

# Minutes

## Seymour Common Council

October 9, 2023

The October 9, 2023 City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Les Linz 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, Seth Davidson, Dave Earley, Chad Hubbard, City Attorney Chris Engleking, Police Chief Greg O'Brien, Tribune Zach Spicer, January Rutherford, Tyler Hinkle, Fire Chief Eric Roll, Drew Storey via Goto Meeting, Parks Admin Tracy Cole, Assistant DPW Director Doug Gregory, Parks Director Stacy Findley, Ordinance Administrator Kelly Pifer, Police officers Samson and Burke, Assistant Parks Director Chad Keithley, Parks employees Rick Phillips and Kerry Bevers.

On a motion made by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the minutes for the September 25, 2023, Council meeting were approved.

### Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

#### Public Hearing

- The Mayor opened a Public Hearing for an appropriations from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for an upgrade/addition to the Council Chambers Audio/Video equipment. After no questions or discussion, the Mayor properly closed the Public Hearing.

#### Old Business

- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 23, Council Bill No. 44 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler for second reading, an Ordinance establishing the Salaries of the Appointed Officials and Employees of the City of Seymour, Indiana, for the year 2024. Mr. Hackney then requested to amend the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Earley, for a change to the Police and Fire Chief's salaries and 25 yr longevity. The amendment was approved 6-1-0. There was some discussion led by Councilman Storey regarding across the board increases vs. merit/performance-based increases. There was some discussion regarding pros and cons and cost of living increases. Mr. Storey requested a Council Committee review this program prior to next year's Salary Ordinance presentation, and the Finance committee agreed to. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 6-1-0.
- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 24, Council Bill No. 45 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler for second reading, an Ordinance setting the Salaries of Elected Officials for the City of Seymour, Indiana, for the year 2024. Mr. Hackney then requested to amend the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Earley, to correct an addition error on the Mayor's salary. The

amendment was approved 6-1-0. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 6-1-0.

- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 25, Council Bill No. 46 (2023), seconded by Mr. Wheeler, for second reading, an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for Fiscal year 2024. Mr. Hackney then made a motion to amend the adopted budget column (reduced \$400,000) due to an updated version from Reedy, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, and approved 6-1-0. 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. Earley, the ordinance passed second reading 6-1-0.

### **New Business**

- Councilman Cunningham introduced Ordinance No. 26, Council Bill No. 47, seconded by Councilman Wheeler, an Ordinance to rezone property at the 1600 Blk of South Walnut Street. This came to Council with an unfavorable recommendation from Planning Commission. Mr. Cunningham spoke on why this townhome duplex rezone received an unfavorable rating. Mr. Ollis, the requestor, spoke to his reason for the request. Reasons give for the unfavorable recommendation had to do with no other duplexes in the area (excluding The Lutheran Community Home complex), and concerns with spot zoning. On a motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the ordinance failed passage 3-4-0.
- Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance 22, Council Bill No. 43 (2023), seconded by Councilman Wheeler, an ordinance to appropriate from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the Council Chambers Audio/Video upgrade. Councilman Cunningham questioned the choice of the vendor and price, and the Mayor shared we went with the recommendations of the special committee formed by the Council (see Council Minutes dated 8/28/23) that evaluated the RFP bids and put forth their recommendation of the Vendor and the ARP fund request is the amount of that bid. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 7-0.

### **Miscellaneous business**

- The Mayor shared the passing of Fire Chief Brad Lucas's mother, and visitation was going on until 8:30pm today, and the funeral is tomorrow.
- Tyler Hinkle spoke about voting down of Ordinance No.26, the need for family housing, and how we are now allowing short term rentals in neighborhoods but won't allow a zoning change from R1 to R3 for 2 – 1500sq ft duplexes to be built on a vacant residential lot.

- Fire Chief Roll shared upcoming promotions: Anthony Walker to Assistant Chief and Chris Connell to Battalion Chief.

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

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Mayor Matt Nicholson

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Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/Treasurer