

COMMON COUNCIL

January 8, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Wabash met in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and held a Council Meeting, Monday, January 8, 2024, in regular session. The meeting was called to order with Mayor Long presiding, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Bruce Hostetler from Faith Harvest Fellowship 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 December 11, 2023, were approved as circulated. Council Member Weaver made a motion to accept the minutes. Council Member Burnsworth seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Brewer made a motion to nominate Wade Weaver as Council President. Dillon seconded the motion. Weaver made a motion to nominate John Burnsworth as Council President, seconded by Brewer. Council Member Weaver then declined the nomination and made a motion to close the nominations and accept John Burnsworth as Council President. Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor and John Burnsworth is Council President.

Mayor Long presented General Ordinance No. 1, 2024 - Investment Policy, due to new Council members and a new clerk-treasurer this year. Dillon made a motion to approve General Ordinance No. 1, 2024, seconded by Weaver. All were in favor.

Council Member Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed with the Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 1, 2024 – Investment Policy, seconded by Brewer. All were in favor. On the second reading, Dillon made a motion to approve General Ordinance No. 1, 2024 – Investment Policy seconded by Burnsworth. All were in favor.

Mayor Long presented General Ordinance No. 2, 2024 – Approving a Map Delineating Corporate Limits and Jurisdictional Area for the Plan Commission. Building Commissioner Jeff Knee explained the necessity of adopting a new map showing annexation and zoning changes, as the current map was drawn in 2011 and many things have changed. Mayor Long and City Attorney Doug Lehman discussed the two-mile perimeter outside city limits that is also considered within the city’s jurisdiction. Mention was made of the cell phone tower to the in the northwest part of the city that is County property, and also that the airport south of town in the county is actually City property. Burnsworth made a motion to approve General Ordinance No. 2, 2024 – Approving a Map Delineating Corporate Limits and Jurisdictional Area for the Plan Commission, seconded by Weaver. All were in favor.

Council Member Weaver made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed with the Second Reading of General Ordinance No. 2, 2024, seconded by Burnsworth. All were in favor. On the second reading, Weaver made a motion to approve General Ordinance No. 2, 2024 – Approving a Map Delineating Corporate Limits and Jurisdictional Area for the Plan Commission seconded by Dillon. All were in favor.

Mayor Long presented an Amendment to Special Ordinance No. 5, 2023 – Salary Ordinance. The purpose of the amendment is to add verbiage for the Wastewater Department to add Pretreatment to the Class 3 Operator category. No dollar values are changed by this amended Ordinance. Weaver made a motion to approve Special Ordinance No. 5, 2023, seconded by Brewer. All were in favor.

Council Member Brewer made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed with the Second Reading of Special Ordinance No. 5, 2023, seconded by Weaver. All were in favor. On the second reading, Weaver made a motion to approve Special Ordinance No. 5, 2023 – Salary Ordinance seconded by Dillon. All were in favor.

Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Dani Bekel. Bekel was not present to answer questions. Council Member Weaver made a

motion to accept the Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) – Dani Bekel. Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Council Member Burnsworth made a motion to combine and approve the remaining four homeowners on the agenda. Brewer seconded the motion to accept Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Real Property) for Kathy A Roller, Douglas and Linda Konkle, Kathryn E Doran, and Ronald and Jane Miller. All council members voted in favor of acceptance.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Keith Gillenwater, outgoing president and CEO of Grow Wabash County, stated his thanks to the Council for their work with him on projects during the ten years he has held the position. Council Member Dillon expressed appreciation for his work and Attorney Lehman gave a brief recap of his outstanding qualifications prior to coming to Wabash ten years ago. Gillenwater is leaving to take a similar position in Michigan.

REPORTS FROM LIAISONS:

Mayor Long announced that the liaison appointments will remain the same with the exception of needed replacements and stated the need for an appointment to the Aviation Board, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30pm. He asked Council Member Burnsworth to accept the job. Burnsworth will take it under advisement.

Dillon reported that the Parks Board will meet Wednesday at 7pm to discuss year-end results of the pool and the park, along with appointments.

Weaver wasn't able to attend the School Board meeting as it conflicted with this Council meeting.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Chief Andy Oswalt was welcomed. He reported that one of his firefighters passed the EMT test and another is now a paramedic. The department is not at full capacity and tryouts are scheduled for the end of February for new recruits. Council Member Dillon asked about the Civilian

EMT program; Oswalt stated that a class was recently completed for interested volunteers.

Bob Gray, Wastewater Superintendent, stated that a few roads will be closed soon to complete Phase 4 construction.

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 6:42pm. The next meeting will be held Monday, January 22.

SCOTT LONG, MAYOR 

ATTEST:
MELANIE GIVENS PENN, CLERK-TREASURER 