

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
MAY 2, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME: Mayor Eckstein called to order a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Hartford City at 6:00pm May 2, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Members of the council present were Ron Dudelston, Ron Parrott, Michael Wolfe and Tony Scaggs and Dustin George. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Eckstein, Attorney, Brandon Murphy and Clerk-Treasurer, Dana Whatley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. George asked to amend the agenda under “new business” letter “N” The sale of property at 318 W. Commercial St., Hartford City, IN from the Blackford Development Corporation to the City of Hartford City.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to amend was 5-0.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve the amended agenda was 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2022: Mr. George made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2022 meeting as submitted. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mr. Scaggs made a motion to suspend the public meeting. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to suspend the public meeting was 5-0.

**A.) ORDINANCE 2022-04 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF WATERWORKS
REVENUE BONDS:** There was no public comment.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to close this public hearing was 5-0.

**B.) ORDINANCE 2022-06 VACATE ALLEY IN BLOCK 3 OR TAUGHINBAUGHS
2ND ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA:**

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to open this public hearing. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to open the public hearing was 5-0.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to close this public hearing. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to close this hearing was 5-0.

C.) RESOLUTION 2022-09 A RESOLUTION GRANTING TAX ABATEMENT FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS (3M COMPANY): Mr. Scaggs made a motion to open this public hearing. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to open this hearing was 5-0.

There was no public comment.

Mr. George made a motion to close this public hearing. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to close this public hearing was 5-0.

D.) WATER DEPARTMENT – USDA APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO PURCHASE WORK TRUCK AND BACKHOE: There was no public comment.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to close the public hearing was 5-0.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to resume the regular Council meeting. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to resume the regular Council meeting was 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) 2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-04 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF WATERWORKS REVENUE BOND: Mr. George made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2022-04. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) MANDY BAKER, 212 S. JEFFERSON ST. – RE-SURFACE ALLEY: Ms. Baker addressed Council to thank them for the quick response and that the alley has already been taken care of. Mr. Thomas said that he will come back and patch any places that need it as soon as it's dry enough.

B.) AMY GEORGE – PARKS DEPARTMENT:

1.) MEMORIAL POOL – ELECTRICAL QUOTES: Ms. George addressed Council and stated that she had emailed them all the quotes for the electrical work for the pool. She stated that the Parks Board is recommending E. Wilson Contractors to do the work. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to accept the quote from E. Wilson Contractors. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

2.) \$1 ADMISSION FEES FOR THE POOL: Ms. George explained that the Parks Board would like to offer the residents a \$1 admission fee for everyone this season. She asked Council for their support too. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to set the pool admission fee at \$1 for the 2022 season. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

3.) SATURDAY IN THE PARK: Clerk-Treasurer Whatley explained to Council that she would like them to consider giving the Parks Department the remaining \$3,000 in the Festivals line item in the EDIT fund for Saturday in the Park. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to give the \$3,000 out of Festivals to Saturday in the Park. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

C.) DR. TOM LEE – HERITAGE DAYS ROAD CLOSURES: Dr. Lee requested for the following road closures for the Heritage Days Festival.

High St. from Washington St. to Franklin St.

Jefferson Street from the thrift shop to Franklin St.

Franklin Street from High Street to Jefferson Street

Main Street from Monroe Street to Pak-A-Sak

Mr. George made a motion to approve these road closures. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve the closures was 5-0.

Dr. Lee asked Bill Bacon if he would take care of the water hook ups. Mr. Bacon clarified that the water hook ups will be the same as last year.

D.) ETHAN COX – CIVIL WAR DAYS: Mr. Cox addressed Council and explained that 2022 will be the 32nd year of Civil War Days. He explained that they are trying to raise \$10,000 to help put on the reenactment this year. He asked Council if they would be able to help with this. After some discussion, it was decided that the City could pay \$3,000 out of the EDIT fund towards this goal. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to pay \$3,000 to Civil War Days out of the EDIT fund. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

E.) SHALEE OILS – CF-1/RP: Mr. George made a motion to approve this tax abatement. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

F.) RESOLUTION 2022-11 – THE PIT STOP – CF-1/RP: Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-11. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

G.) RESOLUTION 2022-12 – GILLMAN’S – CF-1: Mr. George made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-12. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

H.) SALE OF VETERAN’S PARK PROPERTY TO BLACKFORD COUNTY: Mr. Wolfe explained to Council that the City has the opportunity to sell the Veteran’s Memorial Park lot to Blackford County for \$5,000. The Veteran’s Park is slated to be moved to a more visible location in the City and the County will utilize the current lot space when the new county building is built. There was some discussion regarding the details.

Mr. George made a motion to approve accepting \$5,000 for the current Veteran's Park lot. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-1.

I.) DUSTIN GEORGE – VACATE ALLEY DISCUSSION: Mr. George wanted to clarify who would be responsible for costs involved with vacating alleyways. Currently the petitioner is responsible for all fees and notifying adjacent property owners of intent to vacate an alley. Mr. George would like the City of Hartford City to be responsible for fees and for the City Attorney's office to be responsible for notifying property owners. Attorney Murphy stated that according to code it requires a petitioner and the City cannot be the petitioner. Mr. Murphy stated that his office would do their best to help the petitioner. Mr. George currently has a request to vacate specific alley. The address was not given. The consensus of the Council was to allow Mr. George to move forward to getting the proper information to Attorney Murphy. No formal vote was taken.

J.) CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Mayor Eckstein brought up a discussion topic to see what Council thought about hiring a Code Enforcement Officer for the City. This position would be accountable to the Property Standards Board and would give continuity to property standards nuisance issues. Mayor Eckstein mentioned several communities that have added this position. There was some discussion and Mayor Eckstein said he'd reach out to some of these communities to look at how this officer is helping their communities.

K.) NOISE ORDINANCE PERMIT DISCUSSION: The Mayor's office received a call inquiring as to who issues Noise Ordinance Permits. Attorney Murphy stated that the Police Department grants the permits. Police Chief Crouse stated that according to Ordinance 8-4-09 that it's 11pm every day except for holidays which is 12am. Attorney Murphy said he would look into this and could draft an amendment to this Ordinance and it would require a 1st and 2nd reading. He asked to table this until the June meeting. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to table this topic until the June meeting. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

L.) 1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-06 VACATE ALLEY IN BLOCK 2 OF TAUGHINBAUGHS 2ND ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA: Mr. George made a motion to accept the 1st reading of Ordinance 2022-06. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

Mr. George made a motion to suspend the rules and move on to the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2022-06. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to suspend the rules was 5-0.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2022-06. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

M.) 1ST READING OF RESOLUTION 2022-09 RESOLUTION GRANTING TAX ABATEMENT FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS (3M):

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the 1st reading of Resolution 2022-09.

Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve the 1st reading was 5-0.

The 2nd reading will be done at the Council's Special Meeting at 5pm on May 12, 2022.

N.) SALE OF 318 W. COMMERCIAL STREET, HARTFORD CITY: Mr. George Stated that the City of Hartford City will purchase this property from the Blackford Development Corporation for \$10,000. This purchase price is to be paid out of the \$232,000 grant proceeds.

Mr. George made a motion to approve the purchase of 318 W. Commercial St.

Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-1.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

A.) STORMWATER RATES: Mayor Eckstein brought up a discussion topic. He stated that he's spoken with Travis Williamson, WWTP Superintendent about consideration of raising the Storm water rates. Mayor Eckstein said that the rates have not been increased for a very long time and he feels like Council needs to take a look at this. No action was taken at this time.

B.) 4-WAY STOP AT BLACKFORD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (PERKINS & WERBER STREETS): Mayor Eckstein stated he had a resident request to change a 2-way stop to a 4-way at this intersection. The resident fears for the students' safety when they are released from school. The Council committed to go down and look at this intersection along with the Police Department. This topic will be put on the June agenda.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: NONE

COUNCIL INPUT:

A.) MR. WOLFE – Mr. Wolfe stated that a resident asked him if it is allowed to run a drain underground from their downspouts to the street which would cause them to cut into the curb. Attorney Murphy stated they could not do this without permission from City Council.

B.) MR. WOLFE – Mr. Wolfe thanked everyone who helped with the community clean-up day. He asked if it would be possible to consider having a large trash day this year in addition to the large trash pick-up program we have going on. There was much discussion on how to best utilize the program that is in place and get the proper advertising out to the community. Mayor Eckstein stated that the City would send out a letter to all utility customers as well as doing another Facebook Live.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to re-visit this topic, at the August meeting. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to table to the August agenda was 3-2.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jeff Thomas, DPW Superintendent asked what the status was on paving Huggins Drive. He said he needed a definite answer at tonight's meeting to let the contractor know. Attorney Murphy said the resolution for this paving will be effective January 1, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm

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