

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

**MINUTES OF
January 19, 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 MICHAEL BROWN
THE HONORABLE RONALD BREWER
THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN
THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY
THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

ABSENT

THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN (*see page 4)
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS (*see page 4)

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

The Chair asked for Roll Call.

Roll call showed 7 present 2 absent (Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Williams). The Chair declared this duly a quorum in order to conduct business in the City of Gary.

Councilman Lay stated that Councilwoman Brown was experiencing technical difficulties logging into zoom.

The Chair asked for reading of the minutes.

Councilman Brewer moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of January 7, 2021 (Special Meeting). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Weatherspoon.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2021 (Reorganization Meeting). It was seconded by Councilman Weatherspoon.

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

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

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

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

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**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair spoke regarding the updated Gary Common Council 2021 Committee List.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to approve the updated Gary Common Council 2021 Committee List. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Adkins, Chairwoman of the Ways/Means Committee has:

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 before it. For the record Councilwoman Adkins, Councilman Brown and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2021-01 to be reported out of committee.

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

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** before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Adkins and Councilman Godwin approved C.P.O. 2021-02 to be reported out of committee.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Adkins reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2021-01.**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Councilman Brewer reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2021-02.**

President Godwin, Councilman Weatherspoon, Councilman Brewer and Councilwoman Adkins welcomed Councilman Brown back to the Common Council meetings.

Councilman Brown expressed appreciation to Councilmembers for their words of encouragement during his absence.

The Chair invited Attorney Sabrina Haake to give a brief presentation before the Council regarding animal cruelty.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Attorney Sabrina Haake

The Chair invited Kwabena Rasuli to give a brief presentation before the Council regarding police accountability issues.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Kwabena Rasuli

*The Chair acknowledged the presence of Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Williams to the Council meeting.

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to reappoint Lisa Eylens as the Common Council's representative to the Board of Civic Center Managers. It was seconded by Councilwoman Adkins.

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

Councilman Brewer, Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council Legal Advisor), President Godwin, Deputy Mayor McCain, Councilman Lay, and Councilwoman Brown spoke regarding the City of Gary's purchase agreement with Akyumen Industries and the personal property of the Genesis Convention Center.

Councilwoman Brown moved to accept the following donations for the Rainbow Ark Shelter: The Gary-Merrillville Branch of American Association of University Women - \$100.00 check to be utilized for general operating expenses to help improve the lives of women; Thea Bowman Leadership Academy National Honor Society - dishes, flatware, coats, household cleaners, tissue, deodorant and various household kitchen items for the shelter; Linetta Jones - 10 gift bags of toiletry items to be used for outreach; All Nations COGIC (Gary, Indiana) - 10 purses filled with hygiene items to be used for outreach; Jack and Jill (Northwest Indiana Gary/NWI Chapter) - baby formula, diapers, wipes, and dishcloths for the shelter; Pastor Corey Jackson and Calumet Township Trustee Kimberly Robinson - 5 boxes of toys to be utilized for outreach and Gary residents in need. It was seconded by Councilman Lay.

Councilman Lay and Arlene Colvin (Chief of Staff/Controller) spoke regarding the tax value of the donations.

President Godwin, Arlene Colvin (Chief of Staff/Controller) and Councilwoman Adkins spoke regarding the CARES Act funding.

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

President Godwin announced the passing of Allan Fefferman, businessman and owner of First Metropolitan Builders in the City of Gary.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to activate the Investigation Committee regarding the Council's receipt requested appraisals for Ivanhoe and Genesis Convention Center. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Councilman Lay, Councilwoman Adkins, President Godwin, Councilwoman Caldwell and Atty. Williams (Council Legal Advisor) spoke regarding the activation of the Investigation Committee.

The Chair requested that Councilwoman Adkins restate the motion.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to activate the Investigative Committee in an effort to receive the two appraisals for the properties of the Genesis Convention Center and Ivanhoe location by Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 5:00 pm (CST). It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilman Brewer, President Godwin and Councilman Lay spoke regarding the activation of the Investigation Committee.

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

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

C.P.O. 2020-78

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ROLLOVER OF TEMPORARY INTERFUND LOANS DUE BETWEEN CITY OF GARY FUNDS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Esq., Acting Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-78**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Adkins.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-78**.

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

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. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilman Brewer, Atty. Williams (Council Legal Advisor) and Councilwoman Brown spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-81**.

Councilwoman Brown moved to amend **C.P.O. 2020-81** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilwoman Adkins, Councilman Brewer, Atty. Williams (Council Legal Advisor) and Arlene Colvin (Chief of Staff/City Controller) spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-81**.

Councilwoman Brown rescinded her previous motion and moved to refer **C.P.O. 2020-81** back to the Finance Committee. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion 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 to refer **C.P.O. 2020-82** back to the Finance Committee. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

C.P.O. 2020-83

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND, DEPARTMENTS AND BUDGET FOR THE SECTION 108 LOAN DEBT RESERVE FUND. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Acting City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-83**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-83**.

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

C.P.O. 2020-84

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS FOR THE FIRE AND PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Chief of Staff/Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-84**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-84**.

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

C.P.O. 2020-85

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING SUBSIDIES FOR VARIOUS CITY ACCOUNTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Acting City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-85**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Arlene Colvin (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-85**.

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

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on February 2, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion 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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on February 2, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilwoman Brown announced that **C.P.O. 2020-81** and **C.P.O. 2020-82** will have a Finance Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) on January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair recognized the presence of former Councilwoman and State Representative Ragen Hatcher (Indiana House District 3).

State Representative Ragen Hatcher spoke briefly regarding the Investigative Committee, the CARES Act Fund and Public Safety.

REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS

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

Councilman Brown was welcomed back to the Gary Common Council meetings.

Condolences were expressed to the family of Barbara Flournoy, a longtime educator in the City of Gary.

An update was provided regarding an advisory opinion received by the administration from the Indiana Public Access Counselor for appraisals that were received through the Redevelopment Commission and the confidentiality of those documents.

President Godwin, Councilman Lay, Councilman Brewer, Deputy Mayor McCain and Councilwoman Adkins spoke regarding the Council's request for the appraisal information received through the Redevelopment Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **January 19, 2021** ADJOURNED AT 8:31 PM SO ORDERED.

WILLIAM GODWIN
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK

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