

GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes of the Feb. 7, 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 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Present: Julia King (At-Large) Doug Nisley (District 2) Gilberto Pérez Jr. (District 5)
Matt Schrock (District 3) Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)
Youth Advisor Adrian Mora (Non-voting)

Absent: Megan Eichorn (District 4) and Donald Riegsecker (District 1)

Mayor Stutsman asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the City Council's meeting of Jan. 18, 2022 and its work session of Jan. 14, 2022. **Councilors King and Pérez moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 18 and Jan. 14 meetings as submitted. The motion to approve both sets of minutes passed 5-0.**

Mayor Stutsman presented the agenda of the Feb. 7, 2022 meeting. **Councilors Nisley/Schrock moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.**

Privilege of the Floor:

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comments on matters not on the agenda.

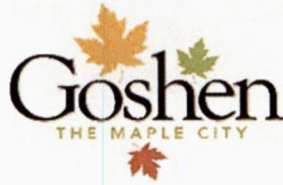
Glenn Null of Goshen said he would give the city a "C+" or "B" for its recent snow removal efforts. However, Null said he had a problem with the many people who didn't clear the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. Null said if a disabled person like him can clear the sidewalk in front of his home, business owners can do the same in front of their businesses. Null said that people who tried to walk on Lincoln and Third streets had to walk on the street because the sidewalks were blocked by snow, although he noted that two businesses there did clear their driveways. Null said the City clears much of Lincoln Avenue, but didn't clear adjacent streets. Null said schools also should clean off their sidewalks. Null said that at Lincoln and Fifth streets, the City failed to adequately plow the street as well as alleys. Null said he walks frequently and would like the City to encourage more people to clear their sidewalks of snow.

There were no further public comments, either from those in the council chamber or via Zoom, so the Mayor closed the Privilege of the Floor at 6:08 p.m.

1) Ordinance 5115: Amend Ordinance 3011 by Rezoning Real Estate Commonly Known as 233 S Main Street and 113 W Jefferson Street from Commercial B-3 District to Commercial B-2 District

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of **Ordinance 5115**. Council President Brett Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Pérez moved for passage of Ordinance 5115 on First Reading.



Background: For the property at the northwest corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street (233 S Main Street and 113 W Jefferson Street), the City of Goshen Redevelopment Department is requesting a rezoning of the property from Commercial B-3 to Commercial B-2 (Central Business District), to align with surrounding B-2 zoning. The property was purchased by the City of Goshen in August 2021, and is the former home of D&T Muffler.

According to City staff, the property is surrounded by B-2 (Central Business District) zoning and should also be zoned B-2, as a single property zoned B-3 within the Central Business District can meet few, if any, of the developmental requirements of the B-3 District, which will constrain future changes to the building and/or site. For example, in the B-3 District, a 35-foot building setback is required along the Main Street property line (compared to 0 feet in the B-2), a maximum 50% building coverage is allowed (compared to 90% allowed in the B-2), and parking is required for each use (compared to no commercial parking requirements in B-2 zoning).

The subject property was rezoned from B-2 to B-3 in February 1984, and although there were at least two subsequent neighborhood rezonings to B-2 District in the Central Business District, in 1989 and 2000, the subject property was not included. Based on the file record, it appears the subject property may at some point have been mistakenly classified as B-2, as there is at least one approval from 1991 that includes a reference to the subject property being zoned B-2. The Zoning Map discrepancy was discovered in 2012. While the City owns the subject property, it is an appropriate time to rezone to B-2 District so the spot zoning is removed and the issues related to the B-3 zoning are resolved.

City Planning & Zoning Administrator Rhonda Yoder told the Council that the Goshen Plan Commission met on Jan. 18, 2022, in regular session, and considered a request for a rezoning from Commercial B-3 to Commercial B-2 (Central Business District), to align with surrounding B-2 zoning, for subject property located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street, with common addresses of 233 S Main Street and 113 W Jefferson Street.

Yoder said the Plan Commission is forwarding the matter to the Council with a favorable recommendation by a vote of 8-0. She said the favorable recommendation was based upon the following:

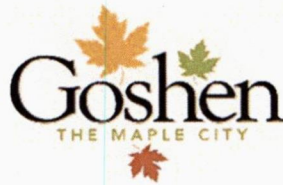
1. The subject property is completely surrounded by B-2 District zoning.
2. The future development of the subject property will be constrained if it is zoned B-3 District.
3. The rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including: Land Use, Goal L-6: Maintain an attractive and vibrant downtown.
4. The B-2 District requirements are able to be met.

Yoder said one inquiry was received before the Plan Commission meeting, asking about the rezoning process and the proposed use of the property. No questions/concerns/comments were received from the public at the Plan Commission meeting.

Councilor Schrock asked if rezoning the property to B-2 would prohibit the site from being used as an auto repair shop. **Yoder** said that such a usage would be considered non-conforming, but an auto repair shop might also be considered non-conforming for other reasons even if the zoning remained as B-3 because, for example, parking requirements could not be met. She added that an auto shop could be approved via a use variance.

Councilor King asked if the property has changed hands. **Council President Weddell** said the Redevelopment Commission made an offer on the property last year because it is a central spot in an area undergoing development and was viewed as crucial for the City to try to gain some control over what might happen with the property.

Mayor Stutsman said the property also has a vacant back lot that could be used for City parking and the property also is important for the city to continue its streetscape efforts. Asked by **Councilor King** if a sale has been completed, **Council President Weddell** said the Redevelopment Department has acquired the property. He noted that the building was recently painted. Mayor Stutsman said the painting will continue in the spring.



Mayor Stutsman said the City won't retain the property; it will be sold. **Council President Weddell** said when the City issues a Request for Proposal to sell the property, it will have the ability to review the proposals and not just take the highest bid. He said the Redevelopment Commission will be seeking the "best fit" for that location. Mayor Stutsman reminded councilors that the City Council approved the purchase of the property.

Councilor Pérez asked about the value of the property. **Council President Weddell** said he doesn't recall, but two or three appraisals were conducted to help the City make an offer. **Mayor Stutsman** said he believes the price was under \$200,000.

At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited public comment on Ordinance 5115. There were no comments, so Mayor Stutsman closed the public comment period at 6:13 p.m.

There were also no further comments or questions from the Council, and Councilors affirmed that they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, councilors approved Ordinance 5115 on First Reading by a 5-0 vote, with all members present voting "yes." Youth Advisor Adrian Mora also voted "yes."

Councilors gave Mayor Stutsman unanimous consent to proceed to the Second Reading of Ordinance 5115.

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5115 on Second Reading. **Council President Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5115 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/King moved for passage of Ordinance 5115 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 5115 on Second and Final Reading by a 5-0 vote at 6:14 p.m., with all members present voting "yes." Youth Advisor Adrian Mora also voted "yes."

2) Resolution 2022-08: Interlocal agreement with Elkhart County for Animal Control Services

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Resolution 2022-08. **Council President Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2022-08 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Pérez moved for passage of Resolution 2022-08.

Background: Resolution 2022-08 would approve the terms and conditions of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Goshen and Elkhart County for animal control services. Elkhart County has negotiated a contract with the Humane Society of Elkhart County, Inc. to provide animal shelter management and animal control services for 2022 for certain areas of Elkhart County, including within the City of Goshen. The City would contribute \$85,400 to reimburse Elkhart County for the cost of providing animal shelter management and animal control services within the City. According to the agreement, the City will pay Elkhart County in two installments – \$42,700 before April 1, 2022 and the same amount by Aug. 1, 2022.

Overall, Elkhart County will pay the Humane Society \$220,000 for services in 2022 to the unincorporated areas of the county. In addition, the Humane Society will be paid by cities in the county by the following amounts: City of Elkhart, \$139,150; City of Goshen, \$85,400; Town of Bristol, \$4,400; Town of Middlebury, \$5,940; Town of Nappanee, \$11,535; and Town of Wakarusa, \$6,600. The animal shelter is located at 54687 County Road 19 in Bristol.

Mayor Stutsman said Resolution 2022-08 was the City's annual contract for animal control services with the Humane Society. The Mayor said the city used to contract with and pay the Humane Society directly, but it is now done through the County to simplify the County's processes. The Mayor said jurisdictions pay based on their populations and that there will be an approximately 10% increase in the cost to the City of Goshen this year.



At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Stutsman invited questions or comments from the public, but no one asked to speak about Resolution 2022-08, so the Mayor closed the public comment period. There were no further questions or comments from the Council and Councilors indicated they were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors approved Resolution 2022-08 by a 5-0 vote, with all members present voting "yes" at 6:16 p.m. Youth Adviser Mora also voted "yes."

3) Ordinance 5116 (1st/2nd Reading): An Ordinance to Establish a Redistricting Advisory Commission

Mayor Stutsman called for the introduction of Ordinance 5116 on First Reading. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5116 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/King moved for passage of Ordinance 5116 on First Reading.

BACKGROUND:

In a memorandum accompanying draft Ordinance 5116, Mayor Stutsman informed Councilors that it was time to redraw the five single-member council district boundaries to account for population increases and shifts as detailed in the 2020 U.S. Census. The Mayor further wrote:

"This ordinance is being presented in order to set up a non-partisan committee to help ensure that we redistrict without considering how it affects any of our political parties. Rather, we would redistrict in a way that ensured districts were laid out in a way that kept their boundaries reasonably compact and contiguous, with equal populations and with the lowest possible deviations, while accounting for expected future growth, and looked at options with the fewest number of split precincts and neighborhoods as possible.

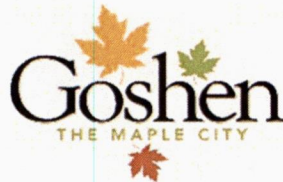
"We must come together as Republicans and Democrats to make sure that Goshen leaves politics out of our redistricting process. This is something that has eluded our State and Federal representatives for many of the past redistricting maps they have created. We can stand together to show our State and Federal governments the value of redistricting for the people and not for one party or the other. We can show them it is possible to lead in this way and that our constituents not only support this approach, they want it.

"As a first step, I (a Democrat elected Mayor), reached out to City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann (past elected Republican judge) to work with me on drafting a bipartisan approach to redistricting in Goshen. We talked about our ideas and discussed other ordinances that we found in regards to this topic. Together, we feel we have found a way to remove politics from the redistricting process and represent our community as we are elected to do.

"Originally, we wanted to get a copy of this ordinance to Council members before it hit the agenda for a Council meeting. After considering the limitations of distributing this ordinance to the Council while meeting the requirements of the Open-Door Law, we decided to wait to distribute until a time in which all Council members could equally receive the ordinance and have the same amount of time contemplating it. The easiest way to achieve this is to place it on the Council agenda. The Council will now be able to have a discussion in public at our meeting to decide if changes are appropriate, what dates and deadlines should be set within the ordinance, and, finally, to decide if it is tabled for further discussion or voted on at our February 7th meeting."

Summary of proposed Ordinance 5116:

Establishment and purpose: Ordinance 5116 would establish a five-member Redistricting Advisory Commission whose purpose would be to make recommendations to the Goshen Common Council regarding its decennial redistricting ordinance, which will divide the City into the five council districts from which council members shall be elected. Commission members would serve until district boundaries were adopted by the Council.



Rationale for the proposal (from the resolution's "whereas clauses): State law requires the he City of Goshen to be divided into five (5) council districts during the second year after a year in which a federal decennial census is conducted; state law also requires that these districts be contiguous, reasonably compact, and, as nearly as possible, of equal population, and, with some specific exceptions, not cross precinct boundaries; and the sponsors believe an independent redistricting commission would lend public legitimacy to the process and minimize conflicts of interest that might be present in the redistricting process; and this process of redistricting would be conducted in an open manner with meaningful opportunities for public feedback and engagement.

Membership qualifications: The Commission would consist of nine members: five (5) voting members and four (4) non-voting members), subject to the following qualifications and limitations.

- (1) Registered Voters - Each member must be a registered voter residing within the municipal boundaries of the City.
- (2) Voting Record – To be eligible for appointment to the Commission, each Commission member shall have voted as a resident of the City in at least one of the last two general elections immediately preceding the formation of the Commission.

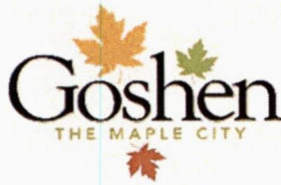
Limitations of membership: The following individuals would be excluded from serving as a voting member on the Commission:

- (A) Anyone who currently, or during the ten years prior to the Commission's formation, holds a public office or was a candidate for public office in the City or Elkhart County;
- (B) An appointed public official;
- (C) Anyone who is currently an officer of any federal, state, county, or city level political party, or who has been an officer or active member during the 10 years prior to the Commission's formation;
- (D) A precinct committeeman;
- (E) A member of a candidate's committee;
- (F) Anyone who has contributed a cumulative total of \$2,000 or more to any political candidate(s) within the five years prior to the Commission's formation;
- (G) Anyone registered as a lobbyist under I.C. 2-7; and
- (H) Immediate family members of any excluded person

Membership Selection Process. Commissioners would be selected as follows:

- (1) Current City Common Council at-Large Members would serve as non-voting members of the Commission; however, if at-Large Members are of the same political party, then the Common Council would pick one at-Large Member and one Common Council member representing a district, of the opposite party, to serve as the non-voting Council Members on the Commission;
- (2) The five (5) current Goshen Common Council members elected from a district would each appoint a voting member of the Commission;
- (3) The City of Goshen Mayor and City Attorney would serve as non-voting members of the Commission, and the Clerk-Treasurer would serve as the clerk of the Commission;
- (4) The Commission may seek consultation from City's Legal Compliance Administrator and other individuals who may provide helpful insight to the Commissions;
- (5) The voting members of the Commission shall select as its chair one of the voting members.

Persons appointed to the Commission must attest that they are eligible to serve per the conditions of this Ordinance, and be approved by the Mayor.



Redistricting Criteria. The Commission would recommend council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the Indiana Constitution, and applicable federal and state laws, including the federal Voting Rights Act and I.C. § 36-4-6-4.

Commission Processes and Transparency:

- (1) The Commission would hold public meetings at least every month, but may choose to meet more often.
- (2) The Commission would provide to the Common Council recommended council districts, an accompanying map depicting the recommended districts, and a report that explains the basis of the recommended districts.
- (3) Approval of the Commission's final recommendation would require an affirmative vote from at least four of the voting commissioners. All other actions of the Commission would require a simple majority vote to pass.
- (4) The Commission would be subject to the Indiana Open Door Law and the Access to Public Records Act.

Legislative Approval.

- (1) The Commission would provide the recommended council districts, along with the accompanying map and report, to the Common Council no later than **an unspecified date in 2022**.
- (2) The Common Council would act on the Commission's recommended districts before **an unspecified date**, and adopt an Ordinance by November 8, 2022.
- (3) After considering the Commission's final recommendations, or if the Commission failed to provide recommended council districts by **an unspecified date**, the Common Council would perform its duties under I.C. § 36-4-6-4. If the Common Council rejected the Commission's final recommendations, it would provide a written statement of the reasons for the rejection.

At 6:16 p.m. on Feb. 7, Mayor Stutsman called for consideration of Ordinance 5116. The Mayor thanked Councilors for their willingness to consider the establishment of a Redistricting Advisory Commission. He also said that when he scheduled this matter for tonight's meeting, he didn't know two Councilors would be absent and now knows there will be a motion to table Ordinance 5116 and consider it at another meeting with all Councilors present.

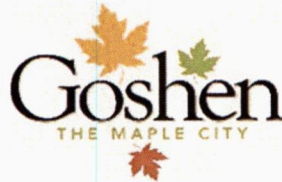
Mayor Stutsman said the goal of Ordinance 5116 is to create a board to "take politics out of redistricting." The Mayor said he and City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann considered proposals in other communities and have developed the current proposal knowing that Councilors might want to make some changes. Mayor Stutsman added: "But just know the only goal here was to make sure that, not even so much for this council, but future councils, to actually have an ordinance in place where if they're going to do it differently, they're going to have to come back and change the ordinance in the future We thought that would be a good idea."

Mayor Stutsman invited Council feedback.

Council President Weddell said he understood Councilor King might have a proposal to amend the ordinance, but didn't know if it could be discussed now. **Mayor Stutsman** said it would be possible to discuss the ordinance and other ideas now. **Councilor King** said she didn't have the exact wording of amendments ready, "but it would be within the spirit of keeping it non-partisan" and based on suggestions from attorneys who have worked on redistricting and had their ideas upheld in court.

Councilor King said one suggestion would be to would be aimed at promoting the goal of "fairness and non-partisanship." Another idea would be to allocate funds for the board to hire experts to assist in their efforts. **Mayor Stutsman** said his intent would be to allocate funds if needed by the Board. However, the Mayor said the Council would need to amend the City budget to appropriate funds for redistricting.

Mayor Stutsman said his goal is to ensure redistricting is done correctly and well. **Councilor King** agreed.



For the benefit of the audience, **Mayor Stutsman** then said: "The suggestion is to create a nine-member board, which five of them would be voting members of this redistricting committee. So, the two at-large council members would serve on the board, with no vote on that board. Then myself, the deputy mayor, Bodie Stegelmann, and then each district council member would choose one person from their district to serve on the board. And we threw some caveats in there about who you can choose. It can't be somebody that's really, really politically active and involved in campaigns. It's got to be somebody who is more neighborhood oriented."

The Mayor added: "It's not going to be the Board that decides how we redistrict. This Board only makes a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council still has absolute control over how this redistricting happens."

Council President Weddell noted that Councilors Eichom and Riegsecker could not attend tonight's meeting, but that it was important that they be part of the redistricting discussion. **Councilor King** agreed and said she would meet with **City Attorney Stegelmann** and work on the language of her amendments.

Council President Weddell asked about the appropriate way to communicate about proposed amendments while still respecting state Open Door laws. He asked if this could be done via email with no responses by recipients.

Councilor King said it could be done via one-on-one conversations, but not with groups. **City Attorney Stegelmann** said there should not be discussions with the entire Council. So, Stegelmann said one-on-one communication was permissible or someone could pass along an idea as long as there was then no discussion about it.

Mayor Stutsman said because of the Council meeting schedule, and possible absences by Councilors in March, it might be necessary to move forward on the ordinance even if there are absences "because every month we wait is one month less this committee will have to get its work done." The Mayor said the Council has a November 2022 deadline to complete its redistricting ordinance.

Council President Weddell said he hopes Councilors will now have more time to consider Ordinance 5116.

Councilor King added that members of the public also now know there is a redistricting proposal and can provide input to Councilors.

At 6:22 p.m., Council President Weddell made a motion to "table" Ordinance 5116. Councilor Schrock seconded the motion. There were no further questions or comments from the Council.

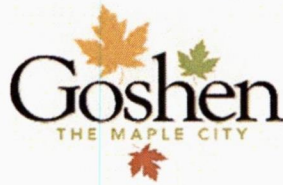
On a voice vote, councilors tabled Ordinance 5116 by a 5-0 vote, with all members present voting "yes."

Mayor Stutsman asked Council President Weddell if the intent of his motion was to table Ordinance 5116 to the next Council meeting (March 7). Council President Weddell responded, "Yes."

4) Report and discussion on the impact of Winter Storm Landon on the City of Goshen

Mayor Stutsman said he was asked by several Councilors to give a report on the impact of Winter Storm Landon on the City of Goshen and City operations, Feb. 2-3, 2022. The Mayor asked Department Heads most affected by major snow storms to report on the impact. Some departments had total numbers to report while other were still compiling cost figures. **Mayor Stutsman provided the following information:**

- **The Utilities Department** used three staff members and trucks for eight hours to plow alleys in the City while the Street Department focused on streets. The Kercher well field generator kicked on for about six hours during a power outage, so it continued operating. This is why the City spends so much on generators.
- **The Fire Department** added one fire/paramedic shift overnight to respond to more calls for service and possible issues with trucks involving City staff. During a normal 24-hour period, the Fire Department responds to 16 calls. During the 24 hours of the storm, the department had 27 calls – 17 for medical issues, two for stuck vehicles, one or two calls for arcing power lines due to fallen trees, four public service calls and three fire alarms. There was not too much overtime worked.



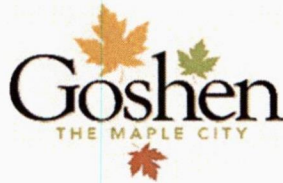
- **The Police Department** “doubled up” officers in vehicles, which worked out well. There were no issues.
- **The Wastewater Treatment Plant** must keep the facility operating and trucks moving in and out, so staff worked 59 hours of overtime for snow removal. On Feb. 3, at 8 p.m., the Department started receiving multiple alarms of power outages at seven different lift stations. Three of the lift stations have generators, which kicked on and kept running. Three staff members were brought in to take portable generators and move them around to keep the system working. That work entailed 11 hours of overtime, but staff was successful in keeping everything moving.
- **City Maintenance Director Jeff Halsey** cleared downtown sidewalks at City buildings, including the Police Department, the Annex Building and City Hall to maintain public access to the buildings. He also shoveled snow from steps and other areas adjacent to City buildings.
- **The City Airport** also was affected by the storm. As a rule of thumb, for every inch of snow, it takes 5.5 hours to clear the runway. On Feb. 3, four staff members began working at 4 a.m. to clear the runway and they continued working until 10 a.m. By about 11 a.m. or noon that day, there was too much snow falling, so from 5 p.m. Thursday until 8 a.m. Friday, the airport was closed, as were other airports in the area. The airport was able to resume plowing on Friday and was able to reopen before other airports in the region.
- **The Parks and Recreation Department** does significant amounts of plowing around schools, bike paths, sidewalks and other areas in the community. Seven staff members worked during the storm and plowed 24 miles of trails, 11 parking lots and two City lots and they kept open six park facilities. Two staff members worked about two hours downtown to try to clear alleys. Downtown business owners often hire people to clear sidewalks and the City helps clear some walkways. Overall, the Parks and Recreation Department spent about \$5,500 in overtime pay during the storm.
- **The Street Department** is where most of the City’s overtime costs are incurred. Before major snow storms, the Mayor meets with Director of Public Works Dustin Sailor, Street Commissioner David Gibbs and other City staff to discuss the coming weather event and to develop a response plan. Gibbs uses the information gathered to determine when the snow might start, its duration, the temperature drop, whether to pre-treat roads and other factors. All this planning leads to decisions on when to deploy snow plows and crews and when work should take place, so that staff members get adequate rest and roads are kept in the best condition possible. For Feb. 2 and 3, the Street Department spent \$6,268 for fuel for its trucks, \$2,100 for sand, \$30,000 for salt and \$19,000 for wages and overtime. The total for the two days of the storm was \$56,852. That didn’t include the clean-up costs over the weekend or the work on Feb. 7 and 8 to finish work on the streets. Snow removal can be expensive and time consuming. The Street Department spent 815 hours plowing and will have to work an additional 110-120 hours to finish work on the streets. On Friday, before the Council retreat, the Mayor treated snow removal staff to breakfast to thank them for their work. Staff members are tired, but are in good spirits and expect to do this work this time of year.

Councilor Nisley asked if City staff will be working to clear snow from downtown this week. Mayor Stutsman said the goal is to clear the main streets and then the main roads in neighborhoods. The Mayor said alleys are cleared next and then staff members remove snow from parking lots. He said snow removal work will continue into Feb. 9.

Councilor King thanked City staff for their good work and noted that the snow was beautiful.

Mayor Stutsman said that he believes that in either 2014 or 2015, the Street Department expended its entire yearly budget for fuel and overtime by the end of February because there was so much snow. Fortunately, he said there was little snow the rest of that year.

Councilor Schrock asked about the maintenance of the Rock Run Creek Bridge at Lincoln Avenue. He said its sidewalks were not cleared and asked if that could be done. **Mayor Stutsman** said he would check.



Council President Weddell asked about the multi-use path along Indiana Avenue, from the junior high school to Lincoln Avenue. He said the sidewalk had been cleared, but then a plow truck came by and dumped snow on the sidewalk. He said this posed a dilemma, but it was all a matter of timing. Council President Weddell said the same thing happens at his home. He cleared the snow off his driveway, but then a City plow truck came by his subdivision and pushed snow back onto his driveway.

Mayor Stutsman said if it had been a bigger snow storm, he would have contacted Goshen Hospital to coordinate any issues. The Mayor said he was in touch with Goshen Community Schools Superintendent Steve Hope to encourage the clearing of sidewalks. Mayor Stutsman said the City encourages the clearing of sidewalks, but there is not always compliance. He added that some people cannot shovel snow or are gone this time of year.

Youth Adviser Adrian Mora said that now that he's training for track and field, every time he runs downtown he often does so on the streets to avoid snow on sidewalks. **Council President Weddell** said he walks on streets to avoid snowy sidewalks, but normally does so early in the day. **Mayor Stutsman** said an alternative would be to use treadmills. **Council President Weddell** smiled and responded, "No."

Elected Official Reports:

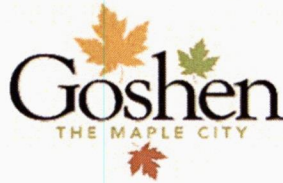
Youth Adviser Mora said the previous Saturday he did his first police ride-along and learned a lot and the officer was great. He said the ride-along was on a Saturday morning and it was not very eventful. **Councilor King** said police ride-alongs are great. **Council President Weddell** said he also once had an uneventful ride-along. **Councilor Nisley** asked if night shifts are busier. Various Councilors responded.

Youth Adviser Mora said he had an idea – that officers have an annual physical evaluation to motivate them to keep physically fit. **Councilor Nisley** said that probably couldn't be done by the Council. He stated that it might have to be done through the police union. **Mayor Stutsman** said union approval would be necessary as well as approval by the Board of Works and Safety. **City Attorney Stegelmann** said such a program would require policy-level approval. **Councilor Pérez** said it could be a wellness issue, noting that some companies require annual physical examinations or employees can face some kind of penalty. **Councilor King** clarified that this proposal could be a motivation for officers to be physically fit. **Council President Weddell** noted that the idea was coming from a student who participated in the state cross country championships and has a high level of fitness.

Councilor Pérez said he found the Feb. 4 housing policy work session to be very helpful in understanding the current housing situation and several strategies that can help increase housing availability. He said he did leave the session somewhat concerned about the number of families that are leaving the community and wondering about the best ways to engage those families. Pérez said Goshen Community Schools is doing exit interviews with families who are leaving, but wondered what else can be done to inform those families about Goshen's housing opportunities. He said he also wondered what other resources might be available for families and workers and whether market rate housing is available to them. He also thanked City staff for organizing the work session.

Mayor Stutsman said the City will need to identify the level of affordable housing the City can provide. **Councilor Pérez** said data from the session can help in that regard. The Mayor said Goshen needs housing at all levels. Pérez said he was impressed with the idea of using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to develop more housing and was looking forward to the City's proposal. **Council President Weddell** also thanked staff for their work in this area and also credited Redevelopment Commission member Vince Turner for his advocacy in this area. **Councilor King** said she also has been waiting for such a policy proposal for years and is happy it is being developed.

Mayor Stutsman said the policy will be developed by a new committee which will include two council members, a few members of the Redevelopment Commission and City staff, perhaps assisted by consultants from Baker Tilly. The Mayor said he hopes a meeting of the committee can be scheduled in a few weeks.



Mayor Stutsman also said work is progressing on a growth plan for the City. He said most property in the City has been developed, except for a few parcels. He said it's important to study where the City can push its growth because not all areas can accommodate City water and utilities. The Mayor said this work is in progress and that he and **Deputy Mayor Mark Brinson** will be reaching out to experts at Ball State University. Public input also will be sought, followed by detailed work by a local engineering company for technical discussions on expansion. Mayor Stutsman said City staff is assessing the cost of such work, including a study.

Mayor Stutsman also told Councilors that the Board of Works & Safety recently approved a study on a possible second location for the City's proposed ice rink. He said he will be meeting with Councilors and asking their opinions on the project. The Mayor reminded Councilors that the downtown ice rink project was put on hold in 2020. He said at that time, some council members said that they didn't want the ice rink to be downtown due to potential traffic issues as well as the flood plain issue and limited parking. Mayor Stutsman said that now some Councilors are saying they still want the ice rink downtown. So, the Mayor wants to speak to Councilors and make sure all are on the same page. He said if the ice rink is downtown it will be several million dollars more expensive than an alternative site.

Mayor Stutsman also reported that he would be leaving tonight after the Council meeting to Indianapolis to participate in a board meeting of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) for a legislative update. The Mayor also said he would be meeting with legislators, staff from the governor's office and the governor. He invited Councilors to pass on any issues they would like advanced with lawmakers. Mayor Stutsman also said he and **Councilor Pérez** would be attending a dinner with legislators on Tuesday.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre reminded the Mayor to talk about the upcoming joint meeting with the Goshen Community Schools Board.

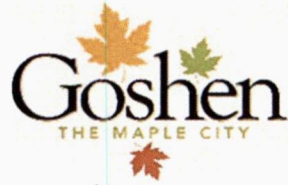
Mayor Stutsman said that instead of having next Monday, Feb. 14 off, as would be usual, the council instead will meet with the school board. He said City and schools staff are still working out the agenda for the meeting, which will be held at Goshen Middle School at 6 p.m.

Councilor King asked what type of meeting will be held, noting that in the past it has mostly been a ceremonial meeting with no action taken. **Mayor Stutsman** said that when he was on the Council, he only recalls action being taken when there were time-sensitive matters. The Mayor said the joint meeting agenda normally consists of staff reports to build awareness of projects of interest to the Council and school board. Nevertheless, he said the joint session is still considered a legal meeting and action can be taken. However, if there are no action items, the meeting can be advertised as a work session. The Mayor said he needed to have further conversations about the meeting with the board president and school superintendent and **City Attorney Stegelmann**.

There were no further comments of questions by the Mayor or Councilors.

Councilor Nisley-made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Councilor Pérez**. On a voice vote, Councilors voted to adjourn the meeting by a 5-0 vote, with all members present voting "yes."

Mayor Stutsman adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.



APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stutsman", written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard R. Aguirre", written over a horizontal line.

Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer