

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2014

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on February 3, 2014, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Bunder, Burch, Dietrich, Hunt, Thomas, and VanBogaert.

Absent: Keen

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Public Works Director Buck, Police Chief Dombkowski, Street Commissioner Downey, Human Resources Director Foster, Fire Chief Heath, WWTU Director Henderson, IT Director Newman, Parks Superintendent Payne, and Director of Development Poole.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Police Chief Dombkowski stated that this annual award is from the Police Merit Commission. He presented the award this year to Detective John Eager. Chief Dombkowski highlighted some of Detective Eager's successful investigations, and noted that he has completed his first year as a polygraph operator for both our agency and others in the County.

Mayor Dennis congratulated Detective Eager and spoke of how difficult it is to work strictly on investigations.

Detective Eager spoke of how the investigations were successful due to all of the other people who worked with him on each case from the Department and other agencies. He expressed his appreciation to them and to his family.

CITY SUMMIT

State of the City Address – Mayor Dennis

Mayor Dennis highlighted aspects of the State of the City Address, which is attached hereto.

Volunteer Recognition Awards – Mayor Dennis

Mayor Dennis stated that he does not know how many organizations in this country have the opportunity to do what we do in local government. There is a caring group of people who are responsible for serving, and they do so with the understanding that their actions will have a positive or negative effect on someone else. The professionals do that because they love their job and their City, but they also get compensated for it. Volunteers do not. Volunteers do it not only because they care about and love the City, but because they care about and love people. It is through volunteering, the passion for the area you live in, and the skill set, understanding, and knowledge that they bring to those activities that make the City such a great place. Mayor Dennis stated that he will recognize and thank some of those people tonight.

A summary of each volunteer's achievements, as written for the *West Lafayette Connection* newsletter, follows:

Sheila Koller (Natural Resource) Sheila is a valuable resource at the Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog Nature Area, where she has volunteered for 12 years. Whether she's educating visitors about wildlife and plants found there or through her children's nature book, *Bog Buddies*, Sheila shares her expertise of nature to both young and old alike. She is a Master Naturalist and Master Gardener, as well as a volunteer at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center in Battle Ground.

Gretel Kulupka (Supporting the Arts) Gretel, the owner of Gretel's Fine Gifts in West Lafayette, is being recognized for her outstanding contributions for Art on the Wabash. She organizes vendors so attendees have coffee and lunch available on the grounds in support of the arts. She also organizes the People's Choice Awards and serves on the planning committee for the art fair.

Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer (All Over the Map) Shelley's skills and interests range from small business owner to Tippecanoe Arts Federation executive director; from West Africa serving as teacher and business manager of the American School of Niamey in Niger to West Lafayette serving as the first director of the Morton Community Center. Shelley is being honored for her extraordinary efforts working on the planning committee for Art on the Wabash.

Margy Deverall (Artistic Planner) Margy's outstanding volunteer efforts at Art on the Wabash, among others are greatly appreciated. Her love of all things art-related, along with her expertise in planning and management for the City of Lafayette, combine to create the perfect mix to help coordinate hilltop to hilltop projects like Before I Die, the upcoming InsideOut art project, and cultural districting to strengthen links between Lafayette and West Lafayette.

Kurt Wahl (Historic Preservationist) Kurt's expertise in historic architecture has grown his own business, Wahl Architecture, and helped preserve Greater Lafayette's historic buildings and neighborhoods. Besides serving on the board for the Tippecanoe Arts Federation and providing community service to the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Kurt serves on the Historic Preservation Commissions for both cities. Chandler Poole, Director of Development, noted that "Kurt was the driving force of the creation of the commission. He has been a great resource to our commission, and we honestly could not have done it without him." His contributions to our community are greatly appreciated

MINUTES

Councilor Burch moved for acceptance of the minutes of the January 2, 2014, Pre-Council Meeting, and the January 9, 2014, Common Council Meeting. Councilor VanBogaert seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY

Councilor Bunder presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Councilor Bunder also expressed his appreciation to Street Commissioner Downey and his staff for their hard in dealing with the snow, stating that has only received one complaint. He noted that he had provided a report to the Council members from the Go Greener Commission, which included graphs of the trash figures for the last year, prepared by Gene Hanus. He noted that we have moved up several percentage points in recycling thanks to the large yellow toters.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE

There was no report.

PURDUE RELATIONS

Councilor VanBogaert reported on events at Purdue University. He noted that it has been a tough month at Purdue with the first on-campus shooting in nearly two decades. He reported that a suspect was arrested and that it was determined to be a targeted event. He spoke of the law enforcement turnout from several agencies shortly after the incident occurred. Later that night thousands of people gathered for a memorial service for the victim, Andrew Boldt. There were many prayers and well-wishes from other schools. Councilor VanBogaert also reported that the Purdue Board of Trustees formally voted to not remonstrate against the West Lafayette annexation proposal.

Mayor Dennis expressed his appreciation to Police Chief Dombkowski and Fire Chief Heath, noting that the emergency response and cooperation was phenomenal.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Hunt presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Thomas presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Councilor Bunder asked for information about House Bill 1403.

Director of Development Poole responded that House Bill 1403, authored by Representative McMillin, deals with a community's inability to have a rental inspection program. This is the third year we have been working on this. It began as House Bill 1583, then last year it was 1313, and now it is 1403. He noted that Representative Truitt successfully put in a grandfathering clause for all programs that were in existence prior to 1984, which is a big help. It brings in West Lafayette, Bloomington, and Goshen, which was seen as the best programs out there when testifying at the State House. The bill now goes to the Senate, and Director Poole stated that we will continue to work with Senator Alting, who is aware of our desire to have this bill killed.

Councilor Bunder stated that he has a second question, relating to New Chauncey Housing, Inc. (NCHI) and HOME funds. He stated that that the City of Lafayette has recruited another Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). He explained that HOME funds are probably the last big chunk of federal money that can go into low-income redevelopment. For several years NCHI has been the only CHDO. He asked Director Poole if that will reduce the amount of money going to NCHI due to there being a limited pot of funds.

Director Poole responded that there is a limited, finite amount of funds that come through the federal government. It does put mean two entities competing for the same amount of money. NCHI is only functioning in the New Chauncey area and the footprint is smaller, but they have an extensive successful history. It will be competitive now, so when applying for funds proof of that history will need to be shown.

Mayor Dennis stated that the first go-around with the new CHDO has minimal requests. He believes that Lafayette went into this with the understanding that there is a very select area where they are trying to apply it, and it is more or less client-oriented. They want to buy a spot, fix it up, and put someone pre-ordained in there.

PERSONNEL

Councilor Burch presented this report, which will be on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

There was no report.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE

There was no report.

SPECIAL REPORTS: None

PUBLIC RELATIONS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes announced that we have received the tax rate from the State for the 2014 budget. It is \$0.8803/\$100 AV, which is just a bit less than a penny and one-half higher than this year. In essence, our tax rate is very flat. Our assessed valuation grew approximately 0.8% for a very low net growth; however, we are stable and there has been significant volatility in the assessment of properties in West Lafayette. We will be looking further to develop a more strategic view to managing the tax base, and certainly the timing for the annexation could not have come at a better time.

Councilor VanBogaert stated that for a long time we were not enjoying the benefit of our cash reserves, and he asked that with interest rates rising if we stand to see anything better.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that watching the stock market rates and watching the public fund rates are two different universes. We are anticipating some improvement in fixed income. The whole thing that drives this is demand for funds.

LEGAL REPORT

City Attorney Burns stated that this report is on file and asked if there are any questions.

Councilor Bunder asked if an attorney has been hired to act as counsel for the City for the Lutz Street fire incident.

City Attorney Burns responded that we have. His name is Kent Frandsen with the Parr Richey Obremsky Frandsen & Patterson firm. City Attorney Burns stated that though he has removed himself from that situation, he knows that Mr. Frandsen met with Mayor Dennis and other members of the staff.

Mayor Dennis noted that Mr. Frandsen's firm does a lot of code violation work.

Councilor Bunder asked if there is a separate administrative review in the matter of the occupancy affidavit or if it is part of the legal proceeding.

City Attorney Burns responded that he believes it would be somewhat related, but he is not aware that Mr. Frandsen would be doing anything with that. If there were a legal review of that, City Attorney Burns would be involved directly with that.

Councilor Bunder asked if we would, as part of this process, see something about why there was no occupancy affidavit, and City Attorney Burns responded absolutely.

Councilor Burch asked City Attorney Burns to elaborate on the report item regarding a conference with the Mayor about the 2nd-class city action steps and staffing needs

City Attorney Burns responded that it is interesting that this process has not occurred more frequently. There have been very few times that a 3rd-class city has moved to 2nd-class city status. So, there is not a well-known roadmap. Part of what we have been doing among the staff and with the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer is to brainstorm about what the changes will be and what they will bring. We have had contact with a couple of other cities that have gone through it, including one that attempted to go through it and decided not to go through with it. He believes that will be helpful in anticipating needs, and we want to be prepared as well as we can to answer questions that that the Council will have about what-ifs and how things work. The process so far is just information gathering.

Councilor Bunder asked if it would be possible in the near future to have a meeting similar to the budget meetings where the Council can sit together with City Attorney Burns and Mayor Dennis about what these change may be, particularly in terms of staff and budget. Mayor Dennis responded that we could.

City Attorney Burns stated that the Council will be provided with the legal action steps, which are actually not that involved. He stated that his desire has been to dig into the possibilities that are not a part of those action steps, such as the impact fiscally and operationally. He believes a work session would be a great idea. He noted that there is not an ability to go outside the State of Indiana because it is such a particularized set of statutes.

Councilor Hunt asked that given that there is an election next year for City officials, if they will receive some deadlines.

City Attorney Burns stated that we do have a deadline for election purposes of November of this year. He stated that, regarding a question from Councilor Hunt about redistricting, that it is not an overly complicated legal structure. It is a two-read ordinance which will include creating six districts from the five we have currently. Once those have been created, you have one extra district Council member and an additional at-large.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 31-13 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation For The Cumulative Firefighting Building And Equipment Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)
PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 31-13 by title only.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 31-13 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor VanBogaert.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that this is an additional appropriation requested by the Fire Department for the purchase of radio equipment. We had a delay due the cancelled Council meeting because of the snow storm last month. We are back in the cycle of having a public hearing. She asked the Council to note that we made a slight change in the advertising to reflect what the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) is promulgating at this point. It shows the total capital outlays instead of the detail. The dollar amount has not changed; however, the text on the ordinance has changed. She requested an amendment by substitution.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, February 4, 2014, CONTINUED

Councilor Burch moved to amend Ordinance No. 31-13 by substitution. Councilor VanBogaert seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Councilor Burch moved to open a public hearing on Ordinance No. 31-13. The motion was seconded by Councilor VanBogaert.

There were no comments.

Councilor Burch moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 31-13.

Taking the consent of the Council, Mayor Dennis closed the public hearing.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 31-13 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor VanBogaert.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen			✓	
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 6 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 31-13 passed on second reading.

Ordinance No. 04-14 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation And Reduction To The 2014 Budget (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer) PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 04-14 by title only.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 04-14 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dietrich.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that this is the step that is necessary for us to proceed with our new chart of accounts. We are looking forward to going live with financials in the new accounting system on April 1.

Councilor Burch moved to open a public hearing on Ordinance No. 04-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt.

There were no comments.

Councilor Burch moved to close the public hearing on Ordinance No. 04-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor VanBogaert.

The motion passed by voice vote, and Mayor Dennis closed the public hearing.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen			✓	
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 6 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 04-14 passed on second reading.

Ordinance No. 05-14 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 23-13, To Fix The Salaries Of Appointed Officers, Employees, And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, For The Year 2014 (Submitted by Mayor John Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 05-14 by title only.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 05-14 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Mayor Dennis stated that this is to add the Facilities Director position.

Councilor Bunder asked if our recent water experience had kept people from applying for the position.

Mayor Dennis responded that it did not.

Councilor VanBogaert asked if the 37.5 hours, as opposed to 40 hours, is related to a benefit obligation or what the motivation is for it.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that the department heads work the 40 hour per week schedule. Otherwise the scheduled hours per week varies depending on whether it is an exempt or non-exempt position as well as the function.

Councilor Dietrich asked for clarification on if it impacts the benefit package.

Councilor VanBogaert stated that it looks like there is a clear reason why we do that when those people do not work 40 hours. He asked if there would be new benefits or certain obligations if they would work 40 hours.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that for an exempt portion there are no obligations by federal law, but we do have specific City policies relating to compensation time, particularly as it relates to department heads. She asked Human Resources Director Foster to provide additional information.

Director Foster stated that in general department heads work 40 hours per week. She explained that typically in City government it is very common that the other employees work 37.5 hours per week.

Councilor VanBogaert stated that he knows that people in the private sector have new obligations under the Affordable Care Act to offer health insurance when they work 30 hours, which results in a lot of people working 29.5 hours because the employers do not want to provide certain things. In looking at the kind of schedule, he clarified that his question is if the central motivation of the reason for 37.5 hours is because we do not want to incur new obligations under the law for providing benefits at that level.

Director Foster responded absolutely not. She stated that 30 hours per week is what the City determines as being a full-time employee. If working a minimum of 30 hours per week, an employee is entitled to the City's health and welfare benefits. So, whether it is 37.5 or 40 hours per week, the employee is earning the same benefits.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes noted that the salary ordinance has had the classes of 37.5 and 40 hours for decades. It often boils down to the 40-hour per week employees getting a 30 minute paid lunch, while the 37.5 hour per week employees do not have a paid lunch. That is part of the difference in the work schedule. It varies by facilities that are running shifts, for example.

Councilor VanBogaert stated that he has seen this on the ordinance in the past, but it caught his attention this time due to that issue. He wanted to make sure that we are providing benefits and making sure they had full-time status.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
Burch	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Hunt	✓			
Keen			✓	
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 6 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 05-14 passed on second and final reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 07-14 To Amend Certain Portions Of The Unified Subdivision Ordinance Of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Designating The Time When The Same Shall Take Effect (USO Amendment #8 Multi-Family Subdivisions) (Submitted by the Area Plan Commission)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 07-14 by title only.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 07-14 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Public Works Director Buck stated that he does not believe this ordinance has much of an impact on West Lafayette. He explained that the Lafayette City Council made a request to the Area Plan Commission (APC) and its Ordinance Committee to study this issue and take a look at the definition of *primary use* and to clean it up for cases where they have a multi-family or duplex development on, potentially, a single lot. He believes there is a history of that happening somewhat by mistake with some of the recent duplex developments. He explained that one primary use is allowed per property, and that is part of the zoning ordinance. The next item regarding the zoning amendment, Ordinance No. 08-14, is clarifying that the language and definitions of *primary use*. The better match is the multi-family uses, the duplex development uses, and it also lines up with the subdivision ordinance language, which has a similar modification to it in Ordinance No. 07-14. Director Buck stated that as he reads it, the only thing that would change as a part of this, would be the allowance of having a duplex subdivision or development on a single piece of property. Right now a duplex development, which is two dwelling units in one building, is required to be on individual lots. So, a development that does that has to be done in an R2, R3, or R4 zoning district, and it has to go through a subdivision of the land so that each building sets on two lots with a property line right down the common wall of the two units. This ordinance would allow it to be similar to the way multi-family, or more traditional apartment complex developments, where all of the buildings are on one property. He explained that right now there are two steps to get a duplex-type development approved. The first is to meet the zoning, and the second is to go through the subdivision process. This ordinance would streamline the process just a little bit and remove the requirement for the subdivision process. It would allow a developer could do this with a single lot or single piece of property, the same as can already be done for a multi-family development.

Councilor Dietrich asked for clarification of the last statement, stating that his understanding of R2 is that we are attempting to provide medium-density in that area. We will let them go to two instead of just single dwellings. He stated that his concern is that we are opening up R2 for high-density.

Director Buck responded that the density will not change with the R2 as the amount of units per acre, or as many as they can fit on so many acres, will not increase. The R2 does control that a duplex would be the maximum units, and there are only going to be so many, for the R2 zoning district requirements, units per acre. That will not change.

Councilor Dietrich stated that this seems to be why we have R2, and R3 is different. Director Buck stated that is correct.

Councilor Bunder stated that Councilor Dietrich's intuitions are perfect on this. He stated that this is a very specific modification of the zoning ordinance, and he thanked Councilor Dietrich for his comments.

Councilor Hunt asked why our City would want to do this.

Director Buck responded that it would simplify the process and make it uniform throughout the community. We do have Unified Zoning Ordinances, we do have Unified Subdivision Ordinances, and it is simpler that way for our entire community to be on the same page, not just in West Lafayette, but what someone may do throughout Tippecanoe County. It has very little impact on us practically in how things are approved. The Council would still see any zoning change requests and have the final say-so on those changes. This simply modifies the process so that it parallels the process that exists right now for a multi-family development.

Councilor Bunder asked if it is correct that this could be done with a planned development.

Director Buck confirmed this and stated that there are several paths that a project of a duplex-style could go through to achieve approval. This is simplifying one of the existing paths.

Councilor Thomas asked for confirmation that Director Buck feels that this does not affect West Lafayette.

Director Buck responded that we have very little R2-zoned land in the City and it is already developed. He does not see it having a practical effect until a rezone would come and the Council would see a rezone request for R2, or even R3W or R4W. The Council would need to keep in mind that, by right, this type of development – a subdivision or a development or duplexes – could be done on one parcel without going through the subdivision process as well. He pointed out that the subdivision process is somewhat of a by-right process. If they meet the minimum requirements of the subdivision they are applying for, it is a yes or no vote by the APC. It is meeting minimum requirements for design that already established, so it is hopefully not a controversial thing.

Councilor Hunt asked what the Council members think and stated that she is suspicious.

Councilor Dietrich stated that he does not know why we need to do it. R2 is defined clearly and developers can build duplexes on R2, R3, or R3W right now. He believes it is not worth making a change over, because it seems to be a backdoor. Regarding the comment that the Council will have to remember that what can be done on R2 in the future may be different than we think it is does not sit well with him.

Director Buck clarified that the use is not something that will need kept in mind. It is the approval process of a project. Right now a duplex development that is in R2, R3, or R4 zoned ground also has to go over and get a subdivision because each one of those duplexes has to be its own parcel. He stated that if the Council believes that that is a necessary part of a duplex development, then the process should not be changed. If the Council does not think it matters whether they are one big lot that is commonly managed just like an apartment complex, or on individual lots that could be potentially sold, then the developer should have this amendment approved and have that differentiation available.

City Attorney Burns asked if, based on that comment, it would be more likely with this change that it would continue to be owned by one group as opposed to being parceled out and sold off over the years. He noted that if a project started in one big group ownership and is all divided up, then he thinks it would be less likely to get parceled out individually.

Director Buck agreed.

City Attorney Burns stated that he does not know the answer to the question on if that is good or bad, but it may be a potential outcome that those that start off owned in total may stay that way and will not tend to have smaller units of ownership parceled out.

Director Buck stated that is correct, and potentially experience would likely show that they would maintain better management.

City Attorney Burns stated that it would be a homogenized project overall as opposed to one house being good and one not so good. They would tend to stay at the same level.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder		✓		
Burch		✓		
Dietrich		✓		
Hunt		✓		
Keen			✓	
Thomas		✓		
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 1 AYE and 5 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 07-14 failed.

Ordinance No. 08-14 To Amend Certain Portions Of The Unified Zoning Ordinance Of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Designating The Time When The Same Shall Take Effect(UZO Amendment #80 Duplex Apartment Complexes in R2 Zones) (Submitted by the Area Plan Commission)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 08-14 by title only.

Councilor Burch moved for passage of Ordinance No. 08-14 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Councilor Dietrich asked if this is the one that APC Executive Director Fahey said would come back amended and cleaned up.

Director Buck explained that there is some corrective language in this that needs to be amended to match the definitions across the board. He clarified that some of the definition for *primary use* still needs to be modified to be consistent regardless of R2 issues.

Councilor VanBogaert asked if, since this will not apply, if we should withdraw or table it.

City Attorney Burns stated that if the Council would want to continue it, they have 40 days to pass or deny it.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes commented that the APC is waiting to have all of the jurisdictions act, so if there is no intention of approving it then vote it down and clean it up.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder		✓		
Burch		✓		
Dietrich		✓		
Hunt		✓		
Keen			✓	
Thomas		✓		
VanBogaert				✓

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 0 AYES, 5 NAYS, and 1 ABSTENTION.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 08-14 failed.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Burch noted that February is Heart Month, and heart disease is the number one killer of women. She urged everyone to take good care of their heart, eat right – which includes a piece of dark chocolate everyday – and exercise.

Councilor Hunt noted that it is also Black History Month and there are quite a few events at the Black Cultural Center.

► Councilor Burch announced that Police Chief Dombkowski has been with the City of 20-some years and she requested a round of applause for him.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► Zachary Baiel (124 Connolly Street) stated that changing the classification of the City by November is quick and there are still a lot of questions.

Councilor VanBogaert stated that he believes it should be resolved before the deadline for the election to avoid a lot of confusion. If there is an election and then an expansion, there would be a large delay.

Mr. Baiel stated that he would say to delay it until the following election. We are not in a hurry; we have been this class for a long time. He asked why we need to do it just after this annexation when we are trying to figure out what else is happening in the City. He stated that he would like to know the benefits of changing, and he assumes that we will continue to study that. Mr. Baiel also stated that the snow removal on the roads has been nice, but he noted that the sidewalks are not so good. He stated that homeowners are better than renters about clearing the sidewalks. He asked what the name of the CHDO in Lafayette is.

Mayor Dennis responded that it is Faith.

Mr. Baiel stated that is fascinating and he is glad he asked. He noted that there are meetings coming up for the State Street Master Plan, and a Purdue bicycle and pedestrian feedback session because they have a master plan going through for the transportation infrastructure there.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Burch moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting the time being 8:20 p.m.



State of the City of West Lafayette 2013 February 3, 2014

The largest annexation in the history of West Lafayette will become final within the next two weeks. After years of investigation, planning and public input, the City Council gave its final approval in November of 2013 to the annexation of 3,997 acres including the Purdue University campus and the properties adjoining US 231 Highway Corridor. Currently undeveloped, the Corridor presents vast opportunities to create a new gateway to the City and the University. Two new Tax Investment Finance districts will provide the economic engine to encourage the growth of business which advance City and University purposes and enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

Acknowledging a history of robust cooperation in the areas of public safety, infrastructure services and economic development with the City, the Purdue University Board of Trustees formally agreed to the annexation by the City a few days ago. As part of the annexation process, the two entities have approved an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement which outlines the strategic goals of the annexation and creates a Joint Board to implement these goals and provide a formal framework for future cooperation.

All City departments have been involved extensively in planning for the annexation and the increase in our previously compact geographic footprint will present each area of City service opportunities to increase cooperation and operational efficiencies.

Public Safety services continue to ensure our City is one of the safest places to live anywhere. Police Chief Jason Dombkowski reports the Police Department received 27,132 calls for service, an increase of 12% compared to 2012. Much of this activity is attributed to the proactive approach taken by our police department in addressing a broad range of citizen issues which affect our quality of life. The most current FBI statistics confirm that West Lafayette has the lowest combined rate of violent crime and property crime of any Big 10 University city.

Traffic enforcement remains a priority for the police department with a renewed focus on school zone safety. Traffic stops increased by 14% from 2012. The Neighborhood Resource

Team, which is focused on code enforcement, parking violations, and animal control issues, responded to 2,410 call for service in 2013; a 1% increase from the year before.

Fire Chief Tim Heath believes in training. One important result is the excellent response time provided to citizens; with an average response time of only two minutes and ten seconds, we are much better than the national average. Once our firefighters get to an incident scene, the department's combined 4600 hours of training also enables them to deal with whatever emergency is found safely and efficiently. With 3 fire stations providing protection, the response breakdown among these stations showed Station 1 with 530 incidents, Station 2 with 783 incidents, and Station 3 with 497 incidents reported. With more structures to inspect and more territory to cover, the West Lafayette Fire Department will continue to be busy.

City Engineer and Public Works Director Dave Buck continues to use his energy and vision to make our roads, streets, sidewalks, and trail projects serve the needs of our citizens and visitors.

Travelling on Northwestern Avenue you will see a beautiful new gateway to our Community between Yeager and Lindburg Roads complete with new curbs, gutters, a new center median, and improved drainage. This project was completed on-time and \$400,000 under budget.

2013 saw \$700,000 worth of street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs and ADA ramp construction. Work was completed throughout Blackbird Farms as well as on Garden, Summit, Navajo, Grant, Andrew Place, Hayes, Sylvia, Russell, Kent, and Kalberer.

Salisbury Street will have the final phase of reconstruction work between Rainbow Drive and US 52 completed in 2014. The work will include ADA improvements, new sidewalks, curbs and pavement, as well as traffic signal coordination all along the Salisbury Street corridor. Cumberland phase 2 was completed linking Yeager to Salisbury and enhancing access to Plaza Park and the West Lafayette Schools' athletic complex. Phase 3 of Cumberland Avenue, from Salisbury to Soldiers Home Road, will begin construction in the summer of 2014 after the final input on design is received. Finally, design work for the reconstruction of Happy Hollow Road is wrapping up which will allow this federally funded project to begin construction in the fall of 2014. The project will rebuild the road with new curbs, pavement, and a continuous trail to connect neighborhoods to Happy Hollow Park.

New curbs and sidewalks along Maple, Lutz, First and Second Streets, at a cost of \$350,000, were completed in 2013. For the first year, the City used an innovative technique to

remove over 1,700 sidewalk trip hazards in University Farms and around all the City's parks and public meeting spaces. This new process of repair rather than replacement resulted in savings of over \$350,000 for the City. Continuing a recent upward trend, the annual amount of construction dollars spent in West Lafayette has increased to over \$89 million from \$63 million in 2012.

All streets in our City require constant upkeep and maintenance. Under Commissioner Dave Downey, the Street, Sanitation and Recycling Department has continued to perform very well for our Citizens. Due primarily to our State's relinquishment program where local units of government are required to maintain what were previously State owned highways, the City street inventory has increased from 86 miles to 126 miles of streets. Also from 8 traffic signals to maintain, the City has seen an increase to 32 traffic signals.

Every day, in front of every home and down every street, curb and sidewalk, work is being done. Street sweepers collected 641 tons of debris off of city streets, while nearly 200 tons of asphalt was put back on the streets to fill potholes. Thousands of gallons of traffic paint, hundreds of signs, and millions of pounds of salt and sand to control snow and ice have gone through the Street Department in the past year. While the total tonnage of trash collected decreased somewhat from 2012, the recycling rate increased to a total of 30%. Combined with composting, the percentage of items saved from going to a landfill increased to 46% of the total West Lafayette waste.

Wastewater Utility Director Dave Henderson worries about water resource recovery so that the rest of us do not have to. The Western Interceptor, a milestone project to both reduce Combined Sewer Overflows and provide capacity for growth in the City, was put in service in 2013. To anticipate growth in the City, a very economical method has been used to increase total wastewater plant capacity by 17%. The utility continues to harness food waste and grease to create energy. In 2013, 16% of the wastewater plant's energy needs were generated onsite. Design was completed for the Cumberland Sewer Extension which will help serve areas along the new US 231 Corridor in the annexation area. Our award winning wastewater utility continues to lead the way in redefining how to use wastewater to create energy and clean water for discharge into the Wabash River.

Parks Superintendent Joe Payne and his staff continue to take care of our recreational needs from their newly relocated main office on Kalberer Road, the site of the former temporary fire station #3. The City now has 27 miles of off-the-road, multi-use, paved trails in the trails

network. This includes trail extensions along Cumberland and Northwestern Avenues and six miles of new trail along the new US 231. Reconstruction continues on the Ravine Footpath, connecting Salisbury Street with the Wabash Heritage Trail in Happy Hollow Park.

More than 2,000 children enjoyed our summer sports and playground programs, and swimming and diving lessons at the Municipal Pool. Adult softball continues to thrive in the recreational softball league which now has 37 teams participating.

Morton continues to be busy with the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association and recreation classes and programs which served nearly 4,000 people of all ages in 2013. On August 31st, Global Fest once again celebrated our community's diversity including the Naturalization Ceremony where 94 people became new citizens of our Country. The Riverside Skating Center and Tapawingo Park continues to serve the public. Thousands of visitors have visited Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog Nature Area continues to attract visitors in all seasons.

ADA improvements continue to be a priority with the municipal pool being the most recent focus to enable full and complete access to all citizens. The Lilly Nature Center has recently installed a hearing loop to assist people with hearing devices.

Volunteers continue to make our parks and recreation opportunities thrive. From Sagamore West Farmers' Market to the Master Gardner's Association and its work in the Community Gardens, volunteers are everywhere in the Parks Department and make the wheels of recreation in our community roll smoothly.

Department of Development Director Chandler Poole has been very busy in 2013. The US 231 Corridor Annexation was the major initiative for the Department of Development in the past year. However, a great deal more progress on many fronts was also made including the organizational meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission and the approval of the New Chauncey Land Use Plan by the City Council. Both initiatives took extensive time for research, negotiation among stake holders, and implementation.

Working once again with our partners at Purdue and Purdue Research Foundation, the State Street Master Plan running from the river through the Village and Purdue Campus to the new US 231 bypass on the west has begun. The Plan will be receiving a great deal of input between now and its completion sometime this summer.

Not so many years ago, the Wabash Commons area was an eyesore. In 2013 the new IU Health facility became the final piece of the puzzle in developing this former distressed site.

Both Faith West and Lafayette Community Bank are now situated on the former Family Inn location that sat derelict for many years on Northwestern Avenue.

The rental housing certification program inspected over 1,650 units in 2013 to make sure our rental housing is safe and up to code.

Our beautiful City was shared with thousands of people, including 2,300 runners who competed in the Purdue Boilermaker Half-Marathon from 30 states and several countries.

Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes is always in full command of all of the details which make a City's finances run smoothly. Fortunately for all, our Clerk-Treasurer is also blessed with vision and foresight. One such area involves our antiquated financial management software which has been in place in various forms for decades. Knowing the future of our City required it, Judy has spent the last several years planning a comprehensive update of the computer system to an enterprise class system. This extremely challenging and time consuming transition has progressed very well under her oversight. Soon to begin deployment, the new program will ensure accuracy, efficiency, and transparency of all of the City's financial functions.

Once again, despite cost increases all around, our Clerk-Treasurer has overseen the preparation of a budget which increased by less than 1% over 2013. Our cash reserves continue to be strong and the financial condition of our city is robust.

Quality of life for our citizens and visitors continues to be the most important task for city government. Smart growth, safe neighborhoods, efficient infrastructure, and recreational opportunities for all must remain our focus as a City. I am pleased to be able to report that the state of the City of West Lafayette is strong and improving, and together we will all continue to do our best for the citizens of West Lafayette.

Mayor John R. Dennis