

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2020

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met electronically on December 7, 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, Gerald Thomas, and Norris Wang.

Absent: None

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

NOTES

► 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.

PRE-COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 25-20 was withdrawn at the December 3, 2020, Pre-Council meeting.

Resolution No. 21-20 was amended at the December 3, 2020, Pre-Council meeting.

MINUTES

Councilor DeBoer moved for acceptance of the minutes of the October 29, 2020, Pre-Council Meeting, and the November 2, 2020, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

There were no comments.

REPORT OF THE APC REPRESENTATIVES

Councilor Leverenz reported that the solar energy systems amendment that the APC Ordinance Committee has been working on for several months will go to the regular APC meeting in January, and we should see it in February. He added that the annual Student Rental Report will be presented at the December APC meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Presentation: 2021 Proposed West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission Spending Plan - Redevelopment Commission President Larry Oates

Larry Oates, Redevelopment Commission President, provided a summary of the 2021 RDC Spending Plan, which is broken down by TIF districts.

Councilor Thomas asked if the KCB, Sagamore, and Levee/Village districts are healthy and accomplishing what they set out to do. Mr. Oates responded they are doing more than expected, and it was through those that we were able to do the City Hall and Wellness Center projects.

Councilor Thomas asked how long until the TIF districts expire. Mr. Oates responded that we expanded for as long as we could for the three legacy districts, which is KCB, Sagamore, and Levee/Village. We did that by issuing small bonds in each one to use for lighting projects. That extended the districts until 2039, at which time the districts will go away. He explained that this is something that we need to think about as a City and start putting pressure on the State legislature. It will have a big impact on the infrastructure capabilities at that point.

At the request of Councilor Sanders, Mr. Oates briefly reviewed each of the larger projects.

Council Elections:

Council President Nomination and Election:

Councilor DeBoer motioned to nominate and elect Peter Bunder as Council President. Councilor Sanders seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council Vice-President Nomination and Election:

Councilor DeBoer motioned to nominate and elect Gerald Thomas as Council Vice-President. Councilor Sanders seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Appointments for Approval:

Renewing Council Appointments: Redevelopment Commission

Councilor DeBoer motioned to approve the appointments of Lawrence Oates and Patrick Hagmaire to the Redevelopment Commission. Councilor Sanders seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

New Mayoral Appointment with Council Approval: Historic Preservation Commission

Councilor DeBoer motioned to approve the appointment of Andrew Hurt to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Renewing Mayoral Appointments with Council Approval: Historic Preservation Commission

Councilor DeBoer motioned to approve the appointment of Erin Britton and Felicia Lynch to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Informational Appointments:

Renewing Mayoral Appointments to Redevelopment Commission – Brian Bittner, Darrell Clase, Patrick Hein, Brad Marley, and John Meyers

There was no discussion.

Renewing Mayoral Appointments to Traffic Commission – Adam Keyster and Larry Preo

President Bunder thanked everybody who volunteers to be on City boards and commissions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Controller Gray stated that we are 92% of the way through the year and the budget with encumbrances is at 80%. The departments are once again doing a good job with keeping expenditures down. Controller Gray also reported that we received the budget approval from the State as submitted, and the audit for 2018 and 2019 was finished today. We should receive the report from the auditors by January 21, 2021.

LEGAL REPORT

This report is on file.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Joint Board Report

Councilor DeBoer stated that the next Joint Board meeting is January 21, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 19-20 Ordinance No. 19-20 An Ordinance Vacating A Portion Of Allison Road Within The City Of West Lafayette (Submitted by Purdue Research Foundation and Sponsored by Mayor Dennis) [No. of Readings 2 of 2] **PUBLIC HEARING**

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 19-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 19-20 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor DeBoer moved to open a public hearing on Ordinance No. 19-20, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There were no comments.

Councilor DeBoer moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 19-20, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 19-20 passed on second and final reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 23-20 An Ordinance To Approve Blanket Bond Coverage For 2021 (Prepared by Clerk Sana Booker) [No. of Readings 1 of 2]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 23-20 by title only.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2020, CONTINUED

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 23-20 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Clerk Booker explained that bonds are required for all individuals who are City employees or contractors if their duties include receiving, processing, disbursing, or otherwise having access to funds belonging to the City. The City of West Lafayette uses an annual blanket bond for coverage in lieu of individual bonds. The amount of the bond is \$750,000.00.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 23-20 passed on first reading.

Ordinance No. 24-20 An Ordinance Providing For Temporary Loans (2021) (Prepared by Controller) [No. of Readings 1 of 2]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 24-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 24-20 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray stated that this is our standard procedure for cash flow purposes with the timing of getting our tax increment from the County in June and December. This covers our expenses until the cash comes in.

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

Councilperson	Vote
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 24-20 passed on first reading.

Ordinance No. 26-20 An Ordinance Clarifying The Existing Solid Waste Code (Sponsored by Mayor John Dennis) [No. of Readings 1 of 2]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 26-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 26-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray explained that this is to clarify our existing code, such as that we charge trash fees on multi-unit dwellings on a per-unit basis. We have always charged it this way, but we want to clarify it in the document. It also clarifies that the bar on the front of the trash totes, which is called a bale, needs to be made of metal. We are also removing the dumpster program and the option to use plastic bags without a container. This also allows people to set containers outside a little earlier.

Councilor Sanders stated that he did some research after Pre-Council and cannot find the word “bale” as a common phrase for the bar on the container. He motioned to amend the ordinance to use the term “catch bar” instead. Discussion about the term ensued between he, Controller Gray, Street Commissioner Anderson, and Mayor Dennis. Councilor Thomas seconded the motioned for the amendment.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote on the amendment:

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

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 26-20 is amended.

In response to a question from Councilor Wang, Street Commissioner Anderson stated that although citizens can buy totes from elsewhere, the City is the only one to offer a 12-year warranty.

There was no further discussion.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2020, CONTINUED

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 26-20 (Amended) passed on first and only reading.

Ordinance No. 27-20 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 11-20, To Fix The 2020 Salary Schedule For Appointed Officers, Employees, And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Presented by Controller) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 27-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 27-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray explained that the next four ordinances deal with amendments to the 2020 and 2021 salary ordinances. The change for Ordinance No. 27-20 makes changes to the Engineering Department and changes the date in Section 7 to encompass the entire year.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 27-20 passed on first and only and only reading.

Ordinance No. 28-20 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 05-20, To Fix The 2020 Salary Schedule For The Wastewater Treatment Utility As Submitted By The Board Of Public Works And Safety For Approval By The Common Council Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Presented by the Board of Public Works) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 28-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 28-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray stated that this is the same changes as Ordinance No. 27-20 but for the Wastewater Utility budget. The new position in Engineering is shared between the City and WWTU budgets.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 28-20 passed on first and only and only reading.

Ordinance No. 29-20 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 14-20, To Fix The 2021 Salary Schedule For Appointed Officers, Employees, And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Presented by Controller) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 29-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 29-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray explained that this is one of two ordinances for changes to the salary schedule for 2021. This includes changes to the Engineering Department as City Engineer Lankford repositions the Department. The Project Engineer will be changing to a Construction Manager, and it adds the Project Manager that was added for 2020. He noted that it also adds a position in the Police Department for a Social Service and Crisis Response Specialist. There will be a new Building Administrator under the Parks Department for the new City Hall. Parks is also adding a Community Forestry and Greenspace Manager, which will be a transfer from the Neighborhood Vitality position currently in the Development Department.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2020, CONTINUED

President Bunder asked if it is correct that this means that Bryce Patz will move from Development to Parks and how soon that will happen. Development Director Easter responded that Mr. Patz will be staying with Development for a while, but we wanted to ensure that everything was prepared for the transition when it happens. She noted that the position will continue to maintain the Historic Preservation Commission until someone else is trained to take on that role.

Councilor Thomas expressed appreciation to Mayor Dennis and Police Chief Harris for adding the Social Service and Crisis Response Specialist position. The position will serve the Police Department and community well.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 29-20 passed on first and only and only reading.

Ordinance No. 30-20 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 15-20, To Fix The 2021 Salary Schedule For The Wastewater Treatment Utility As Submitted By The Board Of Public Works And Safety For Approval By The Common Council Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Presented by the Board of Public Works) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Ordinance No. 30-20 by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Ordinance No. 30-20 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray stated that some of the changes in Ordinance No. 29-20 also pertain to the WWTU salary schedule.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

Councilperson	Vote
Blanco	Aye
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Kang	Aye

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2020, CONTINUED

Councilperson	Vote
Leverenz	Aye
Parker	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 30-20 passed on first and only and only reading.

Resolution No. 20-20 A Resolution To Establish New Funds (Wellness Center, CARES IFA, and CARES CDBG) (Prepared by Controller) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

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

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

Controller Gray stated that this is to create funds, as listed above. He explained that IFA stands for the Indiana Financing Authority and CDBG is Community Development Block Grant. The State has asked that we keep refunding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act COVID funds in different funds.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

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

Resolution No. 21-20 (Amended) A Resolution Requesting The Transfer Of Funds (Miscellaneous Funds) (Prepared by Controller) [No. of Readings 1 of 1]

Councilor DeBoer read Resolution No. 21-20 (Amended) by title only.

Councilor DeBoer moved for passage of Resolution No. 21-20 (Amended) on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Controller Gray explained that this is a routine transferring of funds between major categories to ensure that we have enough in the budget for the end of the year in the correct buckets, including COVID expenses and to cover our 27th pay period this year.

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	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 21-20 (Amended) passed on first and only reading.

REPORT BY THE MAYOR

Mayor John Dennis noted that there will be a lot of activity happening for the move to the new Margerum City Hall. We will have a dedication for that building and the Wellness Center when it is safe to do so. He stated that COVID has roared back with case numbers reaching an all-time high, and he thinks a lot of "COVID fatigue" as contributed to that. He noted that Purdue had a successful and quiet home game, and we basically shutdown Breakfast Club. He reported that we are operating at City Hall in a similar manner as the early days of COVID, in which many staff members who can work from home are doing so. He noted that he spoke with Councilor Sanders about the COVID situation last week, and he appreciates having someone with his knowledge about this on the Council. He spoke about what a great job the entire staff is doing, and everyone is doing the best they can to address issues as quickly as possible. He noted that Human Resources Director Foster is doing a great job with keeping track of COVID contact situations, and staff members are sent home immediately upon notification of such contact. These are strange and challenging times, and he thanked the Council for their support in the mask mandate. He has done some interviews with national news outlets about the mandate, and a lot of other local governments are taking such protections after we were somewhat of a test case.

Councilor DeBoer stated that he knows the vaccines that are coming have logistical hurdles, such as the temperatures they need to be maintained at, but he has been getting questions about the plan locally in terms of distribution.

Mayor Dennis stated that knows from conversations with Dr. Jeremy Adler is that we need to find a facility big enough to store the vaccines with the very cold temperature needed. The distribution process will probably come from a higher level than local government.

Councilor Sanders affirmed that most decisions will be decided on the State level. There will be a phased rollout as there are not enough doses for everyone. He spoke about some possibilities

for how distribution may be handled. He noted that he has been advocating for years for a return to a robust school-based vaccination program in this country that was largely eliminated. He feels that this should have been thought about years ago, as it is something that needs addressed before it happens instead of after. Some of the lessons from 2009 were lost in recent years.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Sanders expressed appreciation to *The Exponent* for their coverage of the City's and Purdue's COVID response. He also expressed appreciation to Dave Bangert, former reporter for the *Journal & Courier*, for his years of covering the City Council and politics in the community. Councilor Sanders stated, for another matter, that there has been a serious undermining that the belief that the government can be a power for good and that the rule of law is something we can agree on as Americans. We have seen that continue with the undermining of the foundation of fair and free elections. He stated that the elected government members of West Lafayette have a responsibility to ensure our citizens continue to believe in our government institutions and the elected officials are responsive to them. He believes that we have distinguished ourselves, especially in response to COVID. The cooperative effort of the administration, the Council, and the community is making more successful outcome than many other places. Councilor Sanders has studied and experienced the response around the country, and he believes that we are doing a very good job here. We all made it safer together. If it had been taken as seriously at the national level, we would all be much better off.

► Councilor Wang expressed appreciation to Mayor Dennis, President Bunder, fellow Councilors, and Purdue President Mitch Daniels. This has been a challenging year, but we got through it with proper leadership.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► No public comment emails were received to the Clerk email address prior to this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor DeBoer moved for adjournment, and President Bunder adjourned the meeting the time being 7:51 p.m.