

Westfield City Council February 23, 2015

The Westfield City Council met in Special Session Monday February 23, 2015 at the Westfield City Hall. Members present were Chuck Lehman, Jim Ake, Steve Hoover, Bob Smith, Bob Horkay, Cindy Spoljaric and Rob Stokes. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Cindy Gossard, Mayor Andy Cook and representing Legal Counsel Brian Zaiger.

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Lehman stated there has been a change to the Agenda. Ordinance 15-03 has been tabled to a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Jim Ake made a motion to approve February 9, 2015 minutes as amended. Cindy Spoljaric seconded. Vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain -1 (B. Smith) Motion carries.

Guest:

Joe Plankis commented on what a good job our Police and Fire Departments have done and continue to do.

Claims:

Jim Ake made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Bob Horkay seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Miscellaneous Business/Special Presentations

Miscellaneous Business: Police Department Update

Police Chief Joel Rush gave a brief Department 2014 update.

Old Business:

Ordinance 14-53: Pawnshop Ordinance

Council Introduction – November 10, 2014
Adoption Consideration – February 23, 2015

Council asked questions of Chief Rush regarding this Ordinance. There were Council comments and discussion.

Bob Smith stated he would follow up on some of the questions presented tonight for clarification and return to the Council with answers for the March meeting.

Ordinance 15-03: Amendment to Ordinance 06-52: WPWD Erosion Control Inspection Fee

Council Introduction: February 9, 2015
Adoption Consideration: February 23, 2015

Continued to Future Meeting

Ordinance 15-02: Approval of Grand Park Indoor Athletic Facilities Lease

Council Introduction- January 26, 2015
Public Hearing- February 9, 2015
Adoption Consideration – TABLED
Council Response to Public Hearing Questions- February 23, 2015
Adoption Consideration – February 23, 2015

President Lehman stated all documents and transcriptions are on the city website and issuu.com.

Jim Ake commented thanking everyone for their comments, questions, and discussions on the topic.

Bob Horkay commented he appreciated all the time put in by everyone involved.

Cindy Spoljaric commented that she hoped communications would be improved within the Community and looks forward to seeing this happen.

Steve Hoover commented, thanking the Community for their concerns. He stated it is his job to represent the entire community in the best way he can.

Bob Smith commented on the time and effort spent on this issue, and thanked all involved for their work in trying to reach a decision.

President Lehman handed the gavel to Vice President Ake and took the floor stating; please see attached.

Vice President Ake asked for a motion and being none, handed the gavel back to President Lehman to continue with the meeting.

New Business:

Resolution 15-111: Pre-Disaster Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Adoption Consideration – February 23, 2015

Fire Chief Joe Lyons presented this item stating this is the required Resolution that needs to be adopted in order for the City to claim Federal Funding in case of a disaster.

Bob Smith made a motion to approve resolution 15-111 as presented. Steve Hoover seconded. Vote: Yes-7; no-0. Motion carries.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Jim Ake commented on the Fire Fighters Pancake Breakfast on Saturday

Chuck Lehman noted the Chamber luncheon this Thursday at Bridgewater with discussions of the future plans of Grand Junction

MAYOR COMMENTS

Fire Department raised \$660.00 for Relay for Life at Saturday's Pancake Breakfast

We Connect helping with communications within the community

Westfield Welcomes Wednesdays joins with the Chamber to highlight local area businesses.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer

President

Comments made at the City of Westfield council meeting Feb 23, 2015

The need to include an indoor facility as an integral part of the Grand Park Sports Complex was identified in the original findings of the exploratory committee beginning back in 2007. This need is further validated by the tens of millions of investment dollars that had been committed to when the construction of the indoor complex begins. After nearly a year of continuous & intense efforts to seek the best option to meet our needs, this council approved several ordinances back in October to make it all happen. That process set in motion a plan that would have delivered both immediate and long term benefits to all concerned. However, the negative response of one individual has set into motion a process aimed to deliberately disrupt, or totally stop the project. That single action has proven to be extremely harmful in many ways and the negative economic impact alone has escalated to over \$30 million of direct investment losses. Hundreds of immediate jobs have been eliminated and longer term employment opportunities will not be created. Many additional pending commitments from other developments are now on hold. The total investment loss to our community could easily exceed one hundred million dollars by the end of this year.

Considering all the facts & details from the past months and years, I am still totally committed to supporting the efforts taken to add the indoor facility. It further assures the success of the Grand Park sports campus.

However, in light of the recent court proceedings that have occurred because of an individual action, it's my responsibility to respect both the process and the timetable that has been set forth by the judge in this matter.

Meanwhile, it appears there are no winners for any individual, or for our community – in this situation everyone loses.

Chuck Lehman

Westfield, IN 46072