



Minutes of the Goshen Common Council Regular Meeting of September 15, 2020

6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy P. Stutsman called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Megan Eichorn (Dist 4),
Julia King (At-Large),
Jim McKee (Dist 1),
Doug Nisley (Dist 2),
Gilberto Pérez, Jr. (Dist 5),
Matt Schrock (Dist 3),
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)
Youth Advisor Hazany Palomino (Non-voting)

Minutes of June 2 and Sept. 1 were presented

King/Perez moved to approve the minutes of June 2 and Sept. 1, 2020. PASSED 7-0.

King/Eichorn moved to approve agenda as presented. PASSED 7-0.

Privilege of the Floor

Myrna Burkholder, Goshen, expressed concern about frequent accidents at intersection of Plymouth Ave. and S. 8th St. Asked what could be done and suggested a small roundabout.

Mayor said he and Police Chief Jose Miller have discussed drivers not honoring stop signs. Commented that many people consider even very short delays a problem. Mayor committed to discussing intersection further with Engineering and Police.

Perez said conversations with Engineering Dept. and residents are occurring related to this corridor. Suggested Traffic Commission.

Scharf shared that he lived in Ballard neighborhood in Seattle and every intersection had a very small roundabout, which was effective in directing traffic onto thoroughfares.



Elected Official Reports

Weddell thanked King for covering in his absence last meeting, then reported on Redevelopment Commission meeting:

- House on south SR 15 sold to Nathan and Amber Butler family to be converted to single family home
- Contract signed with JPR (of four proposals) for River Race revitalization plan, including former jail site
- Plymouth Ave. TIF is expiring; remaining funds being used for stormwater improvements
- \$200,000 study for potential new fire station on south side
- \$50,000 for design of new Madison Street Bridge over canal
- \$100,000 for redesign of W. Jefferson St.
- Clear Creek, a local firm, contracted for further steps addressing downtown vaults under sidewalks. Weddell said that council action request likely in future to force building owners to address the problem.
- Charging station for electric vehicles at Interra parking lot, funded with Volkswagen lawsuit money
- Two change orders for Kercher Rd. project

Weddell emphasized to council the value of TIF dollars and the projects they are being applied to. Said they are dollars Civil City does not have to spend.

Mayor estimated \$5M to \$6M per year reinvested in community by Redevelopment Commission.

King asked about former jail site. Weddell and Mayor explained that the city, not the county, is paying for study. Weddell said he is proponent of study and thinks it will be valuable to present county with options and ideas.

Weddell thanked Chief Miller and police officers for their work. Cited neighborhood in Clover Trails where most houses have blue lights to support officers; noted his approval.

Perez thanked Chief Miller for his letter posted this week regarding free speech, ongoing work to keep all safe.

Mayor addressed outstanding issues, safety concern and noncompliance at S. Main St. protest/display site.

King stated violence and vandalism are never okay. Mayor agreed.

Mayor commented on council meeting schedule and budget hearings.

Mayor asked Youth Advisor Palomino to update on schools, especially with respect to health precautions and student feelings. Palomino said things were generally going well, as was youth caucus.

Resolution 2020-22: Authorizing Investment of Public Funds in Certain CDs

Weddell/Eichorn moved for passage of Resolution 2020-22.

Scharf pointed out the follow-up memo with bullet points to address questions/concerns from last meeting. Stated he received no questions in intervening time, but glad to address any now. Noted that some city utility funds have already been invested in this manner. Clarified that the liquid depository account and the CD option/portion are different. Scharf said the account is at a local bank and currently paying higher interest rate than City's savings and



checking accounts even factoring in 0.08% management fee. Emphasized that municipal advisory and financial investment “arms” of BakerTilly are separate.

Mayor said he believes this is a good move for the City and encouraged council approval.

King appreciated additional information.

Nisley said he was disappointed that no one was present who knows about these types of investments and his request to have someone attend fell on deaf ears. Said with gloomy economic outlook it is not time to invest in CD's. Said bullet points were same things we discussed last meeting. King pointed out they were from an investment expert.

Mayor said there is agreement, including from Clerk-Treasurer, that CD investment is not appropriate right now but we should be ready for when it is. Addressed misunderstanding about request for in-person investment representative as opposed to information from one.

Nisley said his direct quote was “I would like to postpone it and have BakerTilly come down.” Said McKee said yes and King also nodded. King explained that she supported allowing time to gather additional information but that Nisley failed to do so, which was his choice.

Scharf said to Nisley that he invited any questions and remained open to them. Nisley said he wanted to ask questions to someone who knew what they were talking about. Said we are elected to make sure we don't throw away the money. Nisley said we are hearing one side but not from the people that handle the investment. Scharf noted that the memo addresses Nisley's questions directly.

At about 6:35 p.m., several minutes of further contentious discussion addressing Nisley confusion and accusations; Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer providing explanations.

McKee said he is not comfortable with the resolution. Mentioned Lehman Brothers. Said former local Edward Jones advisor Lee Theis said less than 3% of people could time the market.

Weddell asked about annual renewal. City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann said that renewal is one year after adoption date.

Weddell noted that he missed last meeting and was seeking some clarifications. Scharf provided a detailed run-down. Clarifying conversation with Weddell, others.

Eichorn said it seemed wise not to have all money invested in one place.

Schrock asked about bank service charge comparison; Scharf replied.

ROLL CALL VOTE on Resolution 2020-22: PASSED 5-2.

Ayes: Eichorn, King, Perez, Schrock, Weddell



Nays: McKee, Nisley

Resolution 2020-23: Goshen Public Library Declaration of Fiscal Body

Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Resolution 2020-23.

Scharf noted impending deadline of October 1st for new reporting requirement to the state by the library. Said that consensus, including Stegelmann, is that Goshen Common Council does meet the standards of the statute to serve as fiscal body for Goshen Public Library under the limited circumstances.

Mayor noted that majority of area served by library is Goshen City.

Weddell praised Director Ann-Margaret Rice for being pro-active and doing good work. Noted Bill Davis does good historical research work.

VOICE VOTE to approve Resolution 2020-23: PASSED 7-0.

Ordinance 5055: Amend 2020 Compensation Ordinance 5008 for Civil City and Utilities
Employees: Add Community Relations Director and Grants Manager Positions

Weddell/King moved for passage of Ordinance 5055 on second and final reading.

Mayor noted that CRC Director position will not cause need for annual budget increase for Community Relations Commission. Also that Grants Manager position will be able to use CARES Act money in 2020.

King said she is pleased with CRC Director position, which has been in the ordinance from its inception.

McKee asked who new staff will answer to. Mayor replied that CRC Director will be direct report to him.

ROLL CALL VOTE on Ordinance 5055 on second and final reading: PASSED 7-0

Ordinance 5056: Amend 2020 Compensation Ordinance 5008 for Civil City and Utilities
Employees: Add Stormwater Specialist Position

Weddell/Eichorn moved for passage of Ordinance 5056 on first reading.

Mayor noted that position was budgeted for this year, but was missed in salary ordinance. Said hiring at this point in the year will save 75% of budget for this position.

Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor explained changes to stormwater management, including state permitting, project design involvement, flood planning, etc. which increase regulatory stringency and workload.

Mayor stated he hoped this would help be more responsive to business community on project inspections.



Council granted unanimous consent to hear Ordinance 5056 on second reading.

Weddell/Eichorn moved for passage of Ordinance 5056 on second and final reading.


VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5056 on second and final reading: PASSED 7-0

Nisley/Perez moved to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE to adjourn: PASSED 7-0

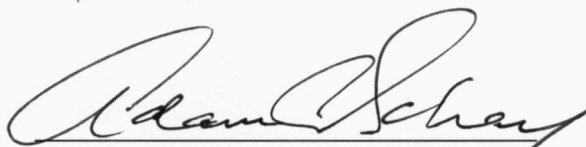
Meeting Adjourned 7:06 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Adam C. Scharf, Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer