

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

**MINUTES OF
May 18, 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 **18th Day of May, 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
THE HONORABLE CLORIUS LAY
THE HONORABLE COZEY WEATHERSPOON

ABSENT

THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS (*see page 2)

The meeting was opened at 6:07 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 Williams). 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 May 4, 2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

*The Chair acknowledged the presence of Councilman Williams to the meeting and requested that the Clerk add him to the attendance roster.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

C.P.O. 2021-36

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE CITY'S INSURANCE ACCOUNT (FUND 101-601) FOR INSURANCE CARRIER ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak Harper, City Controller

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2021-37

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: Arthur Brown, 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46407 **Property: 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2021-38

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: Destine Black, 1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407 **Property: 1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilman Brewer moved to add **C.P.O. 2019/9305** to the agenda on first reading. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Roll call showed a vote of 6 ayes 3 nays (Lay, Weatherspoon and Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

C.P.O. 2019-65/9305

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

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman Finance Committee has:

C.P.O. 2021-36

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE CITY'S INSURANCE ACCOUNT (FUND 101-601) FOR INSURANCE CARRIER ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak Harper, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Adkins and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2021-36 to be reported out of committee.**

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

C.P.O. 2021-37

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: Arthur Brown, 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46407 **Property: 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, Councilman Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2021-37 to be reported out of committee.**

C.P.O. 2021-38

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: Destine Black, **1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407 Property: 1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407 before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, Councilman Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2021-38 to be reported out of committee.**

C.P.O. 2019-65/9305

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT. Sponsored by: Rebecca Wyatt, Councilwoman 1st District **before it. For the record Councilman Brewer, Councilman Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins approved C.P.O. 2019-65/9305 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. 2021-37, 2021-38 & 2019-65/9305.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2021-36.**

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to accept Darwin Kenney (the Urban League of NWI representative) for the Gary Commission on the Social Status of Black Males. It was seconded by Councilman Brown.

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

PRESENTATION(S):

Diana Sandlin (Gary Economic Development Corporation) gave a presentation on connecting employers with Gary residents that are job seeking.

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

C.P.O. 2021-19

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW FUND FOR THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO USE FOR WELLNESS CREDITS RECEIVED FROM AIM MEDICAL TRUST FOR THE YEAR OF 2021. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Arlene Colvin, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved to remove **C.P.O. 2021-19** from the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown and Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilman Lay and Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-19.**

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

C.P.O. 2021-27

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO COVER FLEET INSURANCE AND AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND (224). Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-27**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Mileak Harper (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-27**.

Councilman Brewer and Atty. Colvin (Director of Community Development) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-27**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-28

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: Jillyan Smith, 5240 W. 4th Place, Gary, Indiana 46406 **Property: 5240 W. 4th Place, Gary, Indiana 46406**

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-28**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-28**.

Councilman Weatherspoon, Councilman Brown and Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-28**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-29

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: Ismail Hamed, 2110-12 Clark Rd., Gary, Indiana 46404 **Property: 2112 Clark Road and 2110 Clark Road, Gary, Indiana 46404**

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-29**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-29**.

Councilman Weatherspoon and Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-29**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-30

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: Wojciech Panek, 3821-35 Vermont Street, Gary, Indiana 46409, 1000 E. 39th Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46409 **Property: 3821-35 Vermont Street, Gary, Indiana 46409 and 1000 E. 39th Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46409**

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-30**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-30**.

Councilman Lay, Eric Boria (Zoning Administrator) and Wojciech Panek (petitioner) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-30**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-31

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE ELEVEN FIFTY PROJECT. Sponsored by: Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-31**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development Director) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-31**.

Councilman Lay and Atty. Colvin (Director of Community Development Director) spoke on **C.P.O. 2021-31**.

Councilman Lay moved to amend by adding Mayor Jerome Prince as a sponsor to **C.P.O. 2021-31**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

The Chair called for a brief recess.

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

C.P.O. 2021-32

AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING FUNDS TO THE STD GRANT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2021 AND ENDING MARCH 31, 2022. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-32**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Mileak Harper (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-32**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-33

AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR THE LINKAGE TO CARE GRANT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2021 AND ENDING MARCH 31, 2022. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-33**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Mileak Harper (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-33**.

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

C.P.O. 2021-35

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA RELATING TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 AND AUTHORIZING THE ARP LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.

Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved to amend **C.P.O. 2021-35** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2021-35**.

Councilwoman Adkins and President Godwin spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2021-35**.

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

Councilman Brewer, President Godwin, Councilman Brown, Councilwoman Brown, Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council Legal Advisor), Councilman Lay, Atty. Colvin (Director of Community Development) spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2021-35**.

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

C.P.R. 2021-04

AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 3076 OF THE CITY OF GARY APPROVING TRANSFER AND CLOSURE OF DORMANT FUND ACCOUNT BALANCES TO THE GENERAL FUND. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak L. Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved to amend **C.P.R. 2021-04** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development) gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2021-04**.

Councilwoman Adkins and President Godwin spoke in regards to **C.P.R. 2021-04**.

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

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

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

C.P.O. 2019-65/9305

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-31** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for

May 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 6 ayes 3 nays (Lay, Weatherspoon, Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

C.P.O. 2021-36

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE CITY'S INSURANCE ACCOUNT (FUND 101-601) FOR INSURANCE CARRIER ADMINISTRATIVE FEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Mileak Harper, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-36** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for May 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). 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. 2021-37

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: Arthur Brown, 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46407 **Property: 900-34 E. 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana**

C.P.O. 2021-38

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: Destine Black, 1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407 **Property: 1500 Kentucky Street, Gary, Indiana 46407**

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2021-37 and 2021-38** (second reading) with a Committee Hearing set for May 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm (via zoom) and Public Hearing set for June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm (via zoom). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 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:

1. Citizens were encouraged to come out on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 for the Opening Day of the Gary Southshore Railcats 2021 season.
2. Appreciation was expressed to the men and women of the Gary Emergency Medical Services during National EMS Week for their quick responses.
3. All residents were reminded to take full advantage of the FEMA Mass Vaccination Site at Roosevelt High School. The site's closing was changed from June 2, 2021 to May 29, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

4. Appreciation was expressed to Senator Eddie Melton and Councilwoman Caldwell for bringing greetings at the Grand Opening of the Hard Rock Casino on May 14, 2021. Citizens are encouraged to come out and see Gary's newest attraction.

Councilwoman Brown expressed concerns to Deputy Mayor McCain regarding the traffic on Burr Street as it relates to the new Casino.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

Councilman Brewer expressed concerns to Deputy Mayor McCain regarding the traffic signal on 25th & Burr Street and an update of the paving on 29th & Burr Street, south to Ridge Road.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

Councilman Lay expressed concerns to Deputy Mayor McCain regarding the lease payment on the Railcats Stadium and the renovations costs.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

Councilman Brewer, President Godwin and Councilman Lay also expressed concerns regarding the Railcats Stadium contract.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

The Chair announced that the Honorable Judge Deidre L. Monroe requested to address the Council in regards to specific procedures/processes of the Court.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Judge Deidre L. Monroe, Gary City Court

President Godwin announced that there will be a Swearing-In Ceremony for new police officers on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Emmett Mosley

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **May 18, 2021** ADJOURNED AT 8:16 PM SO ORDERED.

WILLIAM GODWIN
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK

/nkr