

Westfield City Council January 9, 2023

The Westfield City Council held a meeting on January 9, 2023 at Westfield City Hall. Present were Mike Johns, Scott Frei, Troy Patton, Scott Willis, Cindy Spoljaric, Jake Gilbert, and Joe Edwards. Cindy Gossard, Anne Poindexter and Manny Herceg were also in attendance.

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Election of Council President/ President's Appointment to Vice President

Jake Gilbert made a motion to elect Mike Johns as Council President, Joe Edwards seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries. Mike Johns asked Joe Edwards to be Vice President.

Council Appointment to APC (2)

Scott Frei made the motion to nominate Mike Johns and Cindy Spoljaric as APC members. Joe Edwards seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Council Appointment to RDC (2)

Troy Patton made the motion to nominate Linda Nass & Bob Beaudry as members of the RDC. Joe Edwards seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Council Appointment or Reinstatement to the Finance Committee & Oversight Committee

Cindy Spoljaric made the motion to retain the current members of both the Finance & Oversight committees. Scott Willis seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Council Appointment to the Fire Merit Board (1) and Mayor's Appointment (2)

Mike Johns asked the Oversight Committee to work with the Clerk's office and Administration to resolve the issues with the terms/appointments to the Fire Merit Board and all other committees and boards. Committee members agreed to handle the task.

Discussion of the Mayor's Appointment to the Preservation Commission

Mayor Cook stated he was going through the process of appointing someone and would have a name to Council within the next 30 days.

Changes to Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes:

Scott Willis made the motion to approve the December 27, 2022 minutes as presented. Troy Patton seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Claims:

Scott Willis made the motion to approve the claims. Jake Gilbert seconded.

Vote: Yes-7 ; No-0. Motion carries.

Miscellaneous Business/Special Presentation

Budgeted/Salary Discussion-Mike Johns voiced his concerns on the number of employees that had received raises in the 4th quarter after the budget had been approved in October.

Mr. Johns stated that it was his understanding that everyone's salaries would remain the same until 2023 when all civilian employees would receive a 4% COLA increase. Mr. Johns stated that out of the 94 filled civilian positions 53 of those employees received increases in 2022 after the budget was approved. Those increases totaled \$142,000 with four departments seemingly over budget for 2023. Mr. Johns stated he felt this was a lack of transparency from the administration.

Jeremy Lollar stated that 43 out of the 53 increases were due to discretionary increases and that no departments were over their budgets. Mr. Lollar stated that he would review the spreadsheet that was prepared on the topic and make comments and distribute to council.

Mayor Cook asked that if Council had information needed from his staff, that they give it to him, and he would determine who was best fit to provide the information and the timeline for completion.

Old Business:

Per Resolution 21-121, Relating to Transparency, Councilors Do Not Need to Recuse Themselves, but are Required to Disclose if They Have Received Contributions of \$1,000 or More When Voting on Any Actions Involving One of Their Donors.

Resolution 22-124: Fiscal Plan for Ordinance 22-59 (iBeach)

Adoption Consideration: December 9, 2023

Ryan Collingwood presented stating this is the Fiscal Plan for the annexation of approximately 3 acres on the Northside of 181st St. East of the Grand Park Blvd. Extension. The net impact over the next 5 years is \$10,628.

Jake Gilbert made the motion to approve Resolution 22-124 as presented.

Scott Willis seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Ordinance 22-59: Annexing Certain Real Estate to the City of Westfield, IN (iBeach)

Council Introduction: December 12, 2022

Public Hearing: December 12, 2022

Adoption Consideration: January 9, 2023

Ryan Collingwood presented with the above Resolution.

Scott Frei made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-59 as presented.

Troy Patton seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Resolution 22-125: Fiscal Plan for Ordinance 22-60 (308 East 191st St.)

Adoption Consideration: January 9, 2023

Ryan Collingwood presented stating this involves approximately 8.5 acres on the Northside of 191st St. West of the Monon Trail. This is a part of the Woods, Robinson, Briggs PUD. The net impact over the next five years is \$8175.

Joe Edwards made the motion to approve Resolution 22-125, as presented. Troy Patton seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Ordinance 22-60: Annexing Certain Real Estate to the City of Westfield, IN (308 East 191st St)

Council Introduction: December 12, 2022

Public Hearing: December 12, 2022

Adoption Consideration: January 9, 2023

Presented with above Resolution.

Scott Willis made the motion to approve Ordinance 22-60 as presented. Joe Edwards seconded. Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion carries.

Ordinance 22-63: Vacation of Public Way (203rd St)

Council Introduction: December 12, 2022

Public Hearing: December 12, 2022

Adoption Consideration: January 9, 2023

Johnathon Nail presented stating this portion of 203rd street is North of the East Street extension through North Point. The North Point II project that is being proposed has 203rd St dead ending with no connectivity or value to the city.

Scott Willis stated that for transparency purposes that he has received \$1,000 in donations from the petitioner.

Joe Edwards made the motion to approve the vacation of public way. Scott Willis seconded.
Vote: Yes-7; No-0. Motion

New Business

Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Westfield and INDOT (Mule Barn & SR32 Intersection Improvement)

Adoption Consideration: January 9, 2023

Jonathan Nail presented stating the city has already committed to the widening of Mule Barn Rd. and with the recent industrial growth in the area there are increasing traffic concerns. This agreement would commit INDOT to reimburse the city for the intersection improvement only (SR 32 & Mule Barn) in the amount not to exceed \$1.5 million. Mr. Nail stated that a recent estimate was given by a design consultant in the amount of \$1.1 million.

It was noted by Mr. Nail that there were errors that needed corrected in the agreement (spelling of Spoljaric/signature page, and the INDOT commissioner has changed since the agreement has been written).

Legal counsel stated there were some items that they would like to review on the agreement. It was decided that this would be brought back for final approval in two weeks.

Guests:

None

Clerk Treasurer Comments:

See attached letter

City Council Comments:

Jake Gilbert thanked Cindy Gossard for her years of service. Asked that there be a moment of silence for Paul Estridge, a local developer, and businessman who passed away on Sunday.


Troy Patton stated that he was hopeful to receive the property tax information prior to the start of the next budget process.

Mike Johns remarked that he looked forward to making changes to policies and procedures that would be significantly improve processes and the transition to a mostly new Council in 2024. Mr. Johns stated his goal in 2023 is for the Council, Oversight, and Finance Committees to work ambitiously over the course of the year.

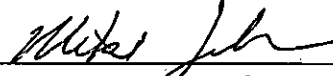
Mayor Comments:

None

Without any further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM



Clerk-Treasurer



President