

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
January 6, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Snedecor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The meeting was held with the building open to the public and a call-in number for remote public participation.

**Roll Call:** The following members were present: Mr. Kopil, Mr. Huddlestun (remote), Mr. Maggio (remote), Mr. Vinzant (remote), Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Also present: Mr. Snedecor, City Attorney McCarthy, and Clerk-Treasurer Longer.

**Reading of the Minutes:** Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2020 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

**Correspondence:** City Engineer Phil Gralik provided an update on the County Line Road project, stating that INDOT is reviewing the environmental documents and is requesting that Federal Highway do the same which entails greater scrutiny and will not allow us to meet the 2022 letting date, pushing it back to either 2025 or 2027 depending on funding available. The City will continue to purchase right-of-way for this project with NIRPC support.

Emily SeDoris, Mayor Snedecor's Administrative Assistant, provided an update on the Covid-19 vaccine distribution as presented by Gov. Holcomb earlier today: Beginning Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, residents aged 80 or over will be able to register to receive the vaccine. Registration is available online at [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) or residents may call 2-1-1 and request assistance with registration. The vaccines are free to the public but a photo ID is required. Additional information will be issued as the distribution expands in the coming weeks. The city's website at [www.cityofhobart.org](http://www.cityofhobart.org) will also be updated as additional information becomes available.

Cooley Priestly, Chairman of Friends of Robinson Lake, requested the City send a letter to encourage the ~~Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission to contribute funds to facilitate the purchase of the~~ GEO property for Lake County Parks and Recreation. Lake County Parks has secured conservation grant funds and would retain ownership with the Shirley Heinze Foundation managing and maintaining the property. The grants require a local match of \$240,000 for this project. Discussion followed as to the proposed use of the property and what controls the City would have as to proposed uses. Sandy O'Brien stated that the conservation grants have limitations as to use and Lake County Parks would oversee the development. Mr. Vinzant stated a good use for this property would be a small parking area and extending trails but no other recreational use. Mr. Wells stated he is concerned that the City would have little control as to what was developed at the site. Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Wells, to authorize the Mayor to issue a letter, supporting the Lake County Parks acquisition of the property and encouraging the Little Cal River Basin Development Commission to contribute funds to facilitate the purchase of the property to keep this as a natural area under the control of Lake County Parks. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Mrs. Longer distributed the Report of end of year Transfers from 2020, noting that the City did not encumber any appropriation balances from 2020 due to financial constraints but did transfer funds throughout December and this report is being presented in response to Council Resolution 2020-15, authorizing transfers.

**Committee Reports:** Mr. Huddlestun announced the Council Ordinance Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6pm in the Council Chambers.

**Department Report:** There were no department reports.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Vinzant, seconded by Mr. Waldrop, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

**Unfinished Business:**

**Tabled: Request for Use Variance:** to permit a proposed climate-controlled storage facility and outdoor storage for RV's & boats at 7305 Grand Blvd. located 1,300' north from the Northeast corner of Grand Blvd. & 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Sec. 154.133, zoned B-1, 2acres: Alka Properties/Mitre Kutanovski: This item remains on the table. City Planner Ross Pietrzak stated the planning department is working with the owner for a site plan and will also inform Code Enforcement that the Use Variance has not yet been approved.

**Tabled: Ordinance 2020-29 (First Reading):** An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart Concerning Golf Carts: Mr. Huddlestun requested this item remain on the table.

**Ordinance 2020-35 (Second Reading):** An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Hobart concerning Rental Housing Properties: The second reading of the ordinance was held. Mrs. Longer stated the City Attorney has provided an amended version (Draft No. 4) of the Ordinance dated December 31, 2020, changing the deadlines for registration from the original version. Mr. Claussen and Attorney McCarthy discussed a possible revision to Section One, §115.20(A) to delete the "shall occupy", keeping the burden on the property owner to maintain the property but not penalizing the renter if the owner does not comply. Further discussion was held about other possible revisions or clarifications. Motion by Mr. Claussen, seconded by Mr. Kopil, to table Ordinance 2020-35 and send it to City Attorney McCarthy for revisions. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

**New Business:** There was no New Business.

**Announcements:** Public Works Supt. Tom Laco announced that MVH Foreman Scott Cummings will be retiring after 43 years of service to the City. His last working day is Friday, January 15, 2021.

Asst. Fire Chief Dave Tinsley questioned the Council's intentions as to the additional holidays and noted the Fire Department personnel do not all benefit from these additional days, only those who are scheduled to work. Discussion followed as to the difference in how the Fire Dept. handles holidays. Mr. Tinsley stated this was changed back when McCorkle was Chief to provide incentives for Fire Dept. personnel to work on holidays. Mr. Tinsley requested these 2 additional days be added as PL days to benefit all personnel. Mr. Snedecor stated this issue can be considered by the Working Conditions sub-committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Snedecor asked if there was anyone on the phone or in person who wished to address the Council and there was no response.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Mr. Claussen to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
SECRETARY

  
PRESIDING OFFICER