

MINUTES
Goshen City Council
May 10, 2022 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street, or by Zoom

Call to Order: Mayor Max Poye called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Roll Call: Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt and Jamie Van Becelaere were present. Birch Wright and Paula Anderson were absent. Mayor Max Poye and City Attorney Brian Hogue were also present.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Motion to move Reports before New Business by John Vaillancourt. Second by Bill Hewat. The motion carried. Recorder Michael Thompson will adjust this for future agendas to match Ordinance 181.

Motion to accept agenda with noted changes by John Vaillancourt. Second by Bill Hewat. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Birch Wright requested a correction for the April 12, 2022 minutes. On Page 4, under Financial Reports "D", Wright requested a change from "Wright asked if the city of Goshen is set up as a 501c3" to "Wright asked if the Parks and Rec. Commission was set up as a 501c3."

A motion was made to approve the April 12, 2022 minutes as corrected by Vaillancourt and seconded by Bill Hewat. The motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the April 25, 2022 Special Meeting minutes as written by Hewat, and seconded by Vaillancourt. The motion carried.

Reports for April

A. Police Department Report: Report is in Council's packet. Chief Travis mentioned that the body cams are starting to fail. The price for Motorola is about \$6,800.00. Another vendor, Axon, charges \$6,000.00. Storage of body cams videos is under review also. Travis recommended the three-year warranty system offered by Motorola.

The option with online storage for body cameras was \$20,000.00. Chief Travis is recommending offline storage.

Bill Hewat made a motion to approve the purchase of five WatchGuard body cameras from Motorola, for the three-year warranty, for a cost of about \$6,800.00. John Vaillancourt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Street Report: Report is in Council's packet. Mayor Poye said there was a lot of damage as a result of the storms.

C. Building Official's Report: Report is in Council's packet.

D. Financial Report: Report is in Council's packet. Lora Nanak presented. As of April 29, 2022, the General Fund was \$1,157,273.51; the Street Fund was \$270,654.60; the ARPA Stimulus Fund was \$188,424.43; the Police Act 988 Fund was \$16,162.80.

Website and IT services will be switched as of tomorrow, per Nanak. This will save the city about \$6,000.00 annually. Email addresses will remain the same.

Nanak stated she paid two invoices late due to being out of office. She offered to pay them out of her own pocket, and the Council was appreciative, and stated she was not to do that.

E. Parks and Rec. Report: Report is in Council's packet. Ken Smith presented. Chuck Jacobus stated the grant resolution will be submitted at the end of this month. He believes feedback will be received by the end of July.

F. Arbor Board Report: Report is in Council's packet.

G. Goshen Volunteer Fire Department: Report is in Council's packet. No one presented.

H. Planning Commission: Report is in Council's packet. Lora Nanak presented.

I. Annexation Committee: Colton Martin stated there is no update. City Attorney Hogue has sent a memo to Lora Nanak regarding the next steps, to emailed to the Council.

J. Stimulus Report: John Vaillancourt reported. The Municipal League advised that the approach Bella Vista is using is the best method to use. The recommendation is that the \$188,000.00 remaining in the account will be used for Police Department salaries, until it is exhausted. This will change the budget for Police salaries. The dollars budgeted for Police Department funds will then be back in the General Fund. Those monies will now be used to pay for projects that were going to be funded by the Stimulus Fund. This reallocation will get rid of red tape and hoops to jump through required by the government.

Vaillancourt motioned that the Stimulus Fund is utilized to pay the Police Department salaries, until the funds are gone or the expiration date of the funds. Hewat seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

John Vaillancourt - YES

Bill Hewat - YES

Colton Martin - YES

Mayor Poye - YES

Lora Nanak commented about paying retirement out of the Premium Pay. She found out last week that if retirement is not going to be contributed to for Premium Pay, this must be stated in the resolution.

Vaillancourt commented that no retirement benefits are paid to anyone, Police Department or City Hall employees from Premium Pay.

Vaillancourt motioned to read the resolution in title only. Bill Hewat seconded the motion. The motion carried.

City Attorney Hogue read **"A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING AND EXCLUDING RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT PREMIUM PAY"**.

Hewat moved to adopt the resolution, and Vaillancourt seconded. The resolution was adopted.

New Business

A. Goshen Fun Park Contract: Ken Smith presented. John Beneke and Chuck Jacobus were present. The team had a resolution and a contract for the Council. The resolution authorizes the Mayor and the city to enter a contract with RJR Enterprises.

Red River Recreation also submitted a proposal. Both proposals were very even, and a deciding factor was RJR Enterprises being local and having their contractors in-house, in Smith's opinion.

Smith stated a concern for the project was the price of material, specifically concrete. Concrete costs in the proposals were less than using an outside contractor.

Smith stated the cost for the project was \$79,690.68. Beneke and Carol Jones recommended a contingency amount to cover any unforeseen problems.

Jacobus stated RJR Enterprises parking lot bid was half of the price from other quotes.

Smith stated the contract locked in RJR to a completion date. Completed expectation is end of September.

Beneke said he spoke with Ryan Brown about the project. RJR is the General Contractor. As soon as the playground equipment gets shipped to them, RJR will begin work on the entire project – concrete and installation. Beneke also spoke about the concrete bids. RJR is using in-house people for the work and the other bids are likely using subcontractors. Since the job is so small, that is likely why the cost is so high. Ryan Brown will be the on-site supervisor for the work.

Jacobus asked about premiums/penalties based on compliance to the timeline. Smith replied that 120 days is allowable past completion date without penalty. No premium for early completion.

Smith stated the contract is \$79,690.68 with a contingency of almost \$4000.00. This is reviewed by the state Outdoor Grants Program. Once it is approved, the city will receive a \$75,000.00 check. Beneke said that meeting the ADA requirements will demonstrate to the committee next year that the city of Goshen is committed to making its facilities accessible.

Jacobus mentioned that this park will be nearly completed by the time the next application for the next 50/50 grant is submitted.

Smith stated that Goshen is receiving \$75,000.00 and the cost is almost \$80,000.00, so the city will have to pay \$5,000.00, with a contingency for about \$3,600.00 more.

Hewat asked about the contingency monies available, and if the vendor would try to get this money. Jacobus says it's a fixed price contract and an event would have to be outside the terms of the contract for this to happen. If the price of concrete goes up, they won't get any more money.

B. A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with RJR Enterprises, for the Construction of a Fun Park Playground and Associated Amenities near the City's Community Center.

John Vaillancourt motioned to read in title only the resolution for the Fun Park. Second by Colton Martin. City Attorney Hogue read, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH RJR ENTERPRISES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FUN PARK PLAYGROUND AND ASSOCIATED AMENITIES NEAR THE CITY'S COMMUNITY CENTER".

Motion to adopt by given by Bill Hewat, and seconded by Colton Martin. The motion carried. The Mayor voted yes on this resolution.

C. Discussion of Police Salaries: Colton Martin presented. Martin and Chief Travis met to discuss the open position in the Department (fifth officer). Martin would like to round up the salaries of the officers to the nearest thousand, \$40,000, to get this position filled.

Vaillancourt disagreed that salaries should be raised. A recent raise of 5% was given at the beginning of this year. A bonus was also given, in addition to Premium Pay. A lot of money was laid out this year that was not shown in the pay scale. Martin states the issue is recruitment. Vaillancourt countered that a thousand dollars will not make a difference.

Martin states that the appearance of \$40,000.00 appeals more in recruiting than \$39,000.00, and it's only a difference of \$625.00. Hewat asked if the idea was to round all salaries up. Martin stated only the entry-level job, initially was considered. The Chief advised Martin that rounding all the salaries up reduces the compression issues between officers.

Hewat stated that adjusting to the nearest thousand is warranted, and retention is what the city needs. Martin recommends that we spend a total of \$2,620.00 more per year to help support the Department.

Hewat stated these officers are willing to take a bullet for us. For \$2,500 a year, if we can get a good one and keep the ones we have, let's do it.

Vaillancourt asked about retirement and salary – how much does that equal? Lora Nanak said about 30% to round up. Vaillancourt and Hewat discussed \$4,170.00, all in per year, is the increase amount. Mayor Poye stated some cities are paying \$15,000.00 sign-on bonus. Hewat states

Martin motioned that Police Department salaries will be raised to the nearest thousand. Second by Hewat.

Public comment was asked for and received. An audience member stated she was surprised that a Council member would ever be against the opportunity to do the most they can for their officers. The officers don't know if they are going home or not. This is an opportunity to give these guys a raise. Another citizen stated the community is growing and these officers work hard and should get the increase. Let's count our pennies somewhere else.

Hewat stated the cost is the same for the overage for the Fun Park and no one blinked an eye. Vaillancourt asked if the uncertified officer would be \$37,500.00. Chief Travis stated that the uncertified officer should be bumped up when they get certified, to \$40,000.00.

Roll Call Vote

Bill Hewat - Yes

John Vaillancourt - Yes

Colton Martin - Yes

Jaime Van Becelaere - Left Meeting

Mayor Poye – Yes

Hewat motioned this pay increase will start at the beginning of the next pay period. John Vaillancourt seconded. The motion carried. Mayor Poye voted yes.

Old Business

None

Reports / Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney

Mayor Poye thanked Chief Travis and the Fire Chief for their actions during the flooding. The grate on the Anderson side of the road is not draining, flooding Tuttle and Hwy 45. An engineer may need to review a solution for this issue. RFQs may be required.

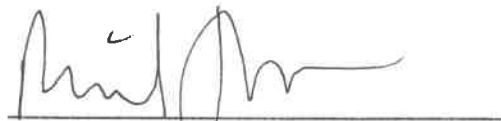
Bill Hewat expressed his gratitude for the Police, Fire and Armed Forces.

Public Input

None was offered.

Adjournment

Bill Hewat made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by John Vaillancourt. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.



Michael Thompson
Recorder/Treasurer



Max Poye
Mayor