

MINUTES
GOSHEN CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 2021 at 6:30
via Zoom and the Community Building

Call to Order: Paula Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Roll Call: Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, Jamie VanBecelaere, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright were in attendance. Mayor Max Poye and Bill Hewat were absent. Lora Nanak the Office Manager and Brian Hogue the City Attorney were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: John Vaillancourt made a motion to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Colton Martin. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: John Vaillancourt made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2021, 2nd by Colton Martin. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Reports 2021

Police Department Report: Reports are in Council's packets. Chief Travis asked council's approval to reapply for the STEP program. John Vaillancourt made a motion to allow the police department to sign up for STEP again, 2nd by Birch Wright. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Street Report: Mike Bowers was absent; no report given. Birch Wright asked for a summary of work that has been done.

Volunteer Fire Department: Reports are in Council's packets. Birch Wright wanted it noted that many of the constituents have raised concerns about the increase in fire dues.

Building Official's Report: JD DeMotte reported; reports are in your packets.

Financial Report: Lora Nanak reported; financial reports are in Council's packets. The city currently has four (4) accounts at the Bank of Fayetteville. Accounts for the Stimulus money and for the Act 988 monies have been added. As of August 31, 2021 the General Fund was \$879,796.79, the \$8.00 deficit that was addressed last month was corrected, incorrectly, so will be on next month's report. The Street Fund was \$155,890.25. The Stimulus account was \$200,547.55 and the Act 988 account was \$16,033.79. In September a Depository Board meeting was held and it was decided to move the CD from United Bank to the checking account at Bank of Fayetteville because the checking account currently offers the best interest rate. The 2022 budget will be started in October, if the Council has any input, please let Lora know. The Levy tax is due at the end of November so in October a decision needs to be made about the mills for 2022. Birch Wright requested that the Stimulus Committee meet as soon as possible, rather than wait until January for their first meeting.

Parks & Rec. Report: A copy of the report is in Council's packets. Ken Smith updated everyone on the progress of the Grants. Colton Martin asked about the cattle on the property; Mr. Smith said that the cattle are being removed from the parcels of land that the city has purchased. Attorney Hogue reminded the council that the city will need to give a 30-day notice to the cattle owner who is leasing the land. The cattle owner has said that he plans to have all the cattle removed by the end of November. Lora will verify this with the lessee.

New City Business

Personnel: Jamie VanBecelaere requested an executive session. John Vaillancourt made a motion to move into an executive session regarding a personnel issue, 2nd by Colton Martin. All voted in favor and the Council members went into executive session at 7:08 PM. Council members returned from executive session at 7:32 PM. No action was taken.

Recorder/Treasurer Position: Birch Wright made a motion to accept Allison DeJarnette's resignation from Recorder/Treasurer, 2nd by Jamie VanBecelaere. All voted in favor and the motion carried. The city is required, by statute, to fill the Recorder/Treasurer position. John Vaillancourt made a motion to post notices in the newspaper, at the city's 5 public posting locations and on the website; the notice will include a deadline of October 4th, 2nd by Birch Wright. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Goshen Expansion: Colton Martin began the discussion on future annexation of the city's planning areas. There are maps in Council's packets. Attorney Hogue gave legal direction to the process involved in annexation. Paula Anderson suggested taking a consensus to see who would be interested in annexation to Goshen. Paula Anderson suggested that, when Mayor Poye returns, a task force be formed in order to bring information regarding this process to the City Council meetings.

Goshen Fire Dept. Dues: John Vaillancourt has received feedback from the constituents expressing concern about the rise in Fire Department dues. Paula Anderson expressed displeasure that the fire department did not involve the council in their decision to raise dues. Council had asked the fire department for accounting data to show areas of need and Colton Martin read a letter received from the Fire Department, stating that they would not provide the requested data. Colton Martin suggested Goshen build their own fire department. Birch Wright stated that the fire department did involve the Council in their decision to raise dues. Public comment was given. The fire department is having a meeting Thursday evening to address concerns regarding these dues.

Reports/Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney: Birch Wright thanked our police and fire department for what they do. Jamie VanBecelaere stated that additional help is needed in the front office of City Hall and an administrative supervisor needs to be appointed for the office; she requests that Mayor Poye have a report of action by the next City Council meeting. There will be two public hearings at the next Planning Commission meeting for adoption of Subdivision Regulations and a re-zoning request for 180 Church St. Jamie VanBecelaere has received some complaints regarding the RV that sits on Bowen Rd. across from the bed and breakfast.

Public Input: Public input was given.

Adjournment: John Vaillancourt made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting, 2nd by Jamie VanBecelaere. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Resigned 8-15-21
Recorder/Treasurer


Mayor Max Poye