

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
FEBRUARY 6, 2023
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 on February 6, 2023.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. George made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

MINUTES FROM 1/3/2023: Mr. Wolfe noted that the heading of these minutes stated 2022 rather than 2023. Clerk-Treasurer Whatley said that she would correct the error. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING 1/23/2023: Mr. Parrott made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/23/2023 as submitted. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) BILL SMITH – EMA: Mr. Smith thanked everyone for their cooperation with the CEMP meetings. He especially thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department for their cooperation with the other first responder groups, at the training. Mr. Smith also reminded everyone of the WebEOC training at BJSHS on February 22, 2023 from 10:00am – 12:30pm.

B.) HARTFORD CITY MEMORIAL POOL UPDATE: Mr. George said that he has made a few phone calls to companies that could evaluate the status of the pool and what needs to be repaired. He finally received feedback from a company that will be meeting with him soon to look at the pool.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) LORI LEE – 2023 HERITAGE DAYS BUDGET/FUNDING: Mrs. Lee gave the Council an update on the plans for Heritage Days this year. She stated they have obtained a 501c3 status and will be able to start raising more funds. After some discussion, Mr. George made a motion to give Heritage Days \$5,500 for this year's

festival along with paying the electric bill for the festival too. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

B.) DALE MARTIN, PARKS DEPARTMENT – NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE PARKS:

Mr. Martin explained that the Parks Department would like to purchase 6 new signs for the parks. They have received a grant from the Community Foundation that will cover the entire cost of \$15,044.46 for the signs. Mr. Martin is asking Council's permission to spend over \$10,000 for this purchase. Mr. Dudelston made a motion granting permission to spend over \$10,000 for the 6 new signs. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

C.) PAM BONHAM – BLACKFORD COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER:

Ms. Bonham came to talk about the shelter's funding needs and the expectations for both the shelter and the City. Much discussion took place. Mr. Parrott made a motion to table this topic until the March meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

D.) TRANSFER OF ALLEY BETWEEN WEILER PLAZA AND THE NEWBERRY BUILDING:

Mr. George made a motion to table this topic until the March meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

E.) COVID-19 POLICY FOR 2023: After reviewing the current COVID-19 sick policy that is in place, the Council was in favor of removing days 6-15 from this policy. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to remove days 6-15 from the City's COVID-19 sick policy and this policy will become void when the federal government rescinds the mandate. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to amend this policy was 5-0.

F.) 1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2023-01 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH 72 OF CITY OF HARTFORD CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE SIDE-BY-SIDE VEHICLES: After some discussion about the legalities of side-by-side vehicles, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2023-01. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The approval of the 1st reading was 5-0.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to suspend the rules was 5-0.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2023-01. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve the 2nd reading was 5-0.

G.) INDOT – HWY 26 UNOFFICIAL DETOUR – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING:

Mayor Eckstein explained that this letter of understanding was sent to both the county and the city. He stated that the County Commissioners have already accepted this letter and we need the Council to do the same. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to accept the letter of understanding from INDOT. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to accept was 5-0.

H.) BILL BACON – SPEND OVER \$10,000 TO PURCHASE A NEW WELL MOTOR:

Mr. Bacon explained that he had a well motor that burned up. He paid \$14,000 in an emergency expenditure for the new motor and labor to install. He is officially asking permission to spend over \$10,000 for this expenditure. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the expenditure over \$10,000. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

I.) TRAVIS WILLIAMSON – QUOTES FOR GENERATOR AT WWTP: Mr.

Williamson explained that this generator is part of the CSO Phase III upgrades. He presented 3 quotes for the generator equipment only. The installation costs will be quoted later. After reviewing the quotes, it was his recommendation to go with Evapar as they had the lowest bid and they had worked with the city before. He also stated that this expenditure will be paid out of the 2022 Sewer CSO bond proceeds. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the quote from Evapar for the generator equipment. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

J.) JEFF THOMAS – REPLACE QTY 2 - 2006 DUMP TRUCKS: Mr. Thomas explained to Council that he wants to purchase 2 new smaller trucks to replace his aging 2006 dump trucks. He explained the details of the trucks and asked for permission to proceed with obtaining quotes and financing options. After some discussion, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to allow Mr. Thomas to proceed with this endeavor. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

K.) NICK PARROTT – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIPS AND THE CITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION: Chief Parrott explained that it's time again to renew our interlocal agreement for fire protection. Mr. Ron Parrott made a motion to approve the renewal of this agreement. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to renew was 5-0.

L.) CODY CROUSE – LATERAL TRANSFER PROCESS: Chief Crouse presented a plan to create a lateral transfer program to entice experienced officers to the Hartford City Police Department for employment. Mr. George made a motion to approve this lateral transfer program as presented. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

M.) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR 2023: Mayor Eckstein explained that the Board of Works approved the new Economic Development Agreement for 2023 at their meeting this evening. He now is asking Council for the amount they want to appropriate for 2023. After some discussion, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve \$30,000 for 2023. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

A.) ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Scaggs made a motion to keep all officers in place the same as 2022 and all board appointments the same. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

Mr. Ron Dudelston – President
Mr. Tony Scaggs – Vice President

Board Appointments:

Mr. Dudelston – Property Standards Board
Redevelopment Commission

Mr. George – Blackford Development Corporation
Area Plan Commission
Greenscape

Mr. Wolfe – Revolving Loan Fund Committee
Historic Preservation Committee
Council Liaison to the Clerk-Treasurer for Bank Reconcilements
& Year End Reporting

Mr. Parrott – Animal Shelter Board
Solid Waste District

B.) JEFF THOMAS – LARGE TRASH DAY: Mr. Thomas informed Council that the City will be holding a large trash day on 4/1/2023 in coordination with the County Hazardous Waste Day. It will run from 9:00am – 1:30pm on High Street across from Attorney Murphy's office.

C.) STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS: Mayor Eckstein reminded everyone that the State of the City address will be this Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 12 noon at City Hall.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

A.) YEAR END SERIES TRANSFERS: Ms. Whatley presented Council with a list of appropriation series transfers that needed to be made. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the list of transfers. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

B.) AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT ONE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR AND AMEND THE NEW CITY-WIDE MECHANIC'S SALARY: Ms. Whatley explained about the typographical error she found while entering the new appropriations into the system. She also pointed out the new salary being reflected for the City-Wide Mechanics position. Mr. George made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

C.) VOID OUTSTANDING WARRANTS OVER 2 YEARS OLD: Ms. Whatley presented Council with a list of outstanding checks that are over 2 years old to void and receipt funds back into their proper accounts. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

COUNCIL INPUT:

A.) MR. DUDELSTON – Mr. Dudelston stated he'd noticed a lot of chatter from the AIM emails regarding food trucks. He just brought it up as a point of discussion for the future. Maybe Council would like to investigate instituting some guidelines for food trucks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.) ANNE OWEN – Ms. Owen stated that she had 3 concerts booked so far this summer at Weiler Plaza. 6/3/23, 7/3/23 & 8/2/23.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business from the Common Council, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

FOLDER 2/REC 161126_002