

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2012

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on October 1, 2012, 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, Hunt, Keen, Thomas, and VanBogaert.

Also present were City Attorney Associate Murtaugh, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Public Works Director Buck, Housing Program Coordinator Dixon, Street Commissioner Downey, Human Resources Director Foster, Fire Chief Heath, WWTU Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, Information Technology Manager Newman, and Police Captain Sparger.

MINUTES

Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the August 30, 2012, Pre-Council Meeting, and the September 4, 2012, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Burch seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY

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

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE

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

PURDUE RELATIONS

Councilor VanBogaert reported on events at Purdue University, including an incident at the Krannert School of Management. He explained the incident involved two black students were in the Krannert School of Management's undergraduate library studying when a small group of students entered. After the group left, the two students noticed that someone had written a racial slur on the whiteboard. He reported that a Purdue Police investigation resulted in the individual responsible confessing. The matter has been turned over to the Dean of Students office for disciplinary procedures within the University system. Councilor VanBogaert that this incident lead to over 300 students, faculty, staff, and members of the community attending a forum at Fowler Hall to discuss the issue, with acting University president, Tim Sands, answering questions and engaging in discussion about the appropriate University response to this and a similar incident that occurred last Spring.

Mayor Dennis noted that members of the West Lafayette Police Department attended the forum.

Councilor Dietrich added that the fraternity involved in the incident offered an apology that one of their membership was involved, though it was certainly not a sanctioned event.

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

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

BUDGET AND FINANCE

There was no report.

REPORT OF THE APC REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Mayor Dennis reported that during the past weekend he attended various walks and gatherings to bring attention to cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and autism, which were incredibly well attended. He noted that this turnout was a proud moment for the community.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor Thomas presented the West Lafayette Community Beautification Award to Bruce and Carolyn Shertzer, who have lived at 1620 Western Drive since 1960. Carol is the planner and artist of their garden and Bruce is the laborer.

Mr. Shertzer said he appreciated the award, and appreciates what the Council is doing to improve the looks of the City.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Dennis, Councilor Hunt stated that the emerald ash borer, which attacks ash trees, is a big issue in the City. She mentioned that the Shertzer's live near Summit, which has 44 ash trees, and some of them are going, others have been treated, though it is unclear if treating will save them.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported that the County Council reviewed the 2013 City budget on September 20, and issued a non-binding review recommending the budget as proposed. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes also reported that the County Assessor has completed the assessments, and the Form 11's will be sent out later this week, which gives assessment values for property, used for pay 2013. These were assessments as of March 1, 2012. There is a 45-day period for appeal, after which the Auditor will compile net assessed valuation and send that on to the State for approval. We should then get our tax rates on time, by early next year. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated the State Board of Accounts reports for the month of September have been filed with the Council.

Councilor Hunt asked if individuals pay their property taxes in November, and if she was correct that they do not receive another warning, because there is just one billing per year.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said that the second property tax payment installment is due November 10. The Treasurer sends out a billing in the spring, with the coupons used for both the May and November collections.

LEGAL REPORT

Mayor Dennis announced that City Attorney Associate Reid Murtaugh was present in place of City Attorney Burns.

City Attorney Associate Reid Murtaugh stated that this report is on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 21-12 An Ordinance Setting The 2013 City Budget And Setting The 2013 Tax Levy On Property And Tax Rate (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 21-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 21-12 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.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 21-12 passed unanimously on second and final reading.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes asked the Council to be sure to sign Form 4 at the end of the meeting.

Ordinance No. 22-12 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 2013 (Submitted by Mayor John Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 22-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 22-12 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.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, October 1, 2012, CONTINUED

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 22-12 passed on second reading.

Ordinance No. 23-12 An Ordinance To Fix The 2013 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 Ordinance No. 23-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 23-12 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.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 23-12 passed on second reading.

Ordinance 24-12 An Ordinance To Set The Salaries Of The Elected Officials, City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Year 2013 (Presented by the Board of Public Works and Safety)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 24-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 24-12 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.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 24-12 passed on second reading.

Ordinance 25-12 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation For The General Fund
(Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer) Public Hearing

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 25-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 25-12 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Councilor Keen moved to open a public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-12. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mayor Dennis opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Keen moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 25-12 The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Mayor Dennis took the consent of the Council and closed the public hearing.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 25-12 passed on first reading.

Ordinance 26-12 An Ordinance concerning the construction of additions and improvements to the sewage works of the City of West Lafayette, the issuance of revenue bonds in one or more series to provide the cost thereof, the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of said works, the safeguarding of the interests of the owners of said revenue bonds, other matters connected therewith, including the issuance of notes in anticipation of bonds, and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith (Sponsored by Mayor Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 26-12 by title and explained that this is for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for the Wastewater Treatment Utility (WWTU).

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 26-12 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Councilor Hunt asked if she recalled correctly that we can dip into this loan and take out what we need, and only pay interest on that. She also asked if a decision has been made on what the interest will be.

Mayor Dennis confirmed that we will pay what we spend.

WWTU Director Henderson responded that officially the interest rate resets each quarter, and the website has not been updated with the current rate. He stated that the rate will not go below 2%, however with the green project reserve initiative, we should have points to reduce that rate to 1.53%.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 26-12 passed on second reading.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 15-12 A Resolution Requesting The Transfer Of Funds (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Resolution No. 15-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 15-12 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that this is a transfer required in order for us to pay health insurance based on actual enrollment this year, which is fixed after we passed the budget.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Resolution No. 15-12 passed on first reading.

COMMUNICATIONS

► WWTU Director Henderson reported the recent 15th annual Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Partners for Pollution Prevention conference was attended by himself, Mayor Dennis, WWTU Operations Supervisor Busch, and WWTU Instrumentations Technician Bjork. He announced that they were presented with the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the Energy and Renewable Resources category. This award acknowledged the project and the things done to grow it over the years, including the grease program, and the smaller effort to get residential grease to the Utility with the popular collection bottles. He stated that they are very pleased to be selected for the award this year, which was presented by Rick Bosingham, the Assistant Commissioner of IDEM.

Mayor Dennis stated that this award is a testimony to WWTU Director Henderson's leadership and vision. He stated that we never seem to get appropriate amount of attention to what we are doing environmentally, and generating our own fuel, everything that we burn, is less that goes to the landfill. It is something to be very proud of.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Burch moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting the time being 7:01 p.m.