



GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Jan. 4, 2022 Regular Meeting

Convened in the Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana

Mayor Jeremy Stutsman called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stutsman asked the Clerk-Treasurer to conduct the roll call.

Present: Megan Eichorn (District 4) Julia King (At-Large) Doug Nisley (District 2)
Gilberto Pérez Jr. (District 5) Donald Riegsecker (District 1) Matt Schrock (District 3)
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

Absent: Youth Advisor Adrian Mora (Non-voting)

Mayor Stutsman asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the City Council's meeting of Dec. 28, 2021. Councilors King/Eichorn moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 28, 2021 meeting as submitted. Motion to approve the minutes passed 7-0.

Mayor Stutsman presented the agenda of the Jan. 4, 2022 meeting. Councilor King objected to referring to the Democratic contact person on the Council as the "Minority Party Leader." After further discussion, and a suggestion by Councilor Pérez that the position be named the "Minority Contact Leader," Councilors Riegsecker/King moved to approve the agenda with a change – renaming the leader mentioned in agenda item #2 from Minority Party Leader to Minority Contact Leader for the Cancellation of Meetings. Motion passed 7-0.

Privilege of the Floor:

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comments on matters not on the agenda. There were no public comments, either from those in the council chamber or via Zoom, so the Mayor closed Privilege of the Floor

1. Election of Council President

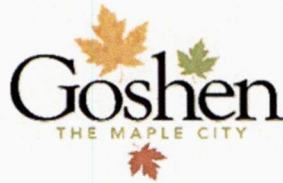
Mayor Stutsman opened nominations for the position of Common Council President for 2022. Nisley/Eichorn moved to nominate Councilor Brett Weddell as Council President. There were no further nominations, so Mayor Stutsman closed the nominations. The Mayor took a voice vote on the motion to elect Councilor Weddell as Council President and the motion passed 6-1, with Councilors Eichorn, Nisley, Perez, Riegsecker, Schrock and Weddell voting "yes" and Councilor King voting "no."

2. Election of Minority Party Contact Leader for the Cancellation of Meetings

Mayor Stutsman opened nominations for the position of Minority Contact Leader for the Cancellation of Meetings for 2022. The Mayor noted that only the Democrats on the Council were eligible to vote on the position. King/Pérez moved to elect Councilor Megan Eichorn as Minority Contact Leader for the Cancellation of Meetings. The motion passed 3-0, with Councilors Eichorn, King and Perez voting "yes."

3. Appointments to City Boards and Commission

As these were Council appointments, Mayor Stutsman turned over the process to Council President Weddell.



Council President Weddell opened the process of Council appointments to the **Community Relations Commission, the Redevelopment Commission and the Shade Tree Board.**

Council President Weddell began by stating that there was **one available position on the Shade Tree Board** to fill the three-year term of Erin Floyd, who served from January 2019 to December 2021. He said **applications were received from “three amazing candidates” – Emma Conrad, Erin Floyd and Doug Yoder**, although Yoder later asked that his name be withdrawn from consideration. Council President Weddell said he heard from **Councilor Schrock**, who regularly attends Shade Tree Board meetings, that Erin Floyd has been a huge asset and he saw no reason to not re-appoint her to the board. **Councilor Eichorn** agreed. Council President Weddell welcomed nominations for the three year position, January 2022 to December 2024. **Councilors Nisley and King moved to reappoint Erin Floyd.** There were no further nominations. **The motion to reappoint Erin Floyd passed 7-0.** After the vote, **Council President Weddell** said that he learned yesterday, Jan. 3, 2022, that **Kristi Smith, who was appointed by the Council to a term on the Shade Tree Board from Jan. 2021 to December 2023, resigned from the Board in November**, so the Council had an opportunity to make a second appointment. He said the Council had another candidate – Emma Conrad, who he stated would be a great addition to the board and who was supported by City Director of Environmental Resilience Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley. Council President Weddell welcomed nominations for the position, which will run until December 2023. **Councilors King and Eichorn moved to appoint Emma Conrad.** There were no further nominations. **The motion to appoint Emma Conrad passed 7-0.** **Council President Weddell** suggested to Mayor Stutsman that he might consider appointing Doug Yoder to the Shade Tree Board vacancy the Mayor will be filling. **Mayor Stutsman** responded that he normally makes his appointments later in January and has yet to determine who might be available to appoint.

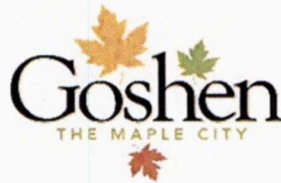
Moving on the **Community Relations Commission (CRC)**, Council President Weddell said the Council had three appointments to make – the three-year terms of two members expired in December 2021 and another member resigned at mid-year in 2021. He added that a fourth member recently resigned.

Council President Weddell said that one the termed-out members, **Sreekala Rajagopalan**, served on the CRC from August 2004 until December 2021 and did not re-apply. He said all Council members should and appreciate her service on the commission and suggested that the Council should formally acknowledge her tenure. **Councilors Eichorn and King** agreed. Mayor Stutsman said some recognition was being planned. Councilor King said Rajagopalan was most responsible for the City’s Diversity Day celebration.

Council President Weddell said **three people applied for appointment to the CRC – Sharon Beachy, Eman Monge and Gladys Rosas.**

Council President Weddell welcomed nominations for the CRC position being vacated by Sreekala Rajagopalan, which will run from January 2022 to December 2024. **Councilors Eichorn and King nominated Gladys Rosas to fill the position. Councilors Riegsecker and Nisley nominated Eman Monge.** After discussion about the openings and the appointment process, **Councilors Riegsecker and Nisley withdrew their nomination of Eman Monge. The motion to appoint Gladys Rosas to the CRC then passed 7-0.**

Council President Weddell welcomed nominations for the CRC position being vacated by Cathie Cripe, which will run from January 2022 to December 2024. **Councilors Pérez and Riegsecker nominated Eman Monge.** There were no further nominations. **The motion to appoint Eman Monge to the CRC passed 7-0.**



Council President Weddell said the Council also had to fill the position that was vacated by the resignation of Judith Davis and which ran from January 2020 to December 2022. He said that he was aware of some discussion of Mayor Stutsman appointing a fourth CRC member. **Councilor Eichorn** said there has been some discussion about leaving the CRC with seven members, two short of the maximum number of commissioners, to determine if that would help the CRC operate well or perhaps add two members later. **Mayor Stutsman** suggested that the Council make its three CRC appointments and he will later discuss the possibility of adding members with Community Relations Director A.J. Delgadillo. **Councilors King and Eichorn nominated Sharon Beachy to serve the rest of the term of Judith Davis, which is scheduled to end December 2022.** There were no further nominations. **The motion passed 7-0.**

Concluding the appointments, **Council President Weddell said the Council had to make two appointments to the Redevelopment Commission as the one-year terms of Andrea Johnson and Brett Weddell ended in December 2021.** Council President Weddell said he and Andrea Johnson applied for appointment as well as Vincent Baltazar, James Lowen, Susan Perri and Amanda Ramundo. He said there were many excellent candidates.

Councilors Nisley and Riegsecker nominated Council President Weddell for reappointment to the Redevelopment Commission for a term starting in January 2022 and ending in December 2022. There were no further nominations. **The motion passed 7-0.**

For the second position on the Redevelopment Commission, **Councilors Eichorn and King nominated Andrea Johnson for reappointment to the Redevelopment Commission for a term starting in January 2022 and ending in December 2022.** There were no further nominations. **The motion passed 7-0.**

Council President Weddell said he would send emails to all of the applicants for the City board and commissions thanking them for their interest. **Councilor Eichorn** thanked Council President Weddell for his hard work coordinating the appointments.

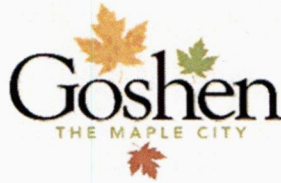
4. Ordinance 5110 (1st/2nd Reading): Amend 2022 Compensation Ordinance 5101 for Civil City and Utilities Employees to Include a Special Firefighter Position

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5110 on First Reading. **Council President Brett Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5110 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Pérez moved for passage of Ordinance 5110 on First Reading.

By way of background, Ordinance 5110 would amend Ordinance 5101, which approved the 2022 minimum and maximum compensation, including wages and benefits, for Civil City and Utilities employees. More specifically, it would establish a new Special Firefighter position within the Goshen Fire Department beginning in 2022. The new position, which was authorized by Indiana Code § 36-8-3-7 and approved by the Goshen Board of Public Works and Safety, would be a full-time, civilian position. The classification of the position will be covered, non-exempt (hourly), and the wage for the position will be \$27.96 per hour.

Mayor Stutsman said the addition of the position is part of the City of Goshen assuming responsibility for fire protection services for the Elkhart County Township. He said the Board of Works and Safety approved the position on Monday and a person would be hired if the Council approves the position. Mayor Stutsman said Doug Gadson is the current chief of the township fire department and will be appointed to the new position.



Asked by **Councilor Nisley** when the appointment will take effect. Mayor Stutsman said the appointment will be made Wednesday, Jan. 5. City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann said Gadson is scheduled to begin work for the City Fire Department on Jan. 10. Mayor Stutsman said Gadson will play a key role in the transition to Fire Department coverage of the township and will also drive its tanker truck, among other duties.

Mayor Stutsman invited comment from the public, but no one asked to speak. There were no further questions or comments from the Council and Councilors affirmed they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, councilors approved Ordinance 5110 on First Reading by a 7-0 vote, with all members voting “yes.”

Councilors gave Mayor Stutsman unanimous consent to proceed to the Second Reading of Ordinance 5110.

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5110 on Second Reading. **Council President Brett Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5110 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Schrock moved for passage of Ordinance 5110 on Second Reading.

There were no further questions or comments from the public or the Council, and Councilors affirmed to Mayor Stutsman that they were ready to vote. On a voice vote, councilors approved Ordinance 5110 on Second and Final Reading by a 7-0 vote, with all members voting “yes.”

5. Ordinance 5112 (1st/2nd Reading): An Ordinance to Amend the Elkhart Road Planning Unit Development (PUD), Ordinance 3574, and Ordinances 4846, 4894 and 500

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5112 on First Reading. **Council President Brett Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5112 by title only, which was done.

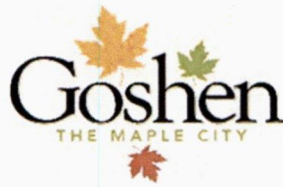
Weddell/Pérez moved for passage of Ordinance 5112 on First Reading.

By way of background, Ordinance 5112 came before the City Council as a recommendation from the Goshen Plan Commission. On Dec. 21, the Plan Commission met and approved a Planned Unit Development (PUD) major change and a PUD preliminary site plan approval for the Elkhart Road at Rieth Subdivision (a replat of the Elkhart Road PUD) to allow for outlot development for a Chipotle restaurant at 2219 Rieth Boulevard with the PUD major change including:

- To allow an outlot, and outlot access via adjacent Lot 1;
- 0-foot internal parking/aisle setbacks between Lots 1 and 2;
- Allow existing parking spaces to continue along portions of Rieth Boulevard and Elkhart Road for Lots 1 and 2, with 0-foot parking/aisle setbacks, a portion of parking spaces in the right of way (where additional right of way was dedicated), and varying parking stall dimensions;
- No less than 10-foot parking/aisle setback along Elkhart Road for Lot 2;
- 22-foot aisle width west of Rieth Boulevard parking spaces for Lot 2 for the subject property generally located at 2219 Rieth Boulevard and zoned Commercial B-3PUD (Planned Unit Development), part of Elkhart Road PUD.
- By a 6-0 vote, the Plan Commission forwarded the matter to the Common Council with a favorable recommendation.

In advancing its recommendation, the Plan Commission specified the following conditions:

1. The proposed outlot is consistent with the overall Elkhart Road PUD.
2. The approved preliminary site plan is Elkhart Road PUD – Lot 1 Outlot, dated 06.14.2021, prepared by Weihe Engineers, subject to required revisions.



For
Signatures
After Approval
on Jan. 18

3. The outlot shall provide bicycle parking within the outlot area, shown on the P...
4. A final landscape plan shall be submitted with the PUD final site plan, listing all plant material, with common botanical names, and size at planting and height at maturity for all tree species. Landscaping shall be installed per the approved landscape plan, inspected by the Planning office before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.
5. New signs will meet the requirements of the Goshen Zoning Ordinance and Elkhart Road PUD.
6. The outlot is required to connect to City sewer and water, approved by Goshen Engineering, and built to current Utility Department specifications.
7. The PUD final site plan will be submitted as part of the City's administrative site plan review, Technical Review, and Technical Review will include review by Goshen Engineering and Goshen Fire. Review must be completed before a zoning clearance/building permit is issued.
8. All developmental requirements not varied by the major change shall be met.

City Planner Rhonda Yoder provided an overview of the ordinance and the request. She said one of the major reasons the requested Planned United Development (PUD) major change was needed was because this specific outlot wasn't anticipated in the formation of the original Elkhart Road PUD, and all planned unit developments are tied to a site plan.

Rhonda Yoder said, "That's one of the reasons for the approval. There's also a few deficiencies on the developmental side. Because it's an existing lot, and they're proposing a second lot with basically no separation between the two lots, and shared access, those items also need to be approved. And then, most of the existing parking spaces will stay the same, except for a portion along Elkhart Road. And what has happened at this site is that there was some additional sideways dedication which has narrowed that path for parking spaces. So we're just going to acknowledge that that's happened and allow those spaces to continue."

Bill Terry, the petitioner attended via Zoom, and said he was available to answer any questions. There were none, **Mayor Stutsman invited comment from the public, but no one asked to speak** and there were no further questions or comments from the Council. Councilors indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, councilors approved Ordinance 5112 on First Reading by a 7-0 vote, with all members voting "yes."

Councilors gave Mayor Stutsman unanimous consent to proceed to the Second Reading of Ordinance 5112.

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5112 on Second Reading. **Council President Brett Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5112 by title only, which was done.

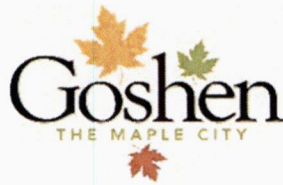
Weddell/Nisley moved for passage of Ordinance 5112 on Second Reading.

There were no further questions or comments from the public or the Council, and Councilors affirmed to Mayor Stutsman that they were ready to vote. On a voice vote, councilors approved Ordinance 5112 on Second and Final Reading by a 7-0 vote, with all members voting "yes."

Bill Terry thanked Councilors for approving Ordinance 5112. **Councilor Eichorn** responded, "Thank you for bringing Chipotle to Goshen."

Elected Official Reports:

Councilor Eichorn discussed a meeting held the previous evening for neighborhood residents to discuss the move of the Merit Learning Center, from the former Riverdale Elementary School, 801 W. Wilkinson St., to Goshen Junior High School and the move of the Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network homeless shelter to the Merit site.



Councilor Eichorn said the former Riverdale Elementary School will be the new permanent home for both the homeless shelter and the Interfaith Hospitality Network, allowing it to relocate from its current location at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 502 N. Main St. She said Goshen Community Schools will continue operating its adult night school program at the site.

Councilor Eichorn said that last night about 30 neighbors had a chance to learn about the proposal and Interfaith officials addressed questions and concerns about the type of residents who will be moving to the facility. She said Interfaith Hospitality's presence will be a great asset to Goshen Community Schools because the organization will upgrade the building at no cost to taxpayers.

Councilor Schrock said it was nice to see so many people at the meeting and that they had the opportunity to express their concerns. Schrock said several people had expressed concerns to him by email before the meeting and they had an opportunity to have their questions answered. Schrock said Mindy Morehead, the executive director of Interfaith Hospitality, did a great job answering questions about security issues. Schrock said he doesn't oppose the proposal and that he got involved to ensure people could speak out and that happened.

Councilor Eichorn said one audience member made a great suggestion that some neighbors serve as liaisons to the neighborhood and work alongside the City, the school and Interfaith Hospitality Network to discuss problems that might arise or possibilities that might not otherwise be considered. She said it appeared regular meetings might take place. Eichorn said there also was discussion about the future of the greenspace and whether a park might be developed at the site. Eichorn said she would advocate for a dog park.

Mayor Stutsman said discussions have begun with City Parks & Recreation Superintendent **Tanya Heyde** about developing a park at the site. At this point, the Mayor said it is not known what kind of park might be developed and how much it would cost. **Councilor Eichorn** said it's a positive development that there already is a group that is interested in developing a park.

Councilor Schrock said neighbors have started a private Facebook group, called "Hess Riverdale" to share ideas and concerns. **Councilors Eichorn and Schrock** said it isn't a formal city neighborhood association. **Councilor Pérez** said that perhaps LaCasa can provide resources to the group. **Eichorn and Schrock** affirmed the idea. Pérez said he would reach out to the group. **Eichorn and Schrock** discussed security concerns in the neighborhood and after the shelter is opened. **Schrock** said there is great interest in a park at the site.

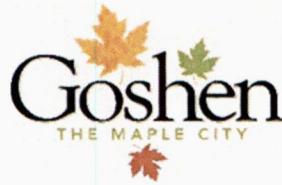
In response to a question from **Councilor Nisley**, **Councilor Eichorn** said the night school and the shelter would have separate entrances and no shared access. **Mayor Stutsman** said the Police Department's new homeless coordinator will have an office at the site, but won't have a permanent presence.

Asked by **Councilor Nisley** about who will be staying at the shelter, **Councilor Eichorn** said it will be for women and children and men and women and their children. However, single men won't be able to stay there. Eichorn added that all residents are tested for drugs and Interfaith has a high success rate finding permanent housing for residents.

Councilor King said Interfaith strives to connect homeless people with community services.

Councilor Pérez said the homelessness has difficult dimensions, including mental illness and employment issues. He said Interfaith Hospitality's new location is a good opportunity for the community to humanize homeless individuals. And the shelter will be an opportunity for the neighbors to advocate for other needs.

Councilor Nisley said Goshen continues to have many homeless men and this issue needs to be addressed. He said that perhaps housing could be provided near the Industrial Park, where the men would be close to jobs and be able to take the Interurban Trolley. **Mayor Stutsman** said many organizations, including Faith Mission, have been working to address the issue for several years. What's lacking now, the Mayor said, is a low-barrier shelter.



Still, **Mayor Stutsman** said the issue is being addressed, although some homeless people continue to abuse drugs and that caused Faith Mission to not offer a low-barrier shelter in Goshen this year. **Councilor Nisley** responded, "You can't help people that don't want help." **Mayor Stutsman** said the City is working on the problem. **Councilor Pérez** said the establishment of a City homeless coordinator could open possibilities for more discussion with non-profit organizations. He said that perhaps the homeless coordinator could help in new ways, **Mayor Stutsman** said the City has tried for years to connect homeless people to community resources. He said it's been a struggle to persuade some homeless people to accept the help that is available. **Councilor Nisley** asked to be informed of anything he can do to help. **Mayor Stutsman** thanked Councilor Nisley.

Mayor Stutsman announced that copies of the City Council's 2022 meeting calendar were in the back of the room and available to the public. **The Mayor reminded people that starting in February, the council's meetings will be held the first and third Mondays of each month**, instead of the first and third Tuesdays of each month. He said people will be notified of the change through social media channels and emails. He also reminded councilors of the new meeting schedule. **Councilor Eichorn** said that on Oct. 10, the City Council will meet followed immediately by a meeting of the Community Relations Commission (CRC). She asked if both would meet in the Council chambers. **City Communications Coordinator Sharon Hernandez** said the meeting location may not be finalized until new CRC members are situated. **Mayor Stutsman** said that until last year, the CRC never met in the Council chambers and may return to meeting in the City Hall Annex.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre said that **the next Common Council meeting is Jan. 18, but councilors will participate in a work session on Jan. 14**. Mayor Stutsman reminded Council members that the work session will begin at 9 a.m. at the Schrock Pavilion. He said the Council will receive an update on the City's Flood Resilience Plan.

Councilor Eichorn said that **Communications Coordinator Sharon Hernandez** has now arranged for **City Council meetings to be live streamed on YouTube** just as board meetings of Goshen Community Schools are. So, all council meetings are now being recorded and are available on YouTube and no longer need to be uploaded.

Adjournment:

Councilors Nisley/King moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed 7-0. **Mayor Stutsman** adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer