



Minutes of the Goshen Common Council Regular Meeting of September 29, 2020

6:00 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

Present: Megan Eichorn (Dist 4),
Julia King (At-Large),
Jim McKee (Dist 1),
Doug Nisley (Dist 2),
Gilberto Pérez, Jr. (Dist 5),
Matt Schrock (Dist 3),
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

Absent: Youth Advisor Hazany Palomino (Non-voting)

King/Eichorn moved to add Public Hearing for Ordinance 5058 to the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. PASSED 7-0.

Privilege of the Floor

Dave Ostergren, Goshen, asked that the council take action to encourage Elkhart County Clerk to follow mask mandate and require masks for poll workers and voters. Along with other points, Ostergren emphasized that simply wearing a mask for 20 minutes could prevent a spike in COVID-19 deaths and health compromises. Councilors Eichorn and King committed to following up. Discussion about where request would be directed.

Glenn Null, Goshen, said he was a poll worker in spring and everyone wore masks. Said part of problem is inconsistency on part of county government. He hates masks but wears it because he has to. Appreciates city government consistency.

Elected Official Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Scharf reported that COVID-19 related funds will be created in the city's books, which normally requires an ordinance but is the result of a directive from the state.

Mayor said that less than 10% of CARES Act money to Indiana had been spent; public safety salaries are now eligible so we should be able to get all of our allocation which is good and will help cover losses.



King reported that Parks Board established dog park rules. Also CRC created sub-committee to review police policies and procedures.

Ordinance 5057: Amend Ordinance 3011 By Authorizing the Following Changes Related to the Flood Control District (Overlay) Regulations

Weddell/McKee moved for passage of Ordinance 5057 on first reading.

City Planner Rhonda Yoder presented the packet memos. Pointed out that successive non-substantial (>50% value) improvements would be permitted. Said this will make review easier.

VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5057 on first reading: PASSED 7-0

Weddell/McKee moved for passage of Ordinance 5057 on second and final reading.

VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5057 on second and final reading: PASSED 7-0

Public Hearing on Ordinance 5058

Mayor Stutsman opened the public hearing.

Glenn Null, Goshen, said that the budget seemed cautious, which is important. Expected the city to be more frugal than the county.

Mayor Stutsman closed the public hearing.

Ordinance 5058 (1st Reading) 2021 Appropriations and Tax Rates (Goshen Civil City Annual Budget)

Weddell/Perez moved for passage of Ordinance 5058 on first reading.

Mayor Stutsman opened and introduced Dan Hedden and Amber Nielsen from BakerTilly, as well as Jeffery Weaver, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. Hedden proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation (attached to the PDF version of this document).

Mayor Stutsman shared comments, including that last five years of building cash balances has been purposeful and puts us in a good financial position. Noted that cash balance target is 15-50% of annual. Said his budgeting is conservative; depending on revenue we may need to adjust. Mayor said 2% cost of living increase is being offered to employees.

Discussion about elimination of roughly 30 "split" employees who are paid by both civil city and utilities, with Mayor explaining that civil city budget appears to increase by about \$1M, but is offset by utilities reimbursement.

Mayor guided council through budget worksheets, with questions and comments including the following:



Community Relations Director
 Clerk-Treasurer personnel, overtime, and insurance
 Environmental Resilience: new forester
 Police: training facility, overtime, instruction vs. education
 Motor Vehicle / Highway: "missing" funds from MVH-Restricted fund found
 Number of new vehicles this year and next, including an ambulance
 Outside organizations from EDIT (how selected?)
 Wilden Ave. reconstruction, general and concrete paving from EDIT
 Aviation Capital \$50k from EDIT moved from EDIT/Redevelopment due to error
 Public Safety LOIT – Police and Fire, including vehicles
 Cleaning up idle funds with low balances (e.g. Beautification/Restoration Trust, Millrace Trust)
 State Road 4 fund from state transfer, will be used on E. Lincoln
 Ice rink/pavilion project on hold
 New Lippert/Dierdorff TIF has some funds
 Board of Works: other insurance, bank charges, electricity, trash collection (Mayor: other cities have fees)

Glenn Null said the budget looks reasonable and is transparent.

Mayor lauded department heads. Asked that if councilors have ideas for cuts, please reach out to him and department heads before next budget reading to understand what the implication would be. Thanked BakerTilly, Clerk-Treasurer and staff.


ROLL CALL VOTE on Ordinance 5058 on first reading: PASSED 7-0

King/Eichorn moved to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE to adjourn: PASSED 7-0

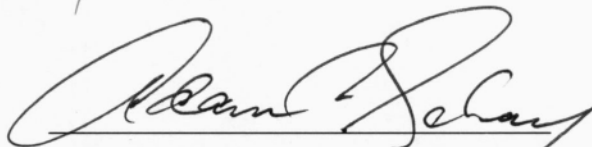
Meeting Adjourned 7:33 p.m.

APPROVED:



 Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



 Adam C. Scharf, Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer