

WESTFIELD CITY COUNCIL, September 8, 2008

The Westfield City Council met in regular session Monday, September 8, 2008 at the Westfield City Hall. Members present were Bob Smith, Bob Horkay, Melody Sweat, Tom Smith and Ken Kingshill. Also present were Chief Administrative Officer, Bruce Hauk, Mayor, Clerk Treasurer Cindy Gossard and Legal Counsel, Brian Zaiger. Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Hauk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Kingshill stated Councilman Rob Stokes, John Dippel and Mayor Cook would not be present for tonight's meeting.

Ken also stated the only change to the agenda would be 08-47 continued at the Petitioner's request to the October 13th meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Bob Smith made a motion to approve the August 11, 2008 minutes as amended. Bob Horkay seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Guests:

Cindy Spoljaric spoke regarding the Director of Enterprise Development asking what were the responsibilities of this position and from where is this funded.

Bruce Hauk explained this position was funded in the Public Works Department in 2008 as Technology Service Manager. Bruce stated there should be a press release as to the duties of this position in the near future.

Claims:

Melody Sweat made a motion to approve claims as presented. Bob Smith seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Business/Special Recognition:

Proclamation: Youth Soccer Month

President Kingshill read the proclamation to a group of Westfield Soccer players proclaiming September 2008 as Youth Soccer Month.

Old Business:

Ordinance 08-45: 2009 City Budget
Introduction – August 11, 2008
Public Hearing – September 8, 2008
Second Reading – September 8, 2008
Adoption Consideration – September 22, 2008

Bruce Hauk gave a brief summary on the budget process and timeline requirements.

Public Hearing opened 7:41 p.m.

J. R. Panasuk questioned the comparison differences of Westfield Police Department to Carmel Police Department Officers per population.

Sharon Williams spoke stating that she felt that the City employees making over \$50,000.00 a year should not be given any cost of living raises. Sharon asked for a more simplified form of the budget for the citizens to be able to read and understand.

Public Hearing closed 7:46 p.m.

Police Chief Kevin Jowitt stated Police per population is not reflective of actual work the Department does.

President Kingshill stated this Ordinance will return at the September 22 meeting.

Ordinance 08-13: 2009 Salary Ordinance
Introduction – August 11, 2008
Public Hearing – September 8, 2008
Second Reading – September 8, 2008
Adoption Consideration – September 22, 2008

Bruce Hauk clarified the 4% raise is not necessarily per employee City wide but 4 % that the Department Heads can grow their salary line item as a whole.

Ken Kingshill stated this Ordinance would be eligible for adoption at our September 22 meeting.

Bruce Hauk explained the Public Hearing for this Ordinance was done too soon pursuant to notice qualifications and we will need have another Public Hearing tonight.

Public Hearing opened 7:58 p.m.

Sharon Williams stated she felt that no City employee should be paid a 3% or 4% increase even if it is customary.

Public Hearing closed 7:59 p.m.

Ordinance 08-42 Trash/Recycling
Introduction – August 11, 2008
Public Hearing – August 25, 2008
Adoption Consideration – August 25, 2008

Ken Kingshill explained there have been 4 changes made to Ordinance 08-42 after comments made in the Public Hearing and from Council members.

1. Oversight authority would now be granted to the City Council as opposed to the Westfield Public Works Department.
2. Stricken the language authorizing the hiring of employees for labor and purchasing of vehicles and equipment. This now states that Westfield is solely asking for bids for this service.
3. The \$25.00 Account Set Up fee has been deleted now reads only an Account Change charge of \$17.00.
4. The Administrative Fee now has a **not to exceed** amount of \$1.00.

Bob Smith commented this will only authorize the City to get numbers and compare to what citizens are paying now.

Ken Kingshill stated this is only an enabling Ordinance not creating a new trash program. Ken explained this will only allow the WPW to solicit bids for this service.

Tom Smith stated he would like everybody to familiarize themselves with the details as they come forward from the bids. Tom explained this is intended to try and get the citizens a better deal for this service and if the Council feels it doesn't work they will not move forward.

Melody Sweat thanked Jim Ake and his committee for all there hard work on this project. Melody also stated the Council is trying to save the citizens money with their trash and recycling service.

Tom Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 08-42 as amended. Bob Horkay seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Ordinance 08-41: Deputy Mayor
Introduction – August 11, 2008
Second Reading – August 25, 2008
Adoption Consideration – September 22, 2008

President Kingshill explained this Ordinance 08-41 is to establish the position of Deputy Mayor as required by statute.

Tom Smith stated he believed that the position of Deputy Mayor should be an elected position. Tom also stated after talking with other Council members Councilor Dippel proposed adding a Sunset Clause to this Ordinance and he is in favor of passing this Ordinance.

President Kingshill explained that there has been a change to Ordinance 08-41 by adding the Sunset Clause which by its own terms repeals itself on December 31, 2011.

Bob Horkay made a motion to approve Ordinance 08-41 as amended with the December 31, 2011 Sunset Clause date. Bob Smith seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carries.

Ordinance 08-39 Wastewater Rates and Charges
Introduction – August 11, 2008
Public Hearing – September 8, 2008
Second Reading – September 8, 2008
Adoption Consideration – September 22, 2008

Kurt Wanninger gave a slide presentation of the Wastewater Rate changes. Kurt explained the proposal with this rate adjustment will affect everyone in 2009. Kurt also explained they did do rate comparisons with 53 Wastewater Utilities in Indiana.

Kurt explained with the purchase of Hamilton Western Utilities in 2002 there was a case hearing with the Indiana Regulatory Commission. Kurt explained with this case hearing there was a request to the Town of Westfield not to increase the rates for a period of 5 years.

Kurt stated this rate increase is to maintain vitality to the financial stability of the Cities wastewater Utilities and to get all of our customer's rates in line.

President Kingshill stated he had received 3 letters from citizens and he would be submitting them for the record.

Public Hearing opened 8:25 p.m.

John Williams stated he needed only clarification of the 10,000 gallon maximum.

Stan Burrow questioned the Splash Park and the wasted water and he would like to see the rate increase held to only 3%.

Harold Jennings would like to know why he has to pay for 5,000 gallon minimum when he only uses 2,000 gallons.

J.R. Panasuk questioned what the reason was for the minimum increase on either the north or south.

David Ellis questioned how many water customers actually use less than 5,000 gallons of water and he stated it did cause him concern that the WPW study is comparing us to our neighbors.

Herbert Smelser concerned about being charged for water usage he is not using by the 5,000 gallons as a minimum.

Cindy Spoljaric would like explanation of how the minimum and maximum gallon amounts work.

Frank Williams questioned the water rates in Carmel is significantly less than here and why we are not more in line with Carmel.

Stan Knight stated Westfield should not have a maximum charge as it would fall back to the citizens who do not use near as much.

Public Hearing closed 8:49 p.m.

Kurt Wanninger answered questions asked in the Public Hearing.

President Kingshill stated this Ordinance will return to the Council at the September 22 meeting.

New Business:

Ordinance 08-47 Amendment to the Brookie (Centennial) PUD

President Kingshill stated the Petitioner requested a delay to the October 13 meeting.

City Council Comments:

President Kingshill explained there will be a Special Council meeting on September 24 to possibly adopt the various Annexation Ordinances that have already been opened for a Public Hearing held August 25th. Ken explained there is a 30 day wait after the Public Hearings before these can be adopted.

Kurt Wanninger stated this weekend the City will be holding it's very first Arts and Cultural Festival.

Adjourn:

Melody Sweat made a motion to adjourn. Bob Smith seconded. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion carried.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer

Council President