

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA  
JANUARY 4, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:** Mayor Eckstein called to order a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Hartford City at 6:00pm January 4, 2022.

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the council present were Dustin George, Ron Dudelston, Ron Parrott, Michael Wolfe and Tony Scaggs. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Eckstein, Attorney, Brandon Murphy and Clerk-Treasurer, Dana Whatley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Dudelston made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 6, 2021:** Mr. George made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.) 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-19 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.16.040 OF CITY CODE – STOP SIGNS:** After some discussion and clarification, Mr. George made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-19. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**B.) UPDATED COVID SICK TIME POLICY FOR 2022:** Mayor Eckstein explained that going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of COVID-19 he felt like Council should address this and come up with a more clear and concise policy. After much discussion it was determined that the following policy will be in place for 2022.

- 1.) After a positive COVID-19 test from the Blackford County Health Department, the employee will be paid for 5 days of quarantine at 100% of pay. The employee then can return to work and wear a mask for another 5 days per CDC guidelines.
- 2.) If the employee is still feeling symptoms after the 5<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine they are eligible for days 6-15 to be paid at 50% of pay.
- 3.) Each employee is eligible for 15 calendar days for the year of 2022 if needed.

Mr. George made the motion to approve the updated COVID-19 policy for 2022. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**C.) ORDINANCE NEEDED TO APPROPRIATE ARP MONEY FOR THE WATER PROJECT:** Ms. Whatley explained that she wanted to bring this topic up for discussion and it would need to be addressed soon. Attorney Murphy stated he would draft an Ordinance that could have the 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the February meeting. No action was taken.

**D.) HUGGINS DRIVE OWNERSHIP QUESTION:** Mr. Wolfe asked what we had found out about the status of the ownership of Huggins Drive. There is no real definitive documentation that can be found on the true ownership. After some discussion, Council said if the 4 business owners are willing to pay the survey fee and the cost of transfer then the City would be willing to accept the street. Any paving to be completed would be determined at a later date. Mr. George made a motion to approve this plan. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**E.) AEP COST SHARING AGREEMENT:** Mayor Eckstein stated that Mr. Williamson is still waiting on a reply from AEP regarding this agreement. Mr. George made a motion to table this subject until the February meeting. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) CHERI BROWN – TAYLOR UNIVERSITY FINDINGS:** Ms. Brown explained that the Senior Social Work Students from Taylor University have done a windshield study of Hartford City. The students took notice of what Hartford City offers, what it needs etc. Their study addressed the ways we can bridge our resources and needs between Hartford City and Taylor University students. Ms. Brown shared the meeting notes from their November 17, 2021 meeting and they have come up with many great ideas to work on implementing.

**B.) MR. WARREN BROWN – BLACKFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AGREEMENT FOR 2022:** Mr. Brown thanked the Council for the great working relationship that the BEDC and the City have had over the past year. He explained that he is presenting basically the same agreement that they had in 2021 with the exception of some increased reporting that the BEDC is doing for all entities in Blackford County. Mr. George made a motion to approve the BEDC agreement for 2022. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. Then vote to approve was 5-0.

**C.) DANA WHATLEY – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2022 BUDGET:** Ms. Whatley explained that when she was entering the 2022 budget into Gateway that she accidentally missed 3 line items totaling \$43,500.00 on the Form 1 and Form 3. Upon realizing her mistake she tried to correct it but Gateway would not let her complete the budget. She stated that she reached out to her DLGF representative and was advised that since the Form 3 already advertised with the incorrect amount we had to approve that amount and then approach Council at the January 2022 meeting and request additional appropriations for those 3 line items. Mr. George made a motion to approve the additional appropriations of \$43,500.00. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**D.) COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022:** The following Council appointments were made:

Mr. Dudelston – Property Standards Board  
Redevelopment Commission

Mr. George – Blackford Development Corporation  
Area Plan Commission

Mr. Wolfe – Revolving Loan Fund Committee  
Council Liaison to the Clerk-Treasurer for Bank  
Reconcilements & Year-End Reporting

Mr. Parrott – Animal Shelter Board  
Solid Waste District

The position for Historic Preservation was left vacant at this time.

The following officers were elected for 2022:

Council President – Mr. Ron Dudelston  
Mr. Scaggs nominated Mr. Dudelston. Mr. George seconded the nomination.  
The vote to elect was 4-0-1 (Mr. Dudelston abstained from voting)

Council Vice President – Mr. Tony Scaggs  
Mr. Dudelston nominated Mr. Scaggs. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote  
Elect was 4-0-1 (Mr. Scaggs abstained from voting)

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Eckstein shared with everyone that the Utility Office is short-handed due to an employee being on sick leave. He explained with year-end and a State Board of Accounts audit being performed at the same time that it is a very stressful time in their department. He asked everyone to please show the ladies some grace during this time.

**CLERK-TREASURER REPORT:** NONE

**COUNCIL INPUT:** Mr. Parrott made a request to remove a stop sign at Monroe Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Attorney Murphy stated that he would draft an ordinance and we can have the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of that ordinance at the February meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

**ADJOURNMENT:** With there being no further business, Mr. Scaggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm

**FOLDER 2/REC 40**