

# THE COMMON COUNCIL

June 01, 2020

6:30 P.M.

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 01, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL WITH MAYOR TREVA HODGES PRESIDING.**

Council members present were: Ruthie Jackson, Brian Hester, BJ Steele, John Cox and Bo Bertram. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer, Common Council Attorney Michael Gillenwater and City Attorney Mickey Weber.

## **Pledge**

Councilman BJ Steele

## **Invocation**

Councilman JT Cox

## **Agenda**

Mayor Hodges asked for approval on the agenda.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

## **Minutes, Claims and PR Voucher**

A motion was made by Councilman Hester to approve the Minutes, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

## **Claims**

A motion was made by Councilman Hester to approve the Claims, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

## **Payroll Voucher**

Councilman Steel made a motion to approve the payroll voucher from 04/27/2020 to 05/24/2020, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Hodges requested that all city employees be given the day off on June 02, 2020, due to election day being re-scheduled.

## **Ordinance 2020-OR-11**

Mayor Hodges said Ordinance 2020-OR-11 is establishing the conditions and requirements of maintenance and use of public right-of-way activity permit.

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-11 on the first reading, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved. 5-0.

This ordinance needs more clarification and will be tabled until the next meeting.

## **Ordinance 2020-OR-12** – Collection & Removal of Solid Waste

Mr. Lee Slaughter gave a presentation on the disposal of solid waste and explained the proposal to change the current rate schedule and procedures. Mayor Hodges said a regular bulky pickup once a month, but if excessive yard waste it will cost per item. There are 2 provisions in the previous Ordinance. The city would pick up homeowner construction waste at no charge. Contractors were required to remove that waste. There is no way to determine who did the construction. The ordinance does not pickup rentals, landlords have to do that themselves. Landlords and contractors can buy a dumpster bag and pay \$50.00 for a pick up. The bag holds 3,300 lbs. and is not reusable.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-12 on the first reading, seconded by Councilman Hester.

Councilwoman Jackson expressed concerns about the elderly or disabled. Councilman Cox said recommended against a rate increase right now and suggested having a public hearing so the residents can have input due to the rate increase.

Mayor Hodges said there has not been a rate increase since 2016. She will schedule a public hearing and table this ordinance until the July meeting We will review and make changes as needed.

## **Ordinance 2020-OR-13**- Transfer of funds

Transfer the council misc. Expenses to council attorney fees of \$25,000.00.

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-13 on the first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

Councilman Hester made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2020-OR-13, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-13 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

**Ordinance 2020-OR- 14** - A temporary loan from rainy day fund to subsidize expenditures due to Covid 19.

The City of Charlestown has been approved to receive \$268,439.00 from the *CARES ACT* Program created by the State of Indiana and managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and made available by the Cares Act request.

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve this Ordinance 2020-OR-14, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Hodges 300 million dollars was allocated to local government from the *CARES ACT*. Relief must be related to Covid 19. It cannot be used for payroll. The City looked at expenses and received approval on certain items. We transferred the money from rainy day fund to the Cares Act Relief Fund. The Mayor said the City will submit the application and receive the money to put back into the Rainy Day Fund.

The City is approved to use \$196,690.00 and that leaves a surplus of \$71,748.37. Any surplus will be sent back if it is not spent on Covid 19 related items. It can be used all the way until December. If we have a resurgence of this in the fall we can use it.

Councilman Cox made a motion to suspend the rules one Ordinance 2020-OR-14, seconded by Councilwoman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Hester made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-OR-14 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

**Resolution 2020-R-15** – Transfer of Real Property

This Ordinance transfers real property from the Common Council to the Redevelopment Board.

Councilman Hester made a motion to table this Resolution until the July meeting, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

**Josh Hillman (JTL) Presentation on Wastewater Plant**

Mr. Hillman talked about phosphorus and the City’s permit. A new application was submitted last week. They met with River Ridge to plan for growth over the next 5 to 10 years. Baker Tilly did a rate analysis for long and short range planning, understanding cost, condition and funding options. Mr. Hillman also discussed River Ridge said the Economic Development Funding. The Board of Works Safety sent River Ridge a proposal for evaluating the pumping stations

Mike Perry Director of Wastewater said our plant is running well but we will be looking at higher cost because of equipment failure. Mr. Hillman said Mike’s staff does a great job running the equipment, but the equipment is old and may need replacing at some point.

## Council Comments

### Attorneys for each seat of government offices

Councilwoman Jackson read a prepared statement regarding the need for separate legal representation for the different branches of City government, including the Clerk/Treasurer. She expressed concerns about the budget and said the Council wants to make sure your tax dollars are spent as frugally as possible. We as elected officials feel this is best way at the moment.

### Founder's Day Event

The Council is asking to bring The Louisville Crashers, food trucks and have fireworks on September 26, 2020 as this is our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Hodges said she thinks that is great idea and will present it at the next Board of Public Works meeting. Councilman Hester wants to partner with the parks department. Mayor Hodges said that will be fine.

### Creation of new Ordinance

Councilwoman Jackson said when an ordinance is created could a word document be sent to the Council Attorney should he need to make any changes for us. City Attorney said that would not be a problem. He will send it in word format.

### Grass cutting

Councilwoman Jackson expressed concerns about tall grass in Pleasant Ridge. Mayor Hodges indicated Tony Jackson is addressing the problem. Mayor Hodges reported that the property maintenance ordinance will go before the Fire Prevention and Building Safety on Thursday, June 04, 2020 and once we get State approval, we will actively enforce it.

### Skippers Ridge

Tony said they are still waiting on their design.

### Ace Hardware

Mayor Hodges said the developers have decided to pursue another opportunity, because of finances, Covid 19 and online sales. They still want to develop the property, but it is on hold for now. They will seed it over until they decide to develop it, they are just not sure how.

### Shamrock Foundation

Councilwoman Jackson asked about luxury apartments on Dan Cristiana property. Mayor Hodges said they never pursued it.

Danbury Oakes Phase II

Councilwoman Jackson asked for an update. Tony said they are laying the infrastructure and he is doing the addressing. They may start building around August 01, 2020

ARC Renaissance Project

Councilwoman Jackson asked if Phase I would be done by August 01, 2020. Mayor Hodges said with the weather it's been pushed back to September. They are optimistic they can still meet the deadline. Councilwoman Jackson asked about Phase II. Mayor Hodges said it will be retail. They do not have any committed leases.

Communication

Councilwoman Jackson again expressed concerns about not getting information until the day of the Council meetings. Mayor Hodges agreed that everything needs to be submitted by Thursday before the meeting so it can be distributed.

2020 Graduates

Councilman Cox congratulated the 2020 Charlestown High School Senior Graduates.

Adjournment

Councilman Cox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

  
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MAYOR, TREVA HODGES

07/06/2020  
DATE

ATTEST:  
  
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CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER

7-06-2020  
DATE