

COMMON COUNCIL

February 12, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a Council Meeting, Monday, February 12, 2024, in regular session. The meeting was called to order with Mayor Long presiding, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Joe Sclafani of New Beginnings Ministry gave the prayer.

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

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

There was no Old Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Fighter First Class/Paramedic Kyle Zerfas was sworn in.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Carol Cly. Ms. Cly was present to answer questions. Weaver made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Carol Cly. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – William and Brandy Hyden. Mr. Hyden was present to answer questions. Council Member Dillon made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – William and Brandy Hyden. Weaver seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Troxel Equipment. A representative was present to answer questions. Weaver made a motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Troxel Equipment. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

General Ordinance No. 3, 2024 – An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Wabash, Indiana. Creating a New Chapter 4, Article 7 Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). After much discussion regarding which downtown establishments were consulted about the DORA and the fact that Mayor and Mr. Lehman are going to a March 4 AIM seminar on the topic, Weaver made a motion to accept the first reading of the Ordinance, Brewer seconded. The Ordinance was passed on the first reading 4-3 with Council members Brewer, Dillon, and Coyne voting no. The second reading is scheduled to come before the Council at the March 11 meeting.

Adult Education Center Request. Cynthia Johnson, Learn More Center Director of Education, along with Board President Tenille Zartman and Board Secretary Julie Garber presented a request for \$500,000 to turn more than half of the former Miller's Furniture building into an adult learning center. This building will house classes for basic education, ongoing certifications, workforce-specific classes, and more. After much discussion, Dillon made a motion to use \$300,000 of the City's remaining ARPA funds for this purpose, Weaver seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ware Wimberly, Wabash Carnegie Public Library Executive Director, stated that Phase 2 of their remodel began this week. Parts of the renovated areas will open as they are finished.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Dillon reported that the Parks Board will meet Wednesday.

Weaver attended the School Board meeting and reported that finances are looking much better as the measures they took to reduce costs are working.

Weaver also attended the Solid Waste Board meeting and reported that their facility will be opening soon; it has been closed so they could do major clean-up work. Tox-Away Day in Wabash will be held June 8.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Parks Department head Adam Hall reported that the old playground equipment has been removed from City Park, thanks to the help of the Street Department. The new equipment will arrive by Friday; installation will take place in early spring.

Bob Gray, Wastewater Superintendent, reported that the Mill Street concrete is being poured Wednesday and the street should be open by Friday.

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 6:59 pm. The next meeting will be held Monday, February 26.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR _____

ATTEST:

MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER _____