

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
January 5, 2022**

Call to Order: Mayor Snedecor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and moment of silence. The meeting was held with the building open to the public and a call-in number for remote public participation.

Roll Call: The following members were present in person: Mr. Kopil, Mr. Maggio, Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Present telephonically: Mr. Huddlestun and Mr. Vinzant. Also present: City Attorney McCarthy and Clerk-Treasurer Longer.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Correspondence: Ms. Longer reported that the Council had received via email sent December 30, 2021 the Report of End of Year (2021) Transfers and Encumbrances (2021 to 2022). The Council acknowledged receipt of the report.

Mr. Kopil announced the Hobart Sanitary District Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 25th in the Council Chambers at 6:30pm regarding the Preliminary Engineering Report to obtain assistance from the WW State Revolving Fund Loan Program.

Recognition: The Council recognized Jerry Fuller, a 2021 HHS Graduate who achieved his Eagle Scout rank through the Boy Scouts of America with his Court of Honor held on January 2nd. Mr. Maggio gave a brief biography of Jerry and noted his service project was to install a security camera system at the Methodist Church near the childcare rooms and to upgrade some of their technology. Jerry was present and stated that he has been involved in scouting his entire life and appreciated all that scouting provided to him.

Committee Reports: Mr. Huddlestun and Mayor Snedecor reported that the City Attorney is continuing to research the requirements to allow Councilmen who sit on various Boards/Commissions to become voting members of that Board or Commission.

Department Reports: Mayor Snedecor stated he has had concerns from some seniors about the closing of the MRC while the State is in the "red" status due to the pandemic. Discussion followed as to the mental well-being of the seniors and the need to keep them engaged and that the MRC Staff is reaching out to the seniors to help alleviate some of those concerns. Mr. Waldrop noted that safety is paramount with this most vulnerable group. Mr. Snedecor stated that when the County returns to "orange" status, the MRC will reopen but it may be with limited hours to start.

Mr. Snedecor reported that he met with the public works employees this morning to discuss the vaccine and the need to keep the work environment safe for their fellow employees and themselves. Discussion followed as to the policies of the CDC and working with Human Resources and the City Attorney to develop guidelines in the best interest of all employees. He questioned whether the Council would agree that if childcare is needed for dependent children due to a quarantine from school, could employees use up to 40 hours of their 80-hour covid leave time. The majority of the Council indicated that the vaccination status for using up to 40 hours of Covid leave to care for dependent children was not needed but the 80 hours of Covid leave can remain in effect for vaccinated employees only.

Mr. Huddlestun noted the dangerous intersection at 6 & 51 and noted that O'Reilly's recently blocked the pass-through, parking a truck across it, making navigation at the site more difficult. Mr. Vinzant stated he

will mention this at the Plan Commission meeting regarding a violation of the site plan. City Planner Ross Pietrzak stated he had contacted O'Reilly's and advised that the pass-through could not be blocked.

The Council welcomed Garrett Ciszewski as Interim Police Chief. Chief Zormier's last active day at work will be Friday, January 7th.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Maggio, seconded by Mr. Claussen to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Resolution 2022-01: A Resolution Authorizing Temporary Transfers between Funds for Cash Flow Purposes: The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve Resolution 2022-01 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Ordinance 2022-01: An Ordinance of the Common Council Authorizing the City of Hobart, Indiana, to Issue One or More Series of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds and Approving and Authorizing Other Actions in respect thereto: The Ordinance was read. Mr. Claussen stated the Redevelopment Commission had held hearings and discussed this bond issue and there is no obligation to the City or the RDC for repayment of the bonds. Director of Development Beth Jacobson stated that the Development Agreement is being negotiated and the Council will not be asked to take final action on this Ordinance until the terms of the DA have been worked out with the developer Albanese. Bond Counsel Randy Rompolo of Barnes & Thornburg, stated the total bond issue is: \$11,250,000 for a term of 17 years. Ms. Jacobson noted that the developer will be contributing \$2.2 Million to the City to be used within the allocation area to extend 82nd Ave. to Grand Blvd. and possibly an extension of the frontage road. Attorney Rompolo stated there is no risk to the RDC or the City as the bonds will be paid from a pledge of the TIF revenue from Allocation Area #2. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve Ordinance 2022-01 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Announcements: Steve Aponte, FOP Lodge #121 President, questioned the Council as to any recent action or discussion regarding additional vacation, PL days or health insurance requests made last year, citing a need for the HPD to continue to be competitive to attract new and quality candidates for the police force. Officer Aponte stated that NILEA currently has a class of 63 recruits, one of the largest classes ever at the local facility, showing a continued interest in police work as a career. Mr. Snedecor stated the HPD received 15 applications, most of them lateral transfer candidates, in response to a recent solicitation by the HPD. Interim Chief Ciszewski stated the 4 additional PL days added only for the year 2021 posed no problem to cover and an additional day (adding up to an additional week's vacation) could be managed by the department. He also noted that to incentivize work for the young guys, he would like to see overtime paid at 1.5 time rather than straight time. The only 1.5 time currently available is for grant work. As to take home cars for those officers living outside the city limits, he stated the area departments have all opened up to allow this option and wants to make our Department the premier place to work. Discussion followed regarding the Working Conditions Special Committee to meet with the union representatives and Department Heads to discuss possible changes. Mr. Huddleston called an Ordinance Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 19th directly after the Council meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Working Conditions committee.

Mr. Snedecor asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Council and there was no response.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Huddleston and Mr. Vinzant, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER