council meeting. Councilmember Turpin made a motion to accept the minutes from August 2, 2022 as submitted. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Spebar asked for consideration of the minutes from the August 23, 2022 Special Common Council meeting. Councilmember Suarez made a motion to accept the minutes from August 23, 2022 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:

- Tonight, at the Redevelopment Commission meeting, they made an award to Hutton & Hutton for the land at 1637 – 119th Street for the building of condominiums.
- Alfresco night was a successful night and was well attended.
- The symphony didn't have great weather, but drew a nice crowd and was a great evening.
- This weekend the first Empanada Fest will take place.
- At the BPW meeting, an amendment was made to the personnel policy. Previously, if a person took a sick day during the week before an overtime opportunity they were not allowed to be compensated for the overtime since it was not 40 hours physically worked. Attorney Sejna stated that the modification now is worded as, "Sick days do not count towards hours worked for purposes of overtime calculations, provided that in the event of a weather emergency or any other emergency declared by the Mayor, you can then include sick day hours for calculating overtime."
- This year there is no redistricting needed for the Council.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilmember Sarvanidis advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance No. CC-2022-2076, an ordinance to regulate the flood hazard areas in the city of Whiting, IN.

Councilmember Suarez advised the Council he will be presenting Ordinance Nos. CC-2022-2071 through CC-2022-2075, ordinances regarding budgets and salaries for the year 2023 and Resolution No. CC-2022-6, a resolution transferring funds within the general fund of the City of Whiting.

VI. REPORT OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes presented Civil City Check #562-564E, 15056, 15121-15123, 15125-15127, 15129-15171, & August Payroll in the amount of \$664,263.76. 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 on Thursday, the Redevelopment Commission will be closing on the purchase of Midtown.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Sarvanidis presented Ordinance No. CC-2022-2076, an ordinance to regulate the flood hazard areas in the city. Periodically, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducts flood insurance studies. The new Flood Insurance Study then results in revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps. DNR reviews the proposed changes to both the maps and the text language in the flood plain map ordinances. Once changes are approved by DNR, they forward a proposed model ordinance to each city to adopt. That is the document before you tonight. Basic changes include the adoption of the new flood plain maps which establish regulatory flood elevations, a new category of Coastal High Hazard Areas (CHHA), and the special regulating those areas. It does not appear that our lakeshore has been included in a CHHA. Rather we have a Special Flood hazard Area which is an area where there is a One Percent (1%) chance or greater of a flood in any one year. That is along the lakefront gazebo and east end of park. We are required by FEMA and DNR to adopt the revised ordinance and maps prior to the effective date of January 26, 2023 or risk being suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program.

Councilmember Sarvanidis read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2076 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE FLOOD HAZARD AREAS IN THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. CC-2016-1953 AND ANY OTHER ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT THEREWITH

Councilmember Sarvanidis made a motion to take Ordinance No. CC-2022-2076 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-2022-2076 in title only;

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE FLOOD HAZARD AREAS IN THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. CC-2016-1953 AND ANY OTHER ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT THEREWITH

Councilmember Suarez stated that he will be presenting Ordinance Nos. CC-2022-2071 through CC-2022-2075. At this current meeting, they will be introduced for the 1st reading and then a Public Hearing will be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting where more details will be discussed regarding the year's budgets and changes from prior years.

Councilmember Suarez read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2071 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2071 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
CIVIL CITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Councilmember Suarez read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2072 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2072 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
SANITARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Councilmember Suarez read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2073 in title only;

**ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES
ORDINANCE / RESOLUTION NUMBER 2073 FOR THE EXPENSES OF WHITING
PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Councilmember Suarez read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2074 in title only;

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF ALL ELECTED OFFICERS
OF THE CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA EFFECTIVE FIRST PAY IN JANUARY
2023**

Councilmember Suarez read Ordinance No. CC-2022-2075 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 2023**

Councilmember Suarez made a motion to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Haynes to schedule and make all preparations for a Public Hearing for the next Council meeting on September 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Turpin seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember presented Resolution No. CC-2022-6, a resolution transferring funds within the general fund of the City of Whiting.

Clerk-Treasurer explained that the first transfer is in CREDIT because the Insurance personal wasn't used in the amount of \$25,000.00 so that will be transferred to improvements that will be used for the Pennsylvania Ave. ornamental lighting. For the Public Safety they would like to purchase body cameras, so there is some money in the pension line item that will not be needed, which will be moved to equipment and professional services. Finally for animal control, the funds will be moved to Salary Temp to help compensate the individual who has been putting in more work over at the animal control since they're having trouble getting volunteers.

Councilmember Suarez read Resolution No. CC-2022-6 in title only;

**A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN GENERAL FUND OF THE
CITY OF WHITING, INDIANA**

Councilmember Suarez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CC-2022-6. Councilmember Sarvanidis seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Haynes stated that with the budgets for the year, the state advertises them now and the City no longer has to do it separately. The budgets were published on August 17, 2022.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

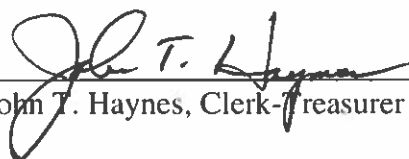
XII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Councilmember Turpin asked about the signs that the city used to have that list the speed of the vehicle driving past them. Mayor Spebar stated that he doesn't believe they are operational anymore. Street Commissioner Wajvoda confirmed that water got into the device making it non-operational.

Councilmember Turpin stated that the flowers on 119th Street are looking great.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to come before the Common Council, Councilmember Turpin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion. Roll Call: (Voice) All Councilmembers voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



John T. Haynes, Clerk-Treasurer

