



## Minutes of the Goshen Common Council Regular Meeting of October 27, 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

Clerk-Treasurer Adam Scharf made the following statement: "We begin this meeting during a declared public health emergency covering all of the State of Indiana. Council members Eichorn, King, and Pérez are participating in this meeting by electronic communication pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders 20-04, 20-09, 20-25, 20-30 and quite possibly something subsequent to that, as well as guidance from Indiana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt. Council members McKee, Nisley, Schrock and Weddell are physically present in council chambers as we begin this meeting," then called the roll:

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

Absent: None

Minutes of Oct. 13, 2020 were presented.

**King/Weddell moved to approve the minutes of Oct. 13 as presented. PASSED 7-0**

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

### Privilege of the Floor

Glenn Null, Goshen, asked if and when Trick-or-Treating would be occurring. Mayor replied that City posted Trick-or-Treat hours from 5:30-8:00 p.m. on Halloween. Said City is taking guidance from the County Health Department, so subject to change. Null also mentioned leaf pickup.

### Elected Official Reports

King reported BZA approval of warming shelter on Eisenhower Dr. Mayor said he planned to have City contribute financially again this year.

McKee reported Plan Commission recommendation to approve 90-unit apartment complex at corner of Plymouth Ave. and Indiana Ave.

Nisley reported Board of Aviation Commissioners did not meet. Noted John Dechant's passing.

Mayor said his heart goes out to families in the community who have lost someone due to COVID-19.



Eichorn explained the reason she chose to attend remotely to help keep community, and especially the schools, safe, secure and open.

Mayor mentioned Governor extended remote attendance option through end of year.

Youth Advisor Hazany Palomino asked whether there is anything City can do to help enforce mask wearing. Mayor said to his knowledge City cannot issue mandate, but if county or state issued an order City could help enforce.

Mayor reported Downtown River District Steering Committee is forming; asked for council volunteer.

Nisley asked whether there is any plan to install sidewalks on W. Clinton St. Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor said current focus and funding is on existing sidewalks in poor condition and ADA compliance, not new sidewalks.

Pérez reported on meeting night before with County Health Department, including COVID-19 stats and trends. Mentioned health care workers are working hard, are exhausted, and many are leaving the profession.

Mayor addressed COVID-19, encouraging against fatigue and letting guard down. Said several of his acquaintances and distant family members have died. Encouraged measures to help prevent another lockdown.

#### Ordinance 5059

#### COVID-19 Bonus Pay

#### **Weddell/Pérez moved for passage of Ordinance 5059 on second and final reading.**

Mayor introduced as his initiative in light of seeing hard work and long hours by city staff. Addressed what he called misperceptions in the community, explaining City cannot distribute these funds to outside groups, healthcare workers or other front line workers. Clarified that this is not CARES Act money, but General Fund. Nisley asked for clarification. Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer replied with details of the accounting.

Mayor explained city staff were not home while buildings were closed. Summarized federally-mandated sick leave as well as city-provided leave. Said he believes city staff deserves this bonus, adding that no elected officials would be receiving the bonus.

Nisley asked about balance of COVID-19 budget line. Discussion of budget line details.

McKee said he feels the same as he did two weeks ago. Said talked with people who said they would take it if handed out, but they didn't need it. Said businesses do not like the bonus; makes them look bad because they are not giving raises this year. Cited hospital as an example. Later in discussion, Nisley and King said they had heard hospital was considering pay increases. McKee said there are people in the community struggling to pay bills and they see this as their tax money being given away.

King said putting money in pockets of Goshen residents will be good for local economy.

Eichorn said the pandemic has been hard and employees have gone above and beyond; it is nice to be recognized for a job well done.



### Public Comment

Lori Arnold, Goshen, spoke in opposition to the ordinance. Said she works with homeless and people in need. Reported results as she surveyed small business owners, neighbors, etc: 4 yes, 8 no, 4 maybe. Asked people what they would prefer money be used for; reported responses: homeless, veterans, food, streets, "meter maid."

(End Public Comment)

Nisley relayed comment that it has always been politicians and government taking care of themselves first before anyone else. Mayor said he took great offense to that. Pointed out that city employees could make more money in private sector, but want to work for this community. Nisley noted grim economic outlook presented [by Dr. Michael Hicks] at recent council meeting.

King said she is glad Mayor is working to keep up morale and looking out for city staff.

Mayor said he understood areas named as alternatives for money, but said those are areas already receiving attention. Said when funding a community you have to spread money around and no one gets all they need.

Eichorn and Weddell commented on staff as greatest resource; importance of showing appreciation to staff members. Weddell relayed his experience as small business owner.

Mayor said he tracks his time and hit 2080 hours on Oct. 15, and shares that because he knows others do too. Said Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor probably has put in more time than he has, and Department Heads do not get overtime pay, though most employees do.

Nisley expressed his support and appreciation for staff.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE on Ordinance 5059 on second and final reading: PASSED 6-1**

**Aye:** Eichorn, King, Nisley, Perez, Schrock, Weddell

**Nay:** McKee

### Ordinance 5063

Authorizing the current refunding by the City of its Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of 2009, Series A; authorizing the issuance of sewage works refunding revenue bonds for such purpose; providing for the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of the sewage works; the safeguarding of the interests of the owners of the sewage works refunding revenue bonds authorized herein

### **Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5063 on first reading.**

Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor explained that given current low interest rates it is advantageous to refinance, and the Utility expects to come out well ahead financially even after paying penalty and fees. Said Eric Walsh, partner at BakerTilly, advised that accounts needs parity so moving ahead before end of 2020 is important; asked for first and second reading.



Eric Walsh explained on the current bond there are approximately 10 years remaining, \$24M in principal at 2.32% interest rate. Target savings is \$40,000-\$50,000/year after fees and expenses. Said there are efficiencies if closing occurs before end of year. Said many communities issue debt near end of year. Mentioned factors being evaluated include upcoming election. BakerTilly is recommending negotiated sale to manage risk.

Mayor commended and thanked Walsh and BakerTilly. Asked Walsh on thought on both readings in same night. Walsh noted ordinance just sets parameters, doesn't finalize. Said would be good to have both readings because Standard & Poors will be used for a bond rating, and all steps take time. Explained further details of timeline and actual sale execution.

Weddell noted similarity to refinance of Redevelopment Commission bond a few years ago. Said he appreciates savings, and effort of those working to make it happen.

#### Public Comment

Glenn Null, Goshen, said he thinks this is excellent money management, and that \$400,000 will go a long way in the Utility Department.

(End public comment)

Mayor asked Walsh for confirmation that \$500,000 is not after expenses. Walsh confirmed, though noted numbers are tentative, conservative; he was leery of market after election.

#### **VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5063 on first reading: PASSED 7-0**

Council granted unanimous consent for second reading.

#### **Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5063 on second and final reading.**

#### **VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5063 on second and final reading: PASSED 7-0**

Ordinance 5065                      2021 Compensation for Civil City and Utilities Employees

#### **Weddell/Eichorn moved for passage of Ordinance 5065 on first reading.**

Mayor said City government has taken COVID-19 seriously, which has made union negotiations more challenging. Said negotiations are going well, but got started late and are ongoing. Stated he had contacted Teamsters union ahead of meeting, and was Mayor's belief that this ordinance reflects the verbal agreement. Said state statute requires passage of this by Nov. 1; mentioned tweaks and amendments are possible in future. Scharf introduced requested amendment to Section 11: Floating Holidays (attached as Exhibit A).

#### **Weddell/King moved to amend Section 11 (A) and (B) by deleting (2) and amending item (3) to change 1872 to 2080.**



**VOICE VOTE on amendment: PASSED 7-0**

Weddell asked if there were any grade shifts from previous year. City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann and Mayor indicated no grade changes.

Mayor noted 2% cost of living increase is included. Scharf noted Emergency Paid Leave is included and is available only under declared emergencies as previously discussed.

**VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5065 on first reading: PASSED 7-0**

Council granted unanimous consent for second reading.

**Weddell/McKee moved for passage of Ordinance 5065 on second and final reading.**

Mayor relayed request for amendment from Director of Environmental Resilience Aaron Kingsley to add "II" after Urban Forester, explaining that Kingsley is technically still the Urban Forester.

**Nisley/King moved to amend "Urban Forester" to "Urban Forester II"**

**VOICE VOTE on amendment: PASSED 7-0**

Scharf asked about changing Community Relations Director from Mayor to Non-specified since it would be paid from Community Relations departmental budget, not Mayoral departmental budget. Stegelmann said he thought that would provide some clarity.

**King/Perez moved to amend Community Relations Director from department 'Mayor' to 'Non-specified'**

Weddell asked confirmation that position would still answer to Mayor. Mayor confirmed; gave example of Public Works Director, also Non-specified, who reports to Mayor.

Glenn Null, Goshen, expressed confusion about how CRC budget relates to this.

**VOICE VOTE on amendment: PASSED 7-0**

**VOICE VOTE on Ordinance 5065 as amended on second and final reading: PASSED 7-0**

**Nisley/King moved to adjourn.**

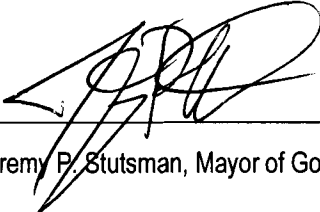
**VOICE VOTE to adjourn: PASSED 7-0**

*Meeting Adjourned 7:22 p.m.*



*Exhibit A: Requested amendment to Ordinance 5065 (1 pg)*

APPROVED:

  
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Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

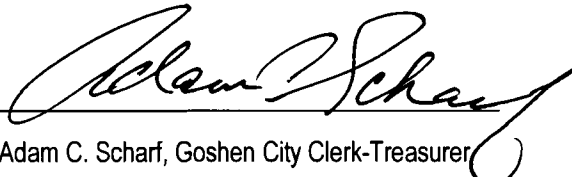
  
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Adam C. Scharf, Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer

EXHIBIT A : 10-27-20



City Clerk-Treasurer

CITY OF GOSHEN

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27 October 2020

To: Goshen Common Council

From: Clerk-Treasurer

Re: Amendment Request for Ordinance 5065

Section 11: Floating Holidays

Subsections (A) and (B)

Delete item (2)

Amend item (3) by changing "1872" to "2080"