

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
May 3, 2023**

Call to Order: Mayor Snedecor called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. with 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. Huddleston, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Vinzant, Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Longer and City Attorney McCarthy.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2023 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Department Reports: Public Works Director Kelly Smith provided an overview of "Clean-Up Week" May 8-12, encouraging residents to call for a pickup prior to their collection day. She also noted that Lake County Solid Waste Management will be at the City Yard on May 20th from 9AM-2PM. Mr. Wells asked that Old Ridge Road be patched where the borings were taken.

City Engineer Phil Gralik was asked about the roads in the new Cressmoor Development regarding bus access. He noted the soil testing has been completed and is under review by IDEM and expects that by the next school year there will be a great deal of progress in the development.

Committee Reports: There were no Committee Reports.

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

Unfinished Business: There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business:

Ordinance 2023-08: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2023 Budget of the MVH and MVH Restricted Funds in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: The Ordinance was read. Motion to approve Ordinance 2023-08 on first reading by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Wells. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Claussen and Mr. Brooks, to suspend the rules, declare an emergency and proceed with the second reading of the Ordinance this evening. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Ordinance 2023-08: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2023 Budget of the MVH and MVH Restricted Funds in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Vinzant, to adopt Ordinance 2023-08 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Announcements: Mr. Snedecor stated the paving projects for this year are currently being discussed by staff and asked the Councilmen to turn in any areas in their district they would like considered for paving.

Discussion followed as to the Rt. 6/Ridge Rd. areas that are the responsibility of New Chicago and Lake Station. Mr. Snedecor stated that in an effort to help those communities, Hobart was the lead agency in a
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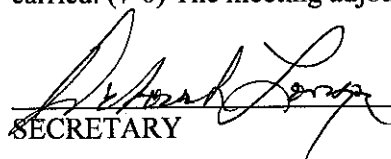
petition to NIRPC to secure some funding for each of them to repair their portion of Ridge Rd. but NIRPC denied the funding. He noted that NIRPC is reconsidering their criteria and point system for projects as it currently favors the larger communities of Hammond, East Chicago and Gary due to the density and transportation systems in place.

Mr. Wells noted we have sent our crews out to patch their areas of responsibility on Ridge Road three different times just to be good neighbors. He also stated that Lake Station just posted that they had received over \$300,000 in Community Crossing funds for paving and Ridge Road is a landmine field that they need to address. Mr. Waldrop noted that Lake Station had paved a great number of roads when they sold the water company but has consistently ignored Ridge Rd. Mr. Snedecor stated that Hobart's residents don't want the City to spend our tax dollars on another community's roads but at the same time, they want the area fixed. Mr. Wells stated he does not want Hobart to continue to provide patching for this area when there are roads within his district that have not been repaired due to lack of funding and we should not be spending our funds to fix their roads and putting more blacktop down on a road we do not control takes more blacktop away from his district. Mr. Vinzant agreed, stating that as long as we are maintaining our portion of Ridge Rd., we have no responsibility to fix their part. Mr. Huddlestun stated that whatever interlocal agreement the City has with the communities to the north needs to increase the price to pay for damage to vehicles that hit their potholes and the City should consider ways to recoup these costs. Mr. Snedecor stated that as much as we try to educate our citizens about the maintenance responsibilities of each community, Hobart still gets the blame for the disrepair of that stretch of the road. Mr. Vinzant stated the City should put up signs in those areas under the other community's control. Mr. Wells suggested putting up "fix Ridge Rd." signs next to each candidate sign posted running for re-election in New Chicago and Lake Station. Mrs. Longer stated they each also received some ARP funding for infrastructure that could be used for the repairs. Motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Brooks, to direct Mayor Snedecor to send a letter to both New Chicago and Lake Station, demanding that they repair the areas of Ridge Road that is their responsibility and within their road inventory that they get MVH funds to maintain. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) Mr. Snedecor asked if the Council wanted the City to send a crew out to do some additional patching in the meantime. Mr. Wells stated that would be fine if we can put a lien on Lake Station and Mr. Vinzant stated only if we send them a bill for the expenses prior to patching. Mr. Wells also suggested that they could pass a Wheel Tax and use those funds to patch their road.

William Perryman questioned whether Hobart would consider annexing the land and start collecting the road dollars for the areas of Ridge Rd. currently in Lake Station and New Chicago's inventory. Mr. Snedecor stated the City has offered to take over the maintenance but only after the road is brought up to acceptable standards and repaired, not in its current condition. He noted that Sue Pelfrey has reached out to State Representatives to see what help they could provide. Mr. Huddlestun questioned whether the funding received was directly tied to specific roadways. Mr. Gralik stated the MVH funds can be used to repair any roads the City/Town determines. Mr. Wells stated he had discussed this problem with Todd Rokita and Mr. Rokita stated that each entity determines the use of the funds. Mr. Huddlestun stated that this has become a public safety issue and cars are driving in the "3rd lane" to avoid the potholes. Mr. Claussen stated that this time of year the patching would hold much better than "cold patch." Mr. Waldrop and Mr. Vinzant asked that the letter include a request for their intentions and a timeline as to when they were going to repair the road.

Mr. Snedecor asked if anyone would like to address the Council and there was no additional response.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Wells, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER