

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
March 2, 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. Huddlestun, Mr. Maggio, Mr. Vinzant, Mr. Wells and Mr. Waldrop. Present telephonically: Mr. Kopil. Absent: Mr. Claussen. Also present: City Attorney McCarthy and Clerk-Treasurer Longer.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Maggio, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2022 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Proclamation: Mayor Snedecor read and presented a Proclamation naming March 2022 as Disability Awareness Month in the City of Hobart.

Recognition: Mayor Snedecor presented the Virginia Curtis Award to Paula Isolampi for her dedicated years working to preserve Hobart's history including her work with the Hobart Historical Society and the Historical Preservation Commission.

Mayor Snedecor presented the Tony Wirtz Award to Jay Harrigan for his service over the years with various community groups and boards and commissions, helping to make Hobart better with his spirit of involvement.

Correspondence: Mayor Snedecor noted the recent passing of Erv Carstensen, a local attorney who also served 1-term as Hobart City Judge.

John Cannon, Outreach Coordinator for Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita gave a brief presentation regarding the services of the Attorney General's office including: Indiana Unclaimed Property website, Consumer Protections including product recalls, Medicaid fraud, and cyber-security issues including robo-calls and phishing and identity protection.

Director of Development Beth Jacobson presented the 2021 Redevelopment Commission and Redevelopment Authority Annual Report. She stated this contains a summary of activity from the past year, noting the report had been approved by both groups and would be posted to the state's Gateway system in the near future.

Department Reports: Public Works Director Kelly Smith stated the plowing in the alleyways have shown some areas to be overgrown and are asking residents to keep the brush and trees cut back in the alleys to allow the trucks to freely pass. She also asked that any compost bags still left at the curb be brought to the City Yard, open to the public 24/7.

Fire Chief Randy Smith stated the Board of Public Works has approved the purchase of a new ambulance. Mr. Snedecor stated this is the last of the ambulances that will allow the boxes to be switched out in the future rather than purchasing an entire chassis and box unit, saving the City money in the future.

City Planner Ross Pietrzak asked the Council for availability consensus for a joint workshop with the Plan Commission with Lakota Group regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He noted he would like to hold it on Wednesday, March 9th in the late afternoon or early evening if people are available. He will check with the Plan Commission and send out notices once date and time are confirmed.

Police Chief Garrett Ciszewski stated the annual report had been previously distributed to the Council. The youth Community Athletic Program (CAPs) will begin again on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in the PCC Gym by the end of March. He noted there were over 100 cars tagged to be moved during

snow events and all but 6 complied and had to be towed and thanked the public for their response. The Council noted that the parking on the sidewalk near Main Street Auto is becoming a problem for pedestrians and the Chief stated he would look into this and cite the owner if necessary.

MRC Director Aimee Schallenkamp stated that the MRC is now open and the seniors are happy to be back to a full range of activities.

Parks Director Kelly Goodpaster stated they are working on finalizing designs for bidding for the bathrooms to be installed at Festival Park. She hopes to begin construction in the fall of 2022.

Events Director Nikki Lopez stated the events for 2022 are being finalized and the Country Jam will be a 2-day event this year in early June and tickets are available. She also stated that they are working with the Parks Department to provide a Spring Break camp with daily activities.

Building Official Karen Hansen stated they have received a large number of commercial building plans already this year and expect to meet or exceed last year's permit numbers.

City Engineer Phil Gralik stated the Community Crossings Grant has been awarded to the City and Rieth-Riley was awarded the bid for the work, reconstructing Delaware Street behind Veteran's School and Third St. from Wisconsin to Ash St. He also noted that the intersection reconstruction at Colorado and US 30 will begin later this year.

Director of Development Beth Jacobson stated the Ribbon Cutting for the 69th Ave. Improvement Project is scheduled for March 18th at 10:30AM at the roundabout. She also noted that the Bond closed for the Albanese project.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Snedecor stated that Randy Hall has asked that the Council defer any consideration of the revised SB-1 for Cressmoor Estates as it is not yet available. He also noted the Council had received a draft of Resolution 2022-04 regarding distribution of ARP funds to qualified retirees and may add it to the agenda if they choose to do so. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to table Consideration of the SB-1 for Cressmoor Estates and to add Resolution 2022-04 to the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Consideration of Revised SB-1: Cressmoor Estates Tax Abatement: Randy Hall: *Tabled at Approval of Agenda.*

Resolution 2022-04: A Resolution Clarifying the Distribution of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to Qualified Retirees of the City of Hobart, Indiana: The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Huddleston, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve Resolution 2022-04 as presented. City Attorney McCarthy noted the language within the Premium Pay section of the Final Rule has not changed but other areas of the Final Rule have changed, allowing more flexibility in how the City spends the funds. Mr. Snedecor called for a Roll Call Vote. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Announcements: Mr. Huddleston stated he has been talking with INDOT to look at the crash data for the Rt 6 and SR51 intersection to determine if modifications are needed to the intersection.

Mr. Wells stated he has found that the State cannot find the 37th Sound Study done a few years ago and he is hoping to push them to do another sound study for the area to see if sound barriers should be constructed.

Jake Cseke voiced his opposition to the proposed rezoning of the area at 61st and Colorado St., currently in front of the Plan Commission. He noted he has presented the Plan Commission with a petition with over 600 signatures opposing the rezone, and while they are not against development, they are against this development at this site. He asked the Council to consider this as a gateway into the City that should not be rezoned to this use. He also stated he was aware of a Councilman posting on Facebook saying this was a "sealed deal" and was concerned that the Council would already have made up their minds on this issue.

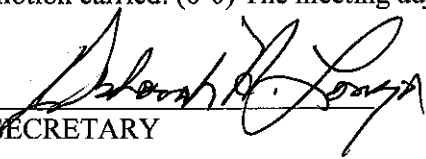
Joe Conn also noted his opposition to the rezone, questioning the buffer zone size as the Future Land Use Map does not have underlining data as to scale. He estimated the buffer zone (denoted as an Office Service area on the map) to be approximately 400' deep. He suggested the Council hold off on considering the rezone of the property at 61st and Colorado until the Master Plan is updated and is concerned that home values will be affected by the rezone.

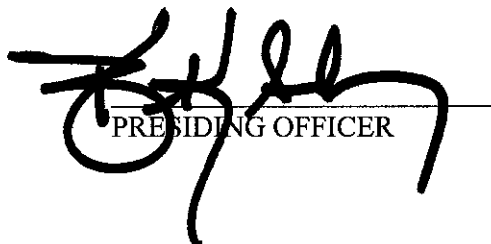
Myra Cseke expressed concerns on what impact the rezone would have on the City, stating that while light industry helps some, the residents deserve better and there are other places to put light industry rather than a major entryway to the City.

Gary Mikolics stated his family has farmed in the area for over 60 years and the development will bring needed infrastructure to the area along with jobs and additional income. He stated the landscaping proposed and the flood controls that will need to be in place should be a "no-brainer" in support of the rezone and the development.

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

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (6-0) The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER