



February 3, 2025
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1 and Council President
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Gavyn Aden, Wastewater Superintendent
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney

Absent

Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Braxton Minkey, IT Specialist
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Mayor Hartman opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7:00 pm at 215 South Broadway.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hartman asked for comments or questions from the audience pertaining to the agenda items.

Brenda Rutkowski from 102 West Liberty stated that she is a mail carrier for the United States Post Office and has concerns about aggressive dogs that she has encountered during her route. She has been bitten twice. She has tried to find information in the Butler City Code about dogs, but hasn't been able to find anything helpful.

Assistant Police Chief Cory Rowe stated that when a dog bite is reported, the police speak with the owner and request a copy of the dog's shot records. If no records can be provided, the owner can be charged with a misdemeanor.



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Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld asked that the public notify the police department of him every time they see a loose dog.

Ms. Rutkowski stated that even though she has been bitten twice, she has never been informed of the outcome with the case.

There was discussion about communication between the Post Office and the Police Department. There were also concerned about the Township Trustee and the issuance of dog licenses.

The minutes from the January 20th meeting were presented. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented information to the Council about the possibility of increasing the tax rate on the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. See Attachments 1 and 2. She also stated that Wilmington Township would also need to pass an identical ordinance/resolution in order to increase the tax rate on the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund and that she has been in contact with them about it. She asked that the Council look everything over and be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting as to whether or not they would like to move forward with the possibility of an increase in tax rate.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented proposed **Resolution 25-666, A Resolution to Transfer Appropriations**. This resolution is needed because at the time the budget was made, the IT Specialist Position was not filled. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolution 25-666 and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

City Planner Andrew Provines asked the Council if they wanted to move forward with enforcing the Facebook Policy or revising it. Does the Council want the public to be able to post comments on Facebook? There was discussion. Clerk-Treasurer Eck did provide the existing policy. The Council would like time to look over the policy in depth before making a decision.

Mr. Provines reported that he is working with DeKalb County on a share agreement for permitting software. The DeKalb County Commissioners have asked that he and Mr. Gaumer present their proposal at one of their upcoming meetings. Mr. Provines is asking the Council to move forward with this. Council Member Alloway made a motion to allow Mr. Provines to move forward with the proposal and get on the Commissioner's schedule. Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld presented a sample letter he wants to deliver to some addresses that don't meet specific codes; parking in yards and/or trash concerns. He will add pet laws and leash laws to this letter. He also requested that each Council Member schedule a time with him to tour their respective districts and make notes on what they would like to see.



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Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that the Street Department picked up brush today. They are also working on making some improvements at Maxton Park, including a parking area next to Pavilion 2.

Mr. Cline requested that the Council take a look at the sidewalks in their districts and let him know if they see any areas that need to be improved. The City hasn't done a sidewalk project in several years and he would like to do one this year. There is money in the budget for it.

He also reported that Truck Parking Concerns on West Oak remain on the agenda.

Wastewater Superintendent Gavyn Aden reported that his department repaired several service lines in the past several weeks.

City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that the Lifewise Academy discussion has been put on hold at their request.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked the Council if they had been reading the alerts that AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities) had been sending out about the possibility that property tax revenues could be cut drastically. They reported that they had. Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked the Council if they would like to approve a Resolution against the proposed property tax cuts, AIM has provided a draft resolution. They agreed to consider a resolution at their next meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Eck will email them a draft once she has it prepared.

Council Member Alloway reported that he has reached out to the other Council Members about Paid Time Off for Elected Officials. Mayor Hartman had asked him how he should handle vacation time. Council Member Alloway then asked Clerk-Treasurer Eck to report how she handles it.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that paid time off really isn't anything that needs to be tracked for elected officials. Indiana Code only requires that an elected official report one day a year at the office. The State is more concerned with the elected official performing the required job duties. If the voters aren't happy with the way the elected official performs, then the official won't be re-elected.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck also stated that elected officials are not required to keep a time record and that she does not. When she takes days off, she puts it on the vacation calendar so that the employees know if she is available. She did state that keeping a time record for the new full-time mayor would probably be a good idea to start with. It will assist in making decisions about where his time is spent and direct possible personnel changes.

Mayor Hartman appointed Bob Beck, Justin Smith and Dwight Myers to the Redevelopment Commission. That leaves two appointments that need to be done by the Council.

Mayor Hartman and Mr. Provines are working on finding individuals for the Economic Development Commission.



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Mayor Hartman reported that he is in contact with INDOT, the County Commissioners, State Representatives and local safety officers about concerns with safety at the intersection of State Road 1 and County Road 40. There have been multiple fatal accidents there and he would like to see something done to improve safety. These safety concerns have been given to INDOT in the past, but they have stated that they see no need to change anything. He is hoping to see that opinion change now that there was another fatal accident over the weekend.

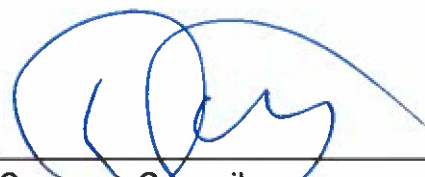
Jordan Holzwart from Surf Internet introduced himself and reported that the build in Butler is almost complete. Surf is now waiting for permission from Indiana Michigan Power to use their electrical poles in the downtown area. He also reported that there are now 125 subscribers in Butler now. He requested that all questions be directed to him about providing service.

There was discussion about service within the trailer courts, dark fiber and cabling under driveways. Mr. Holzwart stated that he will have someone from the dark fiber department reach out to the City.

Council Member Hawkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



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Clerk-Treasurer