

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES
December 29, 2016

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morton Community Center on December 29, 2016, at the hour of 4:30 p.m.

President Bunder called the meeting to order and presided.

Present: Peter Bunder, Nick DeBoer, Steve Dietrich, and Larry Leverenz.

Absent: Aseem Jha, Gerry Keen, David Sanders, Gerald Thomas, and Norris Wang.

Also present: City Attorney Zach Williams, Deputy Clerk Nichole Foster, Director of Development Erik Carlson, Facilities Director Tim Clark, Parks Superintendent Janet Fawley, Human Resources Director Diane Foster, WWTU Director David Henderson, and Assistant Fire Chief Ed Spitznagle.

Note: Due to lack of a quorum, no official business was transacted, and only informal discussion took place.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Gypsy Moth Treatment at Purdue

Bryce Patz, Neighborhood Vitality (Department of Development), stated that gypsy moth treatment was done once before, in 2014, and the upcoming treatment will be the second wave. He provided history and information about the gypsy moth. The gypsy moth started in the east and is moving west, so there is a "Slow the Spread" campaign. Mr. Patz introduced Scott Kinzie from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR), to explain what will be done to drop the gypsy moth population here.

Mr. Kinzie, INDNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, stated that he is a Nursery Inspector and Compliance Officer. He explained that he works with invasive species, and enforces any regulation required. Gypsy moth is an invasive species, and they are here to eradicate the gypsy moth this time. Referencing a handout that he provided to the Council members, he explained how the gypsy moth is caught in traps in order to track areas of its population to know whether treatment is needed or not. When a "hot pocket" is found in an area like this, they try to eradicate it. He described the process that was used for treatment in 2014. There were fewer gypsy moths caught in 2015, but in 2016 the population rose again throughout the State. He described the approximate 860 acres of area where they want to apply treatment. In 2014 they applied two treatments of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btk). They could use that again, but there is also another product called Mimic. Mimic is an Insect Growth Regulator, and he explained how that impacts the insect. Mr. Kinzie stated that the gypsy moth feeds on over 500 species of trees, and a lot of those trees are on the Purdue campus. They want to eradicate the gypsy moth because successful defoliations can kill trees. There will be a public meeting with more information about this treatment at the West Lafayette Public Library on January 30, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. He stated that there were no problems at all from the public during the previous treatment process, and they expect the same thing this year as well. In response to a question from Councilor Dietrich, Mr. Kinzie described the pheromone traps used to catch the male gypsy moth.

Councilor Dietrich asked why the focus of attention is on the University and not areas like Happy Hollow, or other wooded areas within the City. Mr. Kinzie responded that they did not catch many moths at all elsewhere; the build-up seems to be near Windsor Hall. Mr. Kinzie added that this treatment will likely take place in May, but it depends on the development of the caterpillar. They hope to apply the treatment on a Sunday morning at sunrise for a minimal impact to the people in the area. After the public meeting they will make a decision, and Mayor John Dennis will need to sign off on it, as he did the last time.

In response to a question from President Bunder, Mr. Patz explained that the public meeting will be publicized by the INDNR, and also by the Department of Development via the West Lafayette Tree Friends and the City's website. Mr. Kinzie added that there will be postcard mailings to the addresses in the proposed treatment area, and the media will be contacted.

State Street Closures 2017

President Bunder requested information about the street closures that will take place in 2017 for the State Street Redevelopment Project. Department of Development Director Carlson stated that he can provide informational packets, and he will speak more about this at the Council meeting. In response to a question from Councilor Dietrich, Director Carlson stated that they want to get this information out to as many people as possible, as early as possible, so that people have knowledge of what will be happening a little over four months from now. He noted that information, including the packet he provided, is available at <http://statestreetwl.com/> on the Updates/Maps portion of the site. Councilor DeBoer asked if sidewalks will be completely closed, or if pedestrians will be able to walk through them. Director Carlson responded that pedestrian access, per our contract, will always be allowed on State Street, especially in the Village. He explained that he has spoken to the businesses on State Street about access. Director Carlson stated that the businesses will have his phone number, as well as contact information for Tom Buck (Rieth-Riley Construction Company), who will be a liaison to all of the businesses within the State Street corridor to resolve any issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor DeBoer moved for adjournment. President Bunder adjourned the meeting, the time being 4:50 p.m.