

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

**MINUTES OF  
January 4, 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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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 LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL  
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN  
THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY  
THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON  
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

**ABSENT**

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL BROWN

The meeting was opened at 6:10 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 8 present 1 absent (Councilman Brown). 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.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to approve and accept the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to accept the Gary Common Council 2021 Committee List. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote 7 ayes 1 nay (Weatherspoon). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

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

**C.P.O. 2020-82**

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

Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Godwin spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-82**.

Councilman Brewer moved to strike Columbus Day from the holiday schedule for the Year 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Attorney Rinzer Williams (Legal Advisor) and Councilwoman Brown spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-82**.

Councilman Brewer withdrew his motion to strike Columbus Day from the holiday schedule.

Arlene Colvin (Chief of Staff), Councilwoman Brown and President Godwin spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-82**.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilman Godwin moved to Suspend the Rules to include **C.P.O. 2020-85** 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.

**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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilwoman Adkins moved to Suspend the Rules to include **C.P.R. 2021-01** 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.

**C.P.R. 2021-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORTING MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS IN GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: William Godwin, Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, Cozey Weatherspoon, Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Mary Brown, Councilwoman 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tai Adkins, Councilwoman 4<sup>th</sup> District, Linda Barnes-Caldwell, Councilwoman 5<sup>th</sup> District, Ronald Brewer, Councilman-At-Large, Clorius Lay, Councilman-At-Large

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

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

**C.P.O. 2020-82**

AN ORDINANCE BY THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GARY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2021. Sponsored by: Members of the Gary Common Council before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2020-82 to be reported out of committee.

**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 before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2020-83 to be reported out of committee.

**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 before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2020-84 to be reported out of committee.

**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 before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2020-85 to be reported out of committee.

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

**C.P.R. 2021-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORTING MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS IN GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: William Godwin, Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, Cozey Weatherspoon, Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Mary Brown, Councilwoman 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tai Adkins, Councilwoman 4<sup>th</sup> District, Linda Barnes-Caldwell, Councilwoman 5<sup>th</sup> District, Ronald Brewer, Councilman-At-Large, Clorius Lay, Councilman-At-Large before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, Councilman Weatherspoon and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.R. 2021-01 to be reported out of committee.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: C.P.O. 2020-82, 2020-83, 2020-84, 2020-85.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Brewer reported the following legislation out of committee: C.P.R 2021-01.

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

State Representative Ragen Hatcher spoke regarding the first day of the session.

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

Councilwoman Adkins moved to Suspend the Rules to add C.P.R. 2020-20 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.

Councilman Brewer then moved to withdraw **C.P.R. 2020-20**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 1 nay (Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to Suspend the Rules to add **C.P.O. 2020-79** to the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

**C.P.O. 2020-79**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO MEET CURRENT RUNNING EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL FUND AND IN ANTICIPATION OF CURRENT TAXES LEVIED IN THE YEAR 2020 AND COLLECTIBLE IN THE YEAR 2021 ESTIMATED TO BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2020; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOANS AND THE SALE OF SUCH WARRANTS; AND APPROPRIATING AND PLEDGING THE TAXES TO BE RECIVED IN SUCH FUNDS TO THE PUNCTUAL PAYMENT OF SUCH WARRANTS INCLUDING THE INTEREST THEREON. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, Chief of Staff/Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2020-79**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Greg Taylor (NWH Law Group LLP) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2020-79**.

Councilwoman Adkins spoke regarding **C.P.O. 2020-79**.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

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

**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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 19, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 19, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion 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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 19, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion 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** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 19, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

#### **C.P.R. 2021-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORTING MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS IN GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: William Godwin, Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, Cozey Weatherspoon, Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Mary Brown, Councilwoman 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Tai Adkins, Councilwoman 4<sup>th</sup> District, Linda Barnes-Caldwell, Councilwoman 5<sup>th</sup> District, Ronald Brewer, Councilman-At-Large, Clorius Lay, Councilman-At-Large

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-01** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins.

Councilman Lay spoke regarding **C.P.R. 2021-01**.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 1 nay (Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly defeated.

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2021-01** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) set on January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

President Godwin and Atty. Williams spoke regarding a special meeting being called for **C.P.R. 2021-01**.

Councilman Brewer moved to hold a Committee Hearing (via zoom video conference) for **C.P.R. 2021-01** on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and a Special Council Meeting (via zoom video conference) at 6:00 p.m. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

**REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

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

Congratulations were expressed to Councilmembers William Godwin and Tai Adkins for being elected as President and Vice-President of the Common Council, respectively, for the Year 2021.

Acknowledgement was given to State Senator Greg Taylor (Senate District 33) and State Representative Ragen Hatcher (House District 3) for their presence at the meeting.

An update was provided in regards to the train derailment that occurred on Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

Well wishes were expressed to the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on their "110<sup>th</sup> Founders Day Anniversary", Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

President Godwin expressed appreciation to Deputy Mayor McCain along with Mayor Jerome Prince for their communication of information related to the food and beverage tax and for "assisting with the train derailment" that occurred on Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

Councilman Brewer raised questions to the administration regarding citizens being notified to contact the Common Council about the garbage pick-up services that were stopped.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Adkins and President Godwin spoke regarding the services of Republic Services.

Councilman Lay requested that Deputy Mayor McCain "implore the Mayor not to cast a veto on **C.P.R. 2021-01**".

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **January 4, 2021** ADJOURNED AT 7:34 PM SO ORDERED.

WILLIAM GODWIN  
PRESIDING OFFICER

  
SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK

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