

COMMON COUNCIL

May 13, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a Council Meeting, Monday, May 13, 2024, in regular session. The meeting was called to order with Mayor Scott Long presiding, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Brad Bishop of The Access gave the prayer.

The roll was answered by 7 Council members: Mitzi Pilgrim, Charlie Coyne, Terry Brewer, Bryan Dillon, John Burnsworth, Eric Schoening and Wade Weaver.

The minutes of the meeting held April 22, 2024, were approved as circulated. Council Member Dillon made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – Schlemmer Brothers. Kent Henderson was available for questions. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – Schlemmer Brothers. Council Member Weaver seconded. All were in favor.

Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 4, 2024 – Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Article 2 and 3 and 5 of the Wabash City Code for the City of Wabash, Indiana Making Changes Regarding Sanitary and Stormwater Sewers and Street Cuts in the City of Wabash, Indiana. Dillon made a motion to accept the second reading of the Amendment. Weaver seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Second Reading of General Ordinance No 5, 2024 – Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 Article 2, Division VIII Sections 4-60 through 4-73 and Division XIII, Sections 4-136, 4-137, and 4-143 of the Wabash City Code for the City of Wabash, Indiana Providing for the Regulation of Transient Merchants and Restaurants within the City of Wabash. Brewer made a

motion to accept the second reading of the Amendment. Council Member Pilgrim seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 6, 2024 – Being an Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article 6, Section 9-202 2.b. Regarding Maintenance of Retention and Detention Ponds. Brewer made a motion to accept the second reading of the Amendment. Weaver seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Long swore in Jason E Keown as First Class Patrolman.

Resolution No 1, 2024 Tax Abatement for Personal Property – Thompson Center Arms. This abatement is being requested for ten years. Mike Abbott was available to answer questions. At the conclusion of a discussion involving clarification on required state permits and the fact that the company’s products are all 100% made in America, Dillon made a motion to approve Resolution No 1, 2024 Tax Abatement for Personal Property – Thompson Center Arms. Weaver seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Resolution No 2, 2024 Tax Abatement for Real Estate – 2622 Lake Avenue Acquisition. This abatement is being requested for six years. Mike Abbott was available to answer questions. Weaver made a motion to approve Resolution No 2, 2024 Tax Abatement for Real Estate – 2622 Lake Avenue Acquisition. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Resolution No 3, 2024 Tax Abatement for Real Estate –Logan Properties. This abatement is being requested for six years. Martin Huttenlocker was available to answer questions. Weaver made a motion to approve Resolution No 3, 2024 Tax Abatement for Real Estate – Logan Properties. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – JAMAT Leasing. Mike Abbott was available to answer questions. Weaver made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – JAMAT Leasing. Dillon seconded. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – LMBW Properties. As no one was present from LMBW Properties to answer questions, Dillon made a motion to table the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Personal Property) – LMBW Properties until someone from the company can be available. Brewer seconded. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Rahee Hospitality. Two members from Rahee Hospitality were present to answer questions. Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Rahee Hospitality. Council Member Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Janet Gebhart. Ms. Gebhart was not available to answer questions. Dillon made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Janet Gebhart. Weaver seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Rock City Lofts. An employee of Rock City Lofts was present to answer questions. After confirming the number of employees at the location, Burnsworth made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Rock City Lofts. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

First Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2024 – Being an Ordinance to Vacate an Alleyway North of Hill Street in the City of Wabash, Indiana. This alleyway is between two properties owned by the Wabash Carnegie Public Library. Attorney Mark Guenin was present to answer questions. Dillon made a motion to accept the first reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2024. Burnsworth seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Guenin requested that the Council proceed directly to a second reading of the Ordinance as time is of the essence. Weaver made a motion to proceed to a vote on the Second Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2024. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Second Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2024 – Being an Ordinance to Vacate an Alleyway North of Hill Street in the City of Wabash, Indiana.

Weaver made a motion to accept the Second Reading of Special Ordinance No. 1, 2024. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Suzanne Peebles, along with several other citizens, raised concerns about the lack of city ordinances in place regarding industrial solar farms potentially buying or leasing land within the city's approximate two-mile jurisdiction outside city limits. Three of these citizens live within our jurisdictional area. After much discussion which included the Council's hesitation to infringe upon the rights of landowners, Weaver made a motion to request a resolution be prepared directing the Wabash City Plan Commission to undertake a moratorium on industrial solar permits until more research can be done regarding a possible regulatory ordinance. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Weaver reported that he enjoyed a lunch at the fire station. Five new department members recently attended a conference, and decisions concerning new employees are ongoing.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

None were heard.

Mayor Long asked if there were any Title VI or ADA compliance concerns. None were heard.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 28.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR Scott A. Long

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER Melanie Givens Penn