

**CITY COUNCIL RETREAT OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
(JANUARY 24, 2007)  
REITH INTERPRETIVE CENTER, GOSHEN, INDIANA**

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The Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, met in the Rieth Interpretive Center for a City Council Retreat on January 24, 2007 at 12:00 P.M. Council President Thomas presided over the discussions. Mayor Kauffman and members of the Council were present as follows:

PRESENT: MAYOR KAUFFMAN, COUNCILMAN BLOSS, GRIMES, LANTZ, PURO,  
SCOTT, THOMAS

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTSCHE

ABSENT: NONE

Also in attendance for all or portions of the Retreat were:

Jim Smith, Plan Commission Member	Scott Woldruff, EID Board
George Schmucker, CRC Member	Al Albrecht, Citizen
Gaby Botts, Sister City Representative	Joe Liechty, CRC Member
Dave Daughtery, Chamber President	County Commissioner Mike Yoder
County Commissioner Terry Rodino	Mayor's Administrative Assist Jo Linda Fradenburg
City Attorney Larry Barks	Tara Layne, Goshen News Reporter
Aleks Tapinsh, Truth Reporter	

**PREVIEW OF 2007 BY MAYOR KAUFFMAN**

Mayor Kauffman spoke on the following subjects:

- Mayor Kauffman's involvement with the Indiana Association of City and Towns' legislative issues including:
  - Smart Growth
  - Limiting payroll exemptions without proof
  - Allowing Major Moves funds to be invested in community foundations
  - 2% Circuit Breaker
  - Hometown Matters which allows fiscal flexibility
  - Mayor's Climate Control Agreement regarding environmental responsibility
- Year-end balances have not been given to the Mayor at this time as the Clerk-Treasurer's Office does not have the process completed after recently installing new financial software and converting the records of the old system. Therefore Mayor Kauffman cannot advise the Council of the balances available to work from at this time;
- Investing in the youth in the community. Mayor Kauffman stated the Council could consider giving a donation to the Goshen Boys & Girls Club this year rather than transferring funds to the Rainy Day Fund as the Council has done in previous years;
- The possibility of adding two officers to the Police Department in 2007;

- City funded Curbside Recycling may have to be deferred until 2008 and looked at again;
- Health Insurance costs for 2007 remained the same as 2006. An increase of health insurance costs for 2007 was budgeted for, therefore some surplus funds should be available;
- The possibility of combining some City services such as the Clerk-Treasurer's Office and the City Court and providing the necessary space;
- Link Road - Short explanation and view of a map pointing out the planned route, properties purchased and properties yet to be purchased or the route may have to change;
- The Redevelopment Commission continuing it's efforts to purchase property along the Mill Race;
- Retaining Madison Street aesthetics when U.S. 33 is rebuilt;
- North S.R. 15 Technological Park design and construction discussions: and
- Good To Great book that Department Heads are reading and discussing at monthly Department Head meetings.

**SHORT VERBAL REPORTS BY CLERK-TREASURER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Tina Bontrager – Clerk-Treasurer

- Update on the conversion of over 1200 accounts totaling over 16 million in cash to the new financial software;
- Issue of Space needs in the Clerk-Treasurer's office including:
  - Storage of the records of the City is a big issue as the Clerk-Treasurer has records stored in four different City buildings;
  - When the State Board of Account Auditors are in Goshen they have to set up their work stations at the Street Department and then personnel and the auditors have to travel between the two buildings for information and discussions; and
  - Space necessary for daily functions and retrievable records close to office operations.
- Solution idea of Tina Bontrager's is for the City to purchase the empty former Farm Bureau Credit Union building to house both the Clerk-Treasurer's Office and all of the records in storage and the Court Clerk's Office and records which would also allow the Police Department to expand in their current building.

Dan Liechty – Cemetery Director

- New sections for Veterans in City Cemeteries;
- New roads to be constructed in 2007: and
- Computerizing all of the Cemetery records with the Clerk-Treasurer's office in 2007.

Mike Leasor – Building Commissioner

- Improving database operations allowing electronic inspections by the use of laptops on site at the property;
- Performing City Preservation Ordinance work: and
- Upgrading one part-time inspector to full time.

Doug Perry – Utilities Superintendent

- Main objective is to provide safe drinking water and sufficient fire protection;
- Plans to install and operate SCADA system;
- Finalize NPDES permit procedures: and
- Design of new CSO facility.

Barb Ladow – Street Commissioner

- Need for a maintenance worker and employee for paint and sign department;
- Appreciation for ability to work with eight new trucks and developing regular schedules for replacements of the equipment: and
- Implementing a training program to increase productivity and safety.

Tana Brooks – Utilities Office Manager

- Update on the conversion of Water and Sewer records to the new financial software: and
- Conversion of Water and Sewer billing is scheduled for February.

Mike Puro – Redevelopment Director

- Current project of most interest to the City is the Mill Race development. Commission is close to completing the acquisition of the residential properties: and
- Currently calculating the cost of further desired acquisition and funds available.

Patty Morgan – Aviation Treasurer – Human Resource Manager

- The Aviation Commission began the extension of the runway project in 2004. Since then the airport has purchased properties, installed security fencing and now a corporate jet can land at the Goshen Airport on a regular basis.
- The City now has the network and server centralized and is outgrowing the storage space on the server.

Bob McCoige – Director of Public Works

- Extensive review of the Police/Courts building looking for energy savings;

- Development of Millrace Powerhouse to possibly generate power;
- Sidewalk program to be wrapped up and the City will continue the 50/50 program with residents in 2007;
- The City received a grant from INDOT for sidewalks including safe routes to schools possibly due to the City's investment in school walk zone sidewalks in 2006;
- Bike paths are projected to be completed in 2008;
- Engineering is working with the school corporation on high speed/broadband/fiber optic capabilities: and
- 2007 projects include:
  - '07 Concrete Pavement Replacement Program;
  - '07 Asphalt Pavement Project;
  - '07 Sidewalk 50/50 program; and
  - '06 Tree Replacement Program to be finalized in spring of 2007.

Dustin Sailor – Utilities Administrative Engineer

- Update on CSO design;
- Storm Water User Fee will begin in 2007 to affect every parcel with impervious areas on the property: and
- GIS system is a beneficial way to bring the City together. Currently the Utilities have collected all hydrants as public or private and have collected all manholes.

Sherry Howland – Park Superintendent

- The Park Department is attempting to create new revenue to fund additional programming;
- Remodeling of the concessions stand at Shanklin Pool so it can begin to serve the entire park;
- Construction of an open air pavilion in Shanklin Park with plans to construct pavilions similar in other parks in the next 3 to 4 years;
- Installation of new playground equipment in 2007 for Rogers and Oakridge Parks;
- Installation of splash pad at Walnut Park;
- Renting space in the Auto Electric Building using the upstairs as a dance facility and fitness center;
- Expectations for the Trail of Hope to continue: and

- Plans for land acquisition for additional parks and soccer fields.

Rhonda Yoder – CDBG Director

- Continued funding from the CDBG program expected with major transitions also expected in 2007: and
- Funding is currently being used to strengthen neighborhoods.

Joseph Hauflaire – Planning Director

- The Planning Department is working through the Comprehensive Plan developing plans to amend some Zoning Ordinances and the City's Sub-Division Ordinances including sidewalk ordinances, street lighting ordinances and parking lots;
- Environmental grants have been received by the City from the Environmental Protection Agency: and
- Currently have applications for grants with the Indiana Financing Authority.

Danny Sink – Fire Chief

- Need for addition of Assistant Fire Chief position;
- Currently the Central Station is under a space needs study;
- Striving for customer satisfaction including education program for kids;
- Currently figuring ambulance specs for bids: and
- The Fire Department has six retirements scheduled in 2007.

Carl Gaines – Central Garage Supervisor

- Working to channel resources and knowledge of departments to achieve savings for example the same vendors were charging different prices for different departments;
- 92% of repairs to City equipment and vehicles was performed in-house in 2006;
- Preventative maintenance is now scheduled and performed on City vehicles;
- Specifications for equipment is reviewed by the Central Garage to figure and give input on the maintenance: and
- The goal of the department is efficiency.

Gary Penland – Police Chief

- Detectives have a monthly average of 60 cases;
- Redirecting priorities of the department toward gang related activity;

- Conducting in-house training on local gang issues and working county wide with Elkhart County and Elkhart City;
- Looking at developing programs with the school system on gang training and education;
- Attempting to do more with less, including adding a couple more reserve officers;
- Interviews for new officers are being conducted by the department: and
- Two bi-lingual students from Goshen High School are employed by the department through a program with Brian Bechtel, of Goshen High School, and has been a great asset.

### **DISCUSSION**

- The City is 5 years behind the master plan regarding water storage. IDEM would like the City to have 4 million gallons in the air, although currently the Water and Sewer Departments are contending with unfunded mandates;
- The houses located on the properties acquired by the airport had to be demolished due to requirements of the FAA;
- If the Park Board allows alcohol in the rented facilities, it would be wise to have the renter sign a permit form: and
- The GASB capital asset reporting for the City as of December 2006 is close to being finalized.

### **MOVIE – ‘FUERZA’**

Mayor Kauffman stated the movie was produced by four students from Goshen College.

The movie was played and watched by those in attendance.

### **IMMIGRATION ISSUES**

Council President Thomas invited comments on Immigration Issues from the group in attendance.

Joe Liechty stated he is aware of success stories of Spanish speaking residents learning to speak and write in English in two years time.

George Schmucker stated the movie is excellent and Goshen needs immigrants for the economy and further a lot are here legally. Mr. Schmucker also stated the toughest problems the community is facing are not solvable by the City.

Councilman Lantz stated educating immigrants is key and during Conversation Cafes, residents are asking for patience on both sides.

Council President Thomas stated a group of residents met with Hispanic ministers and it seemed as if they felt the police should not be so hard on some. Council President Thomas stated the Mayor and Police Chief set the group straight that anyone who breaks the law is treated the same.

Council President Thomas stated it would be a huge issue for the Council if the law changes requiring the Police Department to enforce immigration laws.

Mayor Kauffman stated if the law changes without additional funding it will divert attention from other activities.

Councilman Scott stated the issues cannot be overlooked by officials.

Councilwoman Gautsche stated local governments need assistance from the federal government.

Dave Daughtery stated the issue needs to be addressed at the state and federal level.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER IDEAS/GOALS FOR 2007**

#### **Councilman Scott**

- Favors the idea of the Council passing a Resolution to our legislators regarding immigration issues;
- Pleased with the improvements in East Goshen;
- Pleased with the 2006 Sidewalk Program results;
- Feels the City spends wisely: and
- All elected officials in Goshen are here for the same goal of a better community.

#### **Councilwoman Gautsche**

- Favors gradual conversion of City vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles;
- Favors continued support to the downtown revitalization;
- Encourages business diversity in the community;
- Fiber optics partnerships;
- Providing safe and attractive neighborhoods;
- Improving air quality: and
- Acceptance of diversity.

#### **Councilman Lantz**

- Improving traffic safety and providing relief on roads;

- Working to solve immigration issues as a community;
- Historic Preservation has met road blocks and favors supporting to maintain the integrity: and
- Favors continued development and improvements of the River Race.

#### **Councilman Bloss**

- Favors progress with fiber optic capabilities;
- Encourages the development of the new tech park on N. S.R. 15 as it will be a great asset to the community;
- The City should begin to look for property to purchase for a future fire station in the area of C.R. 27 and C.R. 40: and
- Currently intersection improvements are beginning for S.R. 15 and College Ave. and improvements also need to be made at C.R. 38 and US 33 and College Ave. and US 33.

#### **Councilman Puro**

- Concerned about the upcoming Smoking Ordinance and what guidelines will be set for bowling alleys, bars and service clubs;
- Departments should look into document imaging for space savings: and
- Favors the old jail to be torn down when the Sheriff's Department moves out.

#### **Councilman Grimes**

- Improving transportation including the South Peripheral Road with an underpass;
- Expansion of the City bike paths;
- Favors a partnership with Goshen Community Schools encouraging usage of the walking zones for students with the sidewalks; Favors a Walkable City concept;
- Finalizing the 5<sup>th</sup> Street configurations;
- Looking into a train whistle ban;
- Favors continued support to the Redevelopment Commission and the Mill Race amenities for the City;
- Favors meeting obligations of the Downtown Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan;
- Necessity for the Council to be cautious with Tax Phase Ins;
- Favors the City improving and researching environmental building options;

- Favors expanding dialogue with Elkhart County on services provided to tax payers;
- Evaluate ways to fund the enforcement of City services especially safety;
- Evaluate and solve space issues of the City;
- Updating the Noise Ordinance;
- Favors acquiring land for the development of sport fields: and
- Favors fiscal responsibility while providing services.

**Council President Thomas**

- Favors finalization of College Ave. improvements;
- Favors progress in the link road and further if costs are too high he favors using Major Moves money to develop;
- Favors every Councilmember having an e-mail account in 2007;
- Finalizing 5<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Continuation of following Hyett Palma Study including a new site for the Street Department;
- Civil conversations of the Council exist because of all of the members and favors the continuation of the conversations;
- Encourages a kind of civility and graciousness during this election year: and
- Acknowledgement of a great resource the City has with Mayor Kauffman.

Council President Thomas adjourned the retreat at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor, Allan Kauffman  
 Goshen, Indiana

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tina M. Bontrager  
 City Clerk-Treasurer