

COMMON COUNCIL  
APRIL 5, 2021, 6:00 P.M.  
COMMUNITY CENTER, 311 N. Washington Street

Mayor Werling called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich took the roll call:

Present were Gayle Conner, Sandra Flora, Mike Isley, Spencer Kingery, and Cody Nelson.

Minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2021 were presented for approval. Gayle Conner indicated that the name Sowders was missing from the new hire by Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich. Cody Nelson moved to approve as corrected. Second by Mike Isley. Without objection the minutes as amended were approved.

#### REPORTS

Fire Territory Executive Board. Mayor Werling reported that the board met on March 24. The agenda called for a resolution reaffirming the 2013-7 resolution that established the Fire Protection Territory Equipment Fund and Charges for Service Runs since a fully-executed copy of that resolution had not been located. However, Melissa Darling presented the board with a fully-executed copy of Resolution 2013-7 that she had found by combing through the territory files negating the need for further action. Dan Dulin indicated he planned to talk with Dan Hedden from Baker Tilly about the mortgage.

Area Plan. Sandra Flora reported that no meeting was held in March. Five new residential permits were issued in March; twelve residential permits year-to-date.

Gayle Conner reported as liaison to the Airport. The main project in 2021 will be a fuel farm expected to cost \$500,000 to be advanced by the City and reimbursed by an FAA grant. She also indicated that the Airport Board was seeking a new member as one member has moved from the area.

Without objection, the department head reports are incorporated by reference into the minutes.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Werling introduced Jake Adams, the new Executive Director of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation who presented Council members with copies of the CCEDC Strategic Plan. Adams stated that community collaboration was a key area of focus with emphasis on engaging the public for input as plans are developing on areas such as broadband expansion, residential development, and industry attraction. He stated that multi-family development is gaining steam as the EDC talks with multiple developers and home builders. Adams invited the Council to attend a meeting on Residential TIF to be held May 5 at the Delphi United Methodist Church where this important tool for investment attraction will be discussed. He also described the Rural Opportunity Zone Initiative and the tax advantages an OZ offers to investors.

Mayor Werling reminded Council of the short meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center for a public hearing on the Notice of Additional Appropriations and vote on the resolution for same.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Werling introduced proposed Ordinance 2021-3 *Ordering Four-Way Stop Traffic Control Devices* at the intersections of Market and Monroe Streets, Washington and Monroe Streets, and Union and

Main Streets. Cody Nelson moves to pass Ordinance 2021-3 on first reading. Second by Spencer Kingery. In the discussion following Cody Nelson applauded the idea stating these were bad intersections. Spencer Kingery was concerned about Main and Union Streets and what the plan would be to create the maximum visibility for the stop sign. He also expressed concern that traffic might back up at the eastbound stop sign with the traffic light at Washington and Main Streets. Mayor Werling said that she would get with Superintendent Lyons to research options prior to the second reading in May. Gayle Conner advised that the Fire Territory might have concerns about traffic blocking their driveway in case of fire calls. Conner also expressed concern about the truck traffic on Washington Street and whether a truck route was possible. Mayor Werling indicated that this discussion was already in the works with the new County Road Engineer Kent Schumacher and with the CCATC, and Tippecanoe Plan Department. Motion carried (5-0).

Proposed Resolution 2021-5 *Resolution Regarding Monthly Fees Charged to Wastewater Department for Meter Reading and Maintenance* was introduced to replace Resolution 1998-3 which set the fee at \$1.00 per meter per month. Mayor Werling noted that there had not been an increase since 1998 and that the per meter charge meant a calculation each month. The proposed resolution would set charge at a flat \$1,500 per month which could be reviewed from time to time. Mike Isley moved to approve Resolution 2021-5. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0)

Mayor Werling asked the Council to consider providing an incentive to encourage City of Delphi employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 indicating that many employees were reluctant to receive the vaccine for various reasons. Werling stated that the City would not mandate vaccination but that it was in the best interest of the City if as many employees as possible were vaccinated to protect each other and to minimize the risk of serious illness for those not vaccinated. Werling stated that the Association of Indiana Municipalities indicated that several communities were offering either gift cards or additions to Health Savings Accounts (HSA) as an incentive upon proof of vaccination. Neither of those options would be added to taxable income. At a department head meeting, the heads thought it might be beneficial to offer the choice of a \$100 gift card or \$100 added to the employee's HSA once they provide proof of vaccination. Werling suggested that the Wellness line item established in the 2021 budget for free gym memberships to full-time employees might also be used for this program. To date only \$2,000 of the \$5,000 budgeted has been used. Spencer Kingery asked if the City had offered incentives for the flu vaccine. Gayle Conner asked if the City would make provisions to avoid penalizing employees who could not receive the vaccination due to a doctor's order. Attorney Martin indicated that the situation was different than the flu, since COVID-19 had been declared a pandemic, the first such designation in 100 years. Martin further indicated that cities were legally able to offer incentives to encourage wellness, e.g. reduced insurance premiums for non-smokers. Cody Nelson moved to provide employees an incentive to get the COVID-19 vaccine with a choice of a \$100 gift card or a \$100 addition to their Health Savings Account upon presentation of a certification of vaccination or proof of a doctor's order to avoid vaccination. Second by Sandra Flora. Motion carried. (3-1-1) Ayes: Flora, Isley, Nelson; Nay: Conner; Abstain: Kingery.

#### Board Comments.

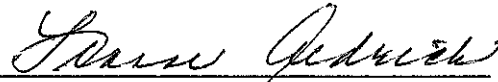
President Pro Tem Kingery asked if there was a start date for the new Police department hire. Mayor Werling responded that PERF and other tests were scheduled and review and approval by PERF was expected in the next 10 days to two weeks. Werling also indicated that the City was close to hiring a part-time contract employee as a Code Enforcement Officer. Kingery asked if that officer would be sworn in to write citations. Werling will check on procedures.

Gayle Conner indicated that a resident had contacted her about having the City share the expense of repaving an alley that serves as a driveway to two properties. Mayor Werling responded that the City of Delphi currently only paves alleys within the Central Business District. The City's normal maintenance would be to regrade the alley removing broken asphalt if necessary and laying crushed stone. If the homeowners wish to pave the alley, it must be done to City standards to withstand the weight of snowplows and other maintenance vehicles. Werling stated the City had offered to provide the stone that might be needed under the asphalt, but would not share in other expenses. Conner also asked if the Firstnet phones for the prosecutor's office were still being charged to the City. Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich indicated that they were not. Conner asked if the phones had been returned to the City. Aldrich replied that Firstnet phones were provided by the vendor with a minimum charge of \$0.99. Conner asked about burial plots in Morning Heights Cemetery. Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich indicated that plots were not being sold given that it was suspected that there were many unmarked graves. Aldrich said that negotiations on acquiring adjacent land fell through a few years back. Mayor Werling suggested those might resume with the property owner. Conner also asked about the Small Business Resilience Grant reports due for March. Mayor Werling responded that all but five reports had been received and would update on the status at the next Council meeting.

Sandra Flora asked Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich if the situation reported at the last Council meeting had improved. Aldrich replied that there had not been a significant reduction in the number of requests reiterating that micromanaging and questioning outside agencies was continuing.

There being no public comments, Spencer Kingery moved to adjourn. Second by Cody Nelson. Without objection the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

  
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Mayor Anita Werling

  
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Clerk-Treasurer, Leanne Aldrich, Attest