

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA  
MARCH 7, 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 March 7, 2022.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** It was decided that the agenda needed to be amended to add letter “H” under new business regarding 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 2022-03 an Ordinance for Backflow and Cross Connections for the Water Department. Mr. Dudelston made a motion amend the agenda. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to amend was 4-0-1.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2022:** Mr. Parrott made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.) 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-01 – ARP MONEY:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2022-01. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**B.) AEP COST SHARING AGREEMENT:** The Council is still awaiting an answer from AEP about the proposed cost sharing agreement. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this until the meeting on April 4, 2022. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

**C.) SEWER TAP FEE DISCUSSION:** Mr. Dudelston stated that he and Councilman Parrott met with Travis Williamson from the WWTP to discuss this topic. He said that they are moving forward but would like another 30 days to work out the details. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this until the April 4, 2022 meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

**D.) ANIMAL SHELTER DISCUSSION:** Mr. Eron Ferrell was in attendance on behalf of the Animal Shelter Board. Mayor Eckstein explained that the Animal Shelter Board declined the contract that was presented to them. It was declined because of line #10 of the contract as well has hand written dates at the top of the contract and there was no

dollar amount listed. There was a lot of discussion. It was clarified by Attorney Brandon Murphy that the City Council's role is to appropriate money and it is the Board of Works responsibility to approve the contract.

The Animal Shelter's position is that with all of the reporting requirements listed in the contract no one asked about what animal services were rendered to the City. He also asked if anyone from the City had been out and visited the Animal Shelter to observe the day to day processes and intake procedures.

The Councilmen's position is they are responsible for every tax payer dollar that is given to the City. They want to be able to answer constituent questions when they arise as to how their taxpayer dollars are being spent. They want to see up to date financials and tax returns. They requested that the Animal Shelter give receipts to anyone who changes money with them.

Mayor Eckstein said that this was just a topic of discussion. Both sides agreed that the Animal Shelter provides a very valuable service and they want to work together to get this resolved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) BEAU POWELL – MAGIC CORNER:** Mr. Powell did not attend tonight's meeting so there was no action taken.

**B.) ANNE OWEN – HERITAGE DAYS PARADE ROUTE:** Ms. Owen addressed council and explained that the Heritage Days Parade will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 with line up beginning at 10am at the 4-H/Armory and the parade will begin at 11am and will follow the usual parade route on Jefferson Street to downtown. Ron Dudelston made a motion to approve the parade route with the proper signage and closures needed. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**C.) JEFF THOMAS – CDL LICENSES:** Mr. Thomas informed Council that the federal mandate is now in effect that anyone who needs to obtain a CDL license must attend formal schooling that will cost approximately \$5,000 per person. He asked how Council wants to handle this new expenditure. After some discussion, Mr. Scaggs made a motion that the City will pay ½ of the cost of the CDL license and the other ½ be paid by Sanitation with Sanitation's portion being reimbursed by the employee through a payroll deduction over a 36 month period. Ron Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**D.) RESOLUTION 2022-02 – MAYCO (NJT ENTERPRISES) CF-1/PP (2019-14) 10 YEAR TAX ABATEMENT:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the CF-1/PP for Mayco. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**E.) 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF RESOLUTION 2022-04 SPECIALTY T SB-1/PP:** Attorney Murphy asked to table the first reading of this resolution. It was decided to have a

Special meeting of Council on Monday; 3/28/22 for another matter and we could add this on with a public hearing for the same meeting. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of resolution 2022-04 until March 28, 2022 meeting at 6:00pm. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

**F.) RESOLUTION 2022-03 – MAYCO (NJT ENTERPRISES) CF-1/PP (2017-01):** Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**G.) HCFD – SPEND MORE THAN \$5,000:** Mr. Rob Hess addressed Council in Chief Parrott's absence. He stated that Chief Parrott is requesting permission to spend more than \$5,000 to replace their Cascade system and compressor that they use to refill their SCBA bottles. He explained that it is a used model but is newer, has ½ the hours of the current one and can fill the bottles faster. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the expenditure over \$5,000. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**H.) 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-03 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING A CHAPTER TO THE HARTFORD CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL POTABLE WATER SYSTEM:** Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 2022-03. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

**I.) BILL BACON – PERMISSION TO SPEND OVER \$5,000**

**1.) BACK WASH PIT:** Mr. Bacon explained that it has been 10 to 12 years since the last cleaning of the back wash pit and there is currently about 2 ft. of sediment buildup. He obtained a couple of quotes to perform the cleaning and Fluid Waste came in with the cheaper bid. He is asking permission to spend over \$5,000. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve this expenditure. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve spending over \$5,000 was 4-0-1.

**2.) WELL #4 CLEANING:** Mr. Bacon stated they did a back wash the previous week and he received calls about rusty water issues. He had Peerless Midwest give him a quote on pulling and cleaning/bleaching well #4 which will be in the range of \$18,000 - \$21,000. He's asking for permission to spend over \$5,000. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve spending over \$5,000. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve the expenditure was 4-0-1.

**3.) PILOT STUDY FOR THE WATER PROJECT:** Mayor Eckstein asked Mr. Bacon to give Council an update on the Water project and the pilot study that needs to be done. Mr. Bacon explained that this Pilot Study is required by IDEM to see what all is needed in the project in respect to filters, chemical media etc. He explained that this study will be approximately \$36,000 and the cost will be taken out of the Water Project. Mr. Scaggs made a motion to approve the expenditure over \$5,000. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- A.) GILLMAN'S GRAND OPENING:** Mayor Eckstein reminded everyone that Gillman's Grand opening will be 4/1-4/3/22. The Firemen and Policemen will be cooking on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All donations will be given to HCPD Shop with a Cop and the HCFD Toy Drive Christmas charities.
- B.)** Mayor Eckstein stated that we will have a security camera presentation at the April meeting. Chief Crouse has been doing extensive research into a camera system for City Hall.
- C.)** Mayor Eckstein stated that he would really like to see the City put on a great fireworks show for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. He stated that the City has budgeted \$7,500 for fireworks. He intends to approach the County Commissioners about donating some money to it. He would like to see a total of \$16,000 raised for fireworks.

## **CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:** None

## **COUNCIL INPUT:**

- A.)** Mr. Parrott asked about the paving of Huggins Drive. Attorney Murphy stated that he will have a resolution ready by May to accept Huggins Drive as a city street. The question was raised if it is located in a TIF district. Ms. Anne Owen checked and said yes it is located in a TIF district. Mayor Eckstein said that this topic can be brought before the Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Jeff Thomas was instructed to obtain a quote to pave Huggins Drive.
- B.)** Mr. Dudelston asked Mr. Thomas if he'd seen the pothole at the corner of Highway 26 and Wabash Ave. Mr. Thomas said that it is on the highway and is an INDOT issue. Mayor Eckstein instructed Mr. Thomas to meet with his assistant Caitlin and call INDOT to report the pothole.
- C.)** Mr. Dudelston made the comment that this is the first time since the whole Animal Shelter topic came up that he feels good about where things are headed.
- D.)** Attorney Murphy
  - 1.)** Attorney Murphy stated that he will have a resolution prepared for the special meeting on 3/28/22 for the City to opt back into the opioid settlement. He has to turn this into the state by 3/31/22. The City is slated to receive approximately \$235,000 out of the settlement.
  - 2.)** Attorney Murphy reported that he's finally received the City Code that will be in printed form and online. He's requested a volunteer from Council to meet with him

to go over quite a few questions that need to be answered before everything can be finalized. Councilman Parrott agreed to meet with him.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**A.) BILL SMITH – EMA & CIVIL WAR DAYS:**

- 1.) Mr. Smith approached Council and asked if the City has a disaster plan in place. He in particular asked if we have a Continuation of Government chain. It was decided that if something were to happen to the Mayor, the City Council President would take his place followed by City Council Vice President and through the remaining Councilmen. If for some reason all Councilmen were not able to fill the office then the Clerk-Treasurer would be the next in line. Mayor Eckstein said that we will meet at a later date to form a disaster plan for the City.
- 2.) Mr. Smith asked for volunteers to help with Civil War Days. He stated that they have enough money but are severely lacking in people to do the setup, mowing, wood cutting, ticket booth workers etc. Civil War Days will be held 9/30 – 10/2/22. A couple of the councilmen and city workers said they would be willing to help.

**B.) TRAVIS WILLIAMSON – CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS:** Mr. Williamson stated that his department is due to renew CPR Certifications. He extended an invitation to any other departments that would like to join this class to do so. It will be held in this summer and the cost is \$40 per person. It is a one day class.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With there being no further business, Mr. Scaggs made a motion for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

**FOLDER 2/ REC 151226\_002**