

MINUTES

THE COMMON COUNCIL

November 02, 2015

6:30 P.M.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL WITH MAYOR G. ROBERT HALL PRESIDING.

Council members present were Ted Little, Kathy Cash, Ruth Ann Rawlings, Jeff Aaron and Dan James. Also present were Mayor Hall, Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer and City Attorney Mike Gillenwater.

Invocation

Josh Aaron

Pledge

Mike Gillenwater

Minutes

Councilman James made a motion to approve the Minutes from October 05, 2015, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Rawlings made a motion to approve the Minutes from October 20, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Cash. Approved 5-0.

Claims

Councilman Little made a motion to approve the Claims, seconded by Councilman Aaron. Approved 5-0.

Payroll Allowance Docket

Councilman Aaron made a motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket from October 04, through October 31, 2015, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Josh Cravens – 203 Guilford Road

Mr. Josh Cravens read several names of individuals that he stated wanted public records showing their neighborhood is blighted: Monteena Morgan, Tudy Willeford, Julia Bettler, Beverly Cairnes, Thomas Cartwright, Elsie Day, Sharon Soulek and Nancy Ennis.

Mr. Gillenwater responded to Mr. Craven, pointing out that the information he requested had recently been sent to him again in a certified letter. Mr. Cravens said he received the letter but did not open the envelope. Mr. Gillenwater suggested that he open and read the letter.

Mrs. Melissa Crawford - 344 Clark Road

Mrs. Crawford commented on a letter she received from Mr. Gillenwater and said that is all she wanted from the very beginning.

Diane Wisman - 1317 Harry Hughes Road

Ms. Wisman expressed several concerns/complaints:

- Political candidates posed for a picture on the City's train.
- Was concerned about the City's loan payments for financing the Family Activity Center.
- Criticized the City's participation in the Charlestown Excellence in Education (CEE) program.
- Criticized the City's previous proposal for redevelopment of Pleasant Ridge neighborhood.

Tudy Willeford - 1065 Thompson

Ms. Willeford expressed several concerns/complaints:

- Criticized a picture of political candidates posing on the City's train.
- Was skeptical about the prospects for success of the pocket neighborhood with houses costing \$225,000 to \$230,000.
- Commented on political literature about restaurants that failed to locate in Charlestown.
- Said she believes Charlestown needs a water filtration plant.
- Criticized CEEF and said the City has no business in education matters of its citizens.
- Believes the City Police Officers should have collective bargaining.

Response to Comments/Complaints

Mayor Hall pointed out that in the past it has been common for candidates to pose for pictures on and around City-owned property. The recent photos of candidates on the train were no different.

Mayor Hall did not apologize in any way for CEEF, acknowledged that he organized it, and said he is proud of what CEEF has accomplished. He acknowledged all of the businesses that came together and funded CEEF, and expressed pride in the kids, teachers and the schools for all that progress that has been made.

The Mayor pointed out that tomorrow's election is the process for people to determine what direction the City should be going in.

Ordinance 2015-OR-08 (Employee Salary Ordinance)

Councilwoman Rawlings made a motion to approve the employee salary Ordinance 2015-OR-08, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Rawlings made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2015-OR-08, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Councilman James made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-OR-08 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Cash. Approved 5-0.

Ordinance 2015-OR-10 (2016 Budget)

Mayor Hall said the 2016 budget was advertised for its final adoption tonight.

Councilman Aaron made a motion to approve the 2016 Budget Ordinance 2015-OR-10, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Resolution 2015-R-2 (Approved as Resolution 2015-R-8)

Interlocal Agreement (Joint Use of the Jeffersonville–Clark County Animal Shelter)

Councilwoman Cash made a motion to approve Resolution R-2, seconded by Councilman Little. Discussion ensued. Mayor Hall said clarification of past due amounts would be sought.

Councilman James made a motion to table Resolution 2015-R-2, seconded by Councilwoman Rawlings. Approved 5-0.

Indiana Bond Bank (Sewer Bond) Ordinance 2015-OR-11

Mayor Hall explained that interest rates are down on bonds. Indiana Bank has done "group bonds" for many cities in Indiana. Mr. Gillenwater discussed the 2005 Sewage Works improvement bonds the City is currently repaying.

Mr. Gillenwater said Ordinance 2015-OR-11 authorizes refinancing of the loan obligation, prompted by interest rates being at historical lows. The City could save around \$275,000.00 by authorizing and passing this Ordinance. Loan principle is approximately \$2.85 million.

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Little made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-OR-11 for the refunding of the bonds on the ordinance's first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Cash. Approved 5-0.

Councilman James made a motion to consider the second and final reading of Ordinance 2015-OR-11 in December, seconded by Councilman Little. Approved 5-0.

Ordinance 2015-OR-12 (Bethany Road Improvements)

Mayor Hall introduced Ordinance 2015-OR-12, proposed to impose weight limits on Bethany Road due to unsafe roads for certain heavy weight vehicles. The weight limit on Bethany Road would be 16,000 pounds (8 tons).

The ordinance in the Council's possession was an earlier version that failed to have the exception for local deliveries. Mr. Gillenwater said he will bring a corrected one to the next meeting. No action was taken.

York Property

Councilman Aaron asked about an update on the York property. Mr. Gillenwater advised the Council that Mr. Johnathan McCoy, an engineer that is a member of the church adjoining Mr. York's property, requested some changes to the design on behalf of the church.

Councilman Aaron said Mr. York said he incurred three bills for repair of damages. Mayor Hall advised Mr. Aaron that the York's need to present and explain those bills to the Board of Public Works.

3 Way Stop Sign at Pine and Villa Court

Councilman Aaron asked for an update on the stop sign. Mayor Hall said such requests are considered by the Board of Public Works after the police investigate such requests and make a recommendation to the BPW.

High Jackson Road (Culvert)


The Mayor updated the Council on the progress the culverts being installed on High Jackson Road in order to help address the Hidden River Valley drainage issues.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Cash made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Aaron. Approved 5-0.



MAYOR, G. ROBERT HALL



DATE

ATTEST:



CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER



DATE