

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

**MINUTES OF
February 2, 2021**

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN
Councilman 1st District, **Common Council President**

THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON
Councilman 2nd District

THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN
Councilwoman 3rd District

THE HONORABLE TAI ADKINS
Councilwoman 4th District, **Common Council Vice-President**

THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL
Councilwoman 5th District

THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS
Councilman 6th 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 19th Day of January, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. 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
THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY
THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

ABSENT

The meeting was opened at 6:09 p.m. with a moment of prayer by Pastor Hollis Manna, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair asked for Roll Call.

Roll call showed 9 present 0 absent. 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 Brewer moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of January 19, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brewer moved to Suspend the Rules to add **C.P.R. 2021-02** to the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed 8 ayes 0 nays (C. Weatherspoon temporarily left the meeting). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

C.P.R. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA DESIGNATING ISAAC POWELL AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council and Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Adkins, Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee has:

C.P.R. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA DESIGNATING ISAAC POWELL AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council and Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilwoman Adkins, Councilman Brown and Councilman Williams approved C.P.R. 2021-02 to be reported out of committee.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Adkins reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.R. 2021-02.**

Councilwoman Brown moved to accept the following donations for the Rainbow Ark Shelter: The Indiana Toll Road Concession Co. Elkhart, IN - \$350.00 worth of miscellaneous non-perishable food items for each apartment unit once the shelter re-opens; Redefined Fitness, Eric Smoot (Owner) Wilmette, IL – 20 queen size blankets, 54 towels, 72 washcloths for each apartment unit once the shelter re-opens; Beit Emet Israel Ministry, Gary IN – 30 full size sheet sets and 40 standard pillows. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

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

C.P.O. 2020-80

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY PROVIDING FOR A HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TRANSFER/SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES FORMERLY OWNED BY THE GUEA. Sponsored by: AJ Bytnar, Redevelopment Department

Councilman Brewer moved to refer **C.P.O. 2020-80** back to the Planning & Development committee with a Committee Hearing set for February 23, 2021 at 5:00 pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Adkins, Atty Rodney Pol and Councilman Lay and spoke on **C.P.O. 2020-80.**

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

C.P.O. 2020-81

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING INCENTIVE PAY FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH EMT OR PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Esq., Acting Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-81.** It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-81.**

Atty. Williams (Council Legal Advisor) and Arlene Colvin (City Controller) spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-81.**

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED.**

C.P.O. 2020-82

AN ORDINANCE BY THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GARY N CALENDAR YEAR 2021. Sponsored by: Members of the Gary Common Council

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-82**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Brown gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-82**.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2020-82** by removing Columbus Day (October 11, 2021) from the calendar and adding July 12, 2021 as Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher Day. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilman Lay, President Godwin, Councilman Weatherspoon, Councilman Brewer, Councilman Brown and Atty. Rinzer Williams spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-82**.

Councilman Brewer moved to withdraw his motion to amend **C.P.O. 2020-82**. It was seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

President Godwin moved to amend **C.P.O. 2020-82** making Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher Day the second Monday of October, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Williams (Legal Advisor) and Councilman Brown spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-80**.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

The Chair called for the Roll call as amended along with the holiday schedule being retroactive from January 1, 2021.

Councilman Brewer, Councilman Lay, State Representative Ragen Hatcher (Indiana House District 3), President Godwin and Councilman Brown spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-80**.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 1 nay (Brewer). The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

C.P.O. 2021-01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND 876 AND BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Chief of Staff/Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-01**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-01**.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

C.P.O. 2021-02

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: Ernestine Harper Price, 1987 Arthur Street, Gary, Indiana **Property: 1987 Arthur Street, Gary, Indiana**

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-02**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Eric Boria (Zoning Director) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-02**.

Councilman Brewer, Councilman Lay, Councilwoman Brown, Eric Boria (Zoning Director), President Godwin, Councilwoman Caldwell, Atty. Pol (Law Department), Councilwoman Adkins, Ernestine Harper-Price (Petitioner), Atty. Williams (Legal Advisor), Gloria Green (Adjacent Property Owner) spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2021-02**.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2021-02** by adding a stipulation of a 1-year guideline and the hours of business 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 6 ayes 2 nays (Lay, Godwin), (*Adkins temporarily left the meeting).

President Godwin, Councilman Lay and Councilman Brewer spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-02**.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays (*Adkins temporarily left the meeting). The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

C.P.R. 2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA DESIGNATING ISAAC POWELL AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council and Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Lay moved to Suspend the Rules to pass **C.P.R. 2021-02** on all 3 Readings. It was seconded by Councilman Brown and Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-02**. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilman Lay gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2021-02**.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Resolution duly **PASSED**.

The Chair requested that Dr. Roland Walker give a presentation before the Council.

Dr. Roland Walker (Health Commissioner) gave an update of the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine in Gary, Indiana.

Councilman Brewer and Dr. Walker spoke regarding making it more convenient for the Senior Citizens of Gary to get the vaccine.

REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Deputy Mayor Trent McCain presented the following announcements/updates on behalf of the administration:

Appreciation was expressed for the donations that were received for the Rainbow Shelter, with special thanks to Eric Smoot Hemphill for his generosity by giving back to the City of Gary.

Acknowledgements were expressed to Gary native Latroy Hawkins for being nominated to become a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Appreciation was expressed to the City of Gary Fire Department, Police Department and Code Enforcement for their quick responses during the recent large snowfalls.

An update was provided regarding the sale and the inventory of the Genesis Conventions Center to Akyumen Industries, with a comprehensive detailed inventory to be presented to the Common Council on February 12, 2021.

Congratulations were expressed to the Common Council for honoring the late Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher with a holiday on October 11, 2021.

Councilman Lay, President Godwin, Atty. McCain (Deputy Mayor), Councilman Brewer, Arlene Colvin (Chief of Staff), and Councilman Brown spoke regarding the staff/ property/closing of the Genesis Convention Center.

Councilman Brown, Atty. McCain (Deputy Mayor), President Godwin, and Councilman Lay spoke regarding the new squad cars for the City of Gary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **February 2, 2021** ADJOURNED AT 9:36 PM SO ORDERED.

WILLIAM GODWIN
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK

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