

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBART
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
February 15, 2023**

Call to Order: President ProTem Claussen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Fire Chief Smith stated the City and the Fire Dept. was grief-stricken due to the untimely death of Battalion Chief Tom Castle on Monday evening. He noted BC Castle was a 30-year member of the Fire Dept. and had scheduled his drop to retire in August of this year. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time. Mr. Brooks offered his services to play the bagpipes at the funeral. Mr. Claussen asked for the Pledge of Allegiance, and moment of silence, remembering the firefighter's family at this difficult time. 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 in person: Mr. Kopil, Mr. Huddlestun, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Vinzant, Mr. Wells, Mr. Claussen and Mr. Waldrop. Absent: Mayor Snedecor. Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Longer and City Attorney McCarthy.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Brooks, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2023 and the Memorandum of Executive Session of February 1, 2023 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

Proclamation: Mr. Claussen read and presented a proclamation from the Mayor naming February 19-25, 2023 as Tri Kappa Week in the City.

Correspondence: Mrs. Longer stated that the Mayor had requested that Tuesday, February 14th was National Organ Donor Day and encouraged all to become an organ donor.

Mr. Wells stated he had received a number of calls regarding the disrepair of 37th Ave/Ridge Road. He noted that last year the City worked with New Chicago and Lake Station to get patching of the area completed but continuing this process was not fair to Hobart taxpayers when the responsible towns receive the funds to maintain the roads. Discussion followed as to the City's discussions with NIRPC and whether a grant would be available for the repairs needed. Mr. Wells will follow up with the Mayor for a status update on discussions with NIRPC.

Mr. Kopil thanked the City of Hammond and all area stations that honored our Battalion Chief as he was escorted to the funeral home in Whiting. Fire Chief Smith also thanked all areas that helped, stating that Hammond really went above and beyond in their support to ease the motorcade route for the escort.

Committee Reports: Mr. Huddlestun stated the Destination Playground has been approved by the Park Board and the Board of Works and installation will begin over the next month with a completion date in September. He noted the project will be at the Hobart Community Pool property at 10th and Wisconsin St. and will be ADA accessible. Mrs. Longer stated the ARP Federal Recovery Act funds were being expended for this project.

Mr. Kopil stated the Sanitary/Stormwater District has been acquiring the necessary easement property along 73rd Avenue for their project which will possibly begin as early as March, 2023. Most of the project will be direct-boring to minimize disruptions to the area. Mr. Kopil also stated the Indiana and Lillian repair project was delayed while waiting for the water company work that was needed.

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

Unfinished Business:

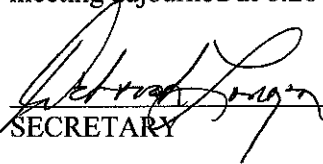
Ordinance 2023-03 (2nd Reading): An Ordinance Providing that the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana be Amended by Changing an Established PUD Zone to a new PUD Zone Classification: NW corner of Grand Blvd & US 30, 23.4 acres: Ali Karolczak, Redwood USA; Jeff Ban, DVG Team Inc.: The owners were present. The second reading of the Ordinance was held. Mrs. Longer noted the conditions of the Plan Commission recommended approval had all been met. Motion by Mr. Kopil, seconded by Mr. Brooks to adopt Ordinance 2023-03 as presented. Roll Call Vote taken. All aye, motion carried. (7-0)

New Business: There was no new business.

Announcements: Mr. Brooks stated he had received a call from residents on Memory Lane regarding the City clearing property in a "bird sanctuary" lot. After holding discussions with the Park Department it was determined that the property was not actually designated a bird sanctuary but was to be maintained in its natural state. Mrs. Longer stated an area resident has requested this be added to the agenda at the March 15th Board of Public Works meeting as the property is not designated as a park.

Mr. Claussen asked if anyone would like to address the Council and there was no additional response.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Vinzant, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (7-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER