

Minutes

Seymour Common Council

September 25, 2023

The September 25, 2023 City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Pastor Ralph Blomenberg and the Pledge of Allegiance to the nation's flag was recited. A virtual option was available.

Members Present: Mayor Matt Nicholson, Clerk/Treasurer Darrin Boas, Matt Wheeler, Jerry Hackney, Brett Cunningham, City Attorney Chris Engleking, Chad Hubbard, Police Chief Greg O'Brien, Tribune Zach Spicer, January Rutherford, Tyler Hinkle, Colin Smith, Victoria Taylor, Fire Chief Lucas and wife Cindy, Assistant Fire Chief Eric Roll. Councilman Seth Davidson, Dave Earley, and Drew Storey were absent.

On a motion made by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the minutes for the September 11, 2023, Council meeting were approved.

Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

Public Hearing

- The Mayor opened a Public Hearing for the 2024 Seymour Appropriations and Tax Rates for Fiscal the fiscal year 2024 Budget. After no questions were asked, the Mayor properly closed the Public Hearing.

Old Business

- Councilman Wheeler requested second reading of Ordinance No. 20, Council Bill No. 41 (2023), seconded by Councilman Cunningham, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 50: Water and Sewers, of the Seymour City Code. This is done about every 5 years, updating verbiage on the City Code for Stormwater as required for the IDEM permit. On a motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, the ordinance passed on second reading 4-0-3.
- Councilman Hackney requested second reading of Ordinance No. 2 Authority Bill No. 2 (2023), seconded by Councilman Cunningham, an Ordinance Fixing the Budget of the Seymour Municipal Airport Authority for the Year 2024. This was discussed in the prior Council Meeting. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed on second reading 4-0-3.
- Councilman Hackney in Councilman Earley's absence requested seconded reading of Ordinance No. 21, Council Bill No. 42 (2023), seconded by Councilman Cunningham, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 31 of the Seymour City Code to Update Reserve Police Officer Program Requirements. At the prior Council Meeting, Chief O'Brien spoke about the decision to move to 5 reserve officers (10% of current staff) from the current number of 1. They will be required to perform 12 hours of service per month. O'Brien felt we would have some retirees interested in filling these positions. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed on second reading 4-0-3.

New Business

- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 23, Council Bill No. 44 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler, an Ordinance establishing the Salaries of the Appointed Officials and Employees of the City of Seymour, Indiana, for the year 2024. There was a lot of discussion led by Councilman Cunningham, stating he could not support raising wages for City employees without a plan to improve road conditions. After some heated discussion with the Mayor regarding how/where road funding comes from, Mr. Cunningham made a motion to table this Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. The Mayor cast the tie breaking vote of 2-2 to table, by voting No to table the ordinance. Tyler Hinkle then spoke about the 4% raises across the board, and are individual positions being evaluated? Should some employees get more than 4% and some less, based on their current salaries and wage gaps between positions? Clerk/Treasurer Boas shared what has been done in some departments, and that Department Heads can make recommendations for such adjustments. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the ordinance passed the first reading 3-1-3.
- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 24, Council Bill No. 45 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler (Vote of 3-1-3 to read), an Ordinance setting the Salaries of Elected Officials for the City of Seymour, Indiana, for the year 2024. Tyler Hinkle spoke, sharing he thought it would be good for the elected officials to forgo their raises and put it toward road repairs. Mr. Hubbard shared that our elected officials are one of the lowest paid compared to our peers. Mr. Cunningham also stated the importance of attracting qualified people to the positions. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the ordinance passed the first reading 3-1-3.
- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 25, Council Bill No. 46 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler, (Vote of 3-1-3 to read), an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for Fiscal year 2024. This budget offers a slight decrease in the Tax Rate over last year's proposed rate. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 3-1-3.

Miscellaneous business

- The Mayor shared the Retirement Open House for Fire Chief Brad Lucas on Friday, September 29th, from 11 am to 2 pm at Fire Station 2. Thank you, Chief Lucas, for your 40 years of service!

On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the meeting was properly adjourned.

Mayor Matt Nicholson

Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/Treasurer