



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NOV. 21, 2022:

Wendy Clark provided an overview the program and introduced the 2022-2023 candidates for Kids Mayor: **Eliza Bell**, Waterford Elementary School; **Paul Conner Gwaltney**, Prairie View Elementary; **Matthew Demott**, Waterford; **Zoey McDonald**, Chamberlain Elementary; **Avery McPhail**, Prairie View; and **Amelia Troyer**, Chamberlain.

Mayor Stutsman said that once the winner was announced tonight, the Kid Mayor would be sworn into office. Those not elected would serve on the Kid Council and participate in an event in the coming year. Last year, the Kid Council decided to participate in a trash pickup day in the parks. Kid Council members will also visit City Hall and some City Departments. The Mayor said the new Kid Mayor would help preside over a Council meeting and perhaps a Board of Works meeting. Mayor Stutsman added that he believes the program is getting more youth involved in the community and he is glad to see the program grow.

Mayor Stutsman asked if Council members had any questions. **Council President Weddell** jokingly asked if mail-in ballots were still being counted. **Clark** responded that no mail-in ballots were involved. **The Mayor** added that neither he nor Councilors got votes, either.

Mayor Stutsman then announced the Kid Mayor winner: **Paul Conner Gwaltney of Prairie View Elementary**. **The Mayor** then swore Paul into office. He also presented certificates to the Kid Councilors.

Councilor King asked if Councilors could have access to the videos prepared by the candidates. **Clark** said she would make them available on the Goshen Community Schools website.

Mayor Stutsman also mentioned that **Goshen College students** enrolled in the "Writing for the Media" class, taught by **Professor Duane Stoltzfus**, were present at the meeting.

2) Resolution 2022-21: *Category Transfer* (for the Police and Parks departments)

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Resolution 2022-21, *Category Transfer*. **Council President Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2022-21 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Schrock moved to approve Resolution 2022-21.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2022-21, *Category Transfer*, sought authorization from the Common Council and Mayor to move available resources between major categories within the City's funds. The Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer requested this resolution because the Council is the City's fiscal body which authorizes the City's budget and any budget adjustments.

In a memorandum that was included in the meeting packet, **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver** explained that an appropriation is "permission to spend available money" and is tied to a specific fund. Within a fund there are four spending categories and multiple accounts. The Department of Local Government Finance ("DLGF") requires Council approval to move an appropriation from one category to another. The Council can approve this when a department needs additional room to spend in one category and has available appropriations in another category.

By moving an appropriation from one category to another, **Weaver** continued, the Council is only changing the category from which the City pays an expenditure. The Council is not approving any additional spending, so the fund's total appropriation remains the same.

For each requested category transfer, a City Department head recognized a need in a budget category, reported the need to the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer, and asked that the Council approve the transfer to continue their operations.



City Department heads reported the following needs:

- Police Officers are required to pass exams before being admitted to the pension fund which the Police Department pays for. The first category transfer should cover the medical exams through the end of the year.
- The Police Department also requested a category transfer to cover fuel costs through the end of the year, necessitated by rising fuel costs.
- The Parks Department requested a category transfer to cover remaining water and sewer charges through the year end.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Weaver wrote that if the Council approved the proposed category transfers, the Clerk-Treasurer would then register the adjustments in the City's books and communicate the transfers to the departments. These category transfers are adjustments that only require Council approval to be final, and do not require notification to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).

SUMMARY OF NOV. 21, 2022 DISCUSSION AND PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2022-21:

Mayor Stutsman asked Councilors if they had any questions about the proposed category transfers. There were none.

At 6:09 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comments on Resolution 2022-21. No one asked to speak, so the Mayor closed the public comment period.

Councilor King explained, for the benefit of the Goshen College students, that the category transfers involved the City moving money between funds to cover expenses by City Departments.

Mayor Stutsman provided a further explanation and said that toward the end of the year such transfers are often made. He emphasized that additional funds were not being spent; just shifts within budgets.

There were no comments from Councilors, who also indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors approved Resolution 2022-21, *Category Transfers*, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes" at 6:11 p.m. Youth Advisor Velasquez Valdes also voted "yes."

3) Ordinance 5143: Establishing an Elkhart Township Fire Support Fund

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction on First Reading of Ordinance 5143: *Establishing an Elkhart Township Fire Support Fund*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5143 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Pérez moved to approve Ordinance 5143 on First Reading.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the City of Goshen entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Elkhart Township to provide fire protection service and emergency medical service to the unincorporated areas of Elkhart Township. As part of the agreement, the City of Goshen will be receiving compensation. In order to have a clear record of the actual cost of the Township Agreement, the City Legal Department reported that it was necessary to establish a separate fund to account for all receipts and expenditures of funds associated with the services provided under the Agreement.



If Ordinance 5143 was approved, a Township Fire Support Fund would be established to:

1. Record receipts from Elkhart Township under the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Goshen and Elkhart Township for Fire and Ambulance Services, dated Dec. 21, 2021, and recorded with the Elkhart County Recorder as Instrument Number 2022-00858 ("Township Agreement"); and

2. Pay expenditures according to the Township Agreement

More specifically, The Township Fire Support Fund would be used to pay for eligible costs of the fire and emergency medical services provided to Elkhart Township as set forth in the Township Agreement, including payroll for an anticipated addition of new firefighters, and other expenses incurred by the City of Goshen in providing services to Elkhart Township

SUMMARY OF NOV. 21, 2022 DISCUSSION AND PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 5143:

Mayor Stutsman explained the necessity of the Township Fire Support Fund. He said property and equipment was turned over to the City of Goshen last year as part of the agreement. He said that the Township will be transferring funds to the City over the next four years before an assessment of the finances of the agreement in year five. He also noted that funds from the Township will help pay for three new firefighters next year.

There were no comments or questions from Councilors. So at 6:12 p.m., Mayor Stutsman opened a public hearing on Ordinance 5143, which was before the Council for a First Reading.

There were no public comments, so Mayor Stutsman closed the public hearing on Ordinance 5143.

The Mayor asked if Councilors had any additional comments. There were none and councilors indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Ordinance 5143 on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes" at 6:12 p.m. Youth Adviser Velazquez Valdes also voted "yes."

Councilors gave unanimous consent to the Mayor to proceed with the Second Reading of Ordinance 5143.

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction, on Second Reading, of Ordinance 5143: *Establishing an Elkhart Township Fire Support Fund*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5143 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/King moved to approve Ordinance 5143 on Second and Final Reading.

At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited additional public comment on Ordinance 5136, which was before the Council for a Second Reading. There were none.

There were no further comments or questions from members of the audience or Councilors, who also indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved Ordinance 5143 on Second and Final reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes" at 6:13 p.m. Youth Adviser Velazquez Valdes also voted "yes."



4) Resolution 2022-26: Contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for sweeping services
Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Resolution 2022-26, *Contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for sweeping services*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2022-26 by title only, which was done.
Weddell/Nisley moved to approve Resolution 2022-26.

BACKGROUND:

If passed by the Council, **Resolution 2022-26** would approve a contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for Sweeping Services. The Indiana Department of Transportation wants to contract with the City of Goshen for the City to sweep the 20.6 curb miles of state highways within the City limits a minimum of two times each year. The contract term is for 48 months, commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. The State will pay the City \$360/curb mile for a total of \$7,416 each year

SUMMARY OF NOV. 21, 2022 DISCUSSION AND PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 2022-26:

Mayor Stutsman provided additional background on Resolution 2022-26. He said that if the Common Council did not approve the resolution and the contract, the City would not have to sweep the state roads that go through Goshen, but that state work crews only go through the City to sweep the roads once or twice per year. He also noted that the amount of reimbursement from the State doesn't cover all of the City's costs for the work.

There were no questions or comments from Councilors.

At 6:14 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comments on Resolution 2022-26, but there were none.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre said that before the contract was recently approved by the Board of Works & Safety, board member **Mike Landis** asked how long the State has paid the City the same amount for sweeping. A member of the Legal Department responded that the same amount has been paid since 2013.

Mayor Stutsman said he has been seeking an increase for several years, but the State has yet to respond.

There were no questions or comments from Councilors, who also indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors approved Resolution 2022-26, *Contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for sweeping services*, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes," at 6:15 p.m. Youth Advisor Velasquez Valdes also voted "yes."

Elected Official Reports:

Mayor Stutsman said that when he met with the **Goshen College students** earlier today he told them they had "lucked out" because it would be a quick meeting due to the light agenda.

Mayor Stutsman reported that tomorrow (Nov. 22, 2022), City officials would participate in an **Exit Conference** with **State Board of Accounts** staff members who have concluded their annual audit of the City of Goshen's financial statement for the prior year (Jan. 1, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021) as well as an audit of federal grants.



Mayor Stutsman also said he wanted to “publicly applaud” **Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre** for his work since being appointed to the position in July 2021. He said Aguirre took office just as a state audit was launched and during the busiest period of City budget preparations, which was not the best time to assume the duties. The Mayor further said of Aguirre: “He’s done a phenomenal job and he’s got his staff that’s doing great work for us, too and I just really appreciate that. This is not any comment to any Clerk-Treasurer I’ve worked with, because I’ve enjoyed them all for different reasons, but Richard, I put in many hours, and it’s actually more frequent now that I come in (City Hall) and he’s already there. I just applaud him for his hard work.”

Councilor Riegsecker said he attended the **City Community Relations Commission (CRC)** meeting last Monday. He said Commissioners discussed Indigenous People’s Day. He said commissioners commented that the event had a good turnout, there were great speakers and there was good feedback from the community. He said next year current topics may be featured. He said the next CRC meeting will be Dec. 2, and meetings will be moved to the City Hall Annex. Next year, he said the meetings will be held the second Tuesday of the month and **Councilor Megan Eichorn** will resume as the Council’s liaison to the CRC for Riegsecker, who had filled in temporarily.

Councilor Riegsecker praised the Police and Fire Departments for leading a successful food collection drive Nov. 20 at Kroger. He said shoppers were encouraged to purchase specific items and many people contributed.

Councilor Pérez said some of his constituents have continued to praise the work of the **City Environmental Resilience Department**. Besides doing good work, staff have been responsive to the public.

Councilor Pérez also praised the **Goshen College students** who recently focused attention on the Indian Child Welfare Act. He said it was good to strengthen relationships with indigenous people.

Councilor Pérez also said he wanted to applaud **Council Youth Advisor Karen C. Velazquez Valdes**, who is developing a Spanish-language radio program to help people learn more about City services. He said he has met with her several times and the program will be launched on two radio stations in January. **Mayor Stutsman** responded that the Youth Adviser will start work as an intern in the Mayor’s Office in January, so she will be busy.

Councilor Riegsecker said he wanted to add that the First Responders food drive was for the Window, “which is another great organization in town.” **Mayor Stutsman** added that Kroger arranged and organized the food drive.

Council President Weddell said he and **Councilor King** have been working together with City staff on options for signage on properties that may be the subject of rezoning requests or are for sale. He said the goal is to improve the visibility of signage for neighboring residents.

Council President Weddell said the most recent Redevelopment Commission meeting featured an annual report from Baker Tilly municipal advisers. He said one thing he found interesting was the amount of money brought into the City by its redevelopment efforts, through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue. He said Baker Tilly provided an analysis of what the outcome would be if the City had no TIF revenue. He said the Redevelopment Commission annually produces \$8.6 million through TIF income. If that was eliminated entirely, the Council President said, the City would instead be receiving \$165,000. So, he said the Redevelopment Commission brings in a lot of money that is put back into the City that wouldn’t be available in any other fashion. Council President Weddell said he or the Mayor or Baker Tilly could provide more information to Councilors.



Council President Weddell said the Baker Tilly analysis also showed that Tax Increment Finance districts do not negatively impact school districts, which is what he has always believed. He said he spoke with **Goshen Community Schools Superintendent Hope** about this and is looking forward to more conversations about this issue.

Council President Weddell also reported that the Redevelopment Commission canceled a contract with a developer for two properties on the Millrace. He said **City Redevelopment Director Becky Hutsell** is working diligently on a Request for Proposal in hopes a new project will get underway soon.

Councilor King said hopefully a sign will be posted on those properties soon to inform the community what is happening there.

Councilor Pérez asked if **Council President Weddell** might explain Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to the Goshen College students.

Council President Weddell provided a brief explanation of how Tax Increment Financing worked and how it was used to aid in development.

The **Council President's** explanation prompted responses and different perspectives on TIF by **Councilor King**, **Councilor Perez**, **Council President Weddell**, **Councilor Nisley** and **Councilor Schrock**. They also discussed the use of TIF for residential development.

Councilor King said that she and Councilor Schrock participated in a committee meeting that examined the condition of the City pool and what can be done to improve it. **Mayor Stutsman** responded that the Rotary Club helped pay for the City pool 50 years ago and helped pay for renovations it in the 1980s. He said the City will be making the club part of the current review process. Mayor Stutsman also said it appears the City will be building a new pool and a report about it will be coming to the Council soon.

Councilor Nisley said the Airport Board met with the Freedom Fest board and it appears the show will be held every other year.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre reminded Councilors of upcoming Council meetings scheduled for Dec. 5, Dec. 19 and Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 5:30 p.m. At the next meeting, Aguirre said he will be asking Councilors to sign statements affirming that they understand and follow the City's nepotism and contract policies. He said the statements will be notarized at the same time. **Mayor Stutsman** said the only subject of the Dec. 27 meeting will be year-end budget transfers. Aguirre added that a draft Council meeting schedule for 2023 will be discussed at a December meeting.

Mayor Stutsman informed Councilors that at the Dec. 5 or Dec. 19 Council meeting, Councilors will be asked to approve higher stormwater fees. He said the regional stormwater board, which represents Bristol, Elkhart, Goshen and Elkhart County government, are recommending a higher fee. All of the entities will need to approve the higher fee for it to take effect. He said that if approved, the fee would still be lower than the state average.

Asked by **Council President Weddell** if the higher fee would be proposed as an ordinance or resolution that could be approved at a single meeting, **Mayor Stutsman** said he believe it was an ordinance. He asked **City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann** to clarify the action that would be requested. **City Attorney Stegelmann** said the City would be approving a fee increase, which would be consistent with the fee approved by the other entities. **Stiegelmann** said he would clarify if final action could be taken at a single meeting.

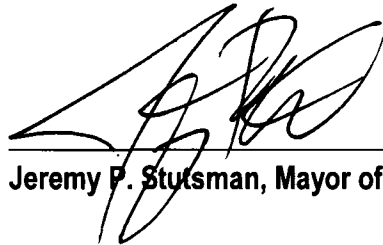


There were no further comments by the elected officials.

Councilor Nisley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Eichorn. Councilors unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

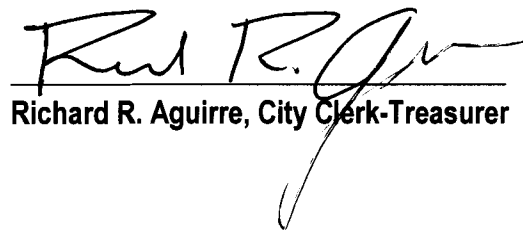
Mayor Stutsman adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer