

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
APRIL 1, 2008
111 EAST JEFFERSON STREET
GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers for a regular session on April 1, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. Presiding Officer was Mayor Kauffman with members of the Council present as follows:

PRESENT: COUNCILMAN LANTZ, RIEGSECKER, STUMP, STUTSMAN, THOMAS
COUNCILWOMAN ROBINSON

ABSENT: COUNCILWOMAN GAUTSCHE

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

No items were presented under privilege of the floor.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor Kauffman stated item one, the Council appointment to the Community Relations Commission, should be removed from the Agenda. The Council agreed as Rose Smith is willing to serve out the remainder of the term thru this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Riegsecker moved to accept the Minutes of the Council meetings of March 4, 2008 and March 18, 2008 as presented. Motion seconded by Council President Stump and motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2008

Mayor Kauffman opened the Public Hearing.

CDBG Administrator Rhonda Yoder explained the following:

- Every year the program has a 30 day public comment period once the draft plan is prepared;
- In two weeks she will request the Council pass a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the plan on behalf of the City;
- The CDBG program year runs from July 1 thru June 30. With $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year complete, a summary sheet outlining the year to date spending for program year 2007 was given as follows:
 - Rehabilitation of owner occupied housing - \$324.50 of \$110,849;
 - Public Improvements – Usually infrastructure projects - \$105,843.32 of \$142,000;
 - Public service grants – Funding to local service agencies that provide service to low and moderate income individuals - \$26,025.00 of \$30,600;
 - Planning and Administration - \$39,172.83 of \$55,000.

- The program will see a significant budget cut again this year as the budget for 2007 was \$338,449 and this year the City anticipates a budget of \$300,000 for 2008.

Mayor Kauffman closed the Public Hearing as no others wished to speak.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 4483

Council President Stump introduced Ordinance Number 4483 entitled “AMEND 2008 SALARY ORDINANCE 4449 TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION”

Council President Stump asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only for its first reading and moved its passage. Motion seconded by Councilman Stutsman.

The Mayor presented the Council with information and stated the following:

- By combining the two positions into one the savings to the Civil City will be \$48,772 and the savings to Redevelopment will be \$9,425;
- There will be a significant expansion in responsibility for the Redevelopment Director with the position;
- In addition to the Council approving the position consolidation, the Redevelopment Commission also has to agree: and
- The proposed split in the salary is 70% paid by Redevelopment and 30% by Civil City.

The Council and Mayor discussed the following:

- Councilman Stump stated he received several calls questioning the fact that former Building Commissioner Mike Leasor was able to fill in for miscellaneous inspections when needed and Mike Puro will not be able to conduct the inspections if necessary. Mayor Kauffman stated in consultation with Mike Leasor, the former Building Commissioner feels the current staff can handle inspections when necessary as there is enough cross training in the department to cover absences;
- Councilman Lantz stated building in the area is down right now but when there is an upturn again will Mike Puro be able to handle three departments. Mayor Kauffman stated currently Mike Puro does most of his own clerical work and he feels there will be an opportunity to share some of the work among the existing staff. Therefore that will be some of a relief in his time and further Mike Leasor stated he would be willing to return on a part time basis if needed;
- Councilman Riegsecker stated the question he has been asked is if Mike Puro is qualified for the position for example if you have a concern with an inspection the person can contact Mike Leasor and work out the concern; will Mike Puro be able to do this and does he know the building codes. Mayor Kauffman stated Mike Puro does not know the codes like Mike Leasor but he could mediate such concerns and if the issue still could not be resolved, the City does have a Building Appeals Board that has not had to function for many years but could be re-established for irresolvable issues if necessary;

- Councilman Lantz questioned how current clerical staff can take on additional work when the City departments are already understaffed. Councilwoman Robinson stated she also received several calls questioning if additional office staff would have to be hired. Mayor Kauffman stated he does not anticipate the hiring of additional staff.

Glenn Null, 319 Dewey Ave, stated he finds it hard to understand why the City would want to compound someone’s abilities as it is possible to overload one person. Further he does not like the idea of too many departments under one person and feels there could be a conflict of interest.

Gary Haney, City Commercial Building Inspector, stated he would like to alleviate some of the fears as the Building Department has a qualified staff that is confident and supportive of the decision of the director position.

Bill Bloss, 605 Lexington Dr, stated he is unsure a \$15,000 increase can be justified and questioned why the City needs a director over the Planning Department.

Mayor Kauffman stated his primary objective with the proposal is to save money for the City and as time goes on he is going to have to look at more opportunities to save money in the City as property tax revenues decrease. The duties of the position in the Building Department will primarily be administrative and the position will probably have more interaction over the Building Department than the Planning Department.

Council President Stump stated he would like to see the Ordinance voted on first reading and then tabled to receive any further public comment before second reading.

Bill Bloss questioned if the Redevelopment Commission shouldn’t vote on the issue before the Council as it expands the duties of the director.

City Attorney Larry Barkes stated this Ordinance only creates the position it does not appoint Mike Puro.

The Council roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: LANTZ: RIEGSECKER: ROBINSON: STUMP: STUTSMAN: THOMAS

NAYS: NONE

(ORDINANCE 4483 DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON FIRST READING ONLY THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2008.)

ORDINANCE NUMBER 4484

Council President Stump introduced Ordinance Number 4484 entitled “AMBULANCE USER FEE SCHEDULE.”

Council President Stump asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only for its first reading and moved its passage. Motion seconded by Councilman Riegsecker.

Mayor Kauffman stated several years ago the Council tried to set ambulance fees in accordance with Medicare adjustments and chose 150% of Medicare for ambulance fees. At the time Daniel Grimes was on the Council and he negotiated with providers and found 150% of Medicare payments to be a reasonable fee. The intention of the Council was to adjust rates annually as Medicare does. Mayor Kauffman pointed out that ambulance services of the City are subsidized with property taxes and the more we are able to collect in fees means less subsidy comes from property taxes.

By a 6-0 vote of the Council the motion passed.

Mayor Kauffman asked for unanimous Council consent to consider the Ordinance for passage during one meeting. As there were no objections, the Mayor declared that the Ordinance would be heard on second reading.

Council President Stump asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only for second and final reading and moved its passage by roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilman Riegsecker.

The Council roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: LANTZ: RIEGSECKER: ROBINSON: STUMP: STUTSMAN: THOMAS

NAYS: NONE

(ORDINANCE 4484 DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2008.)

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NUMBER 4485

Mayor Kauffman opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance Number 4485 entitled “Additional Appropriation Ordinance.”

Mayor Kauffman explained the appropriation requests from the Century Drive Fund as follows:

- \$75,000 to complete the balance of a traffic study approved by the Redevelopment Commission after the 2008 budget was prepared: and
- \$10,000 to purchase a small land parcel needed for the Eisenhower Drive Extension Project.

Mayor Kauffman closed the Public Hearing as no person wished to speak.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 4485

Council President Stump introduced Ordinance Number 4485 entitled “ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.”

Council President Stump asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only for its first reading and moved its passage. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

The Council discussed the following:

- Unsure as to if the purchase of the land parcel on Eisenhower Drive is the last of the property needed to complete the road;
- Probability that the road extension will be open this summer: and
- Unsure as to if issues with the county regarding getting across Horn Ditch have been resolved.

By a 6-0 vote of the Council the motion passed.

Mayor Kauffman asked for unanimous Council consent to consider the Ordinance for passage during one meeting. As there were no objections, the Mayor declared that the Ordinance would be heard on second reading.

Council President Stump asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read the Ordinance by title only for its second and final reading and moved its passage by roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

The Council roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: LANTZ: RIEGSECKER: ROBINSON: STUMP: STUTSMAN: THOMAS

NAYS: NONE

(ORDINANCE 4485 DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2008.)

Councilman Thomas moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Riegsecker and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.