

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 6, 2012

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on August 6, 2012, 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, Keen, Thomas, and VanBogaert.

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Police Chief Dombkowski, Street Commissioner Downey, Human Resources Director Foster, Fire Chief Heath, WWTU Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, Information Technology Manager Newman, and Director of Development Poole, and Assistant City Engineer Susong.

MINUTES

Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the June 28, 2012, Pre-Council Meeting, and the July 2, 2012, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Burch seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes noted that a correction had been made in the spelling of Lynn Layden's surname.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY

Councilor Bunder announced that the sewage lagoon sprang a leak. Wessler Engineering will be studying the cost of replacing it with Biosolid glass-lined steel storage tanks, and also study the possibility of an odor-control system. Reith-Riley is working on the Cumberland Phase II project with an August 9 deadline for it to be open. They will continue working on grading trails and sidewalks in Phases I and II. On Yeager Road, Milestone Contractors will have all lanes paved, and are working to complete the roundabout August 9. They will still have construction work to do on the trail and sidewalk pieces around Yeager Road. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is finishing resurfacing projects on State Street from Airport Road to the Wabash River. The Redevelopment Commission has approved a \$155,000 contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert to study the eastern edge of Perimeter Parkway. This study will examine how Grant Street, Northwestern, and State Street may better serve that downtown area. Appian Advisors has been hired to lobby for funding on our behalf.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE

Councilor Keen reported that West Lafayette Fire Department responded to 146 calls in July. They also assisted with the Stars & Stripes celebration on July 4 and the Dancing in the Streets event on July 21. The firefighters have also been making occasional appearances at the Farmer's Market, with a Meet and Greet and passing out goodies to kids. Deputy Chief Schutter participated in the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair Kiss-A-Pig contest to raise money for the 4-H

scholarship fund. In all, the group of fire and police chiefs raised over \$4,000 for scholarships. Councilor Keen gave a reminder that the burn and firework ban is still in effect for Tippecanoe County. Councilor Keen reported that the West Lafayette Police Department responded to over 1,929 calls in July, which was an increase of 263 calls from the prior month. They also facilitated two radKIDS safety classes in July. The classes were for two age groups and both were well-attended, graduating over 50 kids on July 27. Sergeant Cindy Marion continues to oversee and coordinate this popular kid's safety program with help from Purdue University, Lafayette Police Department, the City prosecutor's office, and Heartford House. West Lafayette Police Department will continue to offer the Rape Aggression Defense System (RAD) program classes for kids, women, and seniors; the department website has information on upcoming classes. The West Lafayette Police Department participated in several festivals and activities during the month. They again won the traveling Dragon Trophy at Riverfest. They also participated in Dancing in the Streets and the Tippecanoe County Fair. The West Lafayette Police Department conducted three drug drop-offs in July, and collected a record of over 1,800 pounds of drugs for disposal. The public is encouraged to check the West Lafayette Police Department website for days and times for drug drop-offs each month. The rest of the report is on file with the Clerk's office.

PURDUE RELATIONS

Councilor VanBogaert reported that Purdue University's commencement ceremony took place on August 4 at Elliott Hall. The University awarded 449 undergraduate degrees, 4 professional degrees, 401 master's degrees, and 369 doctoral degrees. The University's week long freshman orientation program, Boiler Gold Rush, begins August 13, and classes will begin August 20. The Board of Trustees met July 20 and ratified Timothy Sands as acting president and Victor Lechtenburg as acting provost. The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences was renamed as the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences to bring more attention to the department's planetary science program. Purdue University had two alumni involved in the launch of NASA's spacecraft Curiosity.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Hunt reported on the Paula R. Woods Park dedication, saying that dozens of family and friends enjoyed the event on July 16. A bench was dedicated to Ms. Woods' husband, Ron, who was a long-time principal of the school system. Also being added to this park on Lawn Avenue and Vine Street is an ADA compliant and pet-friendly water fountain and landscape plantings. Councilor Hunt announced that August 12 is the last day to use the municipal pool. There were nearly 1,500 registrants for swimming lessons this summer. She also recognized members of the National Sigma Chi fraternity for repainting the shelter at Happy Hollow Park. Councilor Hunt announced that Global Fest is September 1, and they are already signing up volunteers. The next Park Board meeting is August 20 at City Hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Thomas announced that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund received its official award letter from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2012 program year. New contracts have been mailed to the sub-recipients for their signatures. Once the contracts have been returned they will go before the Board of Works. City staff has also begun work on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) which is due to HUD in September. Councilor Thomas noted that work on the curb, rail, and sidewalk projects on Connolly Street, Dehart Street, and Yeager Road is now complete. Councilor Thomas noted that the Department of Development went to State College, Pennsylvania to meet with other Big 10 city development staff to discuss near-campus development and other issues relevant to campus communities. He also announced that

construction has started on the new Fire Station No. 3 in Purdue Research Park, and is estimated to be complete in late October. Councilor Thomas noted that the Department of Development attended the groundbreaking of Faith West development on the former Family Inn site. The department also continues to support the Purdue Boilermaker Half-Marathon. The marathon route has been finalized and the various police and fire departments have been involved with every step to make sure they are comfortable with the route and the event.

PERSONNEL

Councilor Burch announced new hires in the month of July. They included Street and Sanitation Department additions, Thomas Foster and John Hileman, which results in the department being fully staffed. Caleb Pavey joined the Parks and Recreation Department as a Maintenance Technician. Michael Green joined the Police Department as a Probationary Patrol Dispatcher. Councilor Burch reported that the City held a blood drive on July 30 and nearly 20 employees took the time to raise their arm for this great cause. The Indiana Blood Center is the blood supplier for IU Health Arnett and Saint Elizabeth hospitals.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Councilor Dietrich noted that the budget would be discussed later in the meeting.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE

Councilor Keen stated that the Faith West Planned Development Phase I and the Lindberg Village Planned Development Phase II passed final detailed plans at APC unanimously.

SPECIAL REPORTS

There was no discussion.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor Burch announced the West Lafayette Community Beautification Award to University Place. She noted that the West Lafayette Tree Fund is also appreciative of the watering of the street trees planted in memory of former resident Helen Lillich. Councilor Burch concluded by saying that the City of West Lafayette is appreciative of the commitment that University Place has made to make it an attractive and welcoming presence in our City.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported that the July Financial Reports have been filed with the Council. The first reading of the budget is this evening.

LEGAL REPORT

City Attorney Burns noted that the report was on file and he welcomed questions.

Councilor VanBogaert told City Attorney Burns that he appreciated Mr. City Attorney Burns' associate getting back quickly with information from questions raised at the Pre-Council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 14-12 An Ordinance Vacating An Alley in the City of West Lafayette, Indiana (Sponsored by Mayor John Dennis)

Mayor Dennis read the Ordinance 14-12 by title and stated that this is the tail-end of the 720 Northwestern project.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 14-12 on final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Mr. Dan Teder (Reiling Teder & Schrier) welcomed questions. He reported that they are looking to start the project around the end of December or beginning of January.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 14-12 passed on second and final reading.

Ordinance No. 19-12 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation For The Motor Vehicle High Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer) PUBLIC HEARING

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 19-12 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that this additional appropriation has been requested by the Engineering Department to pay for the expenses of the Yeager Phase II road project in support of the development of Purdue Research Park.

Mayor Dennis noted that a public hearing is needed.

Councilor Keen moved to open a public hearing on Ordinance No. 19-12. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Hearing no comments, 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	✓			

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Keen	✓			
Thomas	✓			
VanBogaert	✓			

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes stated that the vote was 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 19-12 passed on second and final reading.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 20-12 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation For The General Fund And Economic Development Income Tax Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 20-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 20-12 on first and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that the additional appropriation for the General Fund Fire Department for 1977 pensions is necessary because we were not able to fund these pension expenses out of the Fire Pension Fund as planned this budget year due to a shortfall in pension relief of approximately \$150,000 and an unexpected partial lump-sum benefit payment of over \$100,000. Therefore, in order to preserve the balance in the Fire Pension Fund, the 1977 pension expense needs to be paid out of the General Fund Fire Department and this amount, \$76,380, is needed to meet that expense through the end of the year. The Economic Development Income Tax Fund appropriation, in the amount of \$20,000, for the Water account, reflects the increased expense due to the rate increase with the Indiana American Water Company for hydrant fees to the City. The total expense for the hydrants is over \$308,000 on an annualized basis.

Councilor VanBogaert clarified with Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes that these funds are coming from the reserves.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes confirmed that this is correct and commented that additional appropriations may only be enacted if there is sufficient unrestricted balances in the funds.

Councilor VanBogaert asked, given that our current reserve balance has been about 24%, to what percent the reserve would be lowered by this additional appropriation.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that as the budget is close to \$11 M, \$76,000 would reduce the reserve balance by close to 0.6%.

Councilor VanBogaert continued his question, explaining that as we have made number of transfers, what would be the reserve balance percent.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes referred to the Estimate of Fund Balances sheet provided to the Council. The General Fund balance is estimated to be about \$2.3 to \$2.5 M at the end of 2012. With a budget a little under \$11 M, we are still above 25% in reserve balance.

Councilor Burch asked if this will be the last time the City will be paying for the 1977 pensions, or if it is a continuing expense.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that it is an annual expense in the budget under the General Fund and to some extent under the old pension funds.

Mayor Dennis explained that there is a bit of a difference in the pension benefit. There is a new “drop” retirement benefit program. If a person is in the pre-1977 pension program, then the City pays that, but this is the last one we are going to be paying a drop payment to.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 20-12 passed on first reading.

Ordinance No. 21-12 An Ordinance Setting The 2013 City Budget And Setting The 2013 Tax Levy On Property And Tax Rate (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Ordinance No. 21-12 by title.

Mayor Dennis explained this year’s spending plan. The budget itself is up approximately 9.2%. For the last four budgets, we have gone through each department and audited each department and done the best we can to be as frugal as possible. The result is that at the end of the fiscal year there are some funds that are not committed, called reversions. Each year those funds go to the bottom of the budget. In local government those reversions are considered our savings. So when we know that there is work to do, such as the infrastructure projects of the past few years, we know that it is in the best interest of the community and the taxpayers to do so with the understanding that we might not be able to accomplish things in one fell swoop. Although it may not seem that way, a lot of these projects have been timed so that we can afford those projects and get them done in a timely manner. This budget year of 2013 is a year in which we are going to continue our projects. We have two major projects left. One is the intersection of Salisbury Street and Navajo Street, the other is Happy Hollow Road. We are committed to getting those projects done, but they do not come cheap and they do not come easy. So, we are in this spending plan, proposing the revenue to get those projects started and on the road to completion. Other things we have done include giving our employees a 2% raise. We have started a brand new department, the Information Technology (IT) Department. When looking at bringing technology into the City and coordinating all the technology under a contractual basis, the end result is that having this department is a savings. However, it is a recurring expense for the Department Head and the staff. There are some uncontrollable expenses that we are incurring during this spending cycle; gas, water, and utilities are all going up. We have had

some realignments and adding of staff in our emergency services, both the Police and Fire Departments. Again, this all comes under the financial controls that have been implemented in the City. We are not asking for a tax increase or an additional levy. We are doing it with our savings. Mayor Dennis credited the Department Heads for doing all the hard work to get their budgets in on time and, for the most part, making sure it is a flat budget. So, we are still moving forward as a City, and we are doing what we pledged to do, which is to be responsible to our taxpayers. But we also have the obligation to make sure the City continues to grow logically, that the streets and roads are safe and sound, and that our emergency services are well-equipped, well-staffed, and well-trained. We feel confident that the 2013 spending plan is frugal. We are dipping into our savings to make sure that we do so without a special appropriation.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 21-12 on first and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Councilor Bunder confirmed that the budget is up 9.2%. He then asked if there are any departments that are understaffed.

Mayor Dennis responded that the Fire Department has three slots to fill, and the Police Department has one slot to fill. However, all but one of these is already included in the budget.

Councilor VanBogaert asked if there was a proposed date for when for when we get more specific information from the State for what we will actually receive in revenue for the 2013 year.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes responded that the two biggest revenues are income tax and property tax. We expect to receive the income tax estimate within the next several months. We don't really know the property tax estimate until the abstract billing is run in the spring of 2013. At that point we will know how our budget order has been affected by circuit breaker credits.

Councilor VanBogaert said that it is commendable how this budget is conservative in its estimation of what we are going to receive. He hopes that we will receive more positive news in the spring and be able to adjust as appropriate.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Ordinance No. 21-12 passed on first reading.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes announced that we will have a public hearing on the budget at our next regularly scheduled Common Council meeting September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Resolution 12-12 A Resolution Appropriating The Necessary Funds Resulting From The 2012 Community Development Application Of The City of West Lafayette Under Title I Of The Housing And Community Development Act of 1974, As Amended (Prepared by the Department of Development)

Mayor Dennis read Resolution No. 12-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 12-12 on first and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Director of Development Chandler Poole explained that this is done every year. This is the actual appropriation of funds that we have received from the federal government. He reports that it is only a 4.13% decrease from last year instead of the expected 15%. In response to a question from Councilor Thomas, Director of Development Chandler Poole said that the appropriation would most likely decrease every year.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Resolution No. 12-12 passed on first and final reading.

Resolution 13-12 A Resolution To Reduce The 2012 Budget (Amended) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Resolution No. 13-12 (Amended) by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 13-12 (Amended) on first and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that the reduction in the Fire Pension Fund is to reduce the 1977 pensions paid out of this fund due to insufficient revenue to support this expenditure. The amount of reduction is \$100,000. The Rental Housing Inspection fund is being reduced in order to fund the proposal for the 2013 budget and pass that 18-month test. The full expenditure of the currently authorized appropriation is not expected to be necessary. The reduction is \$5,500. These reductions have already been included in the 2013 budget.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Resolution No. 13-12 (Amended) passed on first and final reading.

Resolution 14-12 A Resolution Requesting The Transfer of Funds (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Mayor Dennis read Resolution No. 14-12 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 14-12 on first and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that this transfer is necessary to fund the interns for the IT Department.

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 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Dennis announced that Resolution No. 14-12 passed on first and final reading.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Hunt brought up the situation with the drought, causing the trees to become very stressed, and many are dying. There have been many people, including members of the Tree

Fund, who are volunteering to water the trees daily. Some people have adopted certain trees. There has been evidence of new growth recently. Councilor Hunt recommends that more people volunteer to adopt a tree, including trees in your own yard which are a big investment in your landscaping. She thanks those who have done so and encourages them to keep it up.

Mayor Dennis agreed, saying the rain we received recently has helped, but is not the cure.

► Councilor Dietrich gives his kudos to NASA on the launching of Curiosity, which he notes was an amazing feat. Councilor Dietrich also recognized the valued service of John Dorroll who retired after 37 years with the Purdue Police Department. While with the department he was active with the City, including with a neighborhood association and the fraternities and sororities.

Mayor Dennis congratulated Mr. Dorroll as well.

Councilor Hunt noted that Mr. Dorroll did nice things in establishing the neighborhood association.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► Jan Meyers (1909 Indian Trail) spoke to the Council about green ideas she picked up while traveling in northern Europe. She noted that they are reducing the size of their receipts in most stores and other establishments. She showed the Council examples of very small receipts from a hotel, credit cards, and supermarkets. She also recommends that receipts be emailed instead of being printed as she experienced in some places. She also noticed that she was never offered a paper bag while traveling there, because paper bags take more energy to produce than plastic. Some supermarkets also offer a "Bag for Life". This bag costs approximately 20 cents in U.S. dollars, and when it becomes unusable the fragments can be returned for a new one, free of charge.

Councilor VanBogaert commented that states on U.S. coasts recommend paper bags because the plastic bags end up in the ocean and harm wildlife. Inland states, however, use more plastic because of the reduced energy costs in producing them.

Ms. Meyers said that her travel experiences were along the coasts of Europe, but they still use plastic bags if reusable bags are not used. Ms. Meyers gave Mayor Dennis a small reusable fruit bag she obtained during her travels.

Councilor Hunt asked if Ms. Meyers had seen many fabric bags.

Ms. Meyers responded that she did not see many, but did see some nylon mesh bags. Ms. Meyers concluded by saying she wanted to offer this different point of view on this topic.

Mayor Dennis will be taking a wheelchair tour around the City with Ms. Meyers on August 9.

► Chris Kulesza (190 Burke Court, Apartment 111), President of the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG), reported on recent activities. The group is looking into offering child care grants by working with the University to set that up. They hope to have them available by the Spring semester. PGSG is also looking to offer leadership awards to graduate students who have been very active in various positions across campus. The Books for Liberia program will be continued, with books being sent for students there. Research is continuing for the travel grant program with a slightly increased budget so support to those grants will be increased. The group co-hosted a summer social with another campus group, PULSe, which was exceptionally

successful with over 100 students in attendance. The fall picnic will be September 26 on Engineering Mall on the Purdue campus. Next week is the Fall Convocation for new graduate students, and Mr. Kulesza thanked Police Chief Dombkowski for agreeing to represent the City of West Lafayette at the event. Mr. Kulesza said that the group is also looking for new ways to volunteer around the City and remained engaged and active in the community.

Mayor Dennis also gave his thanks to Police Chief Dombkowski. He reminded Mr. Kulesza of the earlier discussion where Councilor Hunt mentioned that the Tree Fund is looking for more volunteers to water trees.

► Councilor Hunt announced that there is a Meet and Greet at Purdue Visitor Center. The Police Chief, Fire Chief, Councilors, and many other people meet with students at the event. It is August 21 at 6:30 p.m. A list of rentals is provided along with information on how to have a party without getting into trouble.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Hunt moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting the time being 7:16 p.m.