

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
JANUARY 4, 2021
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 January 4, 2020. The meeting was offered via ZOOM, meeting ID: 858 5195 6237.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mr. Dudelston made a motion to suspend the council meeting and open the public hearing. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. All votes were taken via roll call and the motion carried 5-0.

A.) PUBLIC HEARING #1: BLACKFORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – PETITION TO VACATE ALLEYS PLATTED IN BLOCK 2 OF THE SMITHS FIFTH ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA – NORTH CHERRY STREET: Attorney Jim Forcum presented to council and the public attending tonight's meeting proposed ordinance 2021-01. He explained that Blackford Development Corporation owns the two lots 2 & 3 of H.B. Smiths Fifth Addition. The BDC would like to build on those two lots and is requesting to vacate the alley that runs between the two lots. Mr. T. Williamson from the WWTP inquired if there is any sewer located on this property? This answer was not known at the time of the public hearing. Mr. Williamson said that he would check into it this week. With no further comment or discussion Mr. George made the motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to open the second public hearing. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call and approved 5-0.

B.) PUBLIC HEARING # 2: BLACKFORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – PETITION TO VACATE ALLEYS PLATTED IN BLOCK 12 OF ORIGINAL PLAT OF TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA – WEILER LOT: Attorney Jim Forcum also presented proposed ordinance 2021-02. He explained that the Blackford Development Corporation would like to vacate the alley that affects lots 1 through 7. Mr. Forcum explained that the Presbyterian Church owns lots 2 & 3 and the BDC owns lots 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7. It was discussed about limiting public access but making it accessible to first responders and utilities. There were no further comments. Mr. Dudelston made the motion to close the second public hearing. Mr. George seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 via roll call.

Mr. George made the motion to reopen the regular meeting of the common council. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Wolfe noticed a date error on the approval of minutes and asked for it to be amended to read approval of minutes from December 7, 2020. Mr. Wolfe made the motion to amend. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 via roll call. Mr. Dudelston then made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0 via roll call.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2020: Mr. Lytle made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0 via roll call.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A.) **2ND READING OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2020-14 AMENDING SECTION 10.16.040 OF CITY CODE:** This is a proposed 4-way stop at Jefferson & Franklin streets by the nature play area. Mr. George stated that he has spoken with both neighbors and they are in favor of a 4-way stop at this intersection. He stated the importance of slowing traffic down at this location due to the amount of children that could potentially be playing there. Mr. George made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-14. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- B.) **RESOLUTION 2021-05 PARKS DEPARTMENT TO ENCUMBER MONEY FOR PARKS BUILDING GARAGE DOORS:** Mr. George made the motion to approve the encumbrance by the Parks Department. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- C.) **RESOLUTION 2021-02 RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 8.5 OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** Mayor Eckstein told council that the Board of Works gave their blessing to move this item forward to council for consideration. Attorney Murphy stated that this amendment gives the Board of Works some flexibility in dealing with an employee charged with a felony. It does not determine the actual disciplinary action that the Board of Works may hand down. Mr. Scaggs made the motion to approve the amendment to the employee handbook. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- D.) **RESOLUTION 2021-01 RESOLUTION TO AMEND JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT MANAGER POSITION:** Mr. Dudelston made the motion to approve resolution 2021-01. Mr. George seconded the motion. The resolution was approved 5-0.
- E.) **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PARKS MANAGER SALARY TO REFLECT INCREASE FROM \$21,174 TO \$30,000:** Mr. George made the motion to accept the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-03. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to accept the 1st reading was 5-0. The 2nd reading of this ordinance will be at the February 1, 2021 meeting.
- F.) **REQUEST TO MOVE \$8,826 FROM CARES ACT GRANT MONEY TO COVER THE PARKS MANAGER SALARY INCREASE FROM LINE ITEM 101003999 TO 101008100:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the February 1, 2021 meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. Approval to re-address this topic at February meeting was 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.) 1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-01 AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY IN BLOCK 2 OF SMITHS FIFTH ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA:** Mr. George made a motion to accept the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-01. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-01 was 5-0. The 2nd reading of this ordinance is scheduled for the February 1, 2021 council meeting.
- B.) 1ST READING ORDINANCE 2021-02 AN ORDINANCE VACATING CERTAIN ALLEYS IN BLOCK 12 OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF TOWN, NOW CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA:** Mr. George made the motion to accept the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-02. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. The 2nd reading of this ordinance is scheduled for the February 1, 2021 council meeting.
- C.) PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2021-04 COVID 19 & CITY EMPLOYEES HAZARD PAY:**
After some discussion, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to amend resolution 2021-04 to read all permanent employees of the City of Hartford City but not seasonal employees or elected officials. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to amend this resolution was 5-0. Mr. Scaggs then made a motion to approve the amended version of resolution 2021-04. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- D.) SSG CHANTEL LANGSTON – BLACK HAT RECRUITING – COMMUNITY GUARD PROGRAM:** SSG Langston was not at the council meeting. It was decided to take this item off of the council agenda until further notice. No action was needed.
- E.) COMCATE SOFTWARE –** Mr. Dudelston explained that this software will be used for code enforcement. It will also be used as a communication tool for the public to use in conjunction with the city's website. Mr. Dudelston is asking permission to spend \$5,000 for this software. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$5,000. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve the purchase of the software was 5-0.
- F.) WARREN BROWN – DISCUSSION ABOUT BLACKFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Brown was unable to attend tonight's meeting. It was decided to table this topic until the February 1, 2021 meeting. No action was needed.
- G.) RESOLUTION OF 2021-06 ENCUMBERING MONEY – TO PAY SHROYER BROTHERS FOR RESIDENTAIL DEMOLITION FOR SEVERAL PROPERTIES. MAYOR ECKSTEIN WOULD LIKE TO ENCUMBER FROM EDIT FUND 444001307 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the encumbrance. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- H.) 1st READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 2/64/020 AND 2/64/030 OF THE CITY CODE:** Mayor Eckstein explained to the council his

desire to appoint two new board members to the Parks Board. He stated with the retirement of Teresa Henderson, a new board member has been appointed and will do a great job for this board. Her name is Maggie Witt. He believes that adding the two additional members will really strengthen this board. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to accept the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-05. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to accept was 5-0. The 2nd reading is scheduled at the February 1, 2021 meeting.

I.) PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2021-03 TO FUND 2 ADDITIONAL PARK BOARD

MEMBERS: Mr. Scaggs made a motion to table this topic until the February 1, 2021 meeting. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

J.) 1st READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-04 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021

SALARY ORDINANCE (PARKS BOARD): Mr. George made a motion to accept the 1st reading of ordinance 2021-04. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to accept was 5-0. The 2nd reading is scheduled for the February 1, 2021 meeting.

K.) UPON APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-03 – REQUEST TO MOVE \$2,000 FOR ADDITIONAL PARK BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES FROM LINE ITEM 112900590

TO 101008105: It was decided to move this topic to the February 1, 2021 meeting. No action was needed.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mr. George stated that he had contact with Mr. Ball about potentially vacating an alley. Apparently Mr. Ball thought Mr. George was a spam caller and would not answer his phone. Mr. George spoke with Mr. Ball's son. He told Mr. George that his dad never received anything from Attorney Murphy's office. Mr. George asked Mr. Murphy to please send him the packet again. Mr. Ball has lined up an attorney to get things taken care of on his end.

Mayor Eckstein made mention that he will be out of the office from January 9th through January 21, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further comment, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

FOLDER 2/REC 17