

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA  
NOVEMBER 1, 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 November 1, 2021.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to suspend the common council meeting for the public hearing. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to suspend was 5-0.

**A.) VACATE AN ALLEY – SUMWALT & KLINK:** Mr. Klink explained that this is a dead end alley off of Water Street. The homeowners have mowed and maintained it for decades. There was no further public comment.

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

**B.) ORDINANCE 2021-14 – SEWER RATES:** Ms. Jennifer Wilson from Crowe LLP addressed Council and explained that she has presented the Rate Report at an earlier meeting. After all the calculations were completed, it will result in the WWTP taking out new debt to complete the CSO Phase III project which will result in a 17% rate increase for the Sewer Department. This rate increase will equate to an approximate monthly increase to the customer \$5.00 to \$10.00 based on their usage.

There was much discussion about the need for this project and the fact that it is mandated by IDEM. Construction is slated for the summer of 2022 and must be completed by September of 2023.

There was public comment by Mr. Rick Wise and he stands in agreement to raise the sewer rates so that the City can stay in compliance with IDEM and it will ultimately be safer for our community.

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

**C.) RESOLUTION 2021-14 – SPECIALTY T, LLC – SB-1/PP:** Mr. Warren Brown explained that Specialty T, LLC is installing some manufacturing equipment that qualifies for a tax abatement. The company is asking for a 10 year descending abatement.

There was no public comment. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to close the public hearing was 5-0.

Mr. Lytle made a motion to continue with the regular Council meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 to continue with the regular meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Attorney Murphy asked to amend the agenda and add Old business letter “I” to address Ordinance 2021-18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading to vacate alley. Mr. Dudelston noticed that Mr. Sumwalt’s name was misspelled and asked for it to be corrected.

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

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

**\*\*UPDATED NOTE\*\*** It was later noticed that Old Business letter “A” was actually dealing with Ordinance 2021-18 and the request for letter “I” was not necessary.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 4, 2021:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 4th meeting as submitted. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.) 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-18 – VACATE ALLEY:** Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-8. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**B.) 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-14 – SEWER RATES:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to amend Ordinance 2021-14 to have the sewer rates to become effective on June 1, 2022. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve amendment was 4-1.

Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-14 as amended. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-1.

**C.) 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-15 – BOND ORDINANCE:** Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-15. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**D.) 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-16 – SALARY ORDINANCE:** Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-16. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**E.) HCPD – AIR PACKS – SPEND OVER \$5,000:** Mr. Rob Hess addressed the Council in Chief Parrott's absence. He stated that the Fire Department is planning on purchasing 26 new SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) Air Packs. He explained that Chief Parrott had sought out 3 financing quotes and Citizen's State Bank of Hartford City had the lowest interest rate of 2.89%. The plan is to put \$100,000 down from the LOIT fund and then finance the balance for a term of 5 years. All payments will be made from the LOIT fund as well.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to give permission to spend over \$5,000 for the Air Packs. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**F.) M. WOLFE – POSSIBLE STOP SIGN AT RICHMOND ST. & PENNSYLVANIA STREET:** Mr. Wolfe stated that he's been approached by a constituent with a complaint of speeding cars, at this intersection. There was discussion and the HCPD weighed in on the situation at this intersection. It is a 90 degree turn and the highest speed they recorded was 22 mph in a 30 mph zone. They don't feel there is a need for a stop sign at this intersection. There was no action taken.

**G.) 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-17 – NO SKATEBOARDING AT WEILER PLAZA:** Mr. George made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-17. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

There will be a public hearing and a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this ordinance at the December 6, 2021 meeting.

**H.) SEWER TAP FEE DISCUSSION – NEW TAPS, REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the December 6, 2021 meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A.) RIC FISHER WITH BSM GROUP**

**1.) PROPOSED COMCAST CABLEVISION PROJECT AT 123 S. HIGH ST.:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to give right-of-way permission for this project. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**2.) PROPOSED COMCAST CABLEVISION PROJECT AT 310 HUGGINS DRIVE:** The City has still been unable to determine who actually own Huggins Drive. They instructed Mr. Fisher to reach out to each of the businesses that reside on Huggins Dr. to seek their approval for the project.

**B.) AMY GEORGE – PARKS DEPARTMENT – BILL FROM RAMSEYER**

**EXCAVATING:** Ms. George explained that this bill was somehow missed in the construction of the new Parks Department building. Part of the bill was the responsibility of Daniel Shetler Construction and this remaining bill was determined to be the Parks Department's responsibility. Ms. George asked for permission to spend over \$5,000. Mr. Lytle made a motion to grant permission to spend over \$5,000. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

Mayor Eckstein took a moment to give the girls (especially Amy George) kudos for stepping up in employee K.B.'s absence.

**C.) ANNE OWEN – CORNUELLE VETERAN'S TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY:**

Ms. Owen explained that this event is planned for Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 4-6pm at Weiler Plaza. She shared that this is a completely free event for the community. There will be Santa & Mrs. Claus, a reindeer, carriage rides, chili, hotdogs, hot cocoa and cookies. The BJSHS band will be performing. She requested street closures for this event. Main Street between High & Jefferson Streets and Jefferson Street between Main and Franklin Streets. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to grant her street closure request. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**D.) DUSTIN GEORGE – STOP SIGN AT VAN CLEVE ST. & MONROE ST. ALSO AT NORTH ST. AND MONROE ST.:**

Mr. George explained that he's been approached by a constituent about speeding cars down both of these one-way streets. The HCPD weighed in and agreed that there is a speeding problem down both of these streets. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to move forward with 4-way stop signs at both of these intersections. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**E.) DUSTIN GEORGE – STOP SIGN AT KICKAPOO ST. & "B" ST.:**

Mr. George explained that another constituent has approached him about speeding traffic, parking congestion and a school bus stop located at this intersection. After some discussion, Mr. George made a motion to move forward with a stop sign at this intersection. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**F.) RON DUDELSTON – STOP SIGN AT CHERRY ST. & CARROLL ST. – MAKE THIS 2-WAY STOP INTERSECTION A 4-WAY STOP:**

Mr. Dudelston introduced Mr. Torres who addressed Council regarding the traffic problems, at this intersection. He explained that he's lived there for 12 years and in that time the population has grown in that area and there are more children who wait at the school bus stop, in the mornings. Mr. Torres feels that it would be safer if this intersection would be made into a 4-way stop. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to move forward with adding 2 more stop signs. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

## **G.) TRAVIS WILLIAMSON – WWTP**

- 1.) PURCHASE NEW VEHICLE SPENDING OVER \$5,000:** Mr. Williamson presented quotes from three different dealers for two different types of trucks. He explained this will be used as a commuter truck and not a work truck. Keeping this in mind they decided they would like to purchase the smaller Ford Maverick truck due to the cost difference. Southworth Ford had the lowest bid of \$21,797. Mr. Williamson stated that the plan is to pay cash for this vehicle from the farm ground rental proceeds.

Mr. George made a motion to give Mr. Williamson permission to spend over \$5,000 accept the Southworth Ford bid for the 2022 Ford Maverick truck in the amount of \$21,797. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

- 2.) PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT MACERATOR HYDRAULIC DRIVE UNIT SPENDING OVER \$5,000:** Mr. Williamson explained that the hydraulic drive unit his department has can no longer provide enough pressure to allow the macerator to work properly. He explained that he looked for three bids and only one vendor responded to his request. Fluid Power Solutions quoted \$13,125.45 for the hydraulic drive and power supply. Mr. Williamson said this project will be paid in cash from the “609” Sewer Improvement Fund.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the request to spend more than \$5,000. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

- 3.) ROOF REPLACEMENT ON BIO-SOLIDS BUILDING & FORMER U.V. BUILDING SPENDING OVER \$5,000:** Mr. Williamson explained that he attempted contact with three vendors. One vendor was too booked to take the job. One vendor did not respond to his messages. He did receive a quote from Hochadel Roofing, Inc. He explained that the roof was installed in 1998 and is currently outside of its expected life span. Hochadel quoted \$10,250 to put on a new roof. Mr. Williamson that this project will be paid in cash. He plans to pay for it from the Jay County Landfill proceeds and the remainder out of the “609” improvement fund.

Mr. Scaggs made a motion to give Mr. Williamson permission to spend over \$5,000 for roof replacement. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

- ## **H.) RDC PROPERTY PURCHASE SPENDING OVER \$5,000:**
- Mayor Eckstein explained to Council that the Redevelopment Commission has the opportunity to purchase a piece of land north of town for future development. The asking price is \$110,000. Mayor Eckstein is asking Council’s permission to spend over \$5,000. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve spending over \$5,000. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1. Mr. George abstained from the vote.

**I.) RESOLUTION 2021-41 – SPECIALTY T, LLC. – SB-1/PP:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-41. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**J.) ANIMAL SHELTER CONTRACT:** Mr. Scaggs made a motion to table this topic until the December meeting. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Eckstein thanked City Council and all departments who participated in the Art’s Council Trunk-or-Treat.

Mayor Eckstein explained that the City is working on an OCRA grant for the Water Department to overhaul the Water plant. He explained that the water issues have been kicked down the road for decades and part of the grant application process requires letters of support for constituents in the City. He asked the Councilmen if they would be willing to go out and contact residents who have been adversely affected by water main breaks and such.

**CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT:** NONE

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

**A.)** Mr. George stated that Mr. Mike Tabor would like to be re-appointed to the Library Board.

**B.)** Mr. Wolfe brought up a request for a stop sign to be placed at Monroe St. and Conger St.

**C.)** Mr. Scaggs asked Council to consider donating \$200 to the HCPD for Shop with a Cop? Mr. Scaggs made a motion to donate \$200. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve this donation was 5-0.

**D.)** Mr. Scaggs wanted to recognize Jimmy Lytle’s service to City Council. He stated what an honor it was to serve with him.

**E.)** Mr. Lytle stated that he’s been through 3 Mayors, 3 different styles of administrations. He said that he’s seen a lot in this City and County and appreciates everything he’s learned along the way. Mr. Lytle stated that sometimes it’s tough to raise 3 children and do the work required of a Councilman at the same time. He did thank everyone he’s had the opportunity to work with. He said he hoped that he had done everyone justice. He stated that effective Tuesday, November 2, 2021 will be his official last day to serve on City Council. As he moves to his new home, he will be looking for another way to serve our community going forward.

**F.)** Mr. George thanked Mr. Lytle for the 15 years they’ve served together. He stated that Mr. Lytle has always been a standup guy. He said it has been an honor to serve with Mr. Lytle.

**G.)** Mayor Eckstein thanked Jimmy for his service and for all of the guidance Mr. Lytle bestowed on the Mayor as he began his term.

H.) Mr. Dudelston also thanked Mr. Lytle for his service. He stated that Mr. Lytle sat the bar very high for this Council and future Councils to serve in like kind.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A.) Mr. Rick Wise stated that he would like to see “No Truck Route” signs placed at Highway 26, Industrial Drive and Wabash Ave. He stated that he reached out to our State Representative about having some signs erected. He came before Council to tell them to reach out to our State Representative too. There was discussion and some question about the exact location Mr. Wise was speaking about. HCPD Captain Allred stated that he would stay after the meeting to speak with Mr. Wise to determine where he is speaking about.

B.) Mr. Jeff Thomas presented the Council with October’s large trash pickup report. They picked up 27.09 tons of large trash equaling \$1,504.57. Mr. George stated that since the first month is under our belt he’s been getting very positive feedback from some of his constituents.

C.) Mr. Warren Brown provided a copy of the EDC Audit that was recently done.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With there being no further business, Mr. Lytle made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

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