

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
September 1, 2021**

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. Huddlestun, Mr. Maggio, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Claussen. Mr. Waldrop was present remotely. Absent: Mr. Vinzant. Also present: City Attorney McCarthy and Clerk-Treasurer Longer.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2021 as presented. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Correspondence: Mr. Kopil reminded the Council of the ceremony held at the Doughboy on the last Friday of each month honoring those in service to the country who have lost their lives, including this month, those lost in Afghanistan during the evacuations.

Chief Zormier stated there will be a September 11th commemoration silent parade from 61st and Washington St. to 14th and S. Lake Park Ave. to Chicago Fitness in Barrington Plaza where some officers will participate in the 110 steps, remembering those first responders who perished while trying to save others.

Mr. Huddlestun noted he has had some complaints regarding parking over the sidewalks which is against City Codes and asked the Councilmen to remind their constituents to keep the sidewalks free and clear for unobstructed passage of pedestrians.

Mr. Huddlestun also noted the County COVID map went to Orange earlier today and there is beginning to be an impact on employees and residents as children are sent home from school due to contact tracing. Mr. Snedecor noted that City employees may use their banked time to cover childcare needs and he considers each situation on a case-by-case basis should an employee need additional time. FMLA is also available to full time employees.

Committee Reports: There were no Committee Reports.

Department Reports: Nikki Lopez, Events Director, reported that LakeFront Fest went well although attendance was down from last year. She also noted that planning has begun for the Halloween event and golf cart parade and the Christmas Tree Lighting, Holiday Market and Small Business Saturday. More information be provided as plans are put in place.

Aimee Schallenkamp, MRC Director, stated the Bar Bingo fundraiser raised over \$3,800 for the MRC and was very well attended. She thanked all that participated.

City Engineer Phil Gralik stated that Milestone (formerly Walsh & Kelly) are in town and will be installing curbs/sidewalks in specific areas and will be doing some paving. He also noted that the roundabout at SR130 and Cleveland has been put on hold by INDOT but they will begin the work to add the turn lanes at 10th and Lincoln St.

Mr. Snedecor asked John VanVleet, Public Works Garage Foreman, to get the speed bumps installed on Hillcrest Dr. as the Apple Orchard has opened for the season.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2021-22 (as amended): (2nd Reading) An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart Concerning Large Trucks, Trailers or other Vehicles with a Gross Weight in Excess of 16,000 pounds Parking on or near Districts Zoned Residential. The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Attorney McCarthy stated there was a conflict with the Zoning Ordinances regarding the gross weight of 16,000 pounds as the Zoning Ordinance specifies 11,000 pounds. She noted if the Council desires to change the zoning ordinance it would have to go back to the Plan Commission for public hearing and then a recommendation would come back to the Council for consideration. Ross Pietrzak, City Planner, stated the only issue with the Zoning Ordinance is the weight limits; the distance from a residential district is not an issue in the Zoning Ordinance. Attorney McCarthy outlined the various options for the Council to proceed. Motion by Mr. Huddlestun, seconded by Mr. Wells, to amend Ordinance 2021-22 (as amended) to reduce the weight limit from 16,000 pounds to 11,000 pounds. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Motion by Mr. Huddlestun, seconded by Mr. Wells, to adopt Ordinance 2021-22 as amended this evening. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The Clerk-Treasurer will forward this to the Plan Commission with a request to increase the weight limits to 16,000 in the zoning ordinance.

Public Hearing / Consideration of ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Plan

Ordinance 2021-23: (2nd Reading) An Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund (#176) in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana. The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Mr. Snedecor opened the public hearing and called three times for comments from the floor or remotely with no response. The public hearing was closed. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve Ordinance 2021-23 as presented. Discussion followed as to the plan and consideration of other non-profits or areas to use the funds. Mr. Snedecor noted that non-profits would need to make a case to be considered and the plan may be modified as needs arise as long as the uses meet eligibility requirements. He noted that this Ordinance is for appropriations for 2021 only and future uses are appropriated in the Budget Ordinance for 2022. Mr. Claussen called for the question. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-24: An Ordinance to Amend the Covenants and Restrictions Governing Certain Parcels of Real Estate in an Established PUD Zoning Classification: Cressmoor Estates, S. of 37th Ave., W of Lake Park Ave., E of Wisconsin St., D.R. Horton, Inc. Derrick Hoffman, representative of D.R. Horton was participating remotely. He is requesting this item remain on the table until the Plan Commission has approved the Preliminary Plat/Engineering and the Development Agreement for Cressmoor Estates to consider all of these items together. The Council agreed by consensus and this item remains on the table.

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-25: An Ordinance Replacing Ordinance 2020-14, fixing the Salaries of Officer and Employees of the City of Hobart for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Huddlestun, to remove this item from the table. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Huddlestun, to approve Ordinance 2021-25 on first reading. Discussion followed regarding staffing shortages and the need to fairly compensate the employees. Mr. Snedecor explained that this ordinance raises the maximums for civilian positions but it is up to the Department Heads to determine who gets an increase and when within their budget constraints. Roll Call vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Huddlestun, Maggio, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Wells. Motion carried. (5-1)

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-26: An Ordinance fixing the Salaries of Police Department Sworn Personnel of the City of Hobart for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to remove this item from the table. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio to approve Ordinance 2021-26 on first reading. The Council noted the same discussion should be considered as with the prior ordinance. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Huddlestun, Maggio, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Wells. Motion carried. (5-1)

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-27: An Ordinance fixing the Salaries of Firefighter Sworn Personnel of the City of Hobart for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to remove this item from the table. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio to approve Ordinance 2021-27 on first reading. The Council noted the same discussion should be considered as with the prior ordinance. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Huddleston, Maggio, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Wells. Motion carried. (5-1)

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-28: An Ordinance fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of Hobart for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Motion by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to remove this item from the table. Roll Call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio to approve Ordinance 2021-28 on first reading. Discussion followed regarding not giving Councilmen an increase as other Boards and Commissioners are not included in any raises.

Motion by Mr. Waldrop, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to Amend Ordinance 2021-28 to return the Council Members salary at the 2021 rate of \$13,750.00. Discussion followed as to the hours of time the Council Members put in to the job and the time taken away from family and private lives in service to the City and the City's ability to find good candidates who are willing to step up in the future to represent this community and while the amount of the compensation is not large, to increase it incrementally over time is justified in relation to the tasks and commitment expected and this will affect those in the future who wish to serve. Mr. Waldrop and Mr. Maggio noted the members of the Boards and Commissions should also be considered for an increase in their stipends due to the time put in. Roll Call Vote taken. 4 Aye: Kopil, Wells, Claussen, Waldrop / 2 Nay: Huddlestun, Maggio. Motion carried. (4-2)

Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve Ordinance 2021-28 as amended on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Tabled: Ordinance 2021-29: An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 2020-18 and Establishing the Amount of Additional Compensation of Certain Officers of the Municipal Utilities of the City of Hobart and designating the Fund from which said Additional Compensation is to be paid Commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to remove this item from the table. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Huddlestun, to approve Ordinance 2021-29 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Huddlestun, Maggio, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Wells. Motion carried. (5-1)

New Business:

Ordinance 2021-30: An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (2022 Budget): The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Huddlestun, to approve Ordinance 2021-30 on first reading and set for Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion followed as to the deadline to adopt a budget and Ms. Longer explained that a budget must be adopted no later than

November 1st. Ms. Longer asked that anyone who has questions about the budget to contact her at any time. Mr. Snedecor called for the question. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Ordinance 2021-31: An Ordinance Amending the City Employee Handbook, Section 2-Expectations & Policies. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells to pass Ordinance 2021-31 on first reading. Mr. Snedecor thanked Karen Anderson, HR Coordinator, who worked with the City Attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer on this and while it appears to be common sense, if not in written form it lends to some possible conflicts or perceived preferential treatment as to what is expected of employees in the workplace. Mr. Snedecor called for the question. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

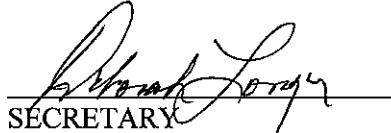
Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to suspend the rules, declare an emergency and proceed with the second reading of the Ordinance this evening. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Huddlestun, Wells, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Maggio. Motion fails due to lack of unanimous consent. (5-1)

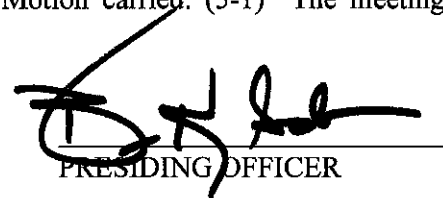
Announcements: Ms. Longer stated the State Board of Accounts has scheduled their exit conference for tomorrow and the Council is invited to attend. This conference is not open to the public but the audit results will be published sometime within the next months for public viewing.

Events Coordinator Nikki Lopez stated that the SouthShore Visitor's Bureau has presented Hobart Events with a \$20,000 grant for event activities.

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

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to adjourn the meeting. 5 Aye: Huddlestun, Maggio, Wells, Claussen, Waldrop / 1 Nay: Kopil. Motion carried. (5-1) The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER