



February 17, 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
Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Gavyn Aden, Wastewater Superintendent
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Braxton Minkey, IT Specialist
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Cory Rowe, Assistant Police Chief
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney

Absent

Matt Traster, Police Chief

Mayor Hartman opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7:15 pm at 215 South Broadway.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked the Council if they would like to move forward with re-establishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. There was discussion. Council Member Alloway stated that he would like to go ahead and move forward with them both. Council Member Laub stated that she has misgivings about moving forward because she is not in favor of raising taxes.



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Council Member Hawkins made a motion to move forward with re-establishing the above-mentioned funds and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked the Council if they would like to move forward with a Resolution Against Property Tax Reductions Without a Corresponding Replacement Revenue Stream. City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that it appears that most units have put a pause on such resolutions until more information is obtained about its direct affect on the units. The Council decided to table the resolution.

Fire Chief Ron Mausteller reported that the National Weather Service would be holding a Weather Spotter Class in our area. He also reported that there are just a few issues with birds at the Fire Station now.

City Planner Andrew Provines stated that he will be presenting at the County Commissioner's meeting two weeks from now. He will be asking them to share costs for permitting software.

Mr. Provines asked the Council how they would like to proceed with the Facebook Policy. Do they want to turn off allowing comments? There was discussion. Some in favor and some against.

City Attorney Don Stuckey will work on updating the Facebook Policy and present it to the Council when ready.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld reported that he is still working with the Council about ride-a-longs with him

Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that he has been busy with the snow and ice. He and his department have put in a lot of long hours.

Discussion continued from the previous meeting about large trucks parking on West Oak Street. The owner of DeKalb Molded Plastics has let them know that it would be extremely difficult for them to change the layout in the building to begin using a different dock. The building is full. Discussion to continue.

IT Specialist Braxton Minkey reported that the cityofbutler.in.gov domain has been activated. He is now working with Allstar about the transition from Google to Microsoft. Lastly, he reported that Townweb has a rough draft of the new website ready.

Wastewater Superintendent Gavyn Aden reported that the TRE Program has finally passed three consecutive tests. The Wastewater is technically post TRE now, but will need to pass the next three tests as well. If those go well, this testing can then move to just annual testing.



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Mayor Hartman reported that he and Gavyn also had an extensive meeting at Steel Dynamics and Heidtman last week. Commonwealth Engineering was also there so that they can begin the process to get everything updated to what IDEM needs to see in testing and results.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented information that is being considered at the state level about Community Crossing Grants. It is very likely that if the unit applying for the grant does not have a Wheel-Tax in place, they will be ineligible for the grant.

County Commissioner Kellen Dooley was in the audience and stated that DeKalb County is working on establishing a Wheel-Tax and that Marion County is refusing to set the tax and that is why it is being pushed at the state level.

Council Member White asked if something could be done about the power wheel chairs that he sees traveling on US 6. It is quite dangerous. There was discussion.

Council Member Hawkins thanked Mark Cline and the Street Department for all of their hard work over the past couple of weeks.

Council Member Alloway thanked the Board of Works for their commitment to holding the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership accountable for the funding that they receive from the City.

Mayor Hartman reported that he received a letter from INDOT about the intersection of State Road 1 and County Road 40.

County Commission Dooley stated that INDOT has agreed to put a 4-Way Stop at that intersection and requested that the community send letters to INDOT or the County Commissioners in support of that decision. He thanked Representative Ben Smaltz for really pushing the issue at the state level.

Council Member Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



Common Council



Clerk-Treasurer