



September 16, 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
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Scott Lanning, Utility Superintendent
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hartman asked for comments or questions from the audience pertaining to the agenda items. None

Cindy Snyder from the Filling Station Youth Center asked the Council to consider installing a sidewalk on the south side of the railroad tracks on Federal Street. The Youth Center has many families that walk to their location and there is no sidewalk in that area for them to use. It is a safety issue.

There was discussion on where to actually position the sidewalk. Mrs. Snyder stated that she had already contacted Norfolk and Southern Railroad about it. Norfolk and Southern agreed that it was a safety issue, but that the City of Butler needs to make the official request. Mrs. Snyder provided a name and contact number for the person she spoke with at Norfolk and Southern.

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



September 16, 2024
Common Council

Proposed Ordinance 1797, An Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Employees of the City of Butler, Indiana, for the Year 2025, was presented for its first reading by title. Council Member Alloway asked if the amount for the City Planner had been reduced to reflect the change in status from full-time to part-time. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that it had not. The amounts would change to the following: General Fund, \$560 per pay period; Water Fund, \$280 per pay period; and Wastewater Fund, \$280 per pay period. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Ordinance 1797 on its first reading as amended and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed Ordinance 1798, An Ordinance Fixing Salaries for Elected and Appointed Officials for the Year 2025, was presented for its first reading by title. Council Member Alloway stated that the Clerk-Treasurer position deserved a raise. There was then discussion as to whether or not an elected official's salary could ever be reduced. City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that a "newly elected official's salary" could be reduced, "as the judges found out."

There were then several questions pertaining to the certification pay levels associated with the position of the Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Hartman stated that Clerk-Treasurer Eck added the new certification of Indiana Accredited Municipal Clerk Advanced after she had given him a draft copy of the ordinance and after he had given her the numbers for his salary. He stated that she wanted to try to make closer to the amount of the mayor. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that the new certification was added because she just learned about it, it was new. If she doesn't achieve that certification, then she doesn't receive the salary amount associated with it. Clerk-Treasurer Eck will basically take home the same salary as she currently does if she doesn't achieve the new certification.

There was then discussion on why longevity pay was part of the elected salary ordinance. Mayor Hartman stated that he would decline to receive longevity pay. More discussion. Clerk-Treasurer Eck removed Section 4 from the proposed salary ordinance.

Council Members Hawkins and Ryan stated that they are not comfortable with approving a full-time mayor position at this time. She would like to see it timed so that a new incoming mayor would be full-time, this would increase the appeal for people running for the position.

Council Member Alloway stated that he is in favor of a full-time mayor position. Council Member White was in agreement.

Mayor Hartman stated that the City needs to be run as a business. Don't spend money just because you have it. He stated that he has put more time and energy into the position than the last two mayors. He also said that Butler is behind the times by not having a full-time mayor.

Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Ordinance 1798 on its first reading as amended with the removal of Section 4. Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with three in favor and two against.



September 16, 2024
Common Council

Hawkins	Nay
Laub	Aye
Alloway	Aye
Ryan	Nay
White	Aye

City Planner Andrew Provines reported that he is actively working with Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld to get residents motivated to work on their properties.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld reported that 25 of the 30 reminders that he has given to residents have been satisfactorily taken care of. He is also sending out thank you notes to those residents.

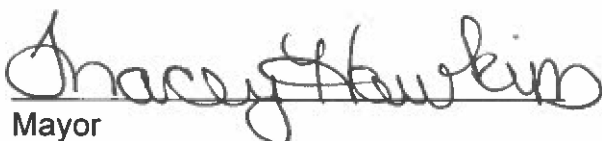
Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that he is waiting to hear back from the landscapers that will be repairing the lawns around the Walnut Street paving project. He also reported that all of the curbs have been painted and he has started working on lines and crosswalks. He will be installing new playground equipment at Mason Park in several weeks.

City Attorney Don Stuckey reported that a Public Hearing will be held sometime in October to hear considerations about the City selling a small section of property to Eli Fuentes.

Mr. Stuckey also asked the Council if they had received his memo concerning Camping and Overnight Accommodations. Campers cannot be hooked up to city water and sewer. Attachment 1

Several people from the audience stated their appreciation for what Mayor Hartman has accomplished as Mayor.

Council Member Alloway made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.


Mayor


Common Council


Clerk-Treasurer