

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
MARCH 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 March 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, Attorney Brandon Murphy, and Clerk-Treasurer Dana Whatley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Dudelston 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 OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023: Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2023 as presented. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) BRANDON MURPHY – OPIOID SETTLEMENT: Attorney Murphy stated that there is no action needed on this. The city will automatically re-opt into the settlement when the time comes.

B.) ANIMAL SHELTER (TABLED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING): After some discussion about verbiage changes made to the contract by the Board of Public Works and Safety the Council decided to pay \$45,000 to the Animal Shelter for 2023. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to accept \$45,000 with the verbiage change to the contract. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve the funding was 5-0.

C.) TRANSFER OF ALLEY BETWEEN WEILER PLAZA AND THE NEWBERRY BUILDING: Mr. Scaggs made a motion to allow Attorney Murphy to proceed with drafting a document for the transfer of this alley to Hartford City Redevelopment Commission for the Newberry Building. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to proceed was 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) CATHERINE SCOTT, PROGRAM MANAGER – BOILER WoRx, PURDUE UNIVERSITY; INTRODUCTION TO THE CORE-ECI PROGRAM: Ms. Scott explained that they have obtained a 3 year federal grant and they've been working about a year and a half with Jay and Blackford counties. This grant is for the prevention, treatment, and recovery from the opioid crisis. This topic was just for information purposes and no action was taken.

B.) CHRIS HOLTZLEITER – CFS PARKING ISSUES: Ms. Holtzleiter is the Finance Director at Children and Family Services. CFS is experiencing traffic hazard problems regarding to where their building is located in regards to the highway and other parking hazard issues as well. She approached Council about possible help with her predicament. After some brainstorming and discussion this topic was taken under advisement and no action was taken.

C.) BLACKFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING REQUEST: Mr. Scaggs made a motion to give the Historical Society \$5,000 for 2023. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve this funding was 5-0.

D.) MAYCO INTERNATIONAL CF-1 (4=PERSONAL PROPERTY); (1=REAL PROPERTY):

1.) **RESOLUTION 2023-01 – RP:** Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve resolution 2023-01. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

2.) **RESOLUTION 2023-02 – RESOLUTION 2023-05 – ALL PP:** Mr. Parrott made a motion to approve all resolutions 2023-02 – 2023-05. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve all resolutions mentioned was 5-0.

E.) VACATE ALLEY NORTH OF NEWBERRY BUILDING: Mr. Dudelston explained that the alley north of the Newberry building needs to be vacated due to the construction taking place on the Newberry Building. He stated that the owner of the property next to Newberry is Mr. Leonard Fisher. Mr. Fisher has stated he would like to donate his portion of the alley so he does not have to pay taxes on that property. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to give Attorney Murphy permission to proceed with this process. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to proceed was 5-0.

F.) JEFF THOMAS:

1.) **PAVING:** Mr. Thomas asked Council for permission to spend over \$10,000 for his 2023 paving project. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve spending over \$10,000 for this project. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

2.) **2 TRUCKS:** Mr. Thomas explained that sealed bids were opened in the Board of Works meeting earlier. Of the bids' opened WA Jones was the lowest bid. The purchase of the 2 trucks with WA Jones outfitting them into plow trucks will be \$120,708.00 for each truck for a total of \$241,416.00. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to allow Mr. Thomas to purchase the 2 trucks and using WA Jones to outfit the trucks. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Eckstein asked Council if they would be willing to attend a joint meeting of City Council, County Commissioners and County Council regarding 2nd phase of funding for the Newberry Building. It was determined that it would be held on March 16, 2023 at 6:00pm.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: NONE

COUNCIL INPUT:

A.) MICHAEL WOLFE: Mr. Wolfe asked if the Council should develop a plan going forward regarding the downtown buildings and repairs that need to be made to them. Ms. Anne Owen, Building Commissioner, Executive Director of the Area Planning and Zoning stated that the County is working on developing a steering committee to draft an ordinance that will allow her to handle these situations.

B.) DUSTIN GEORGE:

- 1.) GREENSCAPE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY:** Mr. George stated that the annual community cleanup day will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 9am – 12noon. It will be held at the Nature Play area at the Hartford City Public Library. He said that Petoskey Plastics will be donating trash bags and gloves for this event. They will also have a team of employees who will be volunteering this day.
- 2.) WOODEN INDIANA PLAQUE:** Mr. George explained that Mr. Ron Dudelston made a beautiful wooden plaque of the State of Indiana. This plaque is to display the Indiana Tree City Medallions they have earned. Once it's completed, he would like to hang it in City Hall.
- 3.) BIKE RACKS FOR DOWNTOWN:** Mr. George asked Council for permission to purchase 3 bike racks for \$1,000. These bike racks will be placed around the downtown square. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the purchase. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- 4.) H.C. MEMORIAL POOL:** Mr. George stated that in the absence of the Park Board members at tonight's meeting he was asked to present the update for the pool. They spoke with a contractor from Indianapolis regarding what needs to be done to repair the pool. He stated that the cap around the pool is the direst item in need of repair. To repair the entire cap 14 inches down and almost 2 foot back and replacing the guttering and trough system would cost \$89,000. Mr. George stated that the Parks Department has an annual pool maintenance budget of \$50,000 per year. He asked if Council would give the Parks Board permission to start on ½ of the cap where it needs the most repair and pay for it with the pool maintenance budget for this year. The Parks Board also asked what it would take to completely repair the entire pool. The contractor stated that if he were to grind out the floor and put concrete epoxy on the floor that should last a very long time. The cost to do this would be an additional \$120,000. The Parks Board requested Council's permission to take out a loan that would be paid back with the annual pool maintenance budget to fix the pool entirely,

resurface the deck, new roof on the pool building, new deck chairs, repair the fence and barb wire. They believe that a \$300,000 loan over 10 years would meet all these needs and be affordable for the Parks Department. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to allow the Parks Board to proceed with replacing the 1st half of the pool cap with this year's pool maintenance budget of \$50,000 and also to proceed with obtaining quotes for repairs and quotes for financing. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve moving forward was 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.) ANNE OWEN – Ms. Owen gave kudos to the 1st responders for all that they do for our citizens and community.

B.) JEFF THOMAS – Mr. Thomas asked Council for their permission to contact the State of Indiana to erect a sign that says NO THROUGH TRUCKS on 9th Street (Ritter Road) from Highway 3 to the 3M Road. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to allow him to proceed. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business from the Common Council, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

FOLDER 2/REC 161224_002