

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
August 17, 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. Maggio, Mr. Vinzant, Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Absent: Mr. Huddlestun. Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Longer and City Attorney McCarthy.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2022 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Correspondence: August 10, 2022 Letter from Senator Lonnie M. Randolph re: Elected Judges: Judge Longer was present and stated his support for election judges, saying that an informed electorate preserves democracy and the voters have more information available to them now about each candidate running for office. He noted the Lake County Bar Association surveys attorneys regarding judges and publishes information for the public and the Indiana Supreme Court uses a variety of matrices and data regarding performance of civil judges available on the Court's website. He also noted that selection by the Governor may be more political than letting the voters decide. Mr. Waldrop appreciated the Judge's comments and stated that lending support by way of this resolution may help move things along in the legislature. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio to add and approve Resolution 2022-11: A Resolution Supporting the Election of Superior Court Judges in Lake County, Indiana as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Committee Reports: Jay Harrigan, Hobart Chamber Director, stated there is a ribbon cutting scheduled for WildWoods on 3rd St. on Friday, Sept. 19th at 5pm and at Baitmasters on Wisconsin St. on Wednesday, Sept. 24th at 2pm.

Mr. Kopil stated the 73rd Ave. Sanitary sewer line plans are moving along with right-of-way being acquired and 69th Avenue improvements punch list is being finalized.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Maggio, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Ordinance 2022-22: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2022 Budget of the General Fund, Various Departments, the Public Safety LIT Fund, the Local Road Matching Grant Fund, and the Enhancement and Improvement Fund in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve Ordinance 2022-22 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

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

Ordinance 2022-22: An Ordinance Transferring Appropriations within the 2022 Budget of the General Fund, Various Departments, the Public Safety LIT Fund, the Local Road Matching Grant Fund, and the Enhancement and Improvement Fund in the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana. The second reading of

the Ordinance was held. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to adopt Ordinance 2022-22 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Ordinance 2022-23: An Ordinance Replacing Ordinance 2021-25, Fixing the Salaries of Officers and Employees of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Waldrop to pass Ordinance 2022-23 on first reading. Mr. Vinzant commented that in light of the current financial situation the City is facing with the Mall refunds, talking about raises does not make sense but this would allow some increase as a stipend to help offset the inflation currently being experienced. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Ordinance 2022-24: An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Police Department Sworn Personnel of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Vinzant, to approve Ordinance 2022-24 on first reading. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Kopil, Vinzant, Wells, Claussen, Waldrop. 1 Nay: Maggio. Motion carried. (5 Aye / 1 Nay)

Ordinance 2022-25: An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Firefighter Sworn Personnel of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Vinzant, to approve Ordinance 2022-25 on first reading. Discussion followed. Mr. Maggio questioned whether the paramedic pay was added to the base wages in this Ordinance. Mr. Snedecor stated that it is not combined in this Salary Ordinance and still shows it under the Rank section on the 2nd page but the budget did have it combined in the base wages in case the Council chooses to combine it. Brian DeGrauwe, FF Union 1641 President addressed the Council stating that in the last 62 days, 39 times a rig was shut down due to understaffing, 13 times a station was shut down due to lack of staffing and 3 times, 2 stations were shut down. He stated there have been 8 people leave the department and each of them cited staffing and pay as reasons for leaving. He listed area fire department base salaries and noted that the City is in the process of taking applications now but only 4 applications have been picked up and he asked how we were going to compete in the hiring market with these wages. He noted there is no answer for that today but since 2019, the Firefighters have received only a 2% raise. Mr. Snedecor noted that there is ongoing discussion with the subcommittee regarding opportunities for a more creative hiring package including benefits and seniority possibilities. Mr. Vinzant questioned whether the lateral hires are included and will continue to be considered. Ms. Longer stated the lateral hires for both the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. are included in the individual salary ordinances under Section 1.5. Mr. Wells noted that the Council had increased the part-time pay for Parks and Building Maintenance earlier this year but stated that first responders are the most important employees and stations should not be shut down. Mr. Snedecor stated the Department oversees the staffing and if there are shortages there needs to be some additional thought put into how many are allowed to be off at one time and it will take both sides working together to determine the minimum needed. Mr. Snedecor stated the subcommittee will be pulled back in to look again at salaries and the possibility of a stipend with ARPA funds along with other possibilities to attract good talent. Ms. Longer stated this is included in the employee salary ordinances under Section 1(a). As there was no further discussion, Mr. Snedecor called for the vote. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Ordinance 2022-26: An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. The Ordinance was read. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve Ordinance 2022-26 on first reading. Ms. Longer stated the numbers did not change from the 2022 salaries and no ARPA

stipend is included in this Ordinance. Roll Call Vote taken. 5 Aye: Maggio, Vinzant, Wells, Claussen, Waldrop. 1 Nay: Kopil. Motion carried. (5 Aye / 1 Nay)

Ordinance 2022-27: An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 2021-29 and Establishing the Amount of Additional Compensation of Certain Officers of the Municipal Utilities of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana and Designating the Fund from which said Additional Compensation is to be Paid Commencing January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. The Ordinance was read. Ms. Longer noted that these numbers did not change from the 2022 salaries and no ARPA stipend is included in this Ordinance. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (6-0)

Mr. Snedecor stated that the subcommittee will be meeting soon to further discuss these benefits and noted a meeting with the Fire Union Representative is set for Thursday, Sept. 25th and one will also be set up with the Police representatives in the near future.

Announcements: Mr. Vinzant reminded the public that LakeFront Fest is this weekend with the Dam Duck Race scheduled for Sunday afternoon. He noted the Police K-9 will be the sponsoring entity from now on and that this year the Dam Duck tickets are being distributed free with 1 ticket per Hobart household (residents only) to thank the community for their 30 years of support. 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. (6-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER