

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2006

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Board of Works Room at City Hall on August 31, 2006, at the hour of 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Mills called the meeting to order and presided.

Present: Griffin [arrived at 4:37 p.m.], Hunt, Keen, O'Callaghan, Plomin, Satterly, and Truitt.

Also present were City Attorney Bauman, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Director of Development Andrew, City Engineer Buck, Public Works Director Downey, Fire Chief Drew, Police Chief Marvin, and Parks Superintendent Payne.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 19-06 An Ordinance Fixing The Biweekly Salaries Of Appointed Officers, Employees And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana For The Year 2007 (Submitted by the Mayor)

Mayor Mills said any discussion? Any questions?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 20-06 2007 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 Mills said any discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 21-06 An Ordinance To Set The Biweekly Salaries Of The Elected Officials, City of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Year 2007 (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said this is the same thing, 2% raise.

Councilor Satterly said except for the Councilors.

Mayor Mills said except for the Council, yes. Thank you, Gil [Councilor Satterly], for pointing that out. Any questions or discussion?

[Councilor Griffin arrived.]

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I'm going to ask for a delay in consideration on Ordinance No. 21-06, because of the necessity of there being 30 days before the first publication and action. As we chose to publish the ordinance after the first meeting, I am going to request that the final action on the ordinance occur at the time we do final adoption of the budget, which would be the Pre-Council meeting on September 28. And so I'm going to ask for a postponement to the September 28 agenda.

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Mayor Mills said for just this—?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said for the elected officials salary ordinance, because we need to have 30 days and this year, as I waited to publish that together with the budget ordinance, I need to have it enacted, the elected officials salary ordinance the same time as the budget.

Mayor Mills said thank you.

Councilor Griffin said I move to postpone until the Pre-Council to meet appropriate dates. Councilor Hunt seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Councilor Satterly said so we're postponing [Ordinance No.] 21-06?

Mayor Mills said 21-06. Thank you, Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes].

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 22-06 (AMENDED) An Ordinance Appropriating Monies For The Purpose Of Defraying The Expenses Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2007, And Ending December 31, 2007, Including All Outstanding Claims And Obligations, And Fixing A Time When The Same Shall Take Effect (Submitted by the Mayor)

Mayor Mills said this is the budget ordinance. This will be the public hearing only on Tuesday night.

Mayor Mills said okay. Any discussion on 22-06?

Councilor O'Callaghan said and again, we won't vote at all on Monday?

Mayor Mills said we won't vote on Tuesday. This will be the public hearing.

Councilor Griffin said we won't vote on Monday either, Patti [Councilor O'Callaghan].

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 23-06 An Ordinance Setting The Tax Levy On Property And Tax Rate For The 2007 City Budget (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said any discussion? That will be the public hearing, also. No vote.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 25-06 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 46-04 (Submitted by the City Attorney)

Mayor Mills said this is the sewer bonds, second reading.

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Councilor Hunt said and it's a new name of some agency?

Councilor Satterly said right.

Mayor Mills said any further discussion on this one?

Councilor Plomin said is there any change on the payment schedule on the back from what was passed originally by the Council?

City Attorney Bauman said well, there wasn't a payment schedule for this particular portion of it passed originally by the Council, but this does set forth the payment schedule.

Councilor Plomin said okay.

Mayor Mills said but I think what they saw in the between was different than this, because this was amended by the SRF people, changed by the SRF people, so it is different than what you saw before they made those changes. Any other discussion tonight?

Councilor O'Callaghan said just that we had this memorandum that we had in our place tonight, is that where we had it, in our place tonight? It's an amendment to the Preliminary Engineering Report. Maybe it was in my box. An amendment to the Preliminary Engineering Report.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said we provided copies to the Council of the letter from the SRF advising that we would be using the unexpended drawdown amount on the '98 SRF bond issue for additional projects, including the digester, as was indicated on the Due Diligence form that the City submitted for the 2006 Series B bonds for the digester project. We indicated that we'd go back and use the unexpended amount on this issue, because, of course, the interest rate is lower.

Mayor Mills said so we want to use that up first.

City Attorney Bauman said and this is the same thing that we have done previously as well. That's what happens when Mr. Downey brings his projects in under budget.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 27-06 An Additional Appropriation (Rainy Day Fund) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said this is to zero out, I think, the simple way of saying it, the Rainy Day Fund. Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes], do you want to talk about this?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I indicated to you in the memorandum that accompanied your budget book, that I was going to be requesting an additional appropriation to use up all the remaining cash in the Rainy Day Fund for the Fire Pension obligation this year. The amount

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here we are appropriating is slightly larger than I believe the cash on hand. However, no harm. It will allow us at least to spend all the cash on hand and the appropriation lapses then.

Mayor Mills said any questions?

Councilor O'Callaghan said and that's what was on our place, because the old page that we had had \$7,500 left in the Rainy Day Fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said yes. This ordinance and the coming Resolution No. 21-06, they're both reflected in this page VII-1 in your budget book.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 28-06 A Transfer Of Appropriation (Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said we are transferring money from the Clerk-Treasurer's budget, Insurance, into mine, to cover several items that I've listed out for you in pretty thorough detail. I'm putting more money into Consulting, 312, to be used for the last quarterly newsletter. I hope to have grant-writing help for a Safe Routes to School grant, I'd like to submit that grant for the second phase of the Salisbury Project, and cover some of the Art on the Wabash costs. This is the first year that we are doing Art on the Wabash Festival, and I'm bearing a decent burden of that cost, along with our good support from KitchenArt who's helping us sponsor it, so I'm putting in more money to cover those three things. I'm also putting more money into my travel account for the annual meeting in Indianapolis for the travel I do for the environmental committee. I also have been asked to present a paper and chair a session at the National Brownfields Conference in Boston, and I've applied for a travel grant for that. I'm hoping that travel money is going to get reimbursed, but they had quite a few submissions, and they chose our paper as one of the—what did they say they had? They chose 170 out of 600 or something like that. It's an special thing to be able to go to the National Brownfields Conference and present the Wabash Landing story that we did at the State Brownfields Conference last spring. So I'm looking forward to that. And then, finally, in Public Relations, I'm transferring some money for the staff appreciation lunch that we always do at Christmas. I actually have that listed as having done that earlier and we did transfer money earlier, but that money that I transferred earlier actually went to pay for the Human Relations banners I hope you all noticed around the City the "Celebrating Diversity" that the student art contestants did. Two years ago, the Human Relations Commission asked for a small PR budget every year, so they could really promote the Human Relations Commission and diversity in the City, and so we agreed to give them \$2,000, and at budget time, I always forget that's part of the PR budget now, so I'm a little short of money.

Councilor O'Callaghan said in talking to Vidhya [Vidhya Iyer, Chair of the Human Relations Commission], she said they're going to keep those banners for a while. The school actually wanted to do another contest, because people were wanting to do them, but she felt like why not use the banners again, and they're not up for all that long, because there are other things that use that.

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Mayor Mills said we can't afford to—

Councilor O'Callaghan said to make new ones.

Mayor Mills said that's for sure. We are going to have them displayed at Global Fest.

Councilor O'Callaghan said oh, good.

Mayor Mills said it kind of seems like an appropriate time to put them up again—

Councilor O'Callaghan said sure.

Mayor Mills said since they're really a celebration of diversity, so we've chosen one of each of the designs and plan to hang them up inside Morton at Global Fest. I think it'll be great.

Councilor O'Callaghan said yes.

Mayor Mills said any questions?

Councilor O'Callaghan said for the grant writing, do you expect Mary Nauman?

Mayor Mills said Mary Nauman is coming in, maybe tomorrow. She's the individual who did our Farmers' Market grant. Very good, and works very quickly, so the Safe Routes to School money can be very good money for federal safety transportation funds, so I'm hoping we can, if not on Salisbury, use it on Cumberland when we get ready to start constructing Cumberland. She's already looking at what we'll need to pull together for that grant. That will be great. Questions?

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 21-06 A Resolution To Reduce The 2006 Budget (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes]?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said also noted in that memo you received earlier was our intention to reduce the 2006 budget. In this case, as I mentioned previously, we have excess funds due to how we budgeted it for this year. These funds would normally revert and become part of your cash balance. It doesn't affect the cash balance we have, since we made the operating balance on the Form 4B reflect more what's actually going to occur. If we were inclined to, in fact, we could go through the entire budget, cut many line items on the expected reversions, and our operating balances then would look very similar then to our cash balance. We normally don't, in order to give ourselves flexibility and to respond to emergencies in the second half of the year. There is a possibility that there will be additional budget reductions. I would like to say we reserve the right to recommend those to you in the coming months. As long as the Council takes action prior to the year end, they will be incorporated in the budget order that we receive.

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Mayor Mills said thank you. Any questions?

[See below for additional discussion.]

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 22-06 A Resolution Requesting The Transfer Of Funds (Police, Sanitation, Development) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Mills said this is a transfer of funds. In Police, from Salaries–Full Time to Salaries-Overtime and Photo Processing & Supplies; in Sanitation, from Contracts to Repair Parts & Equipment; and in Development, from Office Equipment to Furniture and Fixtures. You have a little bit more detail in each of the pages, and the department heads are here, if you have questions. Any questions?

There was no further discussion.

[Additional discussion regarding Resolution No. 21-06]

Councilor O'Callaghan said could you answer just one question about what we just did, the one before? So that's why those new budget sheets that we got reflect that extra \$100,000 in the operating balance? It's \$418,000 now instead of \$318,000?

Councilor Truitt said right. And if you go to the expenditure column of '06, you'll see the difference between them.

Councilor O'Callaghan said so it's already reflected in these new sheets?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said yes. Normally, after the Council takes final vote, we complete that second column, we can tweak that second column. You normally don't see it, but that form is filed with both columns completed when it goes in to the DLGF. Where we are changing you normally don't see is that I'm allowed to revise the revenue because I certify, as of the date that I file, that the revenue estimate after we receive updated revenue information, I make those adjustments. Normally, you do not see those until you see the 1872 Notice and the response. Typically, these aren't large adjustments, but they occur every year.

Mayor Mills said any other questions?

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 23-06 A Resolution Confirming The Designation Of An Economic Revitalization Area For Property Tax Abatement For SSCI, Inc. (Prepared by the City Attorney)

Mayor Mills said this will be the public hearing for the tax abatement for SSCI. We've had quite a bit of discussion about this.

Councilor Griffin said and vote?

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City Attorney Bauman said yes.

Mayor Mills said and vote, yes.

City Attorney Bauman said this is the confirming resolution. Under the statute, we have to have preliminary and then confirming.

Councilor Griffin said yes.

Councilor Plomin said is this a public hearing only, or public hearing and vote?

Mayor Mills said no, public hearing and vote. Any questions there?

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 24-06 A Resolution For A Statewide Renewable Electricity Standard (Submitted by the Mayor)

Mayor Mills said the final is just a resolution that I've introduced for a Statewide renewable electricity standard. I had, from about the middle of July for three or four weeks, I had more than 100 letters from citizens, asking me to sponsor a resolution for the City for a Statewide renewable energy standard, which I thought was very interesting. After the Energy Summit, Symposium Tuesday at Purdue, it seemed like a very timely way to do that. We passed this at the Board of Works yesterday as a resolution from the Board of Works, but I also wanted to bring it to the Council.

Councilor O'Callaghan said 100 letters from citizens?

Mayor Mills said 103, 105, something like that.

Councilor O'Callaghan said and was it the result of a specific—

Mayor Mills said I think it was a campaign by one of the environmental groups in the State to get citizens educated and active on renewable energy standards—

Councilor Plomin said that's a significant number.

Mayor Mills said it is. And they weren't form letters. I mean, people wrote them on little note cards and notebook paper. Some were typed. It was an impressive amount of push, I thought. It's a great idea.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said we purchased a flexible fuel vehicle in 2000, still looking for an E85 pump around here.

Director of Development Andrew said we've got one in Shadeland, not far from West Point.

Councilor Plomin said it's called Fred's Fossil Fuels.

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City Attorney Bauman said under the renewable energy on the electric, it's also timely that I believe Duke announced yesterday—

Mayor Mills said yesterday—

City Attorney Bauman said that they're buying—

Councilor Griffin said a wind farm.

City Attorney Bauman said well, 100 megawatts from—

Mayor Mills said they're buying electricity from the—

Councilor Griffin said it was more than that.

City Attorney Bauman said was it?

Councilor Griffin said it's 38,000 houses. It's enough to power 38,000 houses for one year.

City Attorney Bauman said from a wind farm in Benton County.

Mayor Mills said yes.

Mayor Mills said and Senator Lugar, I thought his comments, for the whole day, were really excellent, but his comments kind of in closing were that we have the technology, we have the resources, we just don't have the political will to come up with an energy standard for the country, an energy policy for the country that protects us as a nation and it's time for people to step up and be vocal and do something about it. It's hard to argue with him. Very eloquent. It was a very good day.

Councilor Plomin said what does this mean for the City and its daily operation?

Mayor Mills said well, it doesn't mean anything necessarily. It means that we're asking the State and we're encouraging our legislators to support a standard for the State. So we're being vocal and saying we think this is what the State should require, that every publicly licensed electric utility in Indiana should commit to doing 10% of their electricity generation from renewable energy sources.

Councilor Plomin said what does that mean?

Mayor Mills said well, they'd have some from windmills they'd buy, like Duke is going to, they'd buy electricity generated by windmills or they'd buy electricity generated by one of the plants—

Councilor Griffin said hydroelectric.

Mayor Mills said anything renewable.

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Councilor Plomin said okay.

Councilor O'Callaghan said and so, have we shared this with our State legislators, or if we pass it on Tuesday, then we'll forward it on to them?

Mayor Mills said yes. I hope other communities are doing the same thing.

Councilor Plomin said why just 10%

Mayor Mills said well, that's what a lot of states are doing now. If you look at what other states have passed, they are saying 10%.

Councilor Satterly said it's a start.

Mayor Mills said yes. I think you have to be willing to let the companies phase in something reasonable that they can do. I'd be happy with saying more, but—

Councilor Plomin said it just seems like a nice, round number, I guess.

Councilor O'Callaghan said 10% in 10 years.

Councilor Hunt said I drove to Kansas City over the weekend, and through Illinois, in Effingham, particularly, there was a sign right on the pump handle squeeze that says, "This is 10% ethanol."

Councilor Satterly said there are at least two stations in West Lafayette that sell ethanol.

Councilor Hunt said is that right?

Councilor O'Callaghan said yes.

Councilor Hunt said I don't always read the small print.

Councilor Plomin said in a lot of the gas stations between here and our factory in Watseka, the premium gas is cheaper than the standard grade, because the ethanol content is high enough to raise the octane rating.

Councilor Hunt said if you drive, do you spend most of your time driving in Indiana, or do you— I mean, is it mostly in Indiana?

Councilor Plomin said oh, yes, a lot of them are in Indiana. When I cross over into Illinois, though—

Councilor Keen said do you find that the premium gas is cheaper than the regular gas.

Mayor Mills said that would be nice.

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Councilor O'Callaghan said and in New York, most of them has a percentage of ethanol. When we first went to refuel, Mark went to a different station, because, you know, we don't have a hybrid vehicle, so he didn't think that we could use it. It's just that fuel is 85%—

Mayor Mills said okay.

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Griffin moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt and passed by voice vote, the time being 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Rhodes, Clerk-Treasurer
Secretary of the Common Council