



GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

Minutes of the DECEMBER 27, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

Mayor Gina Leichty called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Assisted by the Mayor, District 4 Kid Councilor Elyana Rojas Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance. A fourth-grade student at Parkside Elementary, Elyana is the daughter of Yolo Lopez DeMarco and Anthony DeMarco of Goshen.

Mayor Leichty said she has thought a lot about the Pledge of Allegiance since accepting the position of Mayor in June. Over the years while attending Council meetings, she said the Pledge just seemed to be something known since elementary school and recited routinely, without much reflection.

However, she said the Pledge has taken on a greater meaning, which is why she has invited kids to join in reciting the Pledge. She said her husband, **Ben Stutzman**, helped her think more about the meaning of the Pledge.

The Mayor continued: "When we think about putting aside our individual differences or our individual perspectives and engaging in a rigorous debate about the issues before us, to have unity, to bring justice for all, that really gives new life and new meaning. And I think having kids lead the Pledge of Allegiance is also a helpful reminder for all of us as we are doing the legislative work of this City to think about, we're not just doing it for us. We're doing it for future generations.

"So, I want to give a special thanks to the Council for adopting this change along with us and being so warm and welcoming to all the kids. And to some of our (City) Department Heads, who've gone out of their way to provide some extra bling for kids as they participate, (it is) just adding another layer of meaning to the important work that all you are doing. So, thanks for adopting that with us."

At 5:44 p.m., Mayor Leichty asked Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre to conduct the roll call.

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

Absent: Youth Adviser Jessica Velazquez Valdes (Non-voting)

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre said he received an email from the Youth Adviser this afternoon that she was out of town and wouldn't be able to attend the Council meeting. However, she offered congratulations to the Councilors who have served and those who will be taking their oaths of office tonight.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Leichty informed the Council that no Council minutes were available to review/approve.

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilor King moved to accept the agenda as submitted. Councilor Pérez seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.



Privilege of the Floor:

At 5:45 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited public comments for matters not on the agenda. There were none.

1) Resolution 2023-21, An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Resolution 2023-21, *An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2023-21 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Pérez moved to approve Resolution 2023-21.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2023-21, which was before the Common Council for approval, would authorize the transfer of available funds between major categories within the City's departmental funds.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver presented to the Council a memorandum, included in the Council meeting packet, in which he explained the purpose and rationale for Resolution 2023-21, which requested authorization from the Council and Mayor to move available resources between major categories within the City's funds. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office presents appropriation category transfers to the Common Council at the last Council meeting each year to close the annual City budget with all accounts within the budget.

Weaver wrote that an appropriation is "permission to spend available money" and is tied to a specific fund. Within a fund there are four spending categories and multiple accounts. The state Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) requires Council approval to move an appropriation from one category to another. The Council can approve this transfer when a City Department has available appropriations in a category that can be transferred to a depleted category to meet Department expenses.

Weaver wrote that by moving an appropriation from one category to another, the Council is only changing the category from which the City pays an expenditure. The Council is not approving any additional spending, so the fund's total appropriation remains the same.

On behalf of the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, Weaver asked Councilors to approve Resolution 2023-21 because the Council is the City's fiscal body which authorizes the City's budget and any budget adjustments. State auditors require each appropriation to be a zero or positive dollar amount at the end of the year. The vast majority of the City's appropriations are underspent, and these adjustments reflect a small number of the 1,200+ appropriation lines the City maintains throughout the year.

Weaver wrote that if the Council approved the category transfers at the Dec. 27 meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer would then register the adjustments in the City's books and communicate the transfers to the affected City departments. These category transfers are adjustments that only require Council approval to be final, and do not require notification to the state Department of Local Government Finance.

Resolution 2023-21, *An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations*, would authorize the Clerk-Treasurer's Office to transfer unobligated balances into different categories than was appropriated in the annual budget for the various functions of the several departments to meet emergencies (EXHIBIT #1):



GENERAL FUND - 101

FROM: Engineering / Subscriptions & Dues 101-510-10-439.0301 (\$400.00)

TO: Engineering / Other Equipment 101-510-10-445.0001 \$400.00

FROM: Police / Retirement PERF 101-520-11-413.0300 (\$15,834.00)

TO: Police / Maintenance Contracts 101-520-11-436.0501 \$15,834.00

FROM: Fire / Full Time Personnel 101-520-12-411.0130 (\$68,000.00)

TO: Fire / Other Service Charges 101-520-12-430.0901 \$68,000.00

AVIATION FUND - 206

FROM: Aviation / Other Professional Services 206-530-00-431.0501 (1,315.00)

TO: Aviation / Full Time Personnel 206-530-00-411.0130 \$1,300.00

TO: Aviation / Building Materials & Supplies 206-530-00-422.0400 \$15.00

ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - 219

FROM: EID / Capital Projects 219-570-00-449.0000 (\$11,000.00)

TO: EID / Professional Services 219-570-00-431.0503 \$11,000.00

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL FIRE - 433

FROM: CCI-Fire / Other Equipment 433-510-00-445.0501 (\$16,311.03)

TO: CCI-Fire / Building Repairs 433-510-00-436.0501 \$16,311.03

SOUTHEAST ECONOMIC DISTRICT TIF - 473

FROM: SE ED TIF / Capital Projects 473-560-00-442.0000 (\$130,000.00)

TO: SE ED TIF / Contractual Services 473-560-00-431.0502 \$130,000.00

CONSOLIDATED RIVERRACE / US33 TIF - 480

FROM: CONS RR/33 / Capital Projects 480-560-00-442.0000 (\$260,000.00)

TO: CONS RR/33 / Contractual Services 480-560-00-431.0502 \$260,000.00

SUMMARY OF DEC. 27, 2023 COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-21:

For the benefit of the audience, **Mayor Leichty** explained that the word "emergency" in the title of Resolution 2023-21 did not mean the City faced a real emergency. She added, "This is a planned activity that happens every year."

The Mayor asked **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver** to explain Resolution 2023-21.

Weaver provided an overview of Resolution 2023-21 as summarized in his memorandum to the Council. He said "emergency" was used in the title because he used a different template for this resolution and the need for category transfers has "emerged." He said state statutes require Council approval for the transfers.

At the **Mayor's** request, **Weaver** explained the requested transfers for the Engineering Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Aviation Department as well as budgets for the Economic Improvement District, Cumulative Capital Fire, the Southeast Economic District Tax Increment Financing fund, and the Consolidated River Race/U.S. 33 Tax Increment Financing fund. Overall, **Weaver** said the City budgeted 882 expense lines.



Councilor Nisley thanked **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Weaver** for all of his work in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. He said Weaver has done a good job bringing information to the Council and explaining it in an understandable way. He added that he appreciated Weaver being in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Weaver thanked **Councilor Nisley** for his comments and added, that because of its difficulty, municipal finance is one of the last classes taken by accounting majors, "so for you guys to have to understand this stuff is a big thing."

Councilor Nisley joked that **Weaver** "was bringing things down to our level" so they could be understood. With a smile, **Weaver** responded, "You can interpret it that way if you want."

There were no further Council comments or questions. Council President **Weddell** said Councilors were ready to vote.

On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved Resolution 2023-21, An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes," at 5:51 p.m.

2) Oath of Office for City of Goshen elected officials:

Mayor **Leichty** said the remaining agenda item was the swearing in of newly elected City of Goshen officers. Family members joined the officers at the front of the Council chamber as the oaths of office were administered and recited in the following order:

- Mayor **Gina Leichty** took the oath from Clerk-Treasurer **Richard R. Aguirre**
- Clerk-Treasurer **Richard R. Aguirre** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- City Judge **Richard L. Mehl** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- Councilor **Donald E. Riegsecker (District 1)** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- Councilor **Matthew P. Schrock (District 3)** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- Councilor **Megan Peel (District 4)** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- Councilor **Phillip K. Lederach (District 5)** took the oath from Mayor **Leichty**
- Councilor **Linda M. Gerber (At-Large)** took the oath from Clerk-Treasurer **Aguirre**
- Councilor **Brett F. Weddell (At-Large)** took the oath from Clerk-Treasurer **Aguirre**

Note: Councilor **Douglas L. Nisley (District 2)** was earlier sworn into office.



Mayor Leichy thanked the large audience of family and friends of the newly elected officers for being present. The **Mayor** said: "It's a significant moment and an opportunity for each of the Council members to acknowledge the solemn oath that they are taking, but it's also a reflection of all of the efforts of so many in our community to support all of these candidates. I myself have been the beneficiary of much love and support throughout the campaign and I know all of you were very actively involved in helping your friends and family members take on the responsibility they are now. So., thank you for your contribution for doing that and I just want to give all of you – if Council members can join me – in giving a round of applause to all of our supporters. We are so deeply grateful."
Council members applauded audience members, who responded with applause.


Councilor Nisley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Councilor Pérez**.
Councilors unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Leichy adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Note: *The advertised "Additional Appropriation" was not considered at this Council meeting, so the scheduled public hearing was cancelled.*


EXHIBIT #1: *Resolution 2023-31, An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations, which would authorize the Clerk-Treasurer's Office to transfer these unobligated balances into different categories than was appropriated in the annual budget for the various functions of the several departments to meet emergencies. A copy of the resolution was emailed to Councilors and the news media before the Dec. 27, 2023 meeting and also was distributed at the meeting.*

APPROVED:



Gina Leichy, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:



Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer

RESOLUTION 2023-21

An Emergency Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriations

AS PER REQUEST BY A DEPARTMENT HEAD OF THE CIVIL CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2023, AND FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THEIR ACTION AND PASSAGE.

WHEREAS certain extraordinary conditions have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget for the year 2023 and it is now necessary to transfer the appropriated money into different categories than was appropriated in the annual budget for the various functions of the several departments to meet emergencies;

WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations have unobligated balances that will be available for transferring for such emergencies;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA, that for the expenses of the City Government the following appropriations are hereby transferred and set apart out of the funds hereinafter named for the purpose specified, subject to the laws governing the same, as follows:

GENERAL FUND - 101

FROM: Engineering / Subscriptions & Dues	101-510-10-439.0301	(400.00)
TO: Engineering / Other Equipment	101-510-10-445.0001	400.00
FROM: Police / Retirement PERF	101-520-11-413.0300	(15,834.00)
TO: Police / Maintenance Contracts	101-520-11-436.0501	15,834.00
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TO: CONS RR/33 / Contractual Services	480-560-00-431.0502	260,000.00

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL ON THE 27TH DAY OF
DECEMBER, 2023

Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Goshen, Indiana, on the 27th day of December, 2023

Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

Gina Leichty, Mayor