



Minutes of the Goshen Common Council Regular Meeting of October 13, 2020

6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy P. Stutsman called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Julia King (At-Large),
Jim McKee (Dist 1),
Doug Nisley (Dist 2),
Gilberto Pérez, Jr. (Dist 5),
Matt Schrock (Dist 3),
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)
Youth Advisor Hazany Palomino (Non-voting)

Absent: Megan Eichorn (Dist 4)

Minutes of Sept. 15 and Sept. 29, 2020 were presented.

King/Weddell moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 15 and Sept. 29 as presented. PASSED 6-0.

Weddell/Nisley moved to approve the agenda as presented. PASSED 6-0.

Privilege of the Floor No one spoke.

Elected Official Reports

Council President Weddell reported on the Redevelopment Commission meeting earlier in the day. *[See minutes of that meeting for further details.]*

Weddell announced upcoming openings for council appointments to the following boards and commissions:

- Redevelopment Commission (2 appointments)
- Board of Zoning Appeals (1 full, 1 alternate)
- Shade Tree Board (2)
- Community Relations Commission (1)
- Board of Building Appeals (2)



Ordinance 5058: 2021 Appropriations and Tax Rates (Goshen Civil City Annual Budget)

Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5058 on second and final reading.

McKee asked about \$60,000 for Board of Works/Bank Charges (pg. 8). Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver explained that this line is used to pay both bank charges and fees to payroll processor ADP. Mayor Stutsman asked whether it is correct that with change to split employees the fees to ADP would go down. Weaver said that is correct because the split employees are charged as two separate employees by the payroll vendor. McKee commented that \$60,000 is a lot of money and in large budgets items like this can get overlooked.

King asked what constitutes "Other Receipts" (pie chart, last page of Mayor's Budget Letter in meeting packet). Mayor replied that this includes TIF revenue and investment interest.

Weddell asked whether previous joint advertising campaign was still budgeted from EDIT funds. Mayor replied the Good of Goshen campaign is paid from Advertising & Promotions, budgeted at \$100,000 and overseen by Communications Coordinator Sharon Hernandez.

McKee noted Goshen Theater contribution. Mayor said intention had been to maintain increase (from 2019 to 2020) to \$75,000 again for 2021, but because of expected revenue losses he proposes \$50,000, reserving option for all outside entities to face possible reductions. McKee commented that goal is for theater to stand on their own.

Mayor noted that because EDIT/Aviation Capital line had been missed, \$50,000 was taken from EDIT/Redevelopment line. Said he may need to return to ask for more in that line, but goal is to manage projects to avoid that.

Nisley asked whether Millrace Trust is new since no appropriations for 2019 or 2020. Mayor replied that this fund has existed for a long time, appropriating the full amount this year for several projects including stairs for boat portaging already under construction. Mayor said good projects are being identified to use the money and close the fund. Clerk-Treasurer Adam Scharf noted the Beautification and Restoration Trust is similar, with a small amount of idle cash that is being appropriated fully this year.

Schrock asked for an explanation of Redevelopment Non-reverting. Mayor explained that money Redevelopment Commission makes, such as house sales, goes to this fund. Said it is more flexible in use than TIF funds. Community Development Director Mark Brinson noted that tax abatement fees are also a revenue source for this fund. Explained that TIF areas are charged for staff time, easing burden on General Fund.

Scharf noted that each fund is independent, with money remaining in each fund at year-end staying in that fund.

Mayor said he appreciates the working relationships at the City of Goshen.

ROLL CALL VOTE on Ordinance 5058 on second and final: PASSED 6-0



Ordinance 5059

COVID-19 Bonus Pay

Weddell/King moved for passage of Ordinance 5059 on first reading.

Mayor introduced the ordinance and provided some context. Noted many staff members have never been able to isolate because their services are required. Said staff has done well abiding by various executive orders and health regulations. Said this would be a huge morale boost.

Weddell asked about funding source. Mayor discussed CARES Act and noted full reimbursement had been approved, so in essence those dollars will pay for this. Nisley asked whether we have that money already. Mayor explained some recent changes in restrictions allowed many Indiana communities to access the bulk of the CARES Act funds, which they previously had not. Nisley asked whether bonuses were a permitted use. Mayor said uses are pretty broad, such as fire department regular salaries, ambulance, etc.

Scharf said that next, FEMA Public Assistance will be pursued to seek 75% reimbursement for some COVID-19-related expenses.

Mayor said with the allocations we are receiving, we will not need an additional appropriation to cover the bonus. Discussion about timing of CARES receipt and bonus payment.

McKee said he thinks it sets a dangerous precedent. Said each year it seems like we give a little more; this year 1% became 2%. Said last two years some top wage earners were given more after budget time, which kind of shoots the budget and bothers him. McKee said he appreciates the staff and what they do; it is not personal.

Mayor said for long-term budgeting, one-time bonus is safer than raises.

King said she is comfortable with it; doesn't anticipate this occurring regularly.

Pérez said work still needs to get done, and hopefully this can help strengthen staff.

Mayor said investing in infrastructure/quality-of-life includes investing in the staff who get that great work done.

Scharf clarified that this would not be a direct CARES Act expenditure.

Nisley said he has lost sleep over this; has been a tough one. Said he believes employees, including department heads, police and fire staff, are among the best; it is not personal.

Mayor emphasized that no elected officials would receive the bonus.



Weddell commented that budget projections show very healthy cash reserves above 50% of annual operations, so he is not worried about negative consequences from a show of appreciation to staff. Echoed that all council members have utmost respect for city staff.

Mayor commented on July 1 as start date, saying if council wished to move date back even to October it was fine with him.

Nisley said he received an email suggesting payback quarterly instead of lump sum. Mayor said he might agree if proposal was for 2021, but this is for 2020 and any staff member who left during the year does not receive it. Scharf said administrative cost would likely be more than savings of a few quarters saved for employees who left before full amount was paid out.

ROLL CALL VOTE on Ordinance 5059 on first reading: PASSED 4-1

AYES: King, Pérez, Schrock, Weddell

NAYS: Nisley

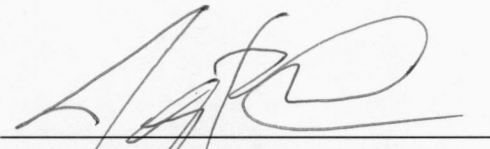
PRESENT: McKee

King/Pérez moved to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE to adjourn: PASSED 6-0

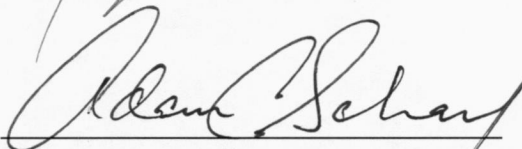
Meeting Adjourned 6:44 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Adam C. Scharf, Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer