

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
July 6, 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. Huddlestun, Mr. Maggio, Mr. Vinzant, Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Longer. Absent: City Attorney McCarthy.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Maggio, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2022 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Correspondence: Mr. Snedecor stated the 4th of July festivities in the City were a success and thanked Public Works, Parks, Events, and Community Service Workers for cleaning up Festival Park the morning after the fireworks.

Discussion re: E-911 Dispatch: Police Chief Garrett Ciszewski stated that the Director of the E911 Dispatch Services has proposed a consolidation of the Hobart, New Chicago and Lake Station radio channels, putting all three communities into one talkgroup. Chief Ciszewski stated his concerns that this consolidation would decrease public safety for the officers and citizens of the City as communication between Hobart officers would be greatly impacted and he presented a proposed Resolution for the Council to consider in support of the Hobart Police Department's efforts to implore the Lake County 911 Commission to provide Hobart with its own talkgroup and dispatcher. Discussion followed as to inviting the Executive Director of the Lake County 911 Dispatch Center to the Council meeting in August to discuss this issue. The Council by consensus, agreed to add the proposed Resolution 2022-09 to the agenda this evening. *(see Approval of Agenda and last item under New Business)*

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Department Reports:

Public Works Director Kelly Smith stated the Sanitation barn was cleaned and organized to provide additional room for the toters delivered, the Sewer Dept. completed in-house storm repairs and is preparing for the large storm sewer project on Lincoln St. from 14th to 16th Streets. MVH crews continue to be busy mowing, repaving areas, building additional barricades and removed 4 trees in-house.

City Engineer Phil Gralik stated that Lake County is anticipating starting on the Wisconsin St. bridge project this fall but it may be delayed if additional federal funds become available for this project.

City Planner Ross Pietrzak said the Comprehensive Plan information was well received at the June 23rd Summer Market and additional market days will be scheduled to gather more public input.

Building Official Karen Hansen stated the Cressmoor plans are currently under review and permits should begin to be pulled in August.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to add Resolution 2022-09 regarding the E911 Dispatch and approve the agenda with the addition. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Unfinished Business:

Tabled: Public Hearing: Ordinance 2022-15: An Ordinance Vacating an Unimproved Platted Right-of-Way within the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: 1039.59' x 60' unimproved platted ROW, zoned R-1, located N of 61st Ave, E of Emerald Dr., W of Arizona St., 1.432 acres, Attorney Todd Leath, Hoepfner Wagner & Evans, LLP and John Hannon, Great Lakes Engineering. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio to remove Ordinance 2022-15 from the table. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

The Ordinance was read. Attorney Todd Leath representing Steiner Homes explained that along with this petition to vacate, there is a temporary access easement that has been approved by the Redevelopment Commission and the Board of Public Works that will be recorded before a vacate of the current right-of-way is finalized to allow for continued access to the property to the north and west.

Mayor Snedecor opened the public hearing. Attorney Glenn Kuchel, representing adjacent land owners John & Jean Rakoczy, the John and Jean Rakoczy Trusts and the Lake County Trust 3423 filed a remonstrance and objection in opposition to the proposed Ordinance and distributed a copy to the Council. He noted that by statute a vacate cannot landlock another parcel and the Rakoczy's have continued to maintain and utilize the current right-of-way to access their property to the north and west. He reviewed the Indiana Code regarding the legal grounds for filing of a remonstrance and requested the Council deny the Ordinance as presented. Attorney Leath responded that the temporary access easement allows access to all of the Rakoczy property and the timing of the recording of the document will prevent the landlocking of any property and the final plat will show the final right-of-way in the form of platted streets and recorded easements. There being no other comments offered from the public, the Public Hearing was closed.

Discussion followed. Mr. Vinzant noted the Plan Commission looked at the topography of the area and there are no large ravines that will deny access and the development to the south will bring utilities to the Rakoczy property. Mr. Waldrop stated the proposed right-of-way will provide for improved traffic flow and distribute traffic with additional access points. Attorney Kuchel stated that two access roads would better serve the property and Mr. Pietrzak stated that the subdivision plat would provide access from both Sapphire Court and the new road off of 61st Avenue. City Engineer Phil Gralik stated that if the property to the north were to develop with the existing right-of-way in place, the owners would have to install a road on the right-of-way at great expense to the developer. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve Ordinance 2022-15 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

New Business:

Compliance with Statement of Benefits: Albanese Confectionery, Personal Property at 5441 E. Lincoln Hwy.; Jefferson, LLC: 2011 abatement; Hancock Enterprises, LLC: 2014 abatement and 2017 abatement; Paine, LLC: 2017 abatement and 2019 abatement; Director of Development Beth Jacobson noted the Real Property CF-1's had been submitted and approved at an earlier Council meeting and these deal with personal property. She noted that James Dragon stated in his letter that there were some delays in receiving equipment. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve all five (5) Compliance with Statement of Benefits as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Ordinance 2022-16: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2022 Budget of the General Fund, Sanitation Department and Law Department and the Redevelopment US30 & 69th Avenue Fund in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve Ordinance 2022-16 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

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

Ordinance 2022-16: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2022 Budget of the General Fund, Sanitation Department and Law Department and the Redevelopment US30 & 69th Avenue Fund in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Huddleston, to adopt Ordinance 2022-16 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Ordinance 2022-17: An Ordinance Vacating an Unimproved Platted ROW within the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana: 262' x 50' unimproved section of platted Illinois Street right-of-way, north of Illinois & Hickey St. intersection. Matthew Pomaes. The Ordinance was read. Discussion followed regarding future land use and potential development in the area, safety vehicle access and concerns regarding stormwater drainage. Discussion also was held regarding unimproved right-of-way that the adjacent owners are maintaining and whether a vacation of these right-of-way areas would be appropriate for the City to undertake as long as it did not result in landlocking properties. City Planner Ross Pietrzak stated that any roadways must be improved if used as primary access to a lot and a cul-de-sac would be permitted which possibly would allow the northern properties to develop. As public right-of-way no structure would be permitted on the right-of-way. Mr. Pietrzak stated he will provide additional information at a future meeting. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to set Ordinance 2022-17 for public hearing at the July 20, 2022 Council meeting at 6:00PM. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Ordinance 2022-18: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2021-25 of the Common Council, Amending the Hourly Compensation Range for certain Part-Time Employees of the General Fund: Building Maintenance Department: The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve Ordinance 2022-17 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

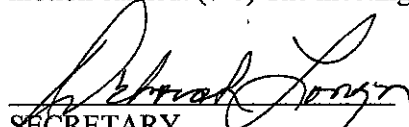
Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Vinzant, to suspend the rules, declare an emergency and proceed with the second reading of the Ordinance. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

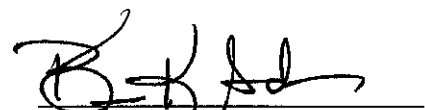
Ordinance 2022-18: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2021-25 of the Common Council, Amending the Hourly Compensation Range for certain Part-Time Employees of the General Fund: Building Maintenance Department: The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to adopt Ordinance 2022-18 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Resolution 2022-09: A Resolution Supporting the Hobart Police Department: re: E911 Dispatch. The Resolution was read. Motion by Mr. Maggio, seconded by Mr. Wells, to adopt Resolution 2022-09 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Announcements: 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. Maggio, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER