



June 17, 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
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent:

Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Scott Lanning, Utility Superintendent

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The minutes from the June 3rd meeting were presented. Council Member Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor Hartman asked for comments or questions from the audience. None

Fire Chief Ron Mausteller reported that interviews were completed for two potential full-time firefighters last Saturday. Those two same potential hires will travel to Indianapolis on Thursday for state required physical and mental testing. Once that is completed, the City should hear back in about 12 days as to whether or not they passed the tests. Then potential start dates will be decided.

Chief Mausteller also reported that the Fire Department is working with several surrounding departments to consolidate a grant request for new air packs. One air pack will cost over \$10,000 and we need 25 of them.

Police Chief Matt Traster reported that he has two potential new hires going to Indianapolis for state required physical and mental testing on June 28th.



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Chief Traster also reported that Butler Night Out will be June 27th from 4 to 7 at Maxton Park. There will be pony rides this year.

Mayor Hartman reported that Street Superintendent Mark Cline hopes to have South Side Park open by the end of the week.

City Attorney Don Stuckey reported that the Mayor needs to look at the salaries of any exempt employees to make certain that those positions meet the upcoming changes to Federal Labor Standards.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that she has been contacted by the Indiana State Board of Accounts that they have contracted with an outside audit firm to perform the City's upcoming Federal Audit. That firm is Crowe.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that the Butler/Wilmington Fire Territory Board will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 20th at 6:30 pm at the Fire Station.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that Baker Tilly has started working with the City on a Comprehensive Financial Plan.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that she has been contacted by the attorney representing the Emerick Estate about residual benefits from Noble REMC to the estate. These benefits are so small that by the time they are processed through the attorney's office there are no funds left. The other option is to refuse payment and direct any benefits through the estate to Operation Round Up Trust Fund for community distributions. This is the option that the City of Kendallville has chosen. Council Member Alloway made a motion to refuse the Emerick benefits and direct them to Operation Round Up. Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor Hartman reported that several individuals have recently suggested using the Emerick Estate funds to turn the Hathaway Park Baseball Diamond into a splash pad once the ball league has moved all activities out to Butler Elementary. There was discussion.

Mayor Hartman asked the Council if they would like to continue their discussion about grass clippings in the streets and on the sidewalks. Mr. Stuckey has stated that Butler Code 54.99 allows for a penalty of up to \$1000 per incident.

Council Member Hawkins would like to see something addressing grass clippings on the sidewalks. It really isn't very different from snow. It is slippery for pedestrians and bicycles. There was discussion. The Council would like to see levels defined for the offenses. First offense would be a written warning, the next offense would be \$100, then \$250 and then \$1,000.

Council Member Laub stated that she is having problems with her neighbor parking a motorcycle on the sidewalk.



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Mayor Hartman reported that the demolition of R&R will be started on July 15th and the Engineered Materials building would follow that, which would be around July 22nd.

Mayor Hartman stated that he is considering making the City Planner position part-time. More information will follow at a later date.

Stephanie Rohm and several other residents of the 400 Block of West Oak were present and reported that truck traffic has considerably increased in their block since DeKalb Molded purchased the former CJ Automotive Facility. They are block driveways for over a half hour at a time. They stated that there used to be a NO Trucks sign posted for that block, but that it has been missing for several years. There was considerable discussion.

Mayor Hartman stated that the City Attorney will need to research the Butler City Ordinances and see if there is already an ordinance in place addressing the issue, and if not, then create one. Mayor Hartman will contact the owner of the facility and ask that he address the issue.

Mrs. Teri Fritch asked the Mayor if he had located the Phase 1 Environmental Survey of Susie Park yet. He replied that he hasn't had a chance to look for it yet, but that he would get it to her.

Mrs. Fritch also asked that the Council look into residents blowing gravel and other debris into the streets. This also makes the streets and sidewalks slippery.

Mrs. Fritch asked if the Council was continuing to work with Surf Internet and if so, when will meeting occur. Mayor Hartman replied that he is still working on getting something set up with them, and the meeting will more than likely occur as part of a normal Council meeting.

Veneese Sebastian of 221 Walnut Street brought up several items of concern about South Side Park. The paper had an article last fall that the upgrades were completed, but it still isn't opened.

Council Member Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



Common Council



Clerk-Treasurer