

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-19**

**A PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS, INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY USE, TO CREATE A CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT CITY OF GOSHEN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE CITY OF GOSHEN) THAT WILL PROTECT THE FUTURE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

WHEREAS the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that under continued business-as-usual “no action” carbon emissions, the Midwest should expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure and agriculture due to increased heat wave intensity and frequency, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events and flooding, decreasing agricultural yield, and degrading air and water quality.

WHEREAS the average temperature trend analyses from NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Surface Temperature Analysis show significant average temperature rise.

WHEREAS the American Meteorological Society has declared there is unequivocal evidence of a changing climate since the 1950s.

WHEREAS the American Meteorological Society has also determined that the dominant cause of the warming is due largely to the burning of fossil fuels.

WHEREAS numerous respected agencies and organizations including the American Lung Association, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review have determined that climate change is a serious risk to life, a threat multiplier, and a threat to national security.

WHEREAS localized risks to Hoosiers affecting human health, infrastructure and agriculture have included costly and dangerous extreme heat and drought conditions (2012), record-breaking rains and subsequent floods (2015 and 2018), and overall chaotic weather extremes.

WHEREAS in 2008, 82 of Indiana’s 92 counties were declared Presidential disaster areas due to winter weather, severe storms, and flooding, and incurred over \$1.9 billion in damage to public infrastructure, housing, and agriculture.

WHEREAS on February 21, 2018, the Elkhart River reached record flooding levels of 12.49 feet, affected 250+ structures, caused several areas of our community to be evacuated, public safety mobilized and performed dozens of water rescues, 3 of the city’s 5 river crossings were closed and resulted in a State of Emergency.

WHEREAS in February 2019, the Community of Goshen experienced the coldest record days with wind chills reaching -58°F. Creating potentially deadly conditions for our homeless residents, causing water pipes to burst, and forcing several businesses, nonprofits, schools, and the City Government to close.

WHEREAS extreme weather and temperature changes associated with climate change, cause accelerated damage to Goshen’s infrastructure of roads and paths, and to our water utilities.

WHEREAS the City of Goshen contracted with the Goshen Resilience Guild to complete an Environmental Perspectives Assessment of the Goshen Community, by engaging a diverse range of residents, and business and community leaders.

WHEREAS further increasing the efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and electrical usage, our Community will save money, conserve energy, reduce waste, reduce pollution, and promote jobs in the clean energy sector.

WHEREAS a shift to clean renewable energy is inevitable due to the finite nature and non-renewable fossil resources.

WHEREAS the effects of a healthier environment will substantially reduce health costs, especially for those suffering from asthma and emphysema and other lung illness associated with poor air quality.

WHEREAS the City of Goshen has been recognized as the 40th community in the nation to receive the Gold Level of SOLSMART, awarded Green Community of the Year in 2010 and the Green Project of the Year in 2018 both for the State of Indiana, recognized as a Sterling Tree City for the last 20 years and Bicycle Friendly Community.

WHEREAS a local individualized climate plan will allow Goshen to continue to show leadership in improving the quality of life for its residents.

WHEREAS NIPSCO has made a public commitment to phase out coal usage in favor of renewable energy resources and multiple local businesses and non-profits have taken measure to reduce waste and utilize renewable resources.

WHEREAS the City of Goshen is already working to better our environment through stormwater management, cleaning of brownfields, reducing City Structure utility costs, setting internal policies for fossil fuel usage, and being forward thinking in lining up several assessments to be completed in 2019.

WHEREAS recycling significantly reduces carbon emissions throughout the supply chain of consumer goods while creating new green jobs in our community.

WHEREAS the total annual ecological benefits which Goshen's 13,500 public trees provide is more than \$1.46 million in 2018, comprised in part by energy savings of \$409,000 (1.95 million kWh saved), \$438,000 in stormwater mitigation (16 million gallons avoided), \$45,000 in carbon dioxide sequestration and mitigation (3.6 million lbs. sequestered and 2.6 million avoided), and \$509,000 in benefits to private property value; and whereas these values can be increased by planting more trees.

WHEREAS various economic analyses have shown that it is possible to introduce climate mitigation at a low cost, and the benefits would outweigh costs.

WHEREAS the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to address climate change will be carried by the youngest generation and all who follow.

NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED that:

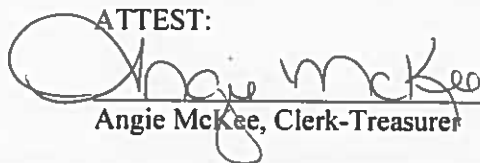
- (1) The City of Goshen will work to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and take all appropriate actions to do so, which include obtaining a baseline measurement of emissions, writing an emissions management plan, setting short term benchmark goals, establishing proper measures to ensure the plan is being implemented, pursuing a tree canopy goal of 45% by 2045, and incorporating energy efficiency and renewable energy standards where possible.
- (2) To the extent possible, the City of Goshen will promote and encourage initiatives throughout the County of Elkhart to reduce carbon footprint, ensure water and air quality standards, encourage locally and responsibly grown food, waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and augment transportation strategies like walking, biking, carpooling and using mass transit.
- (3) The City of Goshen will work to create and implement a Climate Action Plan by 2021 and investigate the viability of creating an Office of Sustainability.
- (4) The City of Goshen will work to engage business leaders, faith leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders from diverse populations to ensure all voices are included in the long-term sustainability planning process.
- (5) The City of Goshen will move forward with the IU Extern Greenhouse Gas Assessment Program, the GLISA Stormwater management Assessment, the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee, the 45% Tree Canopy 2045 goal, and other programs that can help bring more; data and knowledge and about environmental efficiencies and help to create a Greener Community of Goshen.

PASSED by the City of Goshen Common Council on April 23, 2019.



---

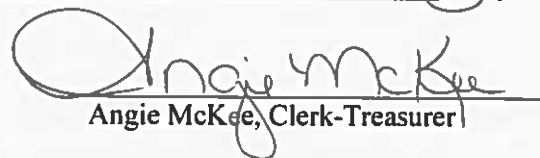
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:  


---

Angie McKee, Clerk-Treasurer

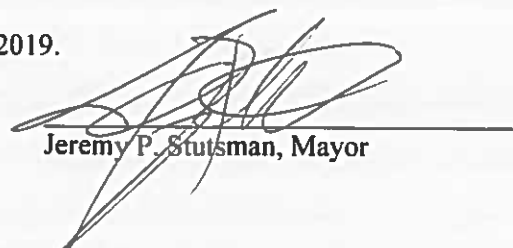
PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on April 30, 2019 at 11:17 (a.m./p.m.).



---

Angie McKee, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on April 30, 2019.



---

Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor

SCANNED