



July 7, 2025
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3, Council President
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Gavyn Aden, Wastewater Superintendent
Andy Cintron, Water Superintendent
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Braxton Minkey, IT Specialist
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent:

Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief

Mayor Hartman opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7:07 pm at 215 South Broadway.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hartman announced that this meeting is being livestreamed and that the web address for the meeting is available at the top of the agenda.

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

The minutes from the June 16th 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.



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Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented the 2026 Budget Calendar and requested that the Council let her or Mayor Hartman know if they will not be able to attend the September 15th, October 6th or October 20th meetings.

City Planner Andrew Provines reported that he and Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld will be working together to address residential parking questions as they are received. He has received multiple calls from residents afraid that they will be losing parking places. He would like to work with these residents and allow them to continue to park in places that they have been parking in for many years, but require them to make it look nice by placing stone there.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld reported that he is receiving calls about visitor parking as well. Mr. Mutzfeld also requested that residents with a handicap placard still be allowed to park on the wrong side of the street so that they can get to their doors more easily.

Council Member Hawkins agrees with both Mr. Provines and Mr. Mutzfeld. She was expecting these kinds of questions and would like to allow most of these parking areas to continue.

Council Member Alloway stated that he would like to see the actual ordinances changed if the City is going to end up allowing those parking places.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck suggested allowing parking variances, just like they allow fence and building variances. Mr. Provines would need to create a form so that these parking places can be tracked for the future. No one is going to remember 50 years from now why the City allowed parking at a certain location when it does not meet the actual requirements.

Mr. Provines said that he can start working on such a form.

Mr. Provines reported that he is hearing of a lot of contractors telling homeowners that they obtained the proper permits but not actually doing it. Can he issue a Stop Work Order?

Council Member White stated that he most definitely should issue a Stop Work Order.

City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that once he starts doing that, word will quickly spread amongst the contractors and they will begin getting the permits before work has started. He also stated that Mr. Provines is the only one who can issue a Stop Work Order.

Mr. Mutzfeld reminded everyone that the deadline for beginning to issue actual parking tickets is July 15th. He is currently only issuing warnings and is keeping a log of the warnings. He is issuing warning so that he hopefully doesn't need to issue any actual tickets.

Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that brush pickup was today. There are several piles on Walnut that he wasn't able to pickup today because there is plant material included in the brush. There is also an entire tree that was put out at the curb.



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It Specialist Braxton Minkey reported that the City will be switching to Microsoft Outlook at 5 pm on Tuesday the 15th. He asked that all of the employees get into their Outlook accounts and get them working. Additionally, he reported that he is obtaining information on changing internet providers and the new website. Lastly, now that the City is required to livestream meetings, those recordings will be available on YouTube for at least 90 days.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented the revised "Adjustment of Billings" that is part of the Customer Handbook. It has been updated to reflect that repairs must be made within 7 days of discovery of a leak and that water could be shut off. Customers also now have a time limit of 30 days to request an adjustment because of a leak. Attachment 1

There was discussion. Council Member Laub made a motion to approve the revised "Adjustment of Billings" and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented Surety Bonds for Dwight Myers and Cris Clevenger. They are member of the Redevelopment Commission and the State requires that they each have a \$15,000 surety bond. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the surety bonds and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that she has looked at the Surety Bond requirements by the State of Indiana and attached calculations for the amounts, the City's Policy and the State Code. The amount for the Clerk-Treasurer needs to be increased to \$300,000 and the amount for the Utility Clerk needs to be increased to \$115,000. Attachment 2

Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the increases to the surety bonds for the Clerk-Treasurer and the Utility Clerk. Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion.

Council Member Laub asked Mayor Hartman how the Mayor's Roundtable Meeting went. He reported that there were 111 registered and that 102 actually attended. This event was held at the International Monster Truck Museum.

Council Member Alloway stated that he would like the Council to review the regulations that are in place for fireworks. He saw and heard many that he didn't think were consumer grade. He would like to update the ordinance if at all possible.

Mayor Hartman reported that The Laurels of DeKalb sent a thank you note for the water ball event that was held.

Mayor Hartman opened the floor to audience members who would like to speak.



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Mitch Hopkins of 606 South Broadway expressed concerns about fireworks, large item trash pickup and parking vehicles in the yard. He feels that he should be able to do whatever he wants to do on property that he owns.

Mr. Provines and Mr. Mutzfeld explained that they are working with residents that need to park in their yards.

Mayor Hartman stated that the City is aware that there are a lot of outdated ordinances that need to be updated or totally removed.

Chuck Wilson of 108 West Cherry also expressed concerns about parking in his yard. He's been doing it for 75 years. There was then discussion on how long these laws have existed and why they are now being enforced.

He then expressed concerns about people blocking alleys by parking in them. Police Chief Traster stated that if anyone blocks the flow of traffic, they will be ticketed by the police.

Mayor Hartman stated that the City is working on a pilot parking program in the 100 and 200 blocks of East Green. If their plan ends up working, it will be instituted in other areas of the City.

Mayor Hartman stated that Code Enforcement is complaint driven. Parking is being addressed because the City has received multiple complaints about it.

Mr. Wilson asked why the park restrooms are kept locked. Street Superintendent Mark Cline replied that it is because of vandalism. He did state that keys are available for checkout at the Utility Office.

Henry Ochoa of 210 East Washington asked what could be done about all of the cars that speed down Canal Street. He asked if a speed indicator sign could be permanently installed.

Mr. Wilson asked why all dumpsters weren't required to be enclosed. Mayor Hartman stated that there is nothing in the City Ordinances that state commercial dumpsters need to be enclosed.

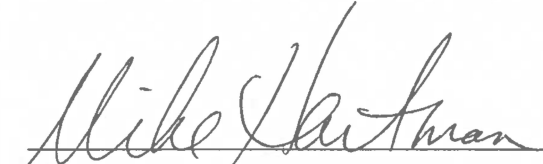
Chris and Steve Siebenaler of 306 North Broadway expressed frustrations with the parking lot for the old funeral home. It is very weedy and they have been cursed at by a resident of the Women's Shelter that is run by Inspiration Ministries that now owns the old funeral home. They sometimes need to drive through the parking lot to move their truck around. The Siebenaler's also reported that the residents of the shelter are using the sidewalk as their smoking area.

Council Member Hawkins requested that they reach out to Inspiration Ministries to express their concerns. There was discussion. Mr. Mutzfeld will reach out to Inspirations Ministries and request that they cleanup the parking lot, move the smoking area to the other side of the building and that they also reach out to the Siebenaler's.



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Council Member Hawkins made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



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Clerk-Treasurer