

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
PRE-COUNCIL MINUTES
March 1, 2012

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall on March 1, 2012, at the hour of 4:30 p.m.

Council President Hunt called the meeting to order and presided.

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

Absent: Dietrich, Mayor Dennis

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Public Works Director Buck, Deputy Police Chief Leroux, Street Commissioner Downey, Fire Chief Heath, WWTU Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, Information Technology Manager Newman and Director of Development Poole.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Councilor VanBogaert announced he had prepared some preliminary redistricting maps as a starting point for discussion. The maps included population data for each district. The redistricting is required to be complete by December 31, 2012. Councilor VanBogaert said it is a difficult process, and hard to know how frequently the district lines should be broken up. He said it is especially tough near campus. South of State Street the population is only about 4600 people. North of Kalberer Road there are only a few hundred people. He reported the total population is approximately 29,597 to be divided by 5 districts. One goal is to make the districts more compact and less stretched out. He proposed a need for a public forum for input on the issue. A date of March 27, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers was set for the public forum. The forum will be announced at the Council Meeting. Councilor VanBogaert felt there was a need for two posters to be made, one with the current district data, and a second poster of the proposed redistricting for comparison sake. These will be prepared for the public forum. Councilor VanBogaert pointed out there is great disparity in population between the different districts, and asked for input from Council members regarding the lines in their districts. The Councilors reviewed the preliminary maps. Councilor Keen and Councilor Burch pointed out that under the preliminary redistricting maps the district lines, as drawn, exclude each of them from their respective districts. Councilor VanBogaert responded that just because the lines were redrawn, they wouldn't lose the ability to represent their respective districts during their current terms.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor VanBogaert reported the Community Beautification Award will be going to Greyhouse Coffee & Supply Co. in the Village, this month.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported she had received the preliminary budget order from Tippecanoe County.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 05-12 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 03-12, 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 2012

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes and Fire Chief Heath explained the changes in this ordinance. Chief Heath explained they were restructuring within the Fire Department to allow for a new Deputy Chief/Inspector and Investigator position. The restructuring will put the department in line with National Command Structure and is similar to what the West Lafayette Police Department has done with their command structure. Councilor Bunder asked for a detailed explanation of the fire department's command structure. Fire Chief Heath explained the structure will include: the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief/Inspector and Investigator, 3 Assistant Fire Chiefs, one for each of 3 shifts, 3 Captains, one for each shift, and 6 Lieutenants. He also said there were no 2nd Class firefighters at this time but there are some probationary firefighters who will move up to 2nd Class firefighter in May.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes clarified that the current Assistant Chief – Inspector and Investigator position would be eliminated and that firefighter will maintain his current salary per State statute. He will resume regular firefighter duties. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes also asked the Council to suspend the rules and consider this ordinance in one reading at the Council meeting.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 06-12 An Ordinance Requesting Additional Appropriation For The Cumulative Firefighting Building And Equipment Fund

Fire Chief Heath explained that there were radios originally purchased for the Fire Department in 1992, and through a series of rebanding and purchases over the years a surplus was created. The radios have been sold for \$18,000 and Chief Heath is requesting that the money from the sale be used to purchase batteries for the newer radios and to purchase fire hose needed by the department.

Fire Chief Heath also announced that from June 22nd through June 24th, 2012, three West Lafayette firefighters will be attending the National Fire Academy in Maryland. He also noted that the Indiana Department of Homeland Security pays for all the expenses related to this Academy participation.

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 07-12 An Ordinance To Ratify And Adopt Amendments To Chapter 44 Sec 11 Of The "West Lafayette City Code" Concerning Parking

Council President Hunt reported that data was gathered in June for the last four years with regard to the number of parking tickets given in and around the areas of proposed projects near campus. There were 9,700 tickets issued over the 4 year period. The West Lafayette Police

Department did another study and discovered there had been 13,314 tickets issued in the following 6 months, an increase of 37%. In September of 2011, Purdue University raised their parking fees to \$35.00. It is believed the drastic increase of violations in the City of West Lafayette is due to the inequity in the parking fees compared with Purdue University. It seems to be an economic decision to choose to illegally park in City spots rather than Purdue University's. For this reason it appears to be a wise decision to make West Lafayette parking violation fees equitable with Purdue's fees. Deputy Chief Leroux was asked to report back on how often Purdue University changes their fees.

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 04-12 A Resolution To Amend the 2010 CDBG Appropriation

Director of Development Poole relayed that discussion about this resolution began in October 2011. The desire is to take approximately \$3,500 which had been set aside for use with an organization which ceased to exist and put the money to good use. By law, it cannot be used for a social service group in future years, if the 15% cap on distribution of CDBG money for social services has already been met. For this reason they would like to use the money for ADA compliance for sidewalks, ramps and other structural changes needed due to architectural barriers.

Councilor Bunder said he would like to see more specifics on how the money would be used. Director Poole further explained there are several ADA compliance projects needing to be done at Morton Center, the West Lafayette Pool, and the Lilly Nature Center. Councilor Hunt said she would be interested in seeing the reports concerning compliance needs for each of those areas. Director Poole said he would make them available.

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Burch moved for adjournment and Council President Hunt adjourned the meeting, the time being 5:13 p.m.