

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 29, 2009

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in Council Chambers at City Hall on October 29, 2009, at the hour of 4:35 p.m.

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order and presided.

Present: Burch, Dietrich, Hunt, Keen, Roales, and Thomas.

Absent: Bunder.

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, City Engineer Buck, Police Chief Dombkowski, Fire Chief Drew, Human Resources Director Foster, Wastewater Utility Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, and Housing Program Coordinator Dixon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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) **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title and stated that there would be a public hearing at the Council meeting.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 30-09 An Ordinance To Vacate Drainage And Utilities Easement (Submitted by Stuart and Branigin, LLP; Sponsored by Councilor Burch)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Owen representing the petitioners was present to answer any questions.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 31-09 An Ordinance Lifting The City Of West Lafayette's Restrictions On The Import Of Certain Types Of Waste Generated Outside The Corporate Limits Of The City Of West Lafayette (Sponsored by Mayor John Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title.

Councilor Hunt asked Wastewater Utility Director Henderson to clarify the significance of FOG and the Purdue involvement. Mr. Henderson responded that the digester renovation project is complete and ready to accept grease. In order for the Utility to take hauled wastes from outside the City limits, the current City Code must be changed. This ordinance is a housekeeping issue, which will encourage the hauling of wastes to the Utility. There is a receiving station for FOG—fats, oils, and grease—and excess capacity in the digesters, with sufficient room for grease.

PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES, OCTOBER 29, 2009, CONTINUED

The more grease and the more waste, the more electricity can be produced on site, the less electricity that has to be purchased. Tipping fees for the delivery of wastes will be set. These fees will be a significant revenue source. Terre Haute charges \$0.05 per gallon; Indianapolis receives \$0.25 per gallon. Discussions are ongoing with a large grease hauler that would like to bring 50,000 gallons per week to the West Lafayette Wastewater Utility. Part of the goal of the digester renovation project was to generate revenue from grease hauling and generate electricity through a "green power" effort, which passage of the ordinance will permit.

Councilor Dietrich asked if the haulers would have contracts and what would happen if the grease-eater malfunctions. Wastewater Utility Director Henderson responded that contract issues, including fees, would be taken up by the Board of Works. In the event of a problem with the digester, the digester would be shut down, repaired, and restored to functionality. City Attorney Burns added that the City would have a contract that considered those issues. Mayor Dennis thanked Wastewater Utility Director Henderson for his vision. Mr. Henderson said that he appreciated the people who preceded him and laid the groundwork for this effort.

Councilor Thomas asked if Purdue would participate in the grease recycling. Wastewater Utility Director Henderson answered that Purdue is selling its grease. High quality yellow grease is being sold by other businesses. The grease hauler would bring brown grease, a lower quality as far as reuse goes, but it would process well in the digesters.

Councilor Keen asked if the nearest waste drop outside West Lafayette is in Indianapolis. Wastewater Utility Director Henderson confirmed that it is the Belmont Plant in Indianapolis, which charges \$0.25 per gallon, and will have a rate increase in 2010. Councilor Keen asked what the anticipated rate would be in West Lafayette. Mr. Henderson said it would be the decision of the Board of Works, but it will be competitive and a good solution for waste haulers who go to Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Louisville, or Cincinnati. West Lafayette is positioned perfectly geographically to take advantage of that.

Wastewater Utility Director Henderson invited the Council and citizens to contribute to the digester project at the household level. Used cooking oil and grease can be saved in the reusable gallon jugs, which Mr. Henderson distributed to the Council, then traded for empty containers at the drop-off center at the Utility. The contents will be added to the digester. Each gallon of grease will generate enough power to light a 40-watt light bulb for 24 hours.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 32-09 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation – Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 33-09 An Ordinance Providing For Temporary Loans From A Fund Having Sufficient Balance To A Depleted Fund (WWTU to Parks & Recreation Fund) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read the ordinance by title.

Councilor Keen asked if two readings at the Council meeting would be necessary. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes answered yes.

PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES, OCTOBER 29, 2009, CONTINUED

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 13-09 A Resolution Requesting The Transfer Of Funds (Police Department)
(Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read the resolution by title.

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Keen moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting, the time being 4:45 p.m.