

**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
MARCH 16, 2020
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME: Mayor Dan Eckstein called to order a Special Meeting of the Hartford City Common Council at 6:10PM.

ROLL CALL: Present were Michael Wolfe, Dustin George, Tony Scaggs, Jimmy Lytle, and Ron Dudelston. Also present was Pam Fancher, Clerk Treasurer. The City Attorney was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR POSITION- DISCUSSION

Brian Maddox presented to the board his aspiration to hold the position of Communications Director for Hartford City. Mr. Maddox has had thirty years of experience as a communicator in radio, newspaper, and public television. He would welcome the opportunity to use his talents to fill this needed position. Sherri Brown, Community Educator with Purdue Extension, is excited to work alongside of Mr. Maddox as she needs someone with his abilities to make programs known to the public.

Council voted to change the salary ordinance to accommodate the position of Communications Director. This will begin as a temporary means of salary change as Mr. Maddox already holds the position of Parks Superintendent with a salary of \$20, 557 which is a permanent part-time position. The salary ordinance will be amended to afford \$7,500 added to Mr. Maddox's salary and to change his status to full time employment, making him eligible for benefits. This \$7,500 will be taken from EDIT fund and a line item moved to payroll under Park Superintendent. Hours will be documented and submitted to the Clerk. Modification of this salary will be further discussed when the 2021 budget is created. Mr. George motioned to approve using \$7500 from EDIT fund to be used for this salary amendment; Mr. Dudelston Seconded. Salary Ordinance passed for creation of Communication Director 5-0.

Eric Woodmansee from AME Consulting introduced himself. He is from Gas City and is hoping to work with our City Department Superintendents on various projects.

WARREN BROWN- TIF DISTRICT: Mr. Brown proposed for the Council to adopt a resolution that will create a TIF district for the property that Gilman's will purchase to build a Lumber Yard. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the resolution to create a TIF district in the area of the new Gilman's Lumber Yard. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve; Seconded by Mr. Scaggs. Motion approved 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Eckstein made the decision to close City Hall to the public for an undetermined amount of time. This came as a response to Federal and State efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 virus. Water payments may be made by mail, phone, on line, or in the drop box. We will continue to check reports daily to assess the situation and determine when to re-open to the public. Mayor Eckstein will utilize Facebook to inform the public about further developments.

K.) **JEFF THOMAS- PAVING PROJECT-** Request to spend over \$5,000 for the City paving Project. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve; Seconded by Mr. George. Motion approved 4-0-1.

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT:

VIII. CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sherri Brown is thankful to see programs being implemented such as the Youth Suicide Prevention Event on March 17 that will be held at City Hall.

John Creek made mention that the Blight Elimination Project has just completed taking down the last of 19 houses.

Teresa Henderson made mention that the City Parks Dept. has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to work with Ball State students to design Wilderness Park.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Eckstein adjourned the meeting at 7:47.