

MINUTES
GOSHEN CITY COUNCIL
October 12, 2021 at 6:30
via Zoom and the Community Building

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

Roll Call: Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright were present. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent. Mayor Max Poye and Matthew Benson the City Attorney were also present.

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

Approval of Minutes: John Vaillancourt made a motion to accept the September 14, 2021 minutes as written, 2nd by Colton Martin. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Reports 2021

Police Department Report: Chief Travis presented. Report is in Council's packet.

Street Report: Mike Bowen presented. Report is in Council's packet. Asphalt is slipping on Fire Tower Rd., Tomlinson Asphalt did the original work and said they would be out to repair it, free of charge.

Volunteer Fire Department: Report is in Council's packet.

Building Official's Report: JD Demotte is absent. Report is in Council's packet.

Financial Report: Lora Nanak reported; financial reports are in Council's packet. On September 30, 2021 the General Fund was \$992,856.54. The Street Fund was \$161,785.29. The Stimulus ARPA account was \$200,555.79. The police 988 account was \$16,139.45. We recently received \$500 more dollars for the stimulus fund. In July of 2022 we should receive the remainder of the stimulus money. The Stimulus Committee had their first meeting, each member has a topic to research and will come back to the November meeting with information to share with the group. Next month Lora will bring budgets to look at and discuss.

Parks & Rec. Report: A copy of the report is in Council's packet. Ken Smith presented. The cattle have been removed from the park property. Mr. Beneke has volunteered to help with the State Outdoor Grant. Beaver Watershed Alliance provided us with a map of the Mill Branch Park, Ken shared this map via power point. On October 29th the Parks Committee will go to Little Rock to make a presentation to the Fun Park Outdoor Grant Committee. On Oct. 23rd at 8:30 AM we will have a park clean up day at Mill Branch Park. On Friday, October 15th, a surveyor will be out at the park to survey the new parcels of land that the city agreed to purchase. The Arbor Board was successful in securing an Urban Forestry Grant for \$12,000.00.

New City Business

Rezoning of 180 N. Church St.: Mayor Poye reminded everyone that this discussion is only about rezoning, nothing about use will be discussed. Bill Hewat made a motion to rezone this property to commercial, 2nd by Birch Wright. No public input was given. Roll call vote was taken: Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, and Birch Wright voted yes. John Vaillancourt voted No. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent. The motion carried. The Zoning map will be amended.

Approval of Subdivision Regulations: After the first pieces of property went through the new subdivision regulation, it was found that there were conflicts requiring deviations for minor lot splits. Input from Jeff Hawkins at AR Regional Planning was given; input from the Planning Commission was also given in order to make these changes. Bill Hewat made a motion to approved the amended subdivision regulations, 2nd by John Vaillancourt. Roll call vote was taken: Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright voted yes. Jamie Van Becelaere was absent. The City Attorney will prepare an Ordinance for next month's meeting.

Recorder/Treasurer Position: Michael Thompson has applied for the Recorder/Treasurer position. Birch Wright made a motion to appoint Michael Thompson to the position of Recorder/Treasurer, 2nd by John Vaillancourt. The office staff will assist with some of the Recorder/Treasurer duties, as needed. Roll call vote was taken: Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright voted yes. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent. The City Attorney will prepare an ordinance for next month's meeting.

2022 Tax Levy: We are currently at 3 Mills; it can be raised to 5 Mills. Bill Hewat stated, in a good faith effort, he would like the Mills to be lowered. Bill also stated, for the record, that he is in favor of lowering taxes. Upcoming expenses were discussed and comments were made. John Vaillancourt made a motion to keep the Mills at 3, 2nd by Birch Wright. No public input was given. Roll call vote was taken: Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright voted yes. Bill Hewat voted no. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent. The city will keep the Mills at 3. An Ordinance will be drawn up for next month's Council meeting.

Goshen Expansion: Mayor Poye wants it known, for the record, that he is not in favor of annexation. A task force was formed: Carolyn Jordan, Chief Jason Travis, and Colton Martin volunteered for the task force. Invitations will be made to Jeff Hawkins, and one to a member of the Planning Commission. The fire department will also be invited to be a part of the task force. The city attorney will follow up to see if a member from the planning commission and a member of city council can meet outside of a public forum.

Business Licenses in City of Goshen: John Vaillancourt wanted to discuss enforcing business licenses for the city, stating this item was brought up at a council meeting a couple of months ago. Bill Hewat stated that we should be very receptive to having people come here to do business and imposing a fee is not a way to do that, Birch Wright concurred. A citizen stated that imposing a business license requirement could cause more of an administration problem for the city than anything else. No action was taken.

Increasing Staff at City Hall: Hiring a Planning/Zoning & Floodplain Administrator was discussed and a tentative job description was included in Council' packets. Birch Wright will look over the job description and email Lora Nanak with any additional changes needed. Salary, hours needed to fulfill the job duties and office work space was discussed. Bill Hewat made a motion to move forward with looking for the right person for this position, 2nd by Colton Martin. Roll call vote was taken: Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright voted yes. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent. Chief Travis stated that the police department will take over code enforcement. Needs for a 5th police officer were discussed. Colton made a motion to begin the process of hiring a 5th officer who will begin employment at the first of the year, 2nd by Bill Hewat. Roll call vote was taken:

Paula Anderson, Bill Hewat, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, and Birch Wright voted yes. Jamie VanBecelaere was absent.

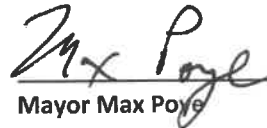
Reports/Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney: Bill Hewat thanked our public servants who keep us safe. A couple of citizens have reached out to Paula Anderson expressing concern about an unsightly house on Fire Tower Rd. Chief Travis informed the council that this house is for sale and currently under contract. Mayor Poye thanked city employees and the Parks and Arbor board for their efforts and help. Mr. Mashie approached Mayor Poye regarding the 2 remaining parcels left for sale by the community building, the Council was asked to think about it and see if the city might be interested in purchasing these remaining parcels. Mayor Poye will find out what the price is and have Lora email it to the Council.

Public Input: Carolyn Jordan asked for help from the city; she lives behind the wedding barn and the noise from the music is disturbing. The wedding barn is in the County but the County has not been helpful in enforcing any noise restrictions. Council advised Mrs. Jordan to go to the County Judge and to ask each of her neighbors to write letters to the County Justices. If Mrs. Jordan's concerns are not address by the County, then our City Council will discuss sending a resolution in support of a county noise ordinance.

Adjournment: At 8:08 PM Bill Hewat made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Birch wright.

Resigned 8/25-2021

Recorder/Treasurer



Mayor Max Poye