

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
APRIL 5, 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 April 5, 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. Lytle made a motion to suspend the common council meeting for the public hearing. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to suspend was 5-0.

A.) RESOLUTION 2021-12 SB-1/PP PETOSKEY PLASTICS: There was no public comment.

B.) RESOLUTION 2021-13 SB-1/PP SPECIALTY T, LLC: There was no public comment.

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

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to re-open the council meeting. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2021: Mr. Lytle made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 1st meeting as submitted. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) RESOLUTION 2021-12 SB-1/PP PETOSKEY PLASTICS: Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve this tax abatement over 10 years at 10% per year. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

B.) RESOLUTION 2021-13 SB-1/PP SPECIALTY T, LLC: Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve this tax abatement over 10 years at 10% per year. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

C.) COVID-19 SICK PAY PROTOCOL FOR APRIL 2021: Mr. George made a motion to extend the COVID-19 Sick Pay Protocol for 60 days and re-address it at the June 2021 meeting. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

D.) ANIMAL SHELTER DISCUSSION: As City Council contemplates funding for the Animal Shelter in 2022, they invited a representative to come and give an update of the shelter. Ms. Pam Bonham came and gave an update of the shelter's status, struggles and financial accounting. She answered several of the councilmen's questions. The Council took all information under advisement. There was no action taken tonight.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) BJSHS BAND NEW UNIFORMS: Mr. Lance Manley and several other band members approached council regarding purchasing new band uniforms. He proudly announced that the band raised \$13,000 in 19 days towards this purchase. The school matched their money giving the band \$26,000 needed to purchase 52 uniforms. They are approaching council asking for a donation to purchase the accessories that go along with the uniforms. Mr. Dudelston made a motion that council gives the band \$2,000 towards the purchase of the accessories needed. He made this motion with the caveat that they perform at the Christmas program at Weiler Plaza being held on the last weekend of November. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

B.) DISC GOLF: Mayor Eckstein expressed his excitement with the prospect of a disc golf course being built in Hartford City. Mayor Eckstein recommended to council that we offer \$15,000 to the disc golf project. After some discussion, Mr. Lytle made a motion to pay \$15,000 toward the disc golf project. Mr. George seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Elizabeth Witt from the Blackford County Community Foundation also announced that the foundation has pledged \$15,000 to this endeavor.

C.) LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES: Mayor Eckstein stated that Ms. Cheryl LaMotte has approached him about installing a book sharing box on City Hall grounds. He went on to say that there is no money needed, from the city, to fund this project. Mr. George made a motion to approve the installation of this book sharing box on City Hall grounds. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

D.) EVENT AT WEILER PLAZA: Ms. Anne Owen approached council about an event being held on May 7, 2021 at Weiler Plaza. They are planning on craft & food vendors and live entertainment. She has requested that Jefferson St. between Franklin St. & Main St. be closed for this event. She has also requested additional trash receptacles from the street department. Mr. George made a motion to allow the street closure. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve the street closure was 5-0.

E.) HERITAGE DAYS: Dr. & Mrs. Lee approached council requesting \$4,500 in funding for Heritage Days and also asking for the city to pay for the electricity for the festival. After some discussion of the plans for Heritage Days 2021, Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the funds of \$4,500 be given for Heritage Days and also approve the city pay for the electricity needed. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

The second topic was road closures for the Heritage Days festival. After some discussion, Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the road closures subject to Mrs. Lee meeting with the Fire Department. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

F.) BSM GROUPS, LLC – WORK TO BE DONE AT E. COMMERCIAL ST. & MONROE ST.: Mr. Ric Fisher approached council requesting permission for right of way for a one day work project for Comcast. After some discussion about the work order, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to grant the permission of right of way. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

G.) PROPOSED STOP SIGN AT FRANKLIN ST. & RICHMOND ST. &/or FRANKLIN ST. & MAPLE ST.: Mr. Wolfe stated that it has come to his attention there is a speeding problem on West Franklin between Maple St. and Richmond St. After discussion, it was decided to have the police department monitor the speeds and traffic patterns for 30 days and then re-address the topic at the May 2021 meeting.

H.) STOP SIGNS:

- 1.) FRANKLIN & WABASH STREETS
- 2.) WABASH & ELM STREETS

Mr. J. Thomas approached council about two other problem areas and requested putting up stop signs. After input from council members, department heads and the police department, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to direct Attorney Murphy to draft an ordinance change to install a stop sign at Elm and Wabash streets. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to move forward was 5-0.

I.) EMERGENCY REPAIR ON GARBAGE TRUCK: Mr. Thomas explained that the older trash truck had pump blow up sending material throughout the lines and orifices. It was pertinent that both garbage trucks be functional so he made the decision to have Best Equipment repair the truck. The repair charge was \$6,524.73. Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the emergency expenditure. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

J.) STORMWATER ORDINANCE: Mr. T. Williamson explained to council that he has been watching the storm water account. He stated that it generates approximately \$125,000 annually in revenue. He has noticed an increase in expenditures over time and wants to be sure not to deplete this fund. According to the Storm Water Ordinance section 13.1.030 the city is allowed to collect from every property within the confines of the city limits for storm water. He is sure

there are properties in Hartford City that don't have homes on them where we are not collecting these fees from the landowners. He is proposing working with the utility office to do a street by street audit to define where these properties are and contact the landowners and start billing for them. He wants to make sure we are collecting all the monies due us before we consider raising storm water rates to make up any difference. Mr. Lytle made a motion to move forward with a storm water study. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

K.) RAW SLUDGE PUMP REBUILD AND/OR REPLACEMENT QUOTE: Mr. Williamson explained that this pump was initially installed in 1961 and it was rebuilt in the 1970's and again in the 1980's. He presented two quotations from B.L. Anderson. One for the repair of the pump and the other for the replacement of the pump. He explained that B.L. Anderson is the only distributor for the Wemco pump in the tristate area. Mr. Williamson stated that based on the age of the pump he would recommend that the pump be replaced. He also stated that he has the funds in his department to pay for this pump. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to replace this pump. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to replace was 5-0.

L.) ORDINANCE 2021-07 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND: Clerk-Treasurer Whatley explained that Hartford City is slated to receive \$1.18 million from the American Rescue Plan Act. She has been given a directive from the State Board of Accounts to create a fund for these specific funds. This is a first reading of this ordinance to create said fund. The second reading will take place at the May 2021 meeting. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2021-07. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to accept was 5-0.

M.) VACATE ALLEY FOR NEW INDY CONTAINERBOARD: Mayor Eckstein explained the struggles the homeowners, city and New Indy have regarding the mis-routing of semi drivers down Spring St. and Patterson St. He is proposing an introduction to vacating the alley at Patterson & Spring Streets out to the bridge. The county is changing the road sign by New Indy to read 075 instead of Cross St. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to move forward with vacating the alley. Mr. Lytle seconded the motion. The vote to move forward with the next steps was 5-0.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

MASK MANDATE: Mayor talked about the Governor's relaxation of the mask mandate. He stated as a city we are going to continue to mandate masks for at least the next 30 days.

INDOT UPDATE: Mayor Eckstein invited any City Council members who would like to attend a meeting with INDOT in front of Richards on Tuesday, April 6th at 9am for an update on the State Road 3 So. Project.

CLERK-TREASURER COMMENTS: NONE

COUNCIL COMMENT:

GOLF CART ISSUES: Mr. Wolfe said that we are having golf cart violations again this year. It was decided to re-visit the ordinance and see if anything needs to be changed to help with compliance to it.

GREENSCAPE: Mr. George announced that the city wide litter pick up day will be Saturday, May 1, 2021. It will be held in conjunction with the Arbor Day celebration. They will be passing out seedlings, the DNR will be putting on demonstrations and the Audubon Association will be handing out shrubbery.

GREENBRIAR CLEANUP: Mr. Dudelston gave kudos to Build a Better Blackford and the Street Department for the Greenbriar clean-up.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

FOLDER 2/REC 27