

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
November 4, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Snedecor called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a 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: Mr. Kopil, Mr. Maggio (remote), Mr. Vinzant (remote), Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Also present: Mr. Snedecor, City Attorney McCarthy, Clerk-Treasurer Longer and Admin. Asst. C. Govert. Absent: Mr. Huddlestun

**Reading of the Minutes:** Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2020 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Correspondence:** Mr. Snedecor said he has been talking to Taft Consultants about investigating possible legislation for 2021 Legislative Session to enact a food and Beverage Food and Beverage Tax for the City. Taft has agreed to represent us if the intention is to go forward; the fee would be \$38,000, which includes lobbying efforts and other responsibilities they would undertake to represent the City of Hobart. Mr. Snedecor said if the Council does not object, he would like to move forward and explore this. The money from this tax would allow the City to look at projects that could help our economic progress. Mr. Claussen noted that this is a true user fee and not a local sales tax. It will help us to build and develop throughout the City. Mr. Vinzant said it could help the Route 30 area and breathe new life into the retail corridor. Mr. Claussen asked if the payment of that fee could be paid through the TIF capture money. Mr. Snedecor said no, but it could come out of the CREDIT fund. Mr. Snedecor stated, hearing no objections, he will pursue the food and beverage tax with Taft.

**Department Reports:**

Mr. Vinzant thanked Public Works Supt. Tom Laco for the paving done in the Glenwood Subdivision. He also suggested that Code Enforcement consider using email so residents could include photos or video. Mayor Snedecor will pursue this with the Police Chief.

City Engineer, Phil Gralik said that the triangle at Main, Front and Old Ridge could possibly be open by Thanksgiving. Mr. Snedecor asked about the stormwater work at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Wisconsin. Mr. Gralik said that the pool stormwater pipe had a drainage issue that was finding its way to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Fulton said that the crews will be out with the cameras doing some additional investigation.

**Committee Reports:**

Mr. Wells asked if trees could be removed in the 4000 Block of Swift Street. Mr. Laco noted that the trees are down, and they need to remove the stump and put the yards back together.

Mr. Snedecor said paving is being done now in several locations as part of the Community Crossings grant which funds need to be used within the next 18 months.

Mr. Maggio asked if the Street Dept. could look at a tree in the easement on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln St. The tree needs trimming and is rubbing against the building. Mr. Laco said that trimming is the property owner's responsibility, but he would go and look at it.

Mr. Wells said the Insurance Committee met and there will be no cost increase with no decrease in benefits. He commended City Employees for using the benefit wisely, keeping costs to a minimum.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Snedecor asked the Council to table Ordinance 2020-25. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Waldrop and Mr. Maggio, to approve the agenda as amended. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:**

**Compliance with Statement of Benefits: (Amended CF-1)**

ITR America: 6411 Northwind Parkway, Real Property: Director of Redevelopment, Beth Jacobson was present telephonically and said that there was a date change, and that was the only amendment. Motion by Mr. Waldrop, seconded by Mr. Claussen, to approve the Compliance with Statement of Benefits as amended. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Ordinance 2020-24: An Ordinance to Amend the City of Hobart Municipal Code Concerning Trailers:** The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to pass Ordinance 2020-24 on first reading. Discussion was held. Mr. Wells said that the ordinance does not need to be changed but needs to be enforced. Mr. Vinzant explained that the change will help to keep people from parking trailers at commercial sites. Mr. Claussen called for the question. Roll call vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Maggio, Vinzant, Claussen, Waldrop/1 Nay: Wells. Motion carried. (5-1)

**Ordinance 2020-25: Adopting a Sewer Use Ordinance Establishing Rules for the Use of the City's Sanitary Sewer System for the Pretreatment Program for Users that Discharge Non-Domestic Wastes to its Sanitary Sewer System and Excess Strength Surcharges:** Tabled at agenda approval.

**Ordinance 2020-26: An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart to Provide for Fees and Charges for certain Tax Abatement and other Activities:** The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve Ordinance 2020-26 at first reading as presented. Roll call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to suspend the rules, declare an emergency and proceed with the seconded reading of the ordinance this evening. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Ordinance 2020-26: An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart to Provide for Fees and Charges for certain Tax Abatements and other Activities:** The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to adopt Ordinance 2020-26 as presented. Roll call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Ordinance 2020-27: An Ordinance Amending the Provisions of the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart Relating to Emergency Medical Service Fees and Charges:** The Ordinance was read. Mr. Maggio commended the Fire Department on the hard work they put into the ordinance and hopes it will help fund the department for years to come. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve Ordinance 2020-27 at first reading as presented. Roll call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to suspend the rules, declare an emergency and proceed with the second reading this evening. Mr. Wells said he does not think the Ordinance should be passed tonight because the public should be allowed to review it. Mrs. Longer noted that the fees would not go into effect until January 1, 2021 and the fee increase will be advertised. Mr. Maggio called for the question. 5 Aye: Kopil, Maggio, Vinzant, Claussen, Waldrop, 1 Nay: Wells. (5-1) Motion failed as it requires unanimous consent of members present.

**Ordinance 2020-28: An Ordinance Transferring Funds in the City of Hobart, Lake County Indiana:** The Ordinance was read. Mrs. Longer explained this is regarding funds from the 2020 General Obligation

Bond Series A which will off-set some of the prior years' deficits. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve Ordinance 2020-28 at first reading as presented. 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. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Ordinance 2020-28: An Ordinance Transferring Funds in the City of Hobart, Lake County:** The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Wells, to adopt Ordinance 2020-28 as presented. Roll call vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

**Discussion: Proposed Fees 2021: Building Department:** Building Official Jeremy Ogden reviewed the proposed fee changes for the Building Department, noting that there has not been an increase since 2012. Currently contractors pay .46% of their project and he is proposing an increase to .92% which brings the numbers up similar to surrounding communities. He said that with large scale projects, negotiations could be made, and fees could be flexible. Mr. Claussen asked if it would be feasible to build in a percentage yearly so that we keep up with the cost of living. Mr. Ogden said he would like to consult with his staff as they are the ones who calculate the amounts according to square footage. Mr. Vinzant suggested incentives for new start-ups, perhaps cutting the permit fees in half. He also recommended reviewing fees annually. Mr. Claussen said the Council will rely on the Building Department staff for their recommendations in an ordinance form.

**Announcements:** Mr. Vinzant discussed the draft Golf Cart ordinance presented by Attorney McCarthy to the Council. He noted many carts are larger than those used on a golf course. Mr. Maggio agreed and asked that the definition should be clear. Attorney McCarthy noted concerns regarding a recommendation as opposed to a requirement for proof of insurance and believed it should be mandatory. Mr. Wells noted child restraints should be required for those under 48 lbs. Discussion followed as to safety concerns and responsibility of owners. Mr. Kopil noted it also involves enforcement. Attorney McCarthy will update the draft for future consideration.

Mr. Snedecor asked if there was anyone on the phone or in person who wished to address the Council and there was no further response.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

  
SECRETARY

  
PRESIDING OFFICER