

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
OCTOBER 5, 2020
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 October 5, 2020

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

MOTION TO SUSPEND COUNCIL MEETING FOR TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mr. Lytle made a motion to suspend the council meeting and open the public hearing for two separate public hearings. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING # 1: Community Development Block Grant – Community Development Planning Project that will include preparation of a master utility study. Mr. Greg Beumer from Kleinpeter Consulting conducted the hearing. He requested feedback, from the citizens, on their various concerns with the city's water & sewer. Several citizens gave comment. Mr. Beumer said the application was ready to be turned in on Thursday, 10/15/20 and the city should receive a response around Thanksgiving if they will receive funding. Mayor Eckstein closed the first public hearing and opened the second one.

PUBLIC HEARING #2: Clerk-Treasurer Whatley explained that while working with Charlene Brown of Char's Accounting Service they discovered that the Cumulative Fire Fund did not currently have a tax rate assigned to it and hadn't for the past several years. The Fire Department purchased a fire truck that is to be paid out of this Cumulative Fire Fund and it doesn't appear that there are enough appropriated funds to make the payments for 2020. Upon Ms. Brown's direction, Ms. Whatley is requesting additional appropriations in the amount of \$50,000 be put into the Cumulative Fire Fund to cover these payments. Mr. Dudelston made the motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Lytle made a motion to amend the agenda and add Ordinance 2020-07 for additional appropriations for the Cumulative Fire Fund for fiscal year 2020 as item "G" under old business. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Lytle made a motion to accept the council meeting minutes from September 8, 2020 and the public hearing minutes of September 21, 2020 as submitted. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A.) VACATE ALLEY – EAST CONGER ST., EAST PERKINS ST., NORTH OAK ST., N. MULBERRY ST.** – Mr. George stated that he spoke with Mr. Ball about his wish to vacate this alley. Attorney Murphy said that Mr. Ball will have to file a petition to do this. Mr. Murphy said that his office mailed the form to Mr. Ball 2 months ago but to date the petition had not been

filed. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this until the November meeting. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to table until November passed 5-0.

- B.) ORDINANCE 2020-05 ESTABLISHING A HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – SECOND READING** – Attorney Murphy reminded council this is for passage of the ordinance with a final vote. Mr. George made the motion to approve ordinance 2020-05. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- C.) 4-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGH STREET & KICKAPOO STREET – ORDINANCE 2020-10** – After discussion and some concerns brought up by the Police Department, council decided to take a look at the intersection again and entertain the possibility of restricting parking around that intersection before putting in a 4-way stop. Mr. George made the motion for all council to take another look and table this topic for the November 2, 2020 meeting. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.
- D.) NO PARKING PROPOSAL ON MAIN STREET BETWEEN JEFFERSON STREET AND MONROE STREET IN FRONT OF AMAZING GLAZE BAKERY** - Upon second look at the parking situation in front of the bakery, Police Chief McKissack suggested that council make the south side of Main Street parallel parking instead angled parking. Attorney Murphy advised council they can make this decision with just a vote; an ordinance or resolution is not needed. After some discussion, Mr. George made a motion to make the south side of Main Street parking parallel facing east with an additional handicapped space on the southwest corner and the north side of Main Street will remain the way it is currently. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- E.) NO PARKING ZONE PROPOSAL ON FRANKLIN STREET BETWEEN HIGH STREET AND JEFFERSON STREET AND NO PARKING ON JEFFERSON STREET BETWEEN KICKAPOO STREET AND FRANKLIN STREET FOR THE NATURE PLAY AREA** – Mr. George made a clarification to the description of the no parking request. It should read no parking from the alleyway west to the corner on Franklin St. and from the alleyway north to the corner on Jefferson St. It will be a 120'x120'. Mr. George spoke with both homeowners Mr. Farnham and Mr. Workman and they had no objection to there being no parking, in these areas. Mr. George also stressed, as the Nature Play area adds more structures and activities, there will be more children there and it is critical for their safety that these no parking zones be made. Mr. George made the motion to approve these no parking zones. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- F.) ORDINANCE 2020-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-07 ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S SALARY** – Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the first reading of this ordinance. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0. Mr. Lytle made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to suspend the rules carried 5-0. Mr. Lytle made a motion to give final approval of Ordinance 2020-09. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.
- G.) ORDINANCE 2020-07 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CUMULATIVE FIRE FUND** – Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 2020-07. Mr. George seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Lytle made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to suspend the rules was 5-0. Mr. Lytle made a motion to give final approval to ordinance 2020-07. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) ORDINANCE 2020-08 FOR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES-

Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 2020-08. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The motion to approve the first reading was 5-0. Mr. Lytle made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Dudelston seconded this motion. The vote to suspend the rules was 5-0. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve ordinance 2020-08. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve ordinance 2020-08 was 5-0.

B.) STREET DEPARTMENT PERMISSION TO SPEND OVER \$5,000 TO PURCHASE A

LOADER- Street Superintendent, J. Thomas requested permission to spend over \$5,000 to purchase a new loader to replace the one that was damaged a few weeks earlier. He had supplied pictures to council earlier and some council members inspected the damaged loader for themselves. Mr. George made a motion to give Mr. Thomas permission to spend over \$5,000 to purchase the loader. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

C.) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON HIGHWAY 3 AND HIGHWAY 26 CORRIDOR –

Clerk-Treasurer Whatley explained that Kristi Bonewit advised her that due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Chamber of Commerce have had very little to no financial donations or support. The Chamber decided that they could not financially support the hanging of the Christmas lights on the light poles for the 2020 season. Ms. Bonewit asked Clerk-Treasurer to bring up this subject with City Council at the October meeting. There was discussion of whether this was just a one year scenario or does the Chamber want to give this up for good? Clerk-Treasurer Whatley was not sure of this answer. Several ideas were brought up how to handle this going forward with no real conclusions at that time. Mr. Scaggs made a motion that the city pay \$1,000 to put up and take down these lights for 2020. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0. Mayor Eckstein stated that he will reach out to Rick Tucker to get a price on having this done.

D.) WEILER LOT DEDICATION – PERMISSION FOR STREET CLOSURES –

Mr. John Oxley requested that on 10/24/2020 the roads be closed on Main Street between High Street and Jefferson Street and also be closed on Jefferson Street between Franklin Street and Main Street to provide a social distancing area for the Weiler Lot dedication. This closure would be for the afternoon and early evening that day. They also requested barricades and trash barrels be placed. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

A.) ART'S COUNCIL – TRUNK OR TREAT ON OCTOBER 23, 2020 –

Mayor Eckstein stated that he had received a request to close roads around the downtown square from 6pm – 8pm on October 23, 2020. The Art's Council is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat around the square. They are making the request for road closures to allow for social distancing according to CDC guidelines and for general safety of the people attending the event. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the request for road closures. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

B.) BLACKFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION –

Mayor Eckstein explained to council that the offer of \$4,500 the City Council was willing to pay to the BEDC, with a caveat that the entire amount be given to Mr. Warren Brown directly, was declined by their board. The BEDC board did not want to accept the money with "strings attached" but said if the council wants to give the BEDC the money and make a "suggestion" of giving Mr. Brown a bonus that would be acceptable. There was much debate and discussion about this matter. The council as a

whole wants to see Hartford City grow and flourish and is extremely happy with Mr. Brown's performance, as the Blackford County Economic Director. Mr. Dudelston made the motion to give the \$4,500 that was already approved to pay to the Blackford County Economic Development Corporation. The council is suggesting that this money be given to Mr. Warren Brown. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 Y and 2 N.

C.) OCRA RESOLUTION – Mr. Greg Beumer from Kleinpeter Consulting addressed council again and asked them to pass a resolution giving Mayor Eckstein authority to sign the application for the OCRA Community Development Block Grant that will commit the match money of \$10,000 for a potential grant of \$90,000. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business, Mr. Dudelston made a motion of adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

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