



Minutes of the Common Council Regular Meeting of August 3, 2021

6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy Stutsman called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Megan Eichorn (District 4), Julia King (At-Large), Jim McKee (District 1),
Doug Nisley (District 2), Gilberto Perez, Jr. (District 5),
Matt Schrock (District 3), Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large),
Youth Advisor Adrian Mora (Non-voting)

Absent: None

Clerk's Note: Adrian Mora arrived to the Common Council Meeting late.

Eichorn/King moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented. Passed 7-0

Nisley/King moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed 7-0

Privilege of the Floor

Environmental Resilience Director Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley presented a flyer provided by Solar United Neighbors of Indiana. The group will be hosting two seminars in Goshen to inform the community about solar power and incentives for solar adoption at the Reith Interpretive Center on August 19 at 6:30 and October 23 at 10:00.

Goshen Resident Glen Null stated he was glad to see activity in his neighborhood regarding repairs to sidewalks and tree removal. Null expressed his concern on who is paying for the removal. Null stated he has paid the total cost for a sidewalk repair and is concerned others are receiving discounts for the same service. Null also expressed frustration with businesses bidding on work to be done in Goshen and not completing or starting the work.



Goshen resident Lori Arnold reminded the council of 12 people who spoke at the last Council meeting and claimed that ANTIFA has been active in Goshen for many years. She claimed that Mayor Stutsman and Councilor King presented speeches at a Black Lives Matter rally, after which she became an ANTIFA target. Arnold maintained her belief that ANTIFA was present at recent City Parks activities and requested the Council denounce ANTIFA.

Goshen resident Daniel Weaver urged the community to help the Mayor, urged residents to take pride in Goshen and work together. Weaver suggested that the community work to fix one problem at a time, noted that he is not aware of an ANTIFA problem in Goshen, and asked the Council to prioritize factual information.

Counselor Nisley stated that he and the Council have denounced any violence within the City. Nisley added his support for the Police Department and all that has been done to protect citizens, and said he will not stand for any form of violence.

King added that the Council has unanimously passed Resolutions denouncing any violence, harassment, or intimidation. Council members agreed.

Goshen Resident Barb Hassen expressed her concern with people who are not community members speaking at the Council meetings, noting that she does not believe Goshen residents are distressed or concerned with ANTIFA. Hassen applauded the Council and the Police Department for all of their hard work and is proud of Goshen.

Goshen Resident Jenna Crawford commented on the popular phrase Love is Love, sharing that she used to be part of the LGBT community until Jesus called her to a different path. Crawford listed infections and diseases members of the LGBT community can spread and receive, stated the risk of anxiety and depression is higher amongst those in the LGBT community, and quoted verses from the Bible.

Goshen Resident Phillip Crawford recited Bible verses and expressed his frustration in manmade decisions and a liberal agenda. He stated that he stands for liberty and freedom of speech but expressed frustration with events in the City that are against his beliefs. Crawford concluded that Goshen should maintain a conservative viewpoint.

Goshen Resident Pam Weishaupt informed the community of a seed library at the Farmer's Market and shared that residents can provide seeds from their own produce.

City Employee Emily Bush-Pearson shared her brother is in the United States Air Force and was raised by two gay women. Pearson expressed her belief that gay people will not go to hell for who they love and that they are loved, important and valid.



Goshen Resident Brock Richardson shared when he announced to his family he was gay he was sent to conversion therapy and was tortured and suffered from electric shock therapy. Richardson recalled when he was in college and beside him sat people from different countries, noting his amazement at the diversity Goshen attracts. Richardson welcomed anyone with questions regarding Pride events to contact himself or his husband Kyle Richardson.

Councilor King reiterated her support for her LGBTQ neighbors and stated love is love among consenting adults. King clarified that she was invited to speak at a BLM rally but declined, but attended the rally as an ally.

Counselor Weddell confirmed that he did see King at the BLM rally and did not hear her speak in the time he was there. Eichorn also confirmed the same.

Counselor Weddell referenced Resolution 2016-45 which refers to respect, non-intimidation and hate. Weddell added that Goshen is a community where everyone is a neighbor and he does not condone hate or intimidation in any form, stating that his opinion of Goshen has changed over the years based on his interactions with people.

Mayor Stutsman reiterated his support for everyone in the community, adding that everyone comes to the table with an agenda; either good or bad. Stutsman thanked all of the Council members for coming together for the better of Goshen.

Ordinance 5093: Establishing a Deputy Mayor Position

Weddell/Nisley moved for the passage of Ordinance 5093 on 1st reading.

Mayor Stutsman presented the Ordinance, mentioning that Mark Brinson has already been assisting in some Mayoral duties and that the Ordinance would honor the work being done. Stutsman clarified creating the Deputy Mayor Position would create vacancies in the Redevelopment Department and he is not proposing those positions be filled. Stutsman also clarified that the new position would not pull him away from interacting with the community and that he will remain fully involved.

Council members expressed their support and thanks towards Mayor Stutsman for reaching out to Council members and clearly addressing what the Deputy Mayor position would include.

Counselor Eichorn said it is important to re-evaluate jobs over time and duties may change, and McKee expressed his appreciation that everyone needs help.



Goshen resident Glen Null recalled that he did not support the Deputy Mayor position when it was last proposed but affirmed Mayor Stutsman for presenting and describing the position so well. Null suggested Goshen is too small of a City to have a Deputy Mayor, but noted Brinson is a good choice for the position.

Counselor Nisley responded to Null by stating Brinson is already performing the job description and approving the Ordinance would honor Brinson's work.

Goshen Resident Barb Hassen quoted Indiana Statute 36.4.9.7 that allows a Mayor to appoint a Deputy Mayor.

Voice Vote to pass Ordinance 5093 on 1st reading. Passed 7-0

Weddell/King moved for the passage of Ordinance 5093 on 2nd and final reading.

Voice Vote to pass Ordinance 5093 on 2nd and final reading. Passed 7-0

Re-open Privilege of the Floor

Goshen Resident Loren Slabaugh expressed his concern and the danger of having fluoride in drinking water. Slabaugh asked local authorities to look into the health and safety of Goshen residents, listed health risks and encouraged Goshen leaders to look seriously into the issue of fluoride in drinking water.

Elected Official Reports

Counselor Weddell and Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor discussed the current state of fluoride in the water through the City, adding that City staff is kept up to date on fluoride levels and latest research.

Counselor McKee announced due to an upcoming move, he will not be able to continue as Councilmen for District 1. McKee stated he has enjoyed his 10 years on the Council and has appreciated the support and respect other Council members have showed him. McKee added the move is estimated to be finished in a month.

Mayor Stutsman expressed his appreciation for McKee's friendship and hard work during his time on the Council.

Counselor Nisley thanked McKee for his help and work and expressed his fondness of their friendship. Nisley also stated that while he does not support the LGBTQ community, it is not for him to judge people. Counselor Nisley added everyone has rights and it is the duty of the Council to uphold those rights, adding that he has family and friends who are gay and he loves them and will not judge them.



Counselor King thanked Nisley for addressing people's rights. King affirmed McKee's calm demeanor during his time on the Council.

Counselor Eichorn shared her sadness to see McKee leave the Council and thanked him for his service. Eichorn also reiterated her full support of the LGBTQ community and noted how members of the Council may have different opinions but appreciation that they still come together to better Goshen.

Youth Advisor Mora also shared his support for the Council and the LGBTQ community.

Counselor Weddell mentioned that Goshen is a huge community and everyone needs support, noting that everyone has rights and all should feel welcome in Goshen. Weddell also shared his respect for McKee and that he has been a rock for Weddell.

Counselor Perez thanked McKee for his help with the Planning Commission. Perez loosely quoted advice McKee once gave him; to listen, learn, and then do what you want to represent.

Mayor Stutsman spoke on census data that will be released soon, estimating 34,400 residents for the City of Goshen, and noted that the State will redistrict over the coming years. Stutsman spoke about the ARP Plan and the 2022 budget. He shared his support for all Goshen residents and how people should continue to build tolerance.

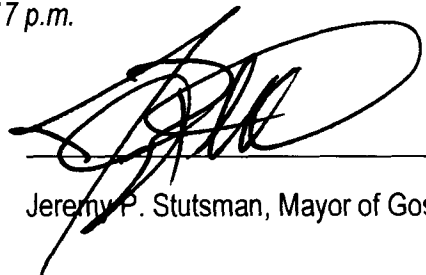
Counselor Schrock expressed his respect for McKee's guidance, adding that McKee originally encouraged him run for the Common Council. Schrock affirmed that the people of Goshen all need to work together and also expressed support for the Police Department and the City of Goshen's department heads.

Counselor Perez expressed his support for the Police Department and shared his perspective viewing the new training facility, encouraging continuous training for Police Officers. Council members and Chief Jose' Miller discussed the VR training equipment and the benefits to the officers, while addressing the citizens academy and guy safety days.

Nisley/McKee moved to adjourn. Passed 7-0


Meeting Adjourned 7:17 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Goshen City Clerk-Treasurer