



## **Minutes of the Goshen Common Council Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020**

5:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy P. Stutsman called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk stated that this meeting is being held during a declared public health emergency covering all of the State of Indiana pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders 20-04, 20-09, and 20-25 as well as guidance from Indiana Public Access Counsellor Luke Britt, then called the roll:

Present electronically:

Megan Eichorn (Dist 4),  
Julia King (At-Large),  
Jim McKee (Dist 1),  
Gilberto Pérez, Jr. (Dist 5),  
Matt Schrock (Dist 3),  
Youth Advisor Zoe Eichorn (Non-voting)

Present in-person:

Doug Nisley (Dist 2),  
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

**Weddell/Nisley moved to approve agenda as presented. PASSED 7-0.**

### Privilege of the Floor

Glenn Null, Goshen, expressed thanks for hard work. City is doing good work, be strong and get through it. City government has been very frugal to help ride this out. Mayor shared that some major changes have already been made in some departments.

### Elected Official Reports

Perez reported meeting with Assistant Police Chief Maria Mora in relation to a resident concern. Expressed thanks for prompt response and for addressing concern. Went on to thank Goshen residents for generosity and goodwill.

Mayor noted 5:30 p.m. time has been appreciated by multiple persons. Requested consideration for changing regular start time to 6:00 p.m. and provided a few reasons.



Mayor addressed questions received via email. Noted request for COVID-19 emergency budget line detail provided by Clerk-Treasurer showing approximately \$94,000 spent from that line. To question of how much more will be spent, he stated he did not know. To question of whether some of the money could be transferred to Rainy Day Fund sooner rather than later, Mayor said that while Rainy Day Fund is important there is a misperception that it is the only savings fund. Stated City is in good place to weather this storm and we will not need to borrow money. Said this is not over and more expenses will come. If this is worst crisis in a century and we are talking about adding, not taking from Rainy Day Fund he questions what the money is for. Mayor said he is still supportive of placing unused funds in Rainy Day at end of year as laid out in his memo at time of additional appropriation. Mayor said to keep in mind that if the governor, the county or the city do not have a state of emergency in place then emergency funds from the special COVID-19 line cannot be used.

Mayor addressed concerns regarding two mobile message boards purchased with emergency money. Stated that all departments have five year purchasing plans. These signs had not been budgeted already and were not in the five year plan. Purchased two signs, renting two signs. Can use into the future. Communication with community is very difficult. Signs are one effective method.

Mayor addressed suggestion that Street Department reimburse emergency line for signs. Mayor cited some estimates for MVH revenues which are significantly decreased.

McKee asked about legality of particular sign placements. Mayor provided rationale for placements.

Nisley asked about cost of mobile signs. Asked whether they could be used as speed limit signs. Answer was no.

King commented that the expense report was a good request.

Clerk-Treasurer Scharf explained that this particular line does not represent all emergency expenses. Other expenses from departmental budget lines are being tracked in parallel. Discussed various federal reimbursement programs and encouraged council to stay the course to keep funds in emergency lines for needed uses and to maximize chance of reimbursement.

Further discussion on emergency management, planning, and budget.

#### Downtown Economic Improvement District Board Appointments

Mayor gave background on voting process. Noted that Scott Woldruff, David Pottinger and Jonathan Wieand were the top three vote-getters.

**Weddell/King moved to appoint Scott Woldruff, David Pottinger and Jonathan Wieand to Downtown EID Board**

**ROLL CALL vote: PASSED 7-0**



**Mayor opened the PUBIC HEARING for Ordinance 5043**

Goshen Public Library legal counsel Bill Davis explained that Goshen Public Library is seeking additional appropriations by the City of Goshen Common Council out of Goshen Public Library funds: \$300,000 from Library Improvement Reserve Fund and \$150,000 from Library Rainy Day Fund. Noted three statutes controlling the procedure. Davis provided information on growth quotient, including that Indiana Dept. of Local Government Finance notified Goshen Public Library that their budget would be \$3,070,493 because that was last year's budget times the assessed value growth quotient.

Davis explained the statute controlling appointed boards dictates that if additional appropriations cause the budget for the current year to exceed the prior year's budget times the assessed value growth quotient, which is the present case, then the request must be presented to an elected board as the fiscal body. Davis cited the statute which describes the situation for Goshen, in which the library was established by the City and has less than 50% of parcels supporting the library outside city limits.

Goshen Public Library Director Ann-Margaret Rice explained that due to a new state law effective July 1, the library ad city will need to approve some documentation declaring the Common Council as the secondary fiscal body of Goshen Public Library and file that with the state. This is will prevent the need for this process of determination in the future.

No members of the public spoke during the public hearing.

Ordinance 5043: Additional Appropriation Ordinance for Goshen Public Library Roof Repair and Elevator Moderization

**Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5043 on first reading.**

Perez requested reference to the law that Director Rice cited. She said the bill was SB 410. Mr. Davis said he could provide the citation to Larry Barkses to distribute to councilors.

King asked whether there was any reason City would not do this. Rice said no, especially if one is familiar with the roof and elevator. She explained that bids came in higher than anticipated, but the projects are necessary.

Davis commented that the statute is strange because normally the assessed value growth quotient is used to limit levys, not budgets. The only entity subject to budget restriction by assessed value growth quotient is a public library with an appointed board.

Mayor noted it was somewhat similar to the City in that the Dept. of Local Government Finance must approve City additional appropriations. He said he thinks it is to assure it occurs in a public meeting.

**ROLL CALL vote to approve Ordinance 5043 on first reading: PASSED 7-0.**

**Council gave unanimous consent to hear second reading.**



**Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5043 on second and final reading.**

**ROLL CALL vote: PASSED 7-0.**

Nisley asked when Governor's executive order for meetings expires. Mayor said June 4, then outlined some of the planning considerations for future meetings.

Clerk-Treasurer Scharf noted the funeral arrangements for School Resource Officer Kristen Cerich, who Mayor shared passed away this past week. Memorial services with full police honors will be this coming Friday 11 a.m. at Grace Community Church, then proceed – going past Goshen Police Department -- to cemetery in Bremen. Mayor explained that social distancing measures will be in place. Noted that Officer Cerich was with the City for about a year, served the schools and community well. Mayor observed this is third death in Police Department since he became mayor and it is not getting any easier. Encouraged folks to keep those affected in their thoughts.

Eichorn asked about completion date for Main St. project downtown. Mayor replied it is weather-dependent but should be in next several days. Clerk-Treasurer joked (in reference to head-out angle parking) that parking lines had been painted backwards and wondered whether that would be switched around.

Mayor noted that next meeting will be Youth Advisor Zoe Eichorn's last meeting; she plans to address the council.

Mayor said election for next Youth Advisor was disrupted due to COVID-19; Sharon Hernandez worked with Goshen High School faculty contact Jodi Weldy to hold the election online. Newly-elected youth advisor will be announced soon.


Mayor noted next meeting will be council appointment to Community Relations Commission. Also shared he has added youth advisors to Parks Board and Environmental Resilience Council. Encouraged other governments to add youth advisors to their boards.

**Eichorn/King moved to adjourn.**

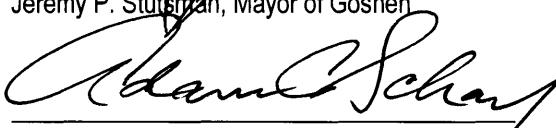
**VOICE VOTE to adjourn: PASSED 7-0**

*Meeting Adjourned*

APPROVED:

  
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Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

  
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Adam C. Scharf, Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer