

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2010

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on February 1, 2010, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Bunder, Burch, Dietrich, Hoggatt, Hunt, Keen, 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, WWTU Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, and Director of Development Poole.

MINUTES: Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the December 29, 2009, Pre-Council Meeting, and the January 4, 2010, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Burch seconded the motion, and the motion passed *viva voce*.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS:

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY

Councilor Bunder welcomed two Purdue University Communications classes, COM497 and COM252. Street Commissioner Downey made a presentation on comingled, single-stream recycling. Only pickup would be comingled; the drop-off site would continue to be separated by the users. Mr. Downey showed a short film on comingled recycling. No time has been set to begin to accept comingled recycling.

Stormwater Utility Update

Mr. Mike Massonne of DLZ Indiana LLC provided an update on the feasibility study of stormwater user fees in West Lafayette. He reported that he has been working with Wastewater Utility Director Henderson and City Engineer Buck for about a year. He briefed the Board of Works on this topic at their meeting earlier today. Mr. Massonne reviewed the program drivers, what has been done, findings to date, and current and upcoming activities. The program drivers for stormwater work are federal and state stormwater rules, particularly the 1972 Clean Water Act. That Act promulgated down to the state level, where IDEM holds a Statewide permit and where each community like the City of West Lafayette holds a permit under IDEM's permit. IDEM holds the statewide permit with U.S. EPA, and the City is permitted per IDEM's criteria. That rule is 327 IAC 15-13, also known as Rule 13. Those activities include what are called six minimum control measures, including (1) Public outreach and education. (2) Public participation—recycling is a good example of that and educating people about the importance of recycling, because solid waste is a pollutant, it is considered a gross pollutant in stormwater flow. Keeping it out is critical, and we're regulated to keep it out. Recycling programs are encouraged by the federal and state government, and they're also monitored in annual reports. (3) Illicit discharges that would be MCM3. You are required to exercise your legal authority as a City to keep nonstormwater discharges out of stormwater flows in your sewer system, your separate storm sewer system. (4) Construction site erosion controls, which are also called Rule

5, the black or orange fence around construction sites. (5) Post-construction controls, something like swirl separators that look like manholes and go in the ground to swirl stormwater around and the suspended solids fall out and those are vactored out. (6) MCM6, "good housekeeping." The City is required through the stormwater permit to maintain its facilities. Examples are street sweeping, taking granular material off the streets, and the other is to make sure that the Fire Department has secondary containment around any polluting chemicals. Stormwater permits are woven through operations of the City—fire station, street sweeping, solid waste collection—intertwined through many operations. The IDEM permit mandate provides regulations for construction, management, and monitoring of stormwater projects to maintain and enhance water quality. Other program drivers are ongoing operations and maintenance activities currently performed by the City, program service needs for stormwater system improvements and rehabilitation, and state legislation pertaining to stormwater utilities. The State of Indiana recognizes that the stormwater program is an individual utility program and does require funding. Legislation is in place for municipalities to establish stormwater utilities to collect dedicated revenues to support the stormwater system and those activities. Accomplishments to date have been to estimate program costs, to determine the base billing unit for impervious surface area, to perform a preliminary financial analysis of revenue requirements, and to convene stormwater advisory panels to review city findings and provide comments and recommendations. The findings are comprised of: (1) an estimated capital improvement program totaling about \$13,000,000 with 7 projects identified for future funding and one project being funded as part of the Cumberland Avenue road reconstruction project; (2) approximately \$650,000 of expense is required annually for projected yearly operation and maintenance activities and capital equipment; (3) determination of a billing unit as an ERU equal to 3,200 sq. ft. of impervious area with residential parcels assigned the base billing unit of 1 ERU; imperious areas on nonresidential parcels have been measured; (4) a preliminary rate schedule and revenue generation; (5) results of stormwater advisory panel recommendations; and (6) the next steps which involve expanded public outreach, making a rate recommendation and finalizing a stormwater user fee ordinance for presentation in April, completing a user database, and preparing for billing to begin in July to cover the second half of 2010. The current plan is to present the ordinance for stormwater service charge/user fee in April, with the final reading in May.

Councilor Burch asked for clarification on the billing strategy, whether area of each lot or home would be billed uniquely, or all residences would be the same rate. Mr. Massonne responded that residences would all be billed the same. Councilor Burch questioned the capital improvements projects, whether the costs of the improvements projects are included in the estimated costs for the projects. Mr. Massonne answered that capital project work is building new projects, and the estimated costs are the operating costs.

Councilor Hunt asked whether the ERUs are based on an average. Mr. Massonne said yes, that several hundred lots were measured. In West Lafayette, the area is 3,200 square feet; in Indianapolis, the area is 2,800 square feet.

Councilor Dietrich asked if it mattered, in the calculation for residential or for commercial, if the paved lot is surrounded completely by earth, as opposed to running directly to storm drains or from patios to yards. Mr. Massonne answered that it is surface area, whether or not it is connected to a drain.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE

Councilor Keen presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

PURDUE RELATIONS

Councilor Hoggatt introduced Carmen Martin of the Purdue University RecycleMaina and Boiler Green Initiative, who gave a short presentation on ways the University and the City could partner on some issues.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Hunt presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Thomas presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

PERSONNEL

No report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

No report.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

SPECIAL REPORTS - STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - MAYOR

Mayor Dennis presented his State of the City address, which is attached to this document.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor Hoggatt presented the Beautification Award to the McDonald's at Stadium and Northwestern.

Appointment to Police Merit Commission – Council

Councilor Hunt moved to nominate Nina Kirkpatrick as the Council representative to the Police Merit Commission to finish. Councilor Burch seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed, 7-0.

Appointments to the Traffic Commission for Districts 3, 4 and 5 - Council

Councilor Hunt nominated Deb Siciliano to serve as the District 3 representative to the Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch, and the roll call vote passed, 7-0.

Councilor Burch nominated Karen O'Farrell to serve as the District 4 representative to the Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt, and the roll call vote passed, 7-0.

Councilor Keen reported that he does not have a nomination as the District 5 representative to the Traffic Commission at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported that the preliminary 2010 budget order has been received. The budget adopted by the Council has been funded. The City's target fund balances for the

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, CONTINUED

year end 2009 have been met or exceeded. This afternoon, the DLGF conducted a public hearing at the County Government Office Building on the 2010 budgets for all jurisdictions. No taxpayers spoke on any matters. The City's tax rate for 2010 will be 0.8214 per \$100 AV, which is just about half a cent higher than the current rate of 0.8165. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that it was remarkable that the tax rate has remained flat. We have not yet received the final breakdown of the tax rate by fund; that will not be available until the final workup on the budget is done. The levy, the amount of property taxes that are authorized to be collected for City purposes in 2010 is about \$7,900,000. That authorization level is \$220,000 or 3.5% more than was authorized to be collected in 2009, but the amount will not be collected, because of the Circuit Breaker. The most recent forecast by the Legislative Services Agency is that we will face over a \$200,000 cut to the levy, because of the impact of the Circuit Breaker. The City will probably have closer to \$16,000 in new property taxes to fund the 2010 budget. This is the beginning of permanent change in how the City is funded. The impact of Circuit Breaker in 2011 is larger still, estimated at closer to \$282,000, which will be in excess of what the annual increase in the levy would likely be for 2011. In other words, the City will begin to go back and have a real cut in property taxes, not just a freeze, to support City operations. The City cannot look to property taxes to provide increased revenue in the years ahead. Other recurring revenue sources will be necessary to fund the level of spending that is determined to be necessary. Financial reports for the months have been filed with the Council. Our fiscal year 2008 audit report has been released by the State Board of Accounts; it is available on the website. As I noted last month, there were no findings. I expect the auditors to be in my office next week for 2009 audit.

LEGAL REPORT

City Attorney Burns stated that his report was distributed to the Council. There were no questions about this report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 02-10 (Amended) An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation For Fire Pension Fund And Transfer For Police Pension Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)
PUBLIC HEARING

Councilor Keen motioned that the public hearing be opened. Councilor Burch seconded the motion. The voice vote to hold the public hearing passed unanimously.

Mayor Dennis asked for comments in the public hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Dennis closed the public hearing.

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 02-10 (Amended) by title and moved that it be passed on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 02-10 (Amended) passed on final reading, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 04-10 An Ordinance Establishing The Asset Forfeiture Program Fund Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, CONTINUED

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 04-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that she drafted the ordinance to create the asset forfeiture fund. She asked Police Chief Dombkowski to clarify how the program works.

Police Chief Dombkowski indicated that the Police Department had been contacted by the U.S. Marshalls Service, which was holding money from some West Lafayette cases. The split is 80-20 split, 80% returning to the local jurisdiction. A special account has to be created for this.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes added that the money is here, so two readings are required tonight.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 04-10 passed on first reading, 7-0.

Councilor Keen moved to suspend the rules to consider this ordinance again at this time for final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Mayor Dennis said all right, we have a motion to suspend the rules and consider this ordinance for the second reading tonight. Councilor Burch seconded the motion. The motion to consider Ordinance No. 04-10 on second reading passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Keen said Mr. Mayor, this ordinance is on the table now for second reading. I move for passage on final reading, and the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 04-10 passed on second and final reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 05-10 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation, Perimeter Parkway Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 05-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 05-10 passed on first reading, 7-0. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes announced that there would be a public hearing on this ordinance at the March meeting.

Ordinance No. 06-10 An Ordinance To Authorize Unappropriated Expenditures From The Police Grants Projects Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)
Resolution

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, CONTINUED

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 06-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 06-10 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes requested that the second reading be held at this meeting.

Councilor Keen moved to suspend the rules to consider this ordinance again at this time for final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch. The motion to consider Ordinance No. 06-10 on second reading passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Keen moved that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 04-10 passed on second and final reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 01-10 A Resolution to Waive Noncompliance Relating To Tax Abatement Previously Granted to SRJ Development, LLC (Submitted by Councilor Hoggatt) **PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 01-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Councilor Keen moved to open the public hearing on this resolution. Councilor Burch seconded the motion. The voice vote to hold the public hearing passed unanimously.

Mayor Dennis asked for comments in the public hearing.

Councilor Bunder asked for explanation for the record.

Director of Development Poole reported that in 2007, the Council granted a tax abatement to the Lakeview Technology Center which is owned by SRJ Development. The building was built in 2008. At that time, the CF-1 Form, which is a tax abatement form, was submitted, but the 322 Form was omitted. Currently, the tax abatement is in non-compliance, due to a form, not by performance. They have lived up to their Statement of Benefits Form that they originally applied with, and they have done well. They are in compliance with all of their investment objectives that they promised in the SB-1 Form. Mr. Poole asked that the noncompliance be waived and the tax abatement start in the correct year, 2008.

Councilor Bunder added that this isn't money that the City gets anyway. This would be going to the TIF District. Mr. Poole indicated that the Redevelopment Commission approved this as well.

There were no additional comments.

Councilor Keen moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Burch seconded the motion. Mayor Dennis closed the public hearing.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, CONTINUED

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 01-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 01-10 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 02-10 A Resolution Appropriating Insurance Recovery Received For Damage To City Property (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 02-10 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes clarified that there had been a lightning strike and there was a car crash, and a water spigot was run over. The insurance recovery received will be used to make the repairs and equipment replacements.

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 02-10 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Burch moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting, the time being 8:05 p.m.



State of the City

February 1, 2010

It is with pleasure and a great deal of personal satisfaction that I give my annual State of the City address to you, the citizens of West Lafayette. Just a year ago, we were confronting unprecedented financial uncertainty locally and nationally. Today, our City enjoys financial stability and an improving quality of life. We are fortunate.

Of all of the critical services we provide, none are as important as outstanding police and fire protection.

The Neighborhood Resource Team was formed in 2009 and began operating in August. The team's responsibilities include animal control, parking control and nuisance and code enforcement. The NRT responded to 761 calls for service and issued 10,091 parking tickets in the four months it operated in 2009.

WLPD worked closely with the Purdue University Police Department on several projects and safety efforts: five new mid-block street crossings; increased foot patrols; and a larger police presence in the city at peak times

In 2009 WLPD continued its proactive approach to alcohol enforcement issues that netted a 35% reduction in alcohol related arrests in 2008 and a further 2% drop in 2009.

WLPD maintained a high visibility and strong enforcement presence in the recently improved designated school zones and in construction zones in 2009. Traffic crashes were down 11% for the year and 19 fewer people were injured in traffic crashes in 2009 over 2008. I thank Chief Jason Dombkowski for all of his efforts and leadership.

Under Chief Drew, the West Lafayette Fire Department has continued with their dedication to excellence. The WLFD now has nearly a year and a half of experience using their Compressed Air Foam Systems and all indications are that equipping the new fire trucks with these was a good decision. Only about fifteen percent of fire trucks nationwide are built with this capability.

Our run numbers were up again this year by 3.0 percent. The West Lafayette Fire Department went from 1120 emergency calls annually in the year 2000 to over 1600 this past year. This 46 percent increase for the decade gives us guidance for anticipating and planning our emergency responses for the next decade.

We must always strive to reduce government bureaucracy and deliver better city services. Good planning reduces property tax increases, enhances essential city services like snow plowing and street sweeping, and offers inexpensive, excellent trash pickup.

Good planning and community cooperation have resulted in some proud achievements in 2009:

-Dow AgriSciences announced they will be establishing a new research facility in the Purdue Research Park bringing 45 new jobs.

-PRF and West Lafayette celebrated the grand opening of the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, the new home of the Purdue Research Foundation and one of the largest university affiliated incubators in the country.

-The Wabash River saw its first new development as part of the Wabash River Corridor revitalization. The Purdue Crew Boathouse held a groundbreaking and construction is currently underway with a completion date of April 2010.

-The City Council approved a land use plan in the New Chauncey neighborhood .

-The City's Strategic Plan is being updated as we speak. Numerous meetings with individuals, groups and the public have truly made this a "community" plan. On-line discussions, the first of their kind in this area, have been held to gain more input.

-West Lafayette is one of three communities to receive the first Cultural District Designation from the Indiana Arts Commission.

Despite the downturn in the world's economic situation, outside investment continues to come to West Lafayette, our relationship with Purdue University has never been stronger and our proactive approach to developing relationships with potential investors bodes well for a bright future. Our Director of Development, Chandler Poole, continues to have a great impact on all development efforts in our City.

The new WL website was successfully launched in early 2009. The website offers services such as on-line payments for traffic tickets and wastewater bills. The website also allows you to report issues experienced throughout the city for such things as trees in need of trimming, missing street signs, potholes or malfunctioning traffic lights. Citizens are able, and encouraged, to sign up to receive the city newsletter electronically on the website. We are now

able to update the website with current information on a daily, even hourly basis so our citizens can stay informed and up to date on what is happening in West Lafayette.

Some of the most visible and important work performed in West Lafayette is done by our public works group consisting of Streets and Sanitation, our Wastewater Utility and the Engineering Department. These three departments make sure your streets are in good repair, your curbs and sidewalks are in good shape, your trash and recycling is picked up and all that is associated with the flow to the Wabash meets the ever toughening IDEM and EPA standards. Additionally, these will be active participants in our Stormwater Utility. This new utility is being developed in response to new mandates from IDEM and the EPA.

The Wastewater Utility, under the leadership of Dave Henderson, saw the completion of the Western Interceptor phase III. Ribbon cutting for the Digester Renovation with Alternate Power Sources Project was held in 2009. It provides the wastewater plant with electricity generated onsite using the biogas from the digesters.

We have begun taking used cooking oil and grease, and Purdue's food wastes to generate more power, the ultimate recycling initiative, turning waste into fuel.

Further kudos to Dave and his staff as the wastewater treatment plant was accepted as an EPA Green Power Partner, the first wastewater plant in Indiana to be invited to join!

Rarely does the term "talking trash" have a positive connotation, however when the focus of the discussion is David Downey, the term turns into a subject worthy of interest. David and his hardworking staff visit our homes to pick up our disposables and recyclables, fill in our potholes on our streets, clean out our sewer system for pollution control and maintain all of our electric traffic signals, street markings and signs.

For 2009, recycling increased over 2008 by 4585 tons and trash decreased by 408 tons, saving the city tipping fees at the landfill, and continually improving our recycling program. Citizens give our trash and recycling program great praise.

Early on in my administration, I was made aware of the need to accelerate our street repair and capital project initiatives. As the economy worsened, and the potential for revenue for the city became somewhat dubious, it became clear to me that we needed to move forward on some of our city street projects and get as much done as quickly as possible. Enter Dave Buck. His "can do, will do" attitude is exactly what is needed in these uncertain times. Dave's knowledge, team building skills and collaborative spirit makes the process of building a road or a bridge seem simple. Property owners affected by projects credit Dave Buck with keeping them at ease, treating them fairly and bringing the projects to a successful conclusion.

2009 has been one of the busiest years in memory. Some milestones of note:

- Wabash Commons and Northpointe provided much needed site clean-ups.
- The preliminary engineering study for building the bridge over the celery bog was completed. This project will not only solve the sinking problem, but will enhance water quality and wildlife habitat by removing a physical barrier that the road embankment currently creates.
- New curbs, sidewalks, ADA ramps and drive approaches throughout the city.
- Salisbury street road construction started in April and was completed in November.
- Cumberland Ave. phase I will completely rebuild Cumberland Avenue from US52 to Yeager. The project will include a new modern roundabout at Kent and Cumberland, new sidewalks and ADA ramps and a 10' trail along the entire north side of the road.
- Safe Routes to School, which involved new school zone beacons and crosswalk signals at Cumberland Elementary School and Happy Hollow, were completed with 100% Federal Grants.
- Sycamore Lane traffic calming measures, new sidewalks and ADA compliant ramps were installed.
- The Robinson Street project installed new curbs, sidewalks, ADA ramps and drive approaches from Salisbury to DeHart.
- Street and sidewalk improvements were made to Russell St, Leslie, Leslie Court, Wiley Drive, Elm, Maywood, Williams, and in the Glenwood Heights neighborhood.
- In September, proposals were received to select an engineering design firm to redesign and repair Happy Hollow Road. In cooperation with INDOT, we are planning ahead for the future on Happy Hollow which will be 80% funded by federal dollars.
- The City received over \$500k in stimulus funding to resurface a portion of Salisbury Street from Robinson to Wiggins.

These are all great projects, all over town.

I think that it is our responsibility to make West Lafayette a healthier place. West Lafayette Parks and Recreation offers many low-cost health and fitness resources. These include sports facilities and family centers that provide year-round recreation opportunities, including walking programs along our trail system, swimming, biking and so much more. In a cooperative effort with the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, a new urban trail will connect the north and south sides of the city and offer excellent outdoor fitness opportunities to our

citizens There is a list published of the healthiest cities in America. I want West Lafayette on that list!

Parks Superintendent Joe Payne and his staff have consistently improved the outdoor and indoor opportunities for the citizen of West Lafayette. In just 2009:

-Morton Center celebrated 80 years as a valued part of the community. A record enrollment of 227 people enjoyed the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association classes at the Community Center; hundreds of people enjoyed the annual Morton Spring Dance Recital and the 15th annual Global Fest was enjoyed by the community.

-Thousands of people enjoyed the new Tapawingo Park band shell and other park improvements during the "Taste of Tippecanoe," "Riverfest," "Dancing in the Streets," "Cruise N Concert for Kids," and "Art on the Wabash."

-Swim lessons were enjoyed by more than 1,446 youngsters at the Municipal Pool, and a total of 228 children participated in the summer sports camps.

- At the high school track, a segment of the new Village Fitness trail is underway. Asphalt and concrete work was completed and fencing, lighting, and signing are being completed this winter; a latex track surface and landscaping will be installed in the spring.

-For the 18th time, West Lafayette received national recognition as a Tree City USA. There were 141 new trees planted throughout the city this year.

-More than 7,000 visitors enjoyed Lilly Nature Center.

Our parks continue to lead the way.

Today, at the beginning of 2010, we are living within our means. We have reversed the decline in the General fund, the City's main operating fund. Our cash balance has been restored to a fiscally sound amount. More efficient management and purchasing of services have resulted in significant under expenditure of budgets in such areas as insurance, legal services, and telephone.

When I took office two years ago, the City was spending more than it was taking in, and had depleted the General Fund balance that we depend on to fund basic City services. My chief fiscal goal has been to restore the City's financial stability and with the excellent guidance of Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes, we are succeeding.

We are closing the City's books for 2009 now, and it appears that our spending in 2009 in the General Fund is down nearly 2%. We are continuing to address operational costs and health insurance costs in the 2010 budget, and will continue to put in place additional budgetary controls so that we work within the new circuit breaker limits.

City of West Lafayette
State of the City
February 1, 2010

By providing more online payment options to our utility customers, we got 54% of payments made electronically and have eliminated 6000 bill mailings a year.

We continue to receive clean audits from the State Board of Accounts and I thank the Clerk-Treasurer for her proactive response to changing reporting and auditing standards. I place high importance on ensuring the high professional and ethical standards that I know taxpayers expect are reflected in how this city does business.

The citizens of West Lafayette have a good team in place. Led by the ever present Council President, Ann Hunt, this council is working very hard for our City. My thanks to each of you. I also wish to thank all of our volunteers on our commissions, boards, and committees. Without their sacrifices, we would not have such great success.

I sit here before you tonight as positive about the State of our city as I have ever been. We now have in place the resources and the will to move forward during these difficult financial times. Public safety is now the priority in our city it needs to be. We are going to shape up together in West Lafayette and live longer, better lives! And, we have the right plan to get our fiscal house in order and complete the vision of positive growth. Add to this our mutually beneficial relationship with Purdue University, our economic success stories, our culturally diverse population that has elevated the arts and culture throughout the area, and you have one of this state's most dynamic cities refusing to rest on its laurels and eager to move forward into the new decade.

I look forward to the year ahead.

John R. Dennis, Mayor
City of West Lafayette