

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 4, 2020

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met electronically on May 4, 2020, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

President Bunder called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: James Blanco, Peter Bunder, Nick DeBoer, Shannon Kang, Larry Leverenz, Kathy Parker, David Sanders, and Gerald Thomas.

Absent: Norris Wang

Clerk Booker noted that Councilor Wang is still ill.

Also present: Mayor John Dennis, Corporation Counsel Eric Burns, Clerk Sana Booker, Director of Development Erin Easter, and City Controller Peter Gray. Other unnamed department heads who did not speak were available on the conference line.

NOTES

► The Pre-Council meeting scheduled for April 30, 2020, was cancelled.

► This meeting was conducted electronically, without the physical attendance of any person, due to the public health emergency (COVID-19 pandemic) and per IC 5-14-1.5-3.6 and State of Indiana Executive Order 20-09, Paragraph 4.

MINUTES

Councilor DeBoer moved for acceptance of the minutes of the April 6, 2020, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

President Bunder noted that the 2019 Year-End Redevelopment Commission Report is on file.

REPORT OF THE APC REPRESENTATIVES

Councilor Leverenz reported that there is an electronic meeting scheduled for the APC Executive Committee this Wednesday. There is an APC meeting scheduled for May 20, 2020, but there is no agenda yet.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Go Greener Garden Award – Woody and Marlene Walls

President Bunder stated that we take note of the Walls' contribution to the life of the City.

Council Appointment: Go Greener Commission – Anne Fliotsos

Councilor DeBoer motioned to appoint Anne Fliotsos to the Go Greener Commission. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT

City Controller Gray stated that we are on budget so far for the year. We are one-third of the way through the year, and we are tracking just under that with actual expenses. The report shows that with our encumbrances, we are at 34%. He noted that at the next Council meeting, we will need to approve the set-up of some fund numbers, as needed by the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) and Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). These will be used to track COVID-19 expenses and revenue. The Council needs to approve the creation of those funds to be utilized by the City. He noted that we are still getting more information from the DLGF and SBOA to define what those funds are and how they will be tracked. Controller Gray noted that in the revenue for the year, we are expecting decreases in Wastewater fees due to less usage. We do not know the magnitude of the decreases yet. There will also be decreases in some other miscellaneous revenue, including what may happen with the swimming pool later in the year.

Councilor DeBoer stated that there has been a lot of media attention to local government finances. He asked if Controller Gray can give his opinion on where he thinks West Lafayette is going to be tracking along the financial lines. He also asked what kind of Rainy Day Funds we have if things deteriorate further.

Controller Gray noted that his crystal ball is not any clearer than anyone else's. However, so far, West Lafayette is still in good standing. Our Rainy Day Fund has a few hundred thousand dollars in it. There are also discussions from the State about being able to utilize other Funds that are usually more restricted for General Funds and possibly easing restrictions that were put in place last year for the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund. He stated that there are also some revenue streams available. He does not see any disastrous effect for West Lafayette at this point, but we will keep our eyes on it. The State is starting to open back up, which would indicate that things will be moving forward, though it could change quickly if we get another [COVID-19] surge. As of right now, we are on stable ground, but it could, of course, change at any moment.

LEGAL REPORT

This report is on file.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Joint Board Report

Councilor DeBoer noted that the next Joint Board meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 07-20 A Resolution Authorizing The Filing Of An Application With The U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development, For Community Development Block Grant Funds, As Provided In Title I Of The Community Development Act Of 1974, As Amended (Submitted by Department of Development) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Resolution No. 07-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Resolution No. 07-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Director of Development Easter stated that this is our normal application filing to request funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Typically, we are notified in late February or early March about the funds that we will receive as part of our regular appropriation

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MAY 4, 2020, CONTINUED

for our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund. This is part of the application process to receive those funds into the City.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

Councilperson	Vote
Blanco	Aye
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Kang	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Parker	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Absent

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 07-20 passed on first and only reading.

Later in the meeting, Corporation Counsel Burns verified Councilor Parker's vote as being "Aye," for Resolution No. 07-20, due to technical difficulties that Councilor Parker had during the roll call vote.

Resolution No. 08-20 A Resolution Appropriating The Necessary Funds Resulting From The 2020 Community Development Application Of The City Of West Lafayette Under Title I Of The Housing And Community Development Act Of 1974, As Amended (Submitted by Department of Development) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Resolution No. 08-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Resolution No. 08-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Director Easter explained that part of the process we go through for CDBG is to work with the Mayor's Advisory Committee to reach out to our public service agencies and housing partners in the community to apply the funds toward their mission to achieve HUD's goals of reducing homelessness, slums, and blight while providing safe and fair housing for members of our community. The Resolution has a breakdown of the funding that will be appropriated to different organizations. She reviewed the items, explaining that there is a 15% cap on public service funding, general programming administration pays for the time of our staff and legal fees. There are funds for ADA curb and sidewalk projects; Senior Home Assistance Repair Program (SHARP), which helps seniors remain in their homes with emergency repairs; and the Small Business Stabilization Fund.

Councilor DeBoer stated that since the Small Business Stabilization Fund is targeted to businesses within areas that are considered under stress or otherwise have a low income, he believes a lot of those will be in District 1. He asked Director Easter if there is any information regarding disbursements from those funds. He knows it was capped at a certain threshold, and that as soon as the funds were exhausted there would be nothing left.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MAY 4, 2020, CONTINUED

Director Easter stated that between Resolution No. 08-20 and No. 09-20, we have a total of \$500,000.00. As of today, we have had over 150 business applicants. This is a significant number that demonstrates the need that exists within our community. She explained that we have two programs. The first program is for micro-enterprise businesses, which are those that have five or fewer employees, including the owner. There needs to be some demonstrated support of employees who are low- to moderate-income, as set by federal thresholds. The second program is for businesses with six or more employees. Those would also have to be providing a public benefit to low- to moderate-income individuals. Our goal is to maintain people in their jobs here, even if the business is retooling and the employee's job description changes, and to keep businesses open and running if at all possible.

Councilor DeBoer asked if any disbursements have been made, or if this is the authorization to do so. Director Easter responded that this, along with Resolution No. 09-20, is the authorization to do that. The application deadline for the first phase of consideration was May 1, 2020. Some of those businesses will not meet the threshold required by HUD, and there must be a demonstrated need related to COVID-19. She confirmed for Councilor DeBoer that she will keep the Council updated on those disbursements.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

<u>Councilperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Blanco	Aye
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Kang	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Parker	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Absent

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 08-20 passed on first and only reading.

Resolution No. 09-20 A Resolution Reappropriating The Necessary Funds Resulting From The 2015, 2017, 2018 And 2019 Community Development Application Of The City Of West Lafayette Under Title I Of The Housing And Community Development Act Of 1974, As Amended (Submitted by Department of Development) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Resolution No. 09-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Resolution No. 09-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Director Easter explained that one of the reasons we were able to work so quickly to come up with an amount of money for the Small Business Stabilization Fund that could make an impact is that we have funding from previous years that had not been spent yet. In a program like this, we

should actively be getting those funds out for public benefit. We decided to cut some of our General Program Administration Funds and reprogram some dollars that had not been spent.

Councilor Kang and Director Easter discussed the number of businesses that may be helped by this funding. Director Easter noted that businesses that are helped by other federal programs will be unlikely to receive funds from this program.

Councilor Bunder expressed appreciation to Director Easter for putting this together so quickly, and he spoke about how it shows that we have concern, with a financial response, to the needs of our small businesses.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

Councilperson	Vote
Blanco	Aye
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Kang	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Parker	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Absent

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 09-20 passed on first and only reading.

REPORT BY THE MAYOR

Mayor John Dennis reported that he, in collaboration with Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, and County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh, will go through an extensive protocol on how to restart our local economy. We need to get some consistency to figure out some of the basic mechanics of how we incentivize, not necessarily in a financial way, our business community to get back on track. This will include how we open businesses properly, with guidance from the State level, so it is done safely. He knows that everyone has their opinions on the timing of opening. The important thing is that on the date that opening happens, we need to make sure that the people we know and the people we influence do things right. This includes keeping the six-foot distance, wearing masks when you cannot maintain distance, and being very conscientious about where you are, who you are with, and what you are up to. A lot of what we are doing, including the small business grant, is with the understanding of getting us back to a great starting point. Encourage the people you know to proceed cautiously as we get things moving. Mayor Dennis stated that according to Dr. Jeremy Adler, the Tippecanoe County Health Director, we are still anticipating a surge that will probably peak next week. The numbers are growing daily now, as we anticipated. The hope is that the effects on the community will not be too catastrophic, but the bed space in the hospitals is starting to fill, which will impact us all. He noted that we are doing a great job with the electronic meetings. Mayor Dennis explained current City operations, including an explanation of a daily call conference with the department heads. He encouraged the Council to call his office with any questions or concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Sanders stated that the shelter-in-place has caused tremendous economic problems for our City, State, and country. However, it has also been extremely important for keeping the robustness of our healthcare infrastructure and protecting Americans. As difficult as it has been, to release us from it too early will be disastrous. It will make all the suffering and sacrifice be for naught. He stated that he wants to encourage Mayor Dennis, and anyone else with influence on this matter, to be a strong advocate for us continuing to achieve the goals of the shelter-in-place guidelines. The goals were not to prevent the transfer from one person to another; they were to prevent the transfer from one person to many other people. Therefore, the focus needs to be on continuing to prevent opportunities for one-to-many transmissions. Any sort of environment where that can take place should not be opening at this time. Even if people are separated, indoor environments are more hazardous than outdoor for the transmission of the virus. We should be cautious about creating situations where a one-to-many transfer can occur. Councilor Sanders stated that the other goal of shelter-in-place is to allow our healthcare and senior facilities to institute rigorous practices, and he is not convinced that this has taken place to the extent needed to protect vulnerable people.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► As noted on the agenda, President Bunder reminded everyone that we are not taking general citizen comments during these electronic meetings. Comments may be emailed to the Councilors or the Clerk's Office.

Comments that were submitted via email are appended to these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor DeBoer moved for adjournment, and President Bunder adjourned the meeting the time being 7:07 p.m.

Nichole Foster

From: Sheila Rosenthal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 11:37 AM
To: clerk
Cc: Kathy C.F. Parker; John Dennis
Subject: Concerns about Purdue University Re-opening in Fall 2020

External

To Mayor Dennis and Members of the West Lafayette Common Council,

I am writing to express my concerns over the re-opening of Purdue University in Fall 2020 as Mitch Daniels has made some recent statements about. In particular I am concerned about the potential impact of bringing some or all of the approximately 40,000 students back to the Purdue campus from all over the country and world. This will have many consequences for our community that we cannot foresee.

Therefore I want to know if our city government has been included in the task force that Purdue University has put together to work on these plans. I believe we need a more vigorous and transparent collaboration between our city and Purdue University than has been the case in the past. The safety and well being of our community is at stake as it has not been at another time that we can remember due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's make sure this work is happening to benefit all of us.

Thank you for considering these concerns. Regards, Sheila Rosenthal

Nichole Foster

From: Rosenthal, Frank S. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:00 PM
To: John Dennis; Nick DeBoer; Peter Bunder; Shannon S. Kang; Larry Leverenz; Kathy C.F. Parker; Norris Wang; James S. Blanco; David Sanders; Gerald Thomas
Cc: clerk; Sheila Rosenthal
Subject: Re-opening of Purdue University?
Attachments: Letter to City on COVID.docx

External

Dear Mayor Dennis and members of the West Lafayette City Council:

Recently Purdue president Mitch Daniels released a statement about conditions under which Purdue University may open next Fall. I write to raise the issue that Purdue's actions affect all of us in the Greater Lafayette community. If there is an outbreak of COVID-19 on the Purdue campus, it may quickly spread to the Greater Lafayette community. The converse is also true. We are all in this together. Therefore, I think that it is critical that government leaders in the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County are involved in any decision to open Purdue.

Although president Daniel's statement addressed some safety concerns, I feel there are many questions that need to be answered before Purdue can be opened responsibly. Some of these are:

1. Who are the public health professionals who are designing the strategy and infrastructure for opening Purdue with maximum consideration for the health of Purdue students and employees, as well as the residents of Greater Lafayette? Will a written plan be provided to the community? Who will be in charge operationally of administering the plan?
2. What has been and will be the involvement of the County and State health departments in plans to re-open Purdue?
3. What will be the protocol for testing? Will every student be tested? Those with symptoms? Those who have been in contact with others who have tested positive or with symptoms, etc.? Will all faculty and staff be tested?
4. What are the plans for contact tracing and isolation/quarantine for those who test positive? Who will do the contact tracing? When will they be trained? Will every contact that tests positive be isolated? What are the physical arrangements for them to be isolated? How will Purdue coordinate testing and tracing with the State Health Department? What experience is available for doing contact tracing under the unique conditions of a college campus?

NOTE: The World Health Organization suggests that an indication of enough testing is when 10% OR LESS of the results are positive. Currently in Tippecanoe County about 7% of the tests that have been conducted are positive, but statewide it is about 20%. The State has announced a plan to add 30,000 tests per week. But the connection to a plan for contact tracing is not clear. One website says that the "focus is on all symptomatic individuals". (Contact tracing must include asymptomatic individuals).

5. What special precautions will be taken for people coming to campus from areas with a high density of COVID-19 cases?
6. Does the presence and interaction on campus of people coming from many different regions of the U.S. and the world, present an unusually high risk for an outbreak on campus? What experience can be taken from other universities, cities, States, countries?

7. Has the City of West Lafayette had any input into Purdue's consideration of re-opening the campus in the fall?

Please let me know your thoughts on coordinating West Lafayette city government with the Purdue administration in addressing these issues and protecting the health of all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Frank Rosenthal

Frank S. Rosenthal, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Health Sciences
Purdue University School of Health Sciences
550 Stadium Mall Dr.
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]
