

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE  
GARY COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF  
GARY, INDIANA**

**MINUTES OF  
June 15, 2021**

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN**  
Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, **Common Council President**

**THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON**  
Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN**  
Councilwoman 3<sup>rd</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE TAI ADKINS**  
Councilwoman 4<sup>th</sup> District, **Common Council Vice-President**

**THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL**  
Councilwoman 5<sup>th</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS**  
Councilman 6<sup>th</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE RONALD BREWER**  
Councilman-At-Large, **Parliamentarian**

**THE HONORABLE MICHAEL BROWN**  
Councilman-At-Large,

**THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY**  
Councilman-At-Large

**THE HONORABLE JEROME PRINCE, MAYOR, CITY OF GARY**  
**THE HONORABLE SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Common Council of the City of Gary, Lake County, Indiana met in Regular Session pursuant to the Laws and Rules of the Common Council of the City of Gary, Indiana, via zoom video conference on the **15<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2021 at 6:00 pm** with the Honorable William Godwin presiding and the following members present/absent:

**PRESENT**

THE HONORABLE TAI ADKINS  
THE HONORABLE RONALD BREWER  
THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN  
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL BROWN  
THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL  
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN (see pg. 5)  
THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY  
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

**ABSENT**

THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON

The meeting was opened at 6:08 pm with a moment of prayer by Councilman Brewer, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair asked for Roll Call.

Roll call showed 8 present 1 absent (Councilman Weatherspoon). The Chair declared this duly a quorum in order to conduct business in the City of Gary.

The Chair asked for reading of the minutes.

Councilman Brown moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of June 1, 2021. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Roll call showed 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brewer moved to Suspend the Rules to add **C.P.R. 2021-06/3084, C.P.R 2021-08** and **C.P.O. 2021-44** to the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed

**ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

**C.P.O. 2021-41**

AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING FUNDS TO FUND 876 AND BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2021-42**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF GARY SEWER USE ORDINANCE. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2021-43**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN FUND 261 AND ESTABLISHING A NEW BUDGET FOR THE FIRE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (261-5569). Sponsored by: Mileak Harper, City Controller

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2021-44**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR FUND 863 DEPARTMENT 8630 – YOUTH COUNCIL. Sponsored by: The Gary Common Council

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**C.P.R. 2021-06/3084**

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL POLICY AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN MEETING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Sponsored by: William Godwin, President of the Gary Common Council

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**C.P.R. 2021-07**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA, AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO ADDRESS IT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**C.P.R. 2021-08**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF OPIOIDS SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 4-6-15-2. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman Finance Committee has:**

**C.P.O. 2021-41**

AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING FUNDS TO FUND 876 AND BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Adkins and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2021-41 to be reported out of committee.**

**C.P.O. 2021-43**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN FUND 261 AND ESTABLISHING A NEW BUDGET FOR THE FIRE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (261-5569). Sponsored by: Mileak Harper, City Controller

**C.P.O. 2021-44**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR FUND 863 DEPARTMENT 8630 – YOUTH COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Adkins and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2021-43 and C.P.O. 2021-44 to be reported out of committee.**

**Councilman Brewer, Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee has:**

**C.P.O. 2021-42**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF GARY SEWER USE ORDINANCE. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, President Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2021-42 to be reported out of committee.**

**Councilman Brewer, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee has:**

**C.P.R. 2021-06/3084**

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL POLICY AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN MEETING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Sponsored by: William Godwin, President of the Gary Common Council

**C.P.R. 2021-07**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA, AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO ADDRESS IT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary

**C.P.R. 2021-08**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF OPIOIDS SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 4-6-15-2. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, President Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.R. 2021-06/3084, 2021-07 and C.P.O. 2021-08 to be reported out of committee.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Brewer reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2021-42.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Brewer reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2021-41, 2021-43 & 2021-44.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Brewer reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.R. 2021-06/3084, 2021-07 & 2021-08.**

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:**

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to appoint Taryl Bonds as the Gary Common Council's representative to the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority. It was seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll call showed a vote of 5 ayes 3 nays (Brewer, Godwin, Lay). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

\*As President Godwin prepared to leave, he acknowledged that Vice-President Adkins will conduct the meeting in his absence.

**COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON THIRD AND/OR FINAL READINGS:**

**C.P.O. 2019-65/9305**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT. Sponsored by: Rebecca Wyatt, Councilwoman 1<sup>st</sup> District

Councilman Brewer moved to refer **C.P.O. 2021-65/9305** back to committee. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 5 ayes 2 nays (Lay, Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

**C.P.O. 2021-39**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GENERAL, FIRE PENSION AND POLICE PENSION FUNDS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Mileak Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-39**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-39**.

Roll call on the motion as amended showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

**C.P.O. 2021-40**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 15 ENTITLED "LAND USAGE" CHAPTER 123 ENTITLED "ZONING CODE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Petitioner: Ben Cremer, 3401 Gary, LLC, 4900 Northcott Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 **Property: 1400 Colorado Street, Gary, Indiana**

Councilman Brewer moved to refer **C.P.O. 2021-40** back to committee. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

## **COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:**

### **C.P.O. 2021-41**

AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING FUNDS TO FUND 876 AND BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-41** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for June 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

### **C.P.O. 2021-42**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF GARY SEWER USE ORDINANCE. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-42** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for June 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

### **C.P.O. 2021-43**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN FUND 261 AND ESTABLISHING A NEW BUDGET FOR THE FIRE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (261-5569). Sponsored by: Mileak Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-43** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for June 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

### **C.P.O. 2021-44**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR FUND 863 DEPARTMENT 8630 – YOUTH COUNCIL. Sponsored by: The Gary Common Council

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to Suspend the Rules to pass **C.P.O. 2021-44** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-44**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

President Adkins gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-44**.



Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

#### **C.P.R. 2021-06**

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL POLICY AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN MEETING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. Sponsored by: William Godwin, President of the Gary Common Council

Councilman Brewer moved to Suspend the Rules to pass **C.P.R. 2021-06** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-06**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council Legal Advisor) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-06**.

Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Brown, Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council Legal Advisor), Councilman Lay and Councilman Brewer spoke in regards to **C.P.R. 2021-06**.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Resolution duly **PASSED**.

#### **C.P.R. 2021-07**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA, AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO ADDRESS IT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-07** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for June 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for July 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 6 ayes 1 nay (M.A. Brown). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

#### **C.P.R. 2021-08**

A CITY OF GARY RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF OPIODS SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 4-6-15-2. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved to Suspend the Rules to pass **C.P.R. 2021-08** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-08**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Pol (Corporation Counsel) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-08**.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Resolution duly **PASSED**.

**REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

Atty. Rodney Pol (Corporation Counsel) presented the following announcements/updates on behalf of the administration:

1. The City of Gary's cooling centers will be located at Gary Fire Department Station #3, Calumet Township, and Brother's Keeper. Residents can also receive free bottled water at the Gary Health Department and the Gary Public Safety Facility.
2. Two-hundred (200) Gary residential homeowners 55 and older are eligible for a free combination carbon-monoxide and natural gas alarm to be installed in each home through a grant program sponsored by NIPSCO and the Gary Fire Department.
3. Due to hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic, residents who are struggling to keep their homes may apply for FHA assistance.

Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Brown, President Adkins and Councilman Brown expressed concerns in regards to the air conditioning system not working in the Gary Public Safety Facility.

Atty. Pol (Corporation Counsel) responded.

Atty. Williams (Council Legal Advisor), President Adkins and Councilman Brown spoke regarding **C.P.R. 2021-06**.

President Adkins requested an update regarding the closure of US 12/20.

Councilman Brown requested an update regarding the June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 4th celebrations.

President Adkins responded.

The Common Council acknowledged the passing of retired Deputy Sheriff Richard Castellana on June 11, 2021; and offered a brief moment of silent prayer.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Emmett Mosley

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **June 15, 2021** ADJOURNED AT 7:46 PM SO ORDERED.

WILLIAM GODWIN/TAI ADKINS  
PRESIDING OFFICERS

  
SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK

/nkr