

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2009

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall on October 1, 2009, at the hour of 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order and presided.

Present: Bunder, Dietrich, Hunt, Keen, and Roales.

Absent: Burch and Thomas.

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, City Engineer Buck, Police Chief Dombkowski, Street Commissioner Downey, Fire Chief Drew, Human Resources Director Foster, Parks Superintendent Payne, and Director of Development Poole [who arrived at 4:40 p.m.].

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the minutes of the September 14 Council meeting were distributed to the Council at this meeting, as the September Council meeting was long, more than 4½ hours, which yielded 67 pages of minutes. She mentioned that there would be a new format to the minutes, which will be less time-consuming to prepare, but may be less informative. When there is new technology, there will be the opportunity to have the recordings of meetings available on the web.

Mayor Dennis reviewed the agenda. Councilor Hunt reported that the Beautification Award would be presented by Councilor Dietrich to the Shivers of 275 St. Joseph Court.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 24-09 An Ordinance Setting The 2010 City Budget And Setting The 2010 Tax Levy On Property And Tax Rate (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer) **PUBLIC HEARING ONLY**

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title, and noted that he would show the PowerPoint presentation that he distributed at the September Council meeting, but did not discuss, due to the length of the last meeting.

Councilor Hunt asked if the health costs had been finalized. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that renewal quotes have been received from a variety of sources, but the City is still in an information gathering stage, so that comparisons can be made. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported that this has been a very competitive process, and that all of the options presented are fundable in the budget. Mayor Dennis added that a percentage increase in insurance cost was planned in the 2010 budget.

Councilor Roales asked that the Clerk-Treasurer's memorandum of September 10 regarding the budget ordinance be available to the public at the Council meeting, as he found it to be useful.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes mentioned that there is some additional information about the abstract and taxes due in 2009. The good news for the City is that the adjustments that affect the COIT distribution are in favor of the City, although the City's percentage share is shrinking. The changes are positive for the City at this time.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 25-09 An Ordinance To Fix The Salaries Of Appointed Officers, Employees, And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Year 2010 (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title, noting that there is no increase from 2009.

There was no further discussion

Ordinance No. 26-09 An Ordinance To Fix The 2010 Wastewater Treatment Utility Salary Schedule As Submitted By The Board Of Public Works And Safety For Approval By The Common Council Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Presented by the Board of Public Works and Safety)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title, noting that there is no increase from 2009.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 27-09 An Ordinance To Set The Salaries Of The Elected Officials, City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Year 2010 (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title, again noting that there is no increase from 2009.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 28-09 An Ordinance Amending The General Provisions And Service Charges For Refuse And Garbage Collection In The City Of West Lafayette (Submitted by Councilor Bunder)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title, noting that this is the Pay As You Throw concept. He stated that there should be more time for conversation regarding this matter, and suggested that the ordinance be tabled for more discussion with citizens and the Council.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes requested that information pertaining to costs be provided to her, so that her office can validate the numbers used. She requested to see the business plan for the proposal to better understand, as the numbers used to develop the proposal do not match budget or expense figures.

Councilor Keen commented that he has received a lot of input, mostly inquiries, concerns, and questions.

Councilor Bunder disagreed with the request to table the ordinance, observing that the discussions began in 2008 and has gone through an extensive process as the Purdue EPICS program would allow. Two other Big Ten cities have Pay As You Throw programs in place. Councilor Bunder said that he has received a lot of email, too, more positive than Councilor Keen's. Councilor Bunder indicated that he was not inclined to withdraw the ordinance.

Councilor Hunt noted that there were good comments at the Go Greener public meeting, and many Councilors attended, and that a lot of questions were answered. She stated that the

Councilors are receiving a lot of comments, with one being that the Street and Sanitation Department is one of the best services that the City has.

Mayor Dennis explained that he wants to make certain that the Council does not have to re-do the legislation.

There was no further discussion

Ordinance No. 29-09 An Ordinance Vacating A Certain Utility And Drainage Easement In The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Submitted by City Engineer Buck; Sponsored by Mayor Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title and asked City Engineer Buck to explain the legislation.

City Engineer Buck clarified that, as part of the Cumberland Avenue Reconstruction Project, one of the property owners, Fairfield Builders Supply, owns Lots 3 and 4. Lot 3 is the one with the building on it. Lot 4 contains the pond at US52 and Cumberland Avenue is platted like a building lot. The property owners are willing to donate Lot 4, so that the City can maintain the pond as a drainage feature for surface runoff, as well as provide drainage for the streets and several other building lots. As a part of the Cumberland Reconstruction Project, the City would construct a serpentine wetland with wetland plantings, which are less maintenance and more pleasing aesthetically, but also would serve as a water quality best management practice to filter contaminants and particulates before they go through the drainage system to the Wabash River. As a part of this process, the lot lines between Lots 3 and 4 would be moved about 30 feet to the west, which eliminates some setback and nonconforming issues on Lot 3. This would necessitate replatting both lots. Since the easement was platted with the two lots, it requires Council action to remove the utility easement. There are no utilities in the easement area.

City Attorney Burns said that the ordinance requires two readings, with a public hearing before the second reading in November.

Councilor Roales asked if there would be a Council motion to accept the gift of land. City Attorney Burns responded that the Board of Works that would accept it.

Councilor Keen asked what the intent of the serpentine lake is, whether it is intended to be a self-contained area, as there is a pipe under US52, which takes the drainage to the wetland on the west of US52. City Engineer Buck answered that there had been a 1940s-era legal drain collapsing under US52. INDOT put in a new pipe last fall, and the drain now functions. The connection to that pipe would be made in such a way as to minimize maintenance and upkeep. The drawing of the lake is conceptual. There will be more detention volume storage available, as it is a more efficient plan. The plantings are in the budget. Councilor Keen asked whether the trail system would go around the pond. City Engineer Buck answered that that is a possibility, depending on the budget, but could also be considered in the future.

Councilor Hunt asked if the plantings would look similar to those planned at Northpointe. City Engineer Buck responded that the plan is to do that.

There was no further discussion

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Hunt mentioned that the requirements for the Redevelopment Commission state that members have to be appointed each year, and that they are to be sworn in on the first business day of a new year. In the past, members have been sworn in on the first day of the business year, and then they have been appointed at the first Council meeting, which is after that. She suggested that the appointments be made in December, noting that the Council has two appointees and the Mayor has three.

► Councilor Hunt announced that she and Councilor Burch were asked to be part of a stormwater advisory committee. She asked City Engineer Buck to describe that responsibility. City Engineer Buck explained that he and Wastewater Utility Director Henderson are working with a newly-formed group, the Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. It is a citizens group to provide input on the best methods to meet stormwater regulations in funding a capital plan and ongoing operation and maintenance costs, which are currently funded by the Wastewater Utility. Those costs have been growing and will continue to grow. One concern is that these costs should be covered by a directed funding source. The City of Lafayette is doing the same thing. Councilor Dietrich reported that he was also asked to serve on the committee. Mayor Dennis said that it is a large group, so that there is a good cross-section of the community represented. Mr. Buck added that there were 40 to 45 citizens asked to serve, and about 25 attended the first meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Councilor Bunder offered thanks to the City's legal team for the successful conclusion of cases in the Appellate Court. City Attorney Burns indicated he would pass along the accolades to the firm that handled the appeal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilor Keen moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting, the time being 5:05 p.m.