



## GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

### Minutes of the MAY 19, 2025 Regular Meeting

*Convened in the Council Chamber, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana*

At 6:00 p.m., assisted by Mayor Gina Leichty, Addalyn Schlabach (a 2nd-grader at Prairie View Elementary School) and Allie Crocker, (a 5<sup>th</sup>-grader at Trinity Lutheran) called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Leichty asked Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre to conduct the roll call.

**Present:** Linda Gerber (At-Large) Phil Lederach (District 5) Doug Nisley (District 2)  
Megan Peel (District 4), Donald Riegsecker (District 1) Matt Schrock (District 3)  
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large) Youth Adviser Tageeya Galeb (non-voting)

**Absent:** None

#### Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Leichty asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the March 14, 2025 Work Session and the March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting as prepared by Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre. Councilor Nisley moved to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Riegsecker seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.**

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer with the deletion of item #2, *Presentation: Induction of the City of Goshen into the Ductile Iron Pipe Century Club* and the addition of new agenda item #6, *Ordinance 5222, Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position*. Councilor Peel moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Riegsecker seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.**

#### Privilege of the Floor:

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited public comments for matters not on the agenda.

Eden Kuric of Goshen talked about the amount of taxpayer funds used yearly to purchase weapons for Israel. She said those funds could instead be used to pay free rent, groceries or health care for needy people or to pay for elementary teacher salaries, or solar-produced electricity or for the forgiveness of college debt.

Kuric said the only way to change federal spending priorities is to elect different lawmakers. She said Indiana has nine members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including Rep. Rudy Yakym, who represents the Goshen area. Kuric said Rep. Yakym is "probably tired" of hearing from her, but he has nevertheless continued support for Israel. Kuric urged Council members to use their positions and influence to persuade Rep. Yakym that his constituents don't want their tax dollars to pay for Israel's "ethnic cleansing and genocide" in Gaza. She cited statistics on the number killed and wounded in Gaza and encouraged donations to help the victims.

River Norton of Goshen said he was wearing a Kafiya, a head scarf from Palestine. He described its design and its meaning to the people of Palestine.

Norton then said, "When silence is the norm, expect disobedience."



**Norton** continued, "If you think it's not your responsibility, it is people like you, in higher positions, that have gotten us to where we are now. Your silence is complicity. Your silence will never, ever wash the blood from your hands. There has never been a better time to speak up. And, like, literally any of you please say something to (U.S. Rep.) Randy Yakym or (U.S. Sen.) Todd Young. Why is our money going to genocide?"

**John Stoltzfus of Goshen** thanked Councilors for their work in public and behind the scenes. He said he lives in Goshen with his spouse, one dog and five chickens and they all need water.

**Stoltzfus** said that at the last Council meet he learned about Goshen's water usage and the need for water system improvements. He said that got him think about how much water he consumes in an average day and how many people and creatures throughout the world rely on water. He recounted the story of a person who begged for water, but was refused. And he said many people in Gaza need water.

**Stoltzfus** called on the Mayor and Councilors to help those who need water and urged people to support Doctors Against Genocide (which can be contacted at [doctorsagainstgenocide.org](http://doctorsagainstgenocide.org)).

**Nancy Graber of Goshen** said she returned to Goshen the previous day from a trip to Palestine. She said that when she arrived back in the United States and went through customs in Philadelphia, the person didn't react positively when she told him she had just visited Palestine.

**Graber** said she was on a two-week learning tour and learned much but has much more to learn. She said that she learned that land taken from Palestinians that it now occupied by Israelis is lush with greenery and swimming pools while Palestine is dry. She said that is because "the settlers are stealing water from Palestine and it is heartbreaking to see that."

**Graber** thanked her friends who spoke earlier in the meeting and said, "And I add my voice. Thank you."

In response to the public comments about global issues, **Mayor Leichty** said, "My colleagues on the Council are a very open and willing group to sit and listen. They are your representatives and should you ever want to speak to one of the Councilors one on one, I assure you this is a group of folks who care deeply about our community.

"I'm appreciative that we have people in the City of Goshen who are passionate not only about their local neighbors but our global community as well. I will say, while we are the face of government in this room, there are also limits to our jurisdiction and so there are limits to the kinds of things that we can make decisions about and that limits us to our geographic boundaries."

The **Mayor** continued. "That doesn't mean that is the end of where our hearts or considerations are as we make decisions about our municipality. So, I encourage those of you who have come frequently over a number of months, certainly you are welcome to come and voice your opinions at Council, but if you also want to have a one-on-one conversation with your representative, the folks here might be an alternate place for you to share your thoughts and considerations as well.

"And if you don't know who your representative is, that information is available on our website, and we do have two representatives who represent the entire City. So, that's **Councilor Linda Gerber** and **Councilor Brett Weddell**. And everyone else represents a specific district. So, there are a number of ways you can have these conversations and I just wanted to open that up to your thoughts and consideration before we move on tonight."

(The Mayor later added that people can also call her office and set up a time to meet with her.)

**At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Leichty closed the public comment period.**





**1) Presentation: Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau update on the Quilt Garden and Elkhart County tourism (Jon Hunsberger, Executive Director, ECCVB)**

Jon Hunsberger, Executive Director of the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), gave an overview of Elkhart County tourism and the annual Quilt Garden. He referred to a brochure, "Tourism Matters in Elkhart County," which was included in the agenda packet for tonight's meeting.

**Hunsberger** said "We believe in here" is the Convention and Visitors Bureau brand, adding, "We believe in here. We believe in our communities. We believe in investing back into our communities."

**Hunsberger** said May is the traditional kick off to increased activities in the county. He said one of those special activities is the Quilt Garden, a nationally recognized program that for 17 years has communicated the county's history and culture through flowers and art. He said 200,000 people visit the Quilt Gardens every year.

**Hunsberger** said "when we have visitors here who are spending almost \$200 a day, that's significant. So, the economic impact that the gardens is not just because they're beautiful; they get people moving around our community. People also are spending their dollars here in our community, which is an investment into each of our places that we live, that we go, we shop and we eat at. So, it's important to remember that as well."

**Hunsberger** said this year there are 16 gardens, including three that are new. Two of those are in Shipshewana and one more is in Wakarusa. He concluded, "We are a supporter, again, of our communities through festivals and events, sponsorship and that type of thing. But we're also looking to support experience development in a wide variety of opportunities."

In response, **Mayor Leichty** said, "I see people occasionally pulling up, and they'll pull a ladder out of the back of their car and take pictures at the Courthouse. It's a big deal. People travel a long distance to visit all of the quilt gardens throughout the county. So, thank you for all the work that you do, and for all the volunteer coordination. It's a huge effort to keep all of these gardens looking really beautiful. It's among the many other ways in which the CVB is a good partner with our City and community. Thank you very much."

**2) City financial report and budget update (Clerk-Treasurer's Office)**

**Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver** delivered a financial and budget update to Councilors.

**BACKGROUND:**

In a May 19, 2025 memorandum to the Common Council, **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver** wrote that he was attaching financial reports summarizing the budget and cash balance performance for Civil City funds included in the 2025 budget, which was approved by the Council in October 2024. These reports were intended to provide a reasonable understanding of the City's financial position. They were unaudited and may require some interpretation.

**Fund Balance Report**

**Weaver** wrote that this report showed the cash balance of budgeted funds through April 30, 2025 and illustrated the City's liquidity position across all funds demonstrating that each fund maintains a sufficient balance to support budgeted expenditures.

**Budget Report – Revenues**

**Weaver** wrote that the second page summarized revenue collections for each fund through April 30, 2025, showing progress toward projected revenue levels. He wrote that some funds receive a levy in two allotments in June and December (General, Debt Service, MVH, Cumulative Fire, Park & Recreation, Aviation, CCD, Cumulative Sewer).



#### **Budget Report – Expenditures**

Weaver wrote that in order to save space, this report displayed expenditures incurred to date for each fund, allowing for an assessment of spending trends relative to annual appropriations, with an expected 66% of the budget remaining at this point in the year.

#### **Budget Report – Expenditures in the General Fund**

Weaver wrote he was including this report on a separate page to streamline the presentation of information. It broke down the General Fund by department, providing a focused view of each department's budget performance to date.

#### **SUMMARY OF APRIL 28, 2025 COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF CITY FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mayor Leichty invited a presentation from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver.

Weaver gave an overview of his City financial report and budget update as outlined in his memorandum. Key points:

- He was presenting a more condensed report, designed to be less messy.
- There was nothing remarkable about the report through April.
- He described the funds report as showing what was available in each fund category. Only the debt service fund had a negative balance, which will be funded by the end of June and then in December.
- He described the summary of revenue and what's been received.
- He described the expenditures by funds. Each fund still had about 66% of funds remaining.
- Finally, he said "Nothing seems particularly out of place."

#### **Weaver invited questions from Councilors.**

In response to questions from Councilor Riegsecker, Weaver explained adjustments to the budget which include encumbrances – funds carried over from last year's budget to pay expenses this year. He stressed that the current approved budget was not increased by these encumbrances but that accumulated bills would be paid by them.

Mayor Leichty invited a motion to approve the financial and budget report. Councilors Weddell/Riegsecker made a motion to approve the budget and financial report as presented.

**On a voice vote, Councilors voted unanimously, by a 7-0 margin, to approve the financial and budget report as presented. The motion passed, 7-0, at 6:27 p.m.**

#### **3) Ordinance 5220, An Ordinance to Provide for a Recruitment Incentive and Referral Bonus (Second Reading**

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5220, *An Ordinance to Provide for a Recruitment Incentive and Referral Bonus*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5220 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Ordinance 5220 on Second Reading.**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Ordinance 5220 would provide a \$5,000 recruitment incentive to a new employee filling an eligible position and a \$2,000 bonus to a City employee who refers a candidate for employment to a position that the City has authorized the payment of a referral bonus.





Full-time positions eligible for a bonus will be those difficult to fill in the absence of the recruitment incentives, that require special or unique competencies for the position, such as knowledge, skills, abilities, behaviors, and other characteristics an individual needs to perform the duties for a position and is assigned a Grade 20 (maximum annual salary of \$103,227) or above.

According to Ordinance 5220:

- The City's administration wishes to provide a recruitment incentive to be offered for certain positions that are likely difficult to fill, along with a referral bonus to encourage current employees to refer qualified candidates for certain vacant positions.
- If approved, it would be ordained by Ordinance 5220 that the Common Council would authorize the payment of a recruitment incentive and a referral bonus as follows:

**SECTION 1 Recruitment Incentive** – The City may pay a recruitment incentive to a new employee filling an eligible position in accordance with the Recruitment Incentive Policy attached as *Exhibit A*, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of an agreement with the new employee. The total amount of the recruitment incentive to be paid to a new employee shall not exceed the sum of \$5,000.

**SECTION 2 Referral Bonus** – The City may pay a referral bonus to a referring employee that refers a candidate for employment to a position that the City has authorized the payment of a referral bonus in accordance with the Referral Bonus Policy attached as *Exhibit B*. The total amount of the referral bonus to be paid to a referring employee shall not exceed the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for each referred candidate.

**Exhibit A** sets for the terms and conditions of the Recruitment Incentive Policy, which would be administered by the Mayor. The policy includes its purpose, the positions eligible for it and factors that would prompt the payment.

**Exhibit B** sets for the terms and conditions of the Referral Bonus Policy, which would be administered by the Mayor. The policy includes its purpose, the positions eligible for it and factors that would prompt the payment.

At the April 28, 2025 meeting, Councilors approved Ordinance 5220 on First Reading by a 6-1 vote with Councilors Gerber, Lederach, Peel, Riegsecker, Schrock and Weddell voting “yes” and Nisley voting “no.” Because there was not unanimous consent to proceed with the Second Reading of Ordinance 5220, the Second Reading of this ordinance was continued to the May 19, 2025 Common Council meeting.

#### **SUMMARY OF MAY 19, 2025 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 5220:**

Mayor Leichty summarized the consideration of Ordinance 5220 at the last Council meeting. She also discussed the purpose of the ordinance, which is to help hire employees for positions that are difficult to fill by providing incentive bonuses. She said similar incentives are provided for public safety (police and fire) employees.

The Mayor invited questions or comments from Councilors.

Councilor Schrock said he noticed a mistake on page 4, section E of the ordinance, which stated, “The Mayor and shall determine the amount of the referral bonus for each position.” He said an extra “and” was in the sentence.

Councilors Schrock/Nisley then made a motion to remove the word “and” from page 4, section E of the ordinance

On a voice vote, Councilors voted unanimously, by a 7-0 margin, to approve the motion to amend the ordinance by removing “and” from page 4, section E of the ordinance. The motion passed, 7-0, at 6:31 p.m.



At 6:31 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience. There were none.

Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote. They indicated that they were. Councilor Nisley requested a roll call vote.

On a roll call vote, Councilors passed Ordinance 5220, *An Ordinance to Provide for a Recruitment Incentive and Referral Bonus*, on Second Reading by a 6-1 margin, with Councilors Gerber, Lederach, Peel, Riegsecker Schrock and Weddell voting "yes" and Councilor Nisley voting "no", at 6:32 p.m.

**4) Resolution 2025-11, Resolution of the Goshen Common Council Adopting a Policy to Provide Public Notice of Meetings**

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Resolution 2025-11, *Resolution of the Goshen Common Council Adopting a Policy to Provide Public Notice of Meetings*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2025-11 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Schrock made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11.

**BACKGROUND:**

Resolution 2025-11 would adopt a policy to provide public notice of meetings.

According to Resolution 2025-11:

- Indiana Code #5-14-1.5-5 sets forth the requirements for a governing body to provide public notice of any meetings, executive sessions or of any rescheduled or reconvened meeting.
- Indiana Code #5-14-1.5-5(b)(2) provides that a governing body shall determine the method in which the governing body shall provide notice of meetings to all news media which deliver to the governing body an annual written request for notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.
- Indiana Code #5-14-1.5-5(b)(3) provides that a governing body may adopt a policy to determine the method in which the governing body shall provide notice of meetings to any person (other than news media) who delivers to the governing body an annual written request for notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.
- And the purpose of this policy is to state the methods in which the Goshen Common Council, as a governing body of the City of Goshen, shall provide public notice of meetings in accordance with Indiana Code #5-14-1.5-5.
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If Resolution 2025-11 was approved by the Common Council, it would be resolved that the Goshen Common Council shall provide public notice of meetings as follows:

A. Public notice of any meetings, executive sessions, or of any rescheduled or reconvened meeting, shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before the meeting. This requirement does not apply to reconvened meetings (not including executive sessions) where announcement of the date, time, and location of the reconvened meeting is made at the original meeting and recorded in the memoranda and minutes thereof, and there is no change in the agenda. This requirement also does not apply to a meeting called to deal with an emergency as provided under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5(d).





B. The public notice shall include the following information:

1. Governing body name.
2. Date of meeting.
3. Time of meeting.
4. Location of meeting.
5. Website address for live transmissions and archived copies of live transmissions of meetings, excluding an executive session.
6. If the meeting is an executive session, the public notice shall include the subject matter by specific reference to the enumerated instance or instances for which an executive session may be held under I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b).

C. The public notice of meetings shall be given by:

1. Posting a copy of the notice at Goshen City Hall.
2. Publishing the notice on the City of Goshen's website at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting shall serve as notice to any person (other than news media) who delivers to the governing body or the Goshen Clerk-Treasurer's Office an annual written request for the notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.
3. Transmitting the notice by electronic mail to all news media which deliver to the governing body or the Goshen Clerk-Treasurer's Office an annual written request for the notices not later than December 31 for the next succeeding calendar year.

D. Notice of regular meetings need be given only once each year, except that an additional notice shall be given where the date, time, or location of a regular meeting or meetings is changed. This does not apply to executive sessions.

E. If an agenda is utilized for a meeting, a copy of the agenda shall be posted at the entrance to the location of the meeting prior to the meeting.

F. This policy to provide public notice of meetings shall be effective immediately. Upon the effective date of this policy, all prior policies on providing public notice of meetings, specifically including the policy adopted March 5, 2013 by Resolution 2013-10, shall be repealed.

G. This policy shall apply to any meetings of the Goshen Common Council and all other governing bodies of the City of Goshen until such time as each governing body of the City of Goshen adopts a policy substantially similar to this policy.

H. This policy is intended to be consistent with the Indiana Open Door Law codified at I.C. 5-14-1.5 et seq. as in effect on April 25, 2025, and is incorporated hereto by reference. In the event that I.C.

5-14-1.5 et seq. is amended in such a way to conflict with any provision in this policy, then this policy shall be amended to comply with the statutory amendment.

#### **SUMMARY OF MAY 19, 2025 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-11:**

**Mayor Leichty stated the purpose of Resolution 2025-11 and invited a presentation on it.**

**City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann** this resolution "would align City policy with State statute, but specifically one additional point to make would be that this resolution would allow the City to post agendas and meeting minutes on the City's website, and it would constitute notice to the public of meeting agendas and the minutes from meetings."

**Mayor Leichty invited questions or comments from Councilors.**



**Councilor Gerber** said at the last meeting, during Privilege of the Floor, it was noted that the City calendar online was not current as far as the list of meetings was concerned. She said she checked today and it looked current, but she was unsure if meeting calendars were in multiple locations.

**Mayor Leichty** responded that it was "an ongoing journey quest for our department to find all of those places and make sure they are updated." She asked **City Communications Manager Amanda Guzman** if they were up to date. **Guzman** said there is an online events calendar for all the City websites which includes every single event the City has and that includes meetings and fun park events. There also is a link to videos of past meetings. She said the web pages for individual boards "are still a work in progress."

**Mayor Leichty** added, "We did migrate our whole website to a new platform, and that happened at the end of February. We couldn't update all of our content before the migration, because everything was going to change and everything we had to freeze at the end of last year while they made that change.

"And so, there's been a delay in getting things updated and then getting some of the bugs worked out on the new system has taken a little while. So, thank you for your patience as we find our way through that. But we do recognize its importance, and we'll make every effort to make sure that that's kept up to date."

**Councilor Riegsecker** asked the main intent of the Indiana Legislative Assembly in requiring this change of cities. He asked if the State was ending a requirement of Cities to advertise meetings in newspapers.

**City Attorney Stegelmann** said "the thrust of this, maybe, is to move us into the 21st century, and if we put the notice on the computer website that's one place where everybody can go" for meeting information.

**Mayor Leichty** said "some of the conversations that I've and been a participant in there's definitely the desire to see more accessibility. So, that's one of the reasons that we're live streaming and recording all of our meetings, so that if for some reason somebody cannot participate in person and can't be actively involved, as you can in the room, they can at least see what's happening, and hear the conversations verbatim. So, we're trying to make all of that available. It's important step in accessibility."

At 6:38 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience. There were none.

Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote. They indicated that they were.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Resolution 2025-11, Resolution of the Goshen Common Council Adopting a Policy to Provide Public Notice of Meetings, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes," at 6:38 p.m.**

**5) Ordinance 5221, Authorizing the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and Imposing Requirements for Such**

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5221, *Authorizing the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and Imposing Requirements for Such*.

Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5221 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Ordinance 5221 on First Reading.**





#### **BACKGROUND:**

Ordinance 5221 would authorize the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on highways under the jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and impose requirements for such.

The City Legal Department determined that it was necessary to make corrections and minor revisions to the previously approved City ordinance (5184) authorizing the use of off-road vehicles on City streets.

In particular, the current ordinance does not prohibit the operation of off-road vehicles on state highways which was clearly an error. Attached to the Council agenda packet was a redlined copy of the ordinance showing the corrections and revisions.

Ordinance 5221 would **DELETE** the following Whereas clause from the current off-road vehicle ordinance:

"WHEREAS, the City of Goshen now wishes to allow the use of Off-Road Vehicles on highways under the jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana, and set minimum requirements for the use thereof."

Ordinance 5221 would add the following Whereas clauses:

"WHEREAS the Goshen Common Council adopted Ordinance 5184 to authorize the use of Off-Road Vehicles on highways under the jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana, and set minimum requirements for the use thereof; and

"WHEREAS the City finds it necessary to make certain corrections and revisions to Ordinance 5184 by the adoption of a new ordinance."

**Paragraph 2, Section (E) Highways under the jurisdiction of the City, the ordinance would be amended as follows:**

"(2) Off-Road Vehicles shall not be allowed operated on any highway within the corporate boundaries of the City that is designated as part of the Indiana State Highway System, specifically S.R. 119 between Greene Rd. and US 33, S.R. 15 between Hackett Rd. and Egbert Rd., S.R. 4 to S. 29th St., and U.S. 33 between Glenmore Ave. and C.R. 138 currently State Road 119, State Road 15, and U.S. Highway 33."

**Paragraph A of Section 5, Violations, Enforcement and Penalties would be amended as follows:**

"(A) Violation notices issued under this Ordinance may be issued by any sworn member of the Goshen Police Department, any City code enforcement compliance officer, any designated parking enforcement officer, or any other duly authorized City inspector or designated code enforcement agent or assistant employee."

**Finally, Section 6, Other Ordinance, would be amended as follows:**

"All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the terms of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict. This Ordinance specifically repeals Ordinance 5184."

#### **SUMMARY OF MAY 19, 2025 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 5221:**

**Mayor Leichty** invited a presentation from City Attorney **Bodie Stegelmann**.

**Stegelmann** said this was "a fairly straightforward clarification." He continued, "What happened is it came to our attention that we may have exceeded the City's authority by allowing off-road vehicles on State highways.

"The statute that allows the City to adopt an ordinance like this, talks about allowing off road vehicles on streets under the city's jurisdiction, and so by going beyond that and allowing vehicles on State highway system would exceed our authority under that statute."

**Stegelmann** said his staff prepared a redline version of the ordinance that was in the Council's agenda packet. He said the Council could adopt language similar to that version or just remove the paragraph in question.



**Councilor Nisley** asked for a clarification of the highways under the State's jurisdiction that are inside the City. **Stegelmann** said any State highway is not under the City's jurisdiction. However, in response to a question from **Council President Weddell**, **Stegelmann** said the City can enforce laws on those streets.

**Council President Weddell** said **Dan Emery**, a key proponent of the City's off-road vehicle ordinance, is seeking a change in state law to give cities authority over State highways within city limits. **Weddell** suggested removing the paragraph in question, noting it can be restored if the State changes the law.

After additional conversation by Councilors and the Mayor, **Council President Weddell** made a motion to amend the redline version of Ordinance 5221 by removing from "Section 3 Requirements for Operation of Off-Road Vehicles" Paragraph 2, "Section (E) Highways under the jurisdiction of the City," which now states: *"(2) Off-Road Vehicles shall not be allowed operated on any highway within the corporate boundaries of the City that is designated as part of the Indiana State Highway System, specifically S.R. 119 between Greene Rd. and US 33, S.R. 15 between Hackett Rd. and Egbert Rd., S.R. 4 to S. 29th St., and U.S. 33 between Glenmore Ave. and C.R. 138 currently State Road 119, State Road 15, and U.S. Highway 33."* **Councilor Nisley** seconded the motion.

**Councilor Gerber** asked if the Council would need to revisit the issue if the State changed the statute. **City Attorney Stegelmann** said, "I think it would depend on how the statute is amended. If it gave the City authorization to allow it on State highways, we would have to come back. But if the State would allow these on the State highway system, we wouldn't have to."

**Mayor Leichty** clarified that the current state statute doesn't allow off-road vehicles on state highways, but they can cross them.

**Councilors** briefly discussed the motion and clarified that **Council President Weddell's** motion would simply amend "Section 3 Requirements for Operation of Off-Road Vehicles" by removing Paragraph 2, "Section (E) Highways under the jurisdiction of the City."

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed the motion by Councilors Weddell and Nisley to amend the redline version of draft Ordinance 5221 by changing "Section 3 Requirements for Operation of Off-Road Vehicles" by removing Paragraph 2, "Section (E) Highways under the jurisdiction of the City" in the redline version of the ordinance, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes," at 6:48 p.m.**

At 6:49 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience. On the amended and final version of Ordinance 5221.

**Kyle Richardson of Goshen** said "understanding issues of legal authority can't be resolved, any transportation system, whether it's off-road vehicles or bicycles or trains, are only as valuable as the connectivity of the system. I know the streets that are legal for off-road vehicles already struggle with some connectivity issues. This will increase those. So, I just encourage the City to look for ways to increase the connectivity of the system as we deal with the State."

**Mayor Leichty** responded, "Great point. Thank you." **Council President Weddell** agreed.





Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote on amended Ordinance 5221. They indicated that they were.

*On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed amended version Ordinance 5221, Authorizing the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and Imposing Requirements for Such, on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes", at 6:50 p.m.*

Councilors gave unanimous consent to proceed with a Second Reading of Ordinance 5221.

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5221, *Authorizing the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and Imposing Requirements for Such*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5221 by title only, which was done. *Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Ordinance 5221 on Second Reading.*

At 6:51, Mayor Leichty asked if there were additional questions or comments about the amended version of Ordinance 5221 from Councilors or the audience. There were not.

Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote. They indicated that they were.

*On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed amended Ordinance 5221, Authorizing the Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the Jurisdiction of the City of Goshen, Indiana and Imposing Requirements for Such on Second Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes", at 6:51 p.m.*

6) Ordinance 5222, Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position (added agenda item)

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5222, *Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5222 by title only, which was done.

*Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Ordinance 5222 on First Reading.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Ordinance 5222 would amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to add an engineering project manager position.

According to Ordinance 5222:

- Ordinance 5198 approves the 2025 minimum and maximum compensation, including wages and benefits, for Civil City and Utilities employees.
- The City's Administration would like to add a second Engineering Project Manager position to the Engineering Department that the cost of wages and employment benefits is paid entirely from one fund or budget.



If approved, it would be ordained by the Goshen Common Council that Ordinance 5198, Exhibit A, 2025 Positions, Classifications and Grades, shall be amended to add a second Engineering Project Manager position under the Engineering Department. The classification of the position shall be covered, non-exempt (hourly), and the position shall be a Grade 16. The cost of wages and employment benefits for the position is paid entirely from one fund or budget.

**SUMMARY OF MAY 19, 2025 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 5222:**

**Mayor Leichty** invited a presentation from City Director of Public Works & Utilities **Dustin Sailor** about draft Ordinance 5221 (EXHIBIT #1), copies of which were provided to Councilors before tonight's meeting.

**Sailor** described the purpose of Ordinance 5222, how the new position would be used, what it would cost and how much it would save the City for project inspection work.

**Sailor** said the Engineering Department has a project manager's position that is paid for by a 50-50 split with Civil City and Utilities funds. He said the City is about to close on the State loan for the Northside Neighborhood project, which will be roughly two years' worth of construction and is valued at roughly \$10 million.

**Sailor** said the City doesn't have staff available to monitor the project, and an evaluation showed that hiring out the inspection of the construction to an outside company – due to the value of the project – would cost about \$600,000 in engineering costs.

So, **Sailor** said the City wants to hire an in-house person to monitor the project and that would be a savings of about \$400,000, based upon the sequence of work on this project, and then with future work, including a sewer line project and a digester project and other utilities work.

**Councilor Peel** asked if there is someone on staff who can take the position. **Sailor** said the new position will be advertised, but there is a staff member available to fill the job. **Sailor** said if selected, the person's former job will need to be filled.

**Councilor Nisley** confirmed it would be a new position and asked how it would be financed. **Sailor** said it would be funded by Utilities, a 50-50 split by the Water and Wastewater departments. He said making this hire would save money that would have been spent on a contractor. He said the \$200,000 cost of the new person's pay and benefits would be over two years, and the job would be permanent addition.

In response to a question from **Councilor Riegsecker**, **Sailor** said funds for the position would come from the Utilities operating fund.

**Council President Weddell** said he is glad that \$400,000 will be saved and added, "This is something that that I'm excited about, because it's very similar to something I've been asking for through the Redevelopment Commission for years, but it just never worked out because we spend millions of dollars on firms for inspections.

"I've always wondered why we can't we hire someone in house to do it and save a fortune. Well, the problem is, it just never has worked out, because trying to find someone to hire is next to impossible. And the fact that Dustin has found someone that is available and qualified when we need them, I think, is a great opportunity."

**Mayor Leichty** invited additional comments or questions from the Council. There were none.

At 6:56 p.m., **Mayor Leichty** invited questions from members of the audience. There were none.





Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote. They indicated that they were.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Ordinance 5222, Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position, on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes", at 6:56 p.m.**

Councilors gave unanimous consent to proceed with a Second Reading of Ordinance 5222.

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5222, *Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5222 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Ordinance 5222 on Second Reading.**

At 6:57, Mayor Leichty asked if there were additional questions or comments about Ordinance 522 from Councilors or the audience. There were not.

Mayor Leichty asked if Councilors were ready to vote. They indicated that they were.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Ordinance 5222, Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position, on Second Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes", at 6:57 p.m.**

#### Elected Official Reports:

Mayor Leichty said this was the next to last Council meeting for Youth Adviser Tageeya Galeb, who the Mayor said has been "exceptional." She said Galeb will attend the July Council meeting to provide some mentoring and onboarding for the new person. She asked Galeb if she had an update on the work of the youth council.

Galeb said Goshen High School had an election for new youth advisers on May 9, and it was the best turnout since the youth adviser program was started. More than 700 students voted and 16 students ran for seven positions. She added, "I loved seeing the competition, and I'm really proud of the students that got elected, and I know that they're going to be really good as leaders."

Galeb also said, "I really appreciate you guys including me in this, and it's been an amazing time. And I want to say, thank you to the Mayor for the Mayor's Day that we had. We all loved it. All the leaders really enjoyed getting to know you better and getting to see Goshen from a different perspective, which is really nice. Thank you so much."

In response to a question from Council President Weddell, Galeb said that seniors were allowed to vote in the election. The Council President noted that the high school had a higher voter turnout than in the last municipal election, by about 10 percent.

Mayor Leichty said, "I attribute that to Councilor Galeb for her efforts. She did an exceptional job of keeping meeting minutes and making sure that there were regular meetings that were facilitated and organizing the students as a whole, providing feedback and support for them. So, she's really done an outstanding job."



The Mayor asked if Councilors had any other reports.

**Councilor Peel** said the **Downtown Economic Improvement District Board** met. She said the board authorized the removal downtown of planters that were falling apart and beyond repair. Plans are being developed to put something in place of the planters. She also said there was discussion about new downtown restaurants, including The Fold, Topsy Biscuit the Cortado Café and possibly a cat café (perhaps just a rumor).

**Councilor Gerber** expressed appreciation for **City Stormwater Coordinator Jason Kauffman** and the Stormwater Department for its efficiency in managing the cleanup of the Millrace Trail "because it did need to shut down, and we were concerned that it might be quite a long time for people who are using the trail, and it was done ahead of schedule. And so, I thought that was something to appreciate."

**Council President Weddell** said the **City Redevelopment Commission** met last week and there is starting to be "some action with the Western Rubber property." He said the Cherry Creek project is also moving forward thanks to City staff and State legislators helping resolve issues with NIPSCO.

**Council President Weddell** said the City is also moving forward and rectifying a long standing issue with the vaults that are underneath the sidewalks downtown. He said **City Building Commissioner Myron Grise** and other city staff "are working really well to try and get those things finalized and cleaned up and resolved, so we don't have any safety issues downtown."

**Councilor Peel** asked the location of the remaining vaults. **Council President Weddell** responded, "I couldn't tell you the exact locations at this point ... No one's going to be dropping in anymore."

**Mayor Leichty** asked **City Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh** to report on an upcoming event by the **City Community Relations Commission (CRC)**.

**Wanbaugh** said there will be a **CRC walkabout in the Northside neighborhood district on June 3** at 4 p.m. He said participants will meet at Chamberlain School, which is where the two-mile walking tour will begin and end. He said there will be a number of stops, including at Maple City Health Clinic and parks. There will be staff presentations on the receivership program to repair dilapidated homes and on park improvements.

**Mayor Leichty** was a goal of the tour is to show the efforts to improve the neighborhood.

**Council President Weddell** thanked the Mayor's Office for **sponsoring lunches at City Hall for City employees celebrating birthdays**. He said he and **Councilor Gerber** attended the May birthday lunch. He added, "If you have not gone, it's a lot of fun because every department has someone there. It's just a good time. So, if you have a chance, I'd go."

**Mayor Leichty** said on May 31, the City will sponsor a **golf cart registration day**. She added, "If you have a golf cart already and you would like to get it registered, you can get it registered at the Central Fire Station from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m." She said some golf carts will be for sale.

**Mayor Leichty** also reminded Councilors about the **June 13 education work session** at the Chamber of Commerce, starting at 1:30 p.m., about the impact of Senate Bill 1 and water system needs and upgrades.





Adjournment:

Councilor Nisley made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilor Peel seconded the motion. **By a 7-0 voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the Council meeting.**

Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

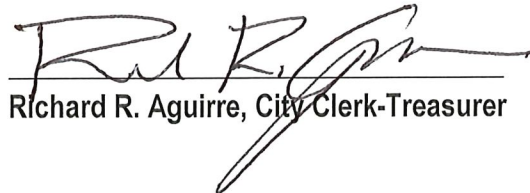
**EXHIBIT #1:** A copy of Ordinance 5222, Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position, which was distributed to Councilors before the meeting and added to the agenda as #6. Ordinance 5222 was considered and approved.

APPROVED:



Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit #1

**ORDINANCE 5222**

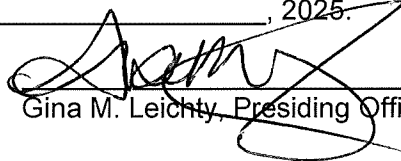
**Amend 2025 Compensation Ordinance 5198  
for Civil City and Utilities Employees  
to Add an Engineering Project Manager Position**

WHEREAS Ordinance 5198 approves the 2025 minimum and maximum compensation, including wages and benefits, for Civil City and Utilities employees.

WHEREAS City Administration would like to add a second Engineering Project Manager position to the Engineering Department that the cost of wages and employment benefits is paid entirely from one fund or budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Goshen Common Council that Ordinance 5198, Exhibit A, 2025 Positions, Classifications and Grades, shall be amended to add a second Engineering Project Manager position under the Engineering Department. The classification of the position shall be covered, non-exempt (hourly), and the position shall be a Grade 16. The cost of wages and employment benefits for the position is paid entirely from one fund or budget.

PASSED by the Goshen Common Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

  
Gina M. Leichty, Presiding Officer

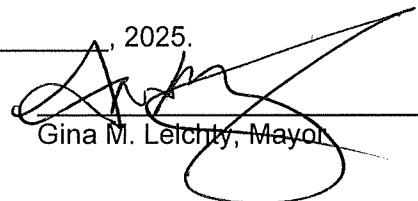
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, at the hour of \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED and ADOPTED on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

  
Gina M. Leichty, Mayor