



GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes of the OCTOBER 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

Mayor Gina Leichty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Assisted by the Mayor, Oliver D. Jaskolka led the Pledge of Allegiance. Oliver is a first-grade student at Model Elementary School.

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

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 Abril Reyes (Non-voting)		
Absent:	None		

Approval of Minutes:

No minutes were available to review/approve.

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilor Nisley moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Councilor Peel seconded the motion. **The motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.**

1) Presentation: Police Chief José Miller recognition of Police Officer Quinten Allen Bland

Police Chief José Miller said he wanted to honor one of his officers, Quinten Bland, for his positive interaction with some young people in the community. At the Chief's request, Officer Bland walked forward for the presentation.

Chief Miller said when he was on vacation he received a voice mail message from a person who said he wanted to discuss policies that pertained to officers. The Chief said he assumed the person had a complaint about an officer.

Chief Miller said the man he eventually contacted said he saw an officer doing something and he wanted to tell the Chief about it but didn't want the officer to get in trouble. The Chief asked the man to describe what he saw.

"And, he said, 'Well, there were some boys playing football out in the roadway, playing catch, and Officer Bland, who is one of our officers that is truly there for the kids in our community and wants to be involved, pulled up and apparently several of the kids took off running.' And from what I understand, Officer Bland went around the block, came back again, and the kids were back there."

Chief Miller said Officer Bland told the boys they weren't in any trouble and that he just wanted to play catch with them "and that started some catch there. And one of the residents that was there was videoing it and actually forwarded me the videos of the interaction, and I just thought it was really special."

The Chief continued, "This is something that we preach to our applicants that want to be police officers – that writing tickets is important, enforcing the law is important, but spending time with our youth and our community is just as important, because they are our future. And so, it meant a lot to me, it meant a lot to these people. So, I passed that information along to the Mayor, and we decided we wanted to do something special for Officer Bland."

Three of the four boys present that day were at the Council meeting, so Chief Miller invited them to come forward to the front of the Council chamber. He introduced them as "great young men."



Chief Miller said he later went to a sporting goods store in Mishawaka to get a football, because he thought it would be a great idea to have the young men sign this football for Officer Bland. But before he could buy it, the Chief said another customer insisted on paying for the football and enthusiastically did so after hearing the story.

The Chief said, "So, we had a random person from Mishawaka footed the bill for the football. We tracked down the young men. They signed it. And I thought it would be really cool to have these young men present this football to Officer Bland for his deeds."

The audience responded with applause.

Chief Miller invited Officer Bland to comment.

Officer Bland said, "I always go to the residents at Cross Street and quite often talk to the residents, I honestly have never seen these boys before that day. I was just driving by on 9th Street headed south and I saw them playing.

"So, I went all the way around, came back and then as soon as I pulled up to the residence, this one in the blue took off streaming. Then he made his way back around, and then he was ended up army crawling underneath the white right truck, the white truck that was over there, a Silverado. And I got out of my patrol car and I ran over at him, and he just kind of froze; he couldn't move because he was stuck underneath the truck.

"But I've dreamed my whole life to be a cop, and it's not to take people to jail. It's not to write tickets. I honestly don't write tickets," Officer Bland said. "There is such a negative outlook on police right now in the whole United States, the whole world. I know I'm only one person, but I'm doing my best to, every single person that I come in touch with, or just touch, to know that if I show up, they're in good hands. And I just I just love the youth."

The audience again responded with applause.

Mayor Leichty said, "I just want to extend my thanks, to you, Officer Bland, and to the guys also for signing the football. We wanted to make sure that you always have a ball in your car, so if you see the kids next time, you're ready to go at any time. So, thank you so much for your excellent service to the community. We appreciate you."

There was more applause.

Officer Bland was hired as a probationary patrol officer in 2024 and promoted to a Patrol Officer in 2025.

2) Public Hearing for Ordinance 5233, An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Second Reading for the proposed 2026 Goshen Public Library budget)

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction on Second Reading of Ordinance 5233, *An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (the proposed 2026 Goshen Public Library budget)*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5233 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Riegsecker moved to approve Ordinance 5233 on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND:

In a memorandum to the Common Council dated Sept. 22, 2925, Ann-Margaret Rice, the Director of Goshen Public Library, wrote that as required by the State of Indiana, the fiscal body for the Goshen Public Library under certain conditions is the Goshen Common Council.

Rice wrote that Indiana Code 6-1.1-17-20.3 identifies the conditions that trigger a binding budget review process for public library budget approval as summarized below:

(1) The governing body of the library is not comprised of a majority of officials who are elected to serve on the governing body (the governing body of a public library is comprised of appointees made by elected officials); and



(2) has a percentage increase in the proposed budget for the taxing unit for the ensuing calendar year that is more than the result of:

(A) the maximum levy growth quotient determined under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2 for the ensuing calendar year, rounded to the nearest thousandth (0.001); minus

(B) one (1).

Rice wrote that for the 2026 budget year, Goshen Public Library's proposed budget exceeds the maximum levy plus 1 as a result of the bonds issued in 2024 (that were approved by the Common Council in 2024). As the identified fiscal body for the Goshen Public Library, the Common Council is tasked with advertising, reviewing, opening and closing one public hearing, and approving the library's budget for 2026.

Following protocol, with the assistance of Baker Tilly, and for the convenience of the Council, Rice wrote that the Library has prepared and submitted their 2026 budget on the Indiana Gateway website. The Council's role is to complete the submission, review, and approval process. Upon completion of the process, the Library will resume responsibility for its budget and financial affairs.

Before the Council was the Public Library's proposed budget for 2026 as set forth in Ordinance 5233.

If Ordinance 5233 is approved by the Common Council, it would be ordained/resolved "that the expenses of Goshen Public Library for the year ending Dec. 31, 2026, the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of GOSHEN PUBLIC, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance."

Ordinance 5233 would be in full force and effect after its passage and approval by the Common Council in the following amounts:

Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0061	RAINY DAY	\$324,695	\$0	0.0000
0101	GENERAL	\$3,316,319	\$2,295,024	0.1351
0180	DEBT SERVICE	\$957,500	\$1,196,875	0.0705
2011	LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT RESERVE	\$428,002	\$0	0.0000
		\$5,026,516	\$3,491,899	0.2056

On Sept. 22, 2025, the Council convened a public hearing on Ordinance 5233, *An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates* (the proposed 2026 Goshen Public Library budget). There were no public comments. Councilors didn't ask any questions or make any comments on Ordinance 5233.

On a voice vote, Councilors then unanimously passed Ordinance 5233, *An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates*, on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting yes at 6:22 p.m.

The Second Reading of Ordinance 5233 was then scheduled for Oct. 27, 2025.



NOTE: Three days before the meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre emailed to Councilors an amended version of Ordinance 5233, also referred to as State Budget Form 4. Greg Laughlin, Business Manager for the Goshen Public Library, emailed Aguirre the amended version of Budget Form 4 and stated that he previously emailed an initial working copy of the document and not the version that matched the official version that was advertised in the Goshen News to the public. The correct version had a different total for the Debt Service adopted tax levy and different totals for the total adopted tax levy and total adopted tax rate.

OCT. 27, 2025 DISCUSSION AND SECOND READING (FINAL APPROVAL) OF ORDINANCE 5233:
At 6:09 p.m., Mayor Leichty opened a public hearing on Ordinance 5233, An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (the proposed 2026 Goshen Public Library budget). There were no comments, so the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Council President Weddell made a motion to replace the previous version or Ordinance 5233 with the amended version provided by the Clerk-Treasurer before the meeting. Councilor Lederach seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved the motion to substitute the previously introduced version of Ordinance 5233 with the amended version provided shortly before today's meeting.

Ann-Margaret Rice, director of Goshen Public Library, provided background on Ordinance 5233. Rice said, "As you recall, you approved the issuance of bonds on behalf of the library back last fall to do an HVAC renovation project or replacement project. The project is now well underway, with an expected completion date in the spring." Rice continued, "As a result of issuing bonds, that put us in the position of having a binding review process for our 2026 budget, just a matter of law and procedure initiated by the Indiana State Legislature. And so, we've had our public hearing. If you have questions about our budget, we're happy to answer those. Otherwise, we hope that you will approve the budget tonight, and we'll move on."

Councilor Riegsecker asked, "There's a line item on there that's property tax cap impact. How do you use that line? I mean, you can't really project that cap right now."

Greg Laughlin, the Library's Business Manager and Treasurer for the Library Board, said, "It's a leftover from one that we had to incorporate in the budget years and years past ... They gave us a number that put in there, but we could project it, but they've never removed that particular item from it, so it's still sitting there, but it's figured out differently now." Councilor Riegsecker thanked Laughlin for the explanation.

Mayor Leichty asked if there were additional Council questions or comments. There were not.
At 6:13 p.m. the Mayor invited additional public comments. There were none.

On a voice vote, Councilors then unanimously passed Ordinance 5233, An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates, on Second Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting yes at 6:13 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor:

At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited public comments regarding matters not on the agenda. There were none.



ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS:

Mayor Leichty asked if there were any reports from Councilors.

Council President Weddell said he attended a City Redevelopment Commission meeting. He said the Commission had issued a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the old D&T Muffler and Brake shop on Main Street and it received one full-price offer. He said it looks promising and will be reviewed.

Councilor Peel said she read in the newspaper that there was a potential developer for the City's property on Third Street.

Council President Weddell said the proposal is for the property on Third Street north of the Hawks Building. He said it is from a group from Viewrail, which has already been awarded the property near the co-housing and the Hawks Building. He said Viewrail will begin work on that property soon and have plans for the second property.

Council President Weddell said the Redevelopment commissioners "always have some concerns when you give multiple projects to the same developer. However, since they are local, we felt pretty confident with that."

Councilor Gerber said on Saturday, the Department of Environmental Resilience "had a tree planting, which was just north of the high school, and there were about 40 people out there from early elementary school all the way through retirement age, and they made a really significant contribution to the City's future by planting all those trees."

Councilor Peel said the City Economic Improvement District met earlier in the month "and there's some discussion going about ideas regarding Art Alley. I'm assuming I'll hear some updates with that next meeting. The holiday lights are going up, and there are some new businesses going in downtown. We've seen Nova, which has been having some carryout and Cortado Cafe is opening soon." She said an ice cream shop also may open soon.

Councilor Peel also related an "amazing police experience" from her daughter who worked this summer at Fidler Pond. She said, "There was a call that had to be made out there, and a couple of officers came out there, and she met them. And then not a couple days later, she was in a really bad car accident on Highway 33, and that same officer happened to show up, and he saw her on the stretcher, and said, 'Libby?' She said, 'Well, hi! Fancy meeting you here!'

"And he stayed with her, and then he stayed with us at the hospital, and his name's Officer Ellison, and I've seen him around town now quite frequently, and it was just a really, really great experience. And he really just took the extra effort ... It's always good to hear nice things about our police officers from time to time."

Councilor Riegsecker asked about the completion date of the roundabout on the west side of town. City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor said a progress meeting was held last week, and the City has been told it will be open before Thanksgiving along Peddler's Village Road. Councilor Riegsecker responded, "That's very nice. It turned out better than I think I expected originally. I like it."

Councilor Riegsecker also said a constituent called and reported seeing a chicken on Main Street that was pecking their windows at First State Bank. He said she wanted to know what could be done about it.



Mayor Leichty said, "You can always call the Mayor's office, and we will direct you to the appropriate resource. Anytime there's a loose animal you can always call the Humane Society. The City contracts with Elkhart County. They'll pick up chickens. They take all kinds of animals, everything except, like, vermin. Then you have to call a wildlife specialist to have it removed if it's a raccoon or something."

Councilor Riegsecker said he would relay that information to his constituent.

In light of the City Court vacating the space used as the Council chamber, **Councilor Gerber** asked "How that would affect the design of the room and how we interact as a Council."

Mayor Leichty said, "We are planning on doing some updates. We're waiting for an estimate on some of the design of the space to make sure that we're utilizing updated technology and want to make sure that it's a flexible meeting space. We're working on that design right now."

On behalf of **Councilor Gerber** and himself, **Council President Weddell** said there will be a community conversation with **Mayor Leichty** and Elkhart County Councilor Steven Clark about the impacts of Senate Enrolled Act 1. It will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12 in the Goshen Theater. He said, "We want to make sure that the public is aware of that. We would love to see that theater where it will be held filled. And, depending on how long they speak, there will potentially be a chance for some moderated questions."

Councilor Gerber said she is hoping for a "robust Q&A" that could possibly last more than an hour.

Councilor Lederach said, "Thank you for organizing that, you two. I appreciate it."

Council President Weddell said, "There's been a number of community members that have been actively involved, so it's not, by any means, just the two of us."

Mayor Leichty said, "I just returned from the AIM Elected Official Conference, and the entire week's seminar content was about SEA-1. So, it's, obviously impacting everybody on multiple levels, so it's good to stay updated on that."

Youth Adviser Reyes said she and other students also planted some trees near factory and it was fun. She also said the costume drive for kids has been completed and students also plan to distribute candy.

Mayor Leichty said candy also will be distributed at City Hall on Halloween from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. She said she "may or may not be in a costume."

Councilor Riegsecker said on his way to the meeting he saw four or five signs posted on Clinton Street, between the road and the sidewalk. He asked if that was allowed or could it be addressed. **Mayor Leichty** said that typically is not allowed, and he could report the alleged violations to the Mayor's Office.

Adjournment:

Councilor Nisley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Councilor Peel**.

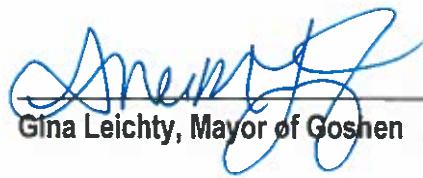
Councilors unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.



EXHIBIT #1: An amended two-page version of Ordinance 5233, also referred to as State Budget Form 4. This version had a different total for the Debt Service adopted tax levy and different totals for the total adopted tax levy and total adopted tax rate. Three days before the meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre emailed to Councilors this amended version of Ordinance 5233. Greg Laughlin, Business Manager for the Goshen Public Library, emailed Aguirre the amended version of Budget Form 4 and stated that he previously emailed an incorrect initial working copy of the document and not the version that matched the official version that was advertised in the Goshen News to the public.

APPROVED:



Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
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ORDINANCE: 5233

Be it ordained/resolved by the Goshen City Council that for the expenses of GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY for the year ending December 31, 2026 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Goshen City Council.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Goshen City Council	Common Council and Mayor	10/27/2025

Funds

Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0061	RAINY DAY	\$324,695	\$0	0.0000
0101	GENERAL	\$3,316,319	\$2,295,024	0.1351
0180	DEBT SERVICE	\$957,500	\$1,196,875	0.0705
2011	LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT RESERVE	\$428,002	\$0	0.0000
		\$5,026,516	\$3,491,899	0.2056

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
 Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
 Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
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Name		Signature
Brett Weddell	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Gerber	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Don Riegsecker	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Doug Nisley	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Matt Schrock	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Megan Peel	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Phil Lederach	Aye <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	

ATTEST

Name	Title	Signature

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to issue debt after December 1 and before January 1 Yes No

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-16(k), we state our intent to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31 Yes No