



Common Council Meeting – Minutes for May 17th, 2021

Council Members in Attendance: Todd Nunemaker (IP), Dana Hollar (OL), Amy Rosa (IP), David Kauffman (IP), Denny Miller (OL). Councilman Hollar joined the meeting just prior to the Clerk-Treasurer Report.

Also Present: City Attorney: Brian L. Hoffer (OL), **Clerk Treasurer:** Jeff Knight (IP) plus 7 guests (OL), 4 guests (IP) and 1 member of the press (OL).

- Call to Order: Mayor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and opened with the pledge of allegiance and prayer.
- Roll Call: Council members listed above were in attendance either in person (IP) or online (OL) via ZOOM videoconference.
- Approval of Minutes from May 3rd, 2021: Councilman Kauffman motioned to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Rosa seconded. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were approved unanimously (4-0) via roll call vote.
- Petitions or Comments by Citizens: Mr. Jack Graber (401 S. Elm St.) and Mr. Jewell Losee (605 S. Elm St.) requested to speak relating to a neighbor of Mr. Graber's causing issues due to the volume of music being played. Mr. Graber described the problem and talked about his frustration due to the inability of the police being able to get to the property in time to get a decibel level reading. Both gentlemen described the problem as a cat and mouse game. Mr. Graber stated his willingness to resolve the issue and explained he purchased headphones for the neighbor to use. The neighbor wears the headphones around town, but he refuses to wear them in his garage when the music is turned up. The garage is roughly 12' to 15' from Mr. Graber's bedroom. Mayor Jenkins and the Council members empathized with Mr. Graber. However, unless the police can get an independent decibel reading (as confirmed by Police Chief Rulli) there is not anything they can do about it. Mr. Graber tried to see if there was a pattern to the noise, but there has been unable to do so. Mayor Jenkins has visited Mr. Graber's residence to see how loud the music was, but the music was off by the time he arrived. Mayor Jenkins gave Mr. Graber a suggestion regarding possible window replacements that are built to buffer sound and the possibility of putting fencing up to create a noise break. Councilman Nunemaker asked some follow-up questions about Mr. Graber's address and the timing of the music and then said he thinks that Mr. Graber has taken the correct approach with his neighbor. Councilman Nunemaker also suggested using a security system that would have time

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stamps. Chief Rulli reiterated that Officer Lentz is keeping a log of the times he has been called regarding the noise.

Mr. Losee then commented on a neighbor of his, at 157 Randolph, that has burned trash in the street without any protective barrier. Mayor Jenkins stated that the only thing that can be burned in the City is firewood. He continued by telling Mr. Losee that if he sees this happen again, to call it in to Dispatch.

- Reports of Committees, Boards, and Commissions:

- CT Report for April 30, 2021: CT Knight presented the CT Report for the month of April. He commented that all the balances remain to be in good shape and that a CD will mature on 6/7/21. Because the rates continue to be extremely low, the funds will most likely be rolled into the Money Market account until rates recover or a need arises. CT Knight also reminded the Council the first property tax disbursement will be received in June. For the sake of the new members of the Council, CT Knight reiterated that property tax disbursements take place in June and at the end of December. Mayor Jenkins mentioned the need to establish project priorities and discuss them with the Council at a future meeting. Councilwoman Rosa motioned to approve the CT report. Councilman Kauffman seconded. The CT report for April 30, 2021 was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

- Unfinished Business:

- 3rd Reading of Ordinance 1586 – Ambulance Rates: Mayor Jenkins presented the Ordinance on 3rd Reading. As the Ordinance has had two other readings, there were no further questions or concerns from the Council. Councilman Miller motioned to approve the rate increase on 3rd reading. Councilman Hollar seconded. The rate increase was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
- 2nd Reading of Ordinance 1588 – ARP Fund: Mayor Jenkins revisited the Ordinance pertaining to establishing a Fund to manage the newly established Federal ARP Fund program. The State Board of Accounts prefers these programs have specified account numbers and wants the process approved via Council ordinance. Councilman Kauffman motioned to approve the Ordinance on 2nd reading. Councilman Nunemaker seconded. Mayor Jenkins talked about the possible uses of the funds and that the immediate focus is on the investments in infrastructure (water, sewer, or broadband). The funds will come in two disbursements; half in a few days and the remaining balance no less than one year of the first



disbursement. Councilman Nunemaker inquired if there was a time frame within which the funds need to be expended. Mayor Jenkins replied the City has until December 2024 to utilize the funds. Councilwoman Rosa asked about the wording of the Ordinance (if it came from us or some other source). Mayor Jenkins responded that the language came from AIM but was put together by a Clerk-Treasurer in Angola who well respected. The Ordinance was approved on 2nd reading unanimously by roll call vote.

- New Business: There was none.
- Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers: 2021 APVs Totaling \$370,146.24: CT Knight noted that the expenditures presented were primarily payroll related. Councilman Nunemaker motioned to approve the APVs. Councilwoman Rosa seconded. The APV's were approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- Reports from City Officers: Monthly reports were submitted from the EMS Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Street Department Superintendent, and Park Superintendent. There were no questions pertaining to their reports. Additional comments follow:
 - Street Department: Councilman Miller voiced his heartfelt appreciation to Superintendent Warren for his assistance moving Councilman Miller's father from a health care facility that was not doing well. Superintendent Warren said he was glad to help.
 - Senior Center Director: The Elder Haus remains closed for the time being. Mayor Jenkins said that as long as the County is considered "Orange" the facility will remain closed. Once the County shifts to "Yellow" or "Blue" the facility is more apt to open.
 - Water/WWTP: Superintendent Gerber told the Council the main water line has been installed as have the service lines on South Main.
 - Mayor: Mayor Jenkins informed the Council the final feasibility study for the Fire/EMS consolidation has been completed. The first phase dealt with the department's equipment. The second phase dealt with buildings and response times. He will upload the report to the Google Drive for the Council members to access. Also recently completed was the housing study done by EnFocus. That will be put in Google Drive as well.

Mayor Jenkins transitioned to a staffing reorganization discussion. With the retirement of Mr. Jim Sumpster, Mr. Steve Heckathorn will assume the day to day responsibilities of the EMS, Fire Chief Lehman will shift his focus to having the overall responsibility for the



consolidated Fire and EMS departments, stepping out of his role as the Director of Planning and Zoning. Mayor Jenkins believes it is important to have a person in the position with experience in Urban Planning and Architectural Design. His choice to fill the position is Mr. Todd Nunemaker (Current Councilman). Mr. Nunemaker accepted the role when asked by the Mayor. Mayor Jenkins requested approval from the Council to appoint Mr. Nunemaker to the position. Councilman Miller motioned to approve the appointment. Councilwoman Rosa seconded. The timeline for the changes is the end of June, first of July. Councilman Nunemaker tendered his resignation from the Council two weeks ago effective at the end of this meeting. Councilman Nunemaker gave an emotional farewell by stating it has been a privilege to serve the community for four terms. He is looking forward to the new position. There will be a caucus to replace Councilman Nunemaker in the near future. Mayor Jenkins said that we will miss having Mr. Nunemaker's insight on the Council, but he is happy to have him join the staff. Mayor Jenkins also noted his appreciation for how well the City's department heads work together and cover for one another. Chief Lehman also commented that he thinks the Planning and Zoning department just took a big step forward. The request was approved 4-0 by roll call vote. Councilman Nunemaker abstained from voting.

Adjournment: With no further business to be discussed, Councilman Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Rosa seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm by unanimous voice vote.

Phil Jenkins, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jeff Knight, Clerk of the Council