

GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2019

The Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana met in a regular meeting on June 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Court Room/Council Chambers at the Goshen Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, IN. Presiding Officer was Council President Brett Weddell, with members of the Council present or absent as follows:

PRESENT: Councilman McKee, Nisley, Orgill, Scharf and Weddell
Councilwoman King
Youth Advisor Eichorn

ABSENT: Councilwoman Gautsche & Mayor Stutsman

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Council President Weddell asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Motion to approve agenda as presented was made by Councilman Nisley. Motion was seconded by Councilman Orgill.

By a 6-0 unanimous vote the Agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Weddell stated that at this time there were no minutes to approve.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Community Relations Commission Chair, Evan Miller made a presentation on the annual reports from 2017 and 2018. (Those reports have been attached to these minutes per Evan's request)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Glenn Null – Was at the Heartland rally at the fairground and someone at the rally commented on how bad the traffic was 2 years ago. Also talked about the road closures.

Councilman Scharf and Director of Public Safety Dustin Sailor – Commented on the road closures.

Councilman Scharf – Commented on the potential changes to the parking in downtown Goshen.

RESOLUTION 2019-26

Councilman McKee introduced Resolution 2019-26 entitled "DISPOSAL OF 1120 SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET."

Councilman McKee asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Resolution by title only and moved for its passage. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman King.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON RESOLUTION 2019-26

Council President Weddell opened Council comments. Council comments start at 36 minutes and 30 seconds of the audio recording.

City Attorney Larry Barks comments on the Resolution starting at 36 minutes and 48 seconds of the audio recording.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTION 2019-26

Council President Weddell opened public comments. Public comments start at 37 minutes and 31 seconds of the audio recording. During the public comments City Attorney Larry Barks responds to statement.

By a 6-0 unanimous vote, the Resolution passed.

(RESOLUTION #2019-26 DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF JUNE 18, 2019)

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 5004

Council President Weddell opened the public hearing. Let the record show that no one spoke.

ORDINANCE 5004

Councilman McKee introduced Ordinance 5004 entitled "ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE."

Councilman McKee asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only and moved for its passed on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Nisley.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON ORDINANCE 5004

Council President Weddell opened Council comments. Council comments start at 42 minutes and 44 seconds of the audio recording. During the Council comments Clerk-Treasurer McKee responds to questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORDINANCE 5004

Council President Weddell opened public comments. No public comments were made.

By a 6-0 unanimous vote, the Ordinance passed on first reading.

Council President Weddell asked for a unanimous Council consent to consider the Ordinance for passage during one meeting. As there was no objection, Council President Weddell declared that the Ordinance would be heard on a second reading.

ORDINANCE 5004

Councilman McKee introduced Ordinance 5004 entitled "ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE."

Councilman McKee asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only and moved for its passage on second and final reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Nisley.

COUNCIL COMMENTS ON ORDINANCE 5004

Council President Weddell opened Council comments. No comments were made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORDINANCE 5004

Council President opened public comments. No comments were made.

Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll on the Ordinance as amended. Roll Call was as follows:

AYES: King, McKee, Nisley, Orgill, Scharf, Weddell

NAYS:

By a 6-0 unanimous vote, the Ordinance passed on second and final reading.

(ORDINANCE #5004 DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF JUNE 18, 2019)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Goshen Airport – Board of Aviation Commissioner Denny Richmond and Goshen Municipal Airport Manager Randy Sharkey make a presentation to the Council starting at 45 minutes and 08 seconds of the audio recording. During this presentation they informed the Council that there will be a new hangar built by H2 Aviation. They are making this presentation to request funds in the very near future for a connecting taxi-way.

Councilman McKee makes a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman King seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

APPROVED: _____


Mayor, Jeremy P. Stutsman
Goshen, Indiana

ATTEST: _____


Angie McKee
City Clerk-Treasurer

SCANNED



**COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COMMISSION**
CITY-OF-GOSHEN

**Community Relations Commission
City of Goshen, Indiana
Annual Report – 2017
Submitted by Darin Short, CRC Consultant**

Mission

To foster a climate of positive community relationships and non-discrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment, access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property.

Origin and Background

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) was created by Ordinance 4201, “An Ordinance Creating the Goshen Community Relations Commission and Prescribing the Powers and Duties of the Commission,” adopted by the Common Council on April 13, 2004. Goshen was the 23rd Indiana city to establish a human/community relations commission. Mayor Allan Kauffman convened the first meeting on August 17, 2004.

CRC Principles

- Respect for each other and respect for each other’s rights
- Open communication and engagement
- Honesty
- A safe community
- Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences
- Tolerance of differences
- Support for equality and freedom from discrimination

CRC Commissioners during 2017

Angie Troyer, Chair
Evan Miller, Treasurer
John Ferguson, Secretary (resigned during year)
Rocio Diaz (resigned during year)
Lizzy Diaz (served partial year)
Ed Ahlersmeyer
Sreekala Rajagopalan
David Araujo
Nathan Mateer Rempel
Judy Snider

CRC Activity in 2017

Vision 2025: The CRC made efforts to introduce the vision statement to the community by hosting an invitation-only event in March. More than 70 people attended the event and were given the opportunity to hear more about the visioning process as well as to hear from former Mayor Allan Kauffman, Goshen College's Gilberto Perez, and then CRC Commissioner Nathan Mateer-Rempel.

Following is the vision statement adopted by the CRC:

Goshen is a vibrant and dynamic community. Together we strive to

- **Strengthen our social and economic resources.**
- **Promote vitality, safety, and wholeness.**
- **Engage, embrace and celebrate our cultural commonalities and differences.**
- **Address challenges to our common good.**

Latino Neighborhood Outreach: In January the Commission approved a funding agreement for a joint effort between Bienvenido Community Solutions and LaCasa, Inc. to increase Latino participation in neighborhood associations. The initial effort focuses on the Historic South Side, Community of East Goshen, West Goshen, Rieth Park, and Chamberlain Neighborhoods.

Taste of Goshen: May First Friday: In May the Commission held its' annual Taste of Goshen during which almost two thousand people enjoyed food offerings from cultures represented in Goshen's population. These included Palestinian, Korean, Mexican, El Salvadoran, Colombian, Ukrainian, Puerto Rican and Indonesian.

Discrimination Issues: In March of 2017 a black man and resident of Goshen came to the CRC to share about his experiences of being pulled over by police while driving (he did not indicate whether his experiences involved Goshen Police, Elkhart County Police, State Police, or some other police agency). The gentleman shared with tears in his eyes that he has learned to accept that he will be pulled over in Goshen for no reason at all even though he is fully obeying the law. He indicated his wife fears for his safety when he leaves the house because he is black. The gentleman also referred to a specific case in which he was pulled over and ticketed for allegedly not using his headlights which he said was not possible because his headlights come on automatically. In order to fight the claim the gentleman had to travel on several occasions to Nappanee but in the end he was told he had to pay the ticket. He continued to fight the charge by taking it to court. In the end, the court agree to cancel the ticket and remove this incident from his record.

In July of 2017 another local resident came to the CRC to share the story of her biracial son (black and white) being called the "n word" in the CVS parking lot at the intersection of Main St. and Madison St. During the July CRC meeting, the conference room was packed full with visitors showing support for the mother. A positive outcome of this engagement with the mother and guests was that the guests challenged the CRC to develop and deliver a by-stander training program throughout the Goshen community. The purpose of the by-stander training would be to help residents know how to safely intervene if they witness harassment based on race, sex,

and/or other personal qualities or characteristics. By the end of 2017 the CRC was in the process of working with other resource persons to develop a by-stander training program.

Other items of note:

- In late 2016 the CRC engaged the services of R3 Design, a branding and website development firm owned by Rafael Barahona, Jr. In early 2017 R3 Design presented a branding and community engagement initiative that the CRC adopted. The purpose of the engagement with R3 Design was to increase awareness of the CRC, the role of the CRC in the community, and Goshen Vision 2025. Although there were several outcomes of this project, a primary outcome was a tagline for the CRC as a matter of fostering curiosity about the CRC. The tagline developed by R3 Design was “CRC What We Mean” or “CRC, Significa Que?” in Spanish.
- Commissioners held two half-day retreats in March (to begin to get to know each other since several new commissioners joined the CRC) and June (to further discuss and plan for implementation of Goshen Vision 2025). During the remainder of 2017 the CRC made great progress in identifying initiatives to be developed as a matter of pursuing the vision. The goal was for implementation of these initiatives in 2018.
- The CRC provided small grants for the Farmer’s Market Salsa Festival, Encuentro in the Alley (an event emphasizing Latino art), and The Multicultural Festival, an event supported in part by La Casa and held in the summer of 2017.
- CRC Principles of Engagement were adopted in part by City Council as an addition to the “Goshen Common Council Rules of Order”.
- Revised the Memorandum of Understanding with Darin Short to more accurately reflect expected duties and provide objective measures for evaluation.

Upcoming Initiatives

Diversity Events: The CRC is continuing with its expanded role with Downtown Goshen, Inc. for First Friday events this coming May. The May event is branded as ‘Taste of Goshen’ after the CRC’s annual event. In addition to our usual tent featuring a variety of ethnic foods, we are sponsoring musical performances, as well as sharing the newly minted Vision with the community.

Continuation of Community Project Support from CRC: In the past the CRC has made monies available for community projects or initiatives particularly where those projects interact with our Mission, Vision, and Principles.

Goshen Vision 2025: While we develop methods of publicizing the Vision in the community, we are also working to prioritize elements of the Vision that most directly intersect with our Mission and Strategic plan.



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CRC Commissioners during 2018

Lizzy Diaz, Chair (January through July), Vice Chair (July through December)
Evan Miller, Treasurer (January through July), Chair (July through December)
Ed Ahlersmeyer, Vice Chair (Resigned in April)
Sreekala Rajagopalan
David Araujo
Jose Rocha
Glenn Null, Treasure (July through December)
Michele Fanfair-Steury

CRC Activity in 2018

Reaction and Restructuring: 2018 was a year of turmoil and restructuring. At the December, 2017 meeting, a commissioner shared a blog post with the CRC. Several community

members, in learning of the content of this post, felt that it was promoting views about race that were contrary to the mission of the CRC. At the April, 2017 meeting, dozens of community members voiced their concerns, and the following week the commissioner resigned, leaving a vacancy in the role of Vice Chair.

In June, CRC Chair Lizzy Diaz indicated her desire to step down from the role as commission chair. In July, Evan Miller was elected Chair, Lizzy Diaz was elected Vice Chair, and Glenn Null was elected Treasurer..

City Council Liaison: With the resignation of the Vice Chair, the commission had an opening, to be filled by appointment of City Council. The City Council chose to leave the position vacant and declined to appoint one of their own as a member of the CRC. The Mayor, acting in consultation with City Council, appointed Councilwoman King as Liaison to the CRC. The Liaison is an advisory and support role, and does not have voting rights on the CRC.

Refinement of Purpose: With the help of consultant Philip Thomas, leaders from the CRC (Evan Miller and Lizzy Diaz) and City Council (Brett Weddell and Julia King) met with the mayor to explore the cause of the underlying tensions that caused the disruption in the first half of the year. The group concluded that a key issue was ambiguities in the founding ordinance. The founding ordinance empowered the CRC to receive complaints of discrimination, and adjudicate resolutions to those complaints. The CRC, as a voluntary citizen's group, is not qualified to address discrimination complaints. The CRC adopted a resolution that requested that the city find other means to address complaints of discrimination so that the CRC can focus on positive community building.

Visitor Policy: In September, the commission adopted a Visitor Policy that outlines the process the CRC will follow to welcome guests, gather input from them, and respond to their input. A copy of the policy is attached.

Job Description: The CRC developed and adopted a job description for its members, and shared this job description with City Council and the Mayor. The job description describes the activity level of the commission, as well as desired skills and personal attributes. A copy of the job description is attached.

Taste of Goshen: May First Friday: In May the Commission held its' annual Taste of Goshen during which almost two thousand people enjoyed food offerings from cultures represented in Goshen's population. These included Palestinian, Korean, Mexican, El Salvadoran, Colombian, Ukrainian, Puerto Rican and Indonesian.

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Upcoming Initiatives

Community Conversations: In late 2018, the CRC was approached by staff of Goshen Community Schools. They were interested in co-hosting with the city, a series of community

conversations. The CRC and GCS plans to pilot a community conversation in spring, 2019. If they are successful, we plan to hold more in the fall of 2019.

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(Attachments: Visitor Policy, Job Description)