



January 2, 2024
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1 and Council President
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Scott Lanning, Wastewater Superintendent
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent

Jimmie Eck, Fire Chief
Vivian Likes, City Planner

Mayor Hartman opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7 pm at 215 South Broadway.

Pledge of Allegiance

Notary Public and Utility Clerk Colleen Hennessey swore in Clerk-Treasurer Angela Eck for her term ending December 31, 2027.

Clerk-Treasurer Angela Eck swore in the following individuals for the term ending December 31, 2027:

Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Bill White, Council at Large
Mike Hartman, Mayor

Mayor Mike Hartman swore in the following individuals for their service in the Police Department:

Matthew Traster, Police Chief
Cory Rowe, Assistant Police Chief



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Retired Police Chief Mark Heffelfinger pinned Police Chief Matthew Traster with his new gold badge.

Police Chief Matthew Traster pinned Assistant Police Chief Cory Rowe with his new gold badge.

Mayor Hartman opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Council Member Alloway nominated Tracey Hawkins for Council President. Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The motion passed with all in favor.

The minutes from the December 18th meeting were presented. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed Ordinance 1786, An Ordinance Establishing the Garbage and Recycling Collection Rates for the Years 2024, 2025 and 2026, was presented for its second reading by title. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 1786 on its second reading and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. A Public Hearing will be held at the December 15th meeting concerning these rates.

Proposed Ordinance 1779, Revision 1, An Ordinance Correcting the Salary for the Wastewater Superintendent/Interim Water Superintendent for 2024, was read aloud by Clerk-Treasurer Eck. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Ordinance 1779, Revision 1 and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

City Attorney Don Stuckey **introduced an Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 1682, Ethic's Policy**. Mr. Stuckey explained that it is a duplication of Indiana Law and that an Ethic's Board was never created per the Ordinance. Council Member Hawkins asked that Mr. Stuckey provide a copy of the State's Ethics Law. She also asked if the City's Ethic's Policy only covers what is already in State law or if it goes into more detail. Mr. Stuckey went on to explain what a pecuniary interest is. There was discussion. Council Member Ryan made a motion to table the proposed Repealing of Ordinance 1682 and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Police Chief Matt Traster welcomed his Assistant Chief, Cory Rowe. He reported that Cory has 7 years with the department and will be a great asset.

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Fry gave his December Report.

Wastewater Superintendent Scott Lanning reported that Bowen will be leaving town sometime in February. They first moved in during the spring of 2021 to begin work on the Long-Term Control Plan. They have since also completed a Storm Sewer Project on Broadway and the North Broadway Project that included water mains, sewer mains, storm water, street, sidewalks and lighting.



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Mr. Stuckey stated that the Employee Handbook discussion needs to be tabled until the Ethic's Policy is resolved.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that the Emerick Donation discussion needs to be tabled until estimates are received.

Mr. Stuckey gave Clerk-Treasurer Eck his proposed Cemetery Plot Payment Plan. She will look over it.

There was discussion on changing the Vacation Time Policy. It will be removed from the agenda.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that she received the 1782 Notice from the Department of Local Government earlier in the day, but hadn't had a chance to look over it yet. It is preliminary Budget Approval for 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that she will need all elected officials to fill out updated W-4s and complete I-9s for her. She will have these at the next meeting.

Mayor Mike Hartman requested permission to sign the OCRA Closeout Monitoring Form 2. This is for the Inspiration Ministries Recovery Housing Project that was just completed. Council Member Hawkins made a motion authorizing Mayor Hartman to sign the document and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor Hartman reported that he is still working on committee assignments.

Mayor Hartman reported that he received a letter from Glen Howard at SES that the Engineered Materials property has been accepted into the Indiana Brownfield Program. The City will need to have the bow truss section removed and then the cleanup under the Brownfield Program can begin. They would like to start cleanup in mid-February. Wastewater Superintendent Lanning needs to work on getting the basement on the property drained.

Mayor Hartman went on to state that he has obtained two quotes for demolishing the former R&R Fitness building and the bow truss section of Engineered Materials building. Mr. Stuckey will be preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the demolition of the buildings. It will be treated as two separate contracts. He is including the R&R building because the appraisals for it stated that it was at its end of life.

There was discussion on what could potentially move onto the property and that the asphalt parking lots would not be removed.

Mayor Hartman reported that there is an open board seat on the DeKalb County Council on Aging and to let him know if anyone is interested in filling it.



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Mark Heffelfinger asked if the city employees received an across the board raise for 2024. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that not everyone received the same amount.

Council Member Alloway made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



Common Council



Clerk-Treasurer