

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

**MINUTES OF
November 21, 2023**
GARY COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
401 BROADWAY, GARY, INDIANA 46402

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

THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM
Councilwoman 1st District

THE HONORABLE DAVID FOSSETT
Councilman 2nd District

THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN
Councilwoman 3rd District

THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL
Councilwoman 5th District Parliamentarian

THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS
Councilman 6th District

THE HONORABLE RONALD BREWER
Councilman-At-Large

THE HONORABLE MARK SPENCER
Councilman-At-Large

THE HONORABLE DARREN WASHINGTON
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, on the **21st Day of November, 2023** at **6:00 pm** with the Honorable Tai Adkins 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 DAVID FOSSETT
THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM
THE HONORABLE MARK SPENCER
THE HONORABLE DARREN WASHINGTON
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

ABSENT

The meeting was opened at 6:10 pm with a moment of prayer by Councilman Spencer, 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.

Councilman Brewer moved to approve and accept the minutes of Wednesday, November 8, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett.

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

PRESENTATION:

President Adkins along with Councilman Fossett on behalf of the Gary Common Council presented an Official Citation to the family in honor of the late Andrew Means, a pioneering black property developer and owner along with his brother, Geter Means, of Means Brothers Construction in the City of Gary. The Official Citation was accepted by his grandsons Everett McDonald and Kevin McDonald.

Everett and Kevin McDonald expressed their appreciation to the Common Council for the honor.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

C.P.O. 2023-73

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR SWORN POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-74

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE 1101-GENERAL FUND FOR THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council, Celita Green, City Controller

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-75

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ROLLOVER OF TEMPORARY INTER-FUND LOANS DUE BETWEEN CITY OF GARY FUNDS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-76

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPROPRIATION FOR CITY OF GARY SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, M. Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-77

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (MVH) FUND GENERAL FUND, AND COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 EXPENSES AND FORWARDED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ACTION AND PASSAGE PURSUANT TO IC 6-1.1-18-6. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, M. Celita Green, City Controller

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-78

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ROLL-OVER OF VACATION TIME NOT USED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.R. 2023-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ANDREW A. MEANS, THE FIRST BLACK BUILDING CONTRACTOR TO HIRE ALL BLACK CRAFTSMEN. Sponsored by: All Common Councilmembers

ART CULTURE & HISTORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Caldwell, Acting Chairwoman of Ways/Means Committee has:

C.P.O. 2023-73

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR SWORN POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-75

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ROLLOVER OF TEMPORARY INTER-FUND LOANS DUE BETWEEN CITY OF GARY FUNDS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-76

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPROPRIATION FOR CITY OF GARY SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, M. Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-78

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ROLL-OVER OF VACATION TIME NOT USED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.O. 2023-73, C.P.O. 2023-75, C.P.O. 2023-76 and C.P.O. 2023-78 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman of Finance Committee has:

C.P.O. 2023-74

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE 1101-GENERAL FUND FOR THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-77

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (MVH) FUND GENERAL FUND, AND COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 EXPENSES AND FORWARDED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ACTION AND PASSAGE PURSUANT TO IC 6-1.1-18-6. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, M. Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and President Adkins approved C.P.O. 2023-74 and C.P.O. 2023-77 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilwoman Latham, Chairwoman of Art Culture & History has:

C.P.R. 2023-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ANDREW A. MEANS, THE FIRST BLACK BUILDING CONTRACTOR TO HIRE ALL BLACK CRAFTSMEN. Sponsored by: All Common Councilmembers **before it. For the record Councilwoman Latham, President Adkins, Councilman Fosset and Councilman Williams approved C.P.R. 2023-09 to be reported out of committee.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Caldwell reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-73, C.P.O. 2023-75, C.P.O. 2023-76 and C.P.O. 2023-78.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-74** and **C.P.O. 2023-77**.

ART CULTURE & HISTORY COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Latham reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.R. 2023-09**.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE:

Councilman Brown moved to appoint Cordell Atkins (Portage WorkOne Assistant Manager); Ken Iwama (Chancellor, IU Northwest) – proxy, James Wallace (IU Northwest, Commission Chair); Steven Mays (Gary Branch NAACP) – proxy, Braden Wilson; Dr. Janet Seabrook (Community HealthNet, Commission Vice-Chair) – proxy, Beryl Fitzpatrick; Dr. Vanessa Allen-McCloud (Urban League of NWI) – proxy, Da'lon Fields; Lt Richard Allen (Gary Police Department); and Mike Raisor (Emergency Manager, Gary Community School Corporation) - proxy, Darrell Riddle, to the Gary Commission of the Status of Black Males. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett.

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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to reinstate Charles Smith to the Gary Fire Commission. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Roll call showed a vote 8 ayes 1 abstention (Adkins). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nick Vasil

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

C.P.O. 2023-56

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, APPROVING A GUARANTEED SAVINGS CONTRACT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-1-12.5, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF THE ENERGY CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS UNDER SUCH GUARANTEED SAVINGS CONTRACT THROUGH AN INSTALLMENT CONTRACT OR EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING THAT THE PAYMENT OF SUCH FINANCING SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE CITY; OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH; AND REPEALING ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Brewer and Councilwoman Caldwell moved to refer **C.P.O. 2023-56** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 28 , 2023 at 5:30 pm. It was seconded by Councilman Washington.

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

President Adkin requested that **C.P.O.2023-65** be read before **C.P.O. 2023-64**.

C.P.O. 2023-65

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9604 APPROVING AN ARPA SPENDING PLAN OUT OF REVENUE LOSS CATEGORY INCLUDING J-PIT LANDFILL CLEAN-UP PROJECT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, Mayor City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-65**. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett and Councilman Williams.

Brenda Scott-Henry (Director, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs) and Judge Deidre L. Monroe (Gary City Court) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-65**.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-65** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Latham spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-65**.

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

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

C.P.O. 2023-64

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (FUND 2487) FOR J-PIT LANDFILL CLEAN-UP PROJECT UNDER REVENUE LOSS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Latham moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-64**. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-64** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-64** as amended. It was seconded by Councilwoman Latham.

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

C.P.O. 2023-66

AN ORDINANCE RE-ESTABLISHING THE PARKS CONSTRUCTION FUND-4403 AND RE-APPROPRIATING 2022 REMAINING BALANCE OF PARKS 1101-253 ARPA LOSS REVENUES BALANCE FOR JEWEL PARKS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-66**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) and Jazmyne Thomas (Director of Gary Parks & Recreation Department) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-66**.

President Adkins, Councilwoman Latham, Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Brewer spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-66**.

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

C.P.O. 2023-67

AN ORDINANCE REVISING 2023 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GENERAL FUND - 1101 FINANCE DEPARTMENT-600 SALARY AND OPERATING BUDGETS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, M. Celita Green City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-67**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-67**.

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

C.P.O. 2023-68

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PUBLIC WAY IN THE CITY OF GARY LOCATED ON CAROLINA STREET BETWEEN VIRGINIA STREET (MALCOLM X BLVD.) AND FRONT STREET. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-68**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Fossett.

Atty. Marco Molina (Assistant City Attorney) and Wes McClean (owner of St. John Homes) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-68**.

Councilman Fossett and Councilman Brewer spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-68**.

THIS BEING THE NIGHT SET ASIDE FOR PUBLIC HEARING, THE CHAIR ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYONE WHO WISHED TO SPEAK FOR/AGAINST THIS COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCE.

SPEAKERS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

None

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

C.P.O. 2023-70

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GARY CITY COURT. Sponsored by: Judge Deidre L. Monroe, Gary City Court

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-70**. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Judge Deidre L. Monroe (Gary City Court) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-70**.

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

C.P.O. 2023-71

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING LONGEVITY PAY RATES FOR SWORN POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-71**. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-71**.

President Adkins stated that at the direction of Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council's Legal Advisor), the motion needs to be restated.

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-71** *retroactive to May 4, 2021*. It was seconded by Councilman Washington and Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

C.P.O. 2023-72

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9010 ADOPTING UNIFORM INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS FOR INDIANA POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH I.C. 5-11-1-27. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-72**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-72**.

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

C.P.R. 2023-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA APPROVING AND RATIFYING THE SELECTION OF A QUALIFIED PROVIDER TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE CITY OF GARY. Sponsored by: Ronald G. Brewer, Sr., Council-At-Large

Councilman Brewer moved to refer **C.P.O. 2023-56** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Fossett.

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

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

C.P.O. 2023-73

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR SWORN POLICE AND FIRE PERSONNEL. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-75

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ROLLOVER OF TEMPORARY INTER-FUND LOANS DUE BETWEEN CITY OF GARY FUNDS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-76

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPROPRIATION FOR CITY OF GARY SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, M. Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-78

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ROLL-OVER OF VACATION TIME NOT USED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-73, C.P.O. 2023-75, C.P.O. 2023-76, and C.P.O. 2023-78** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on November 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm and a Public Hearing set for December 5, 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

C.P.O. 2023-74

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE 1101-GENERAL FUND FOR THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL. Sponsored by: Gary Common Council, Celita Green, City Controller

C.P.O. 2023-77

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY (MVH) FUND GENERAL FUND, AND COUNTY OPTION INCOME TAX FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 EXPENSES AND FORWARDED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ACTION AND PASSAGE PURSUANT TO IC 6-1.1-18-6. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, M. Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-74 and C.P.O. 2023-77** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on November 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm and a Public Hearing set for December 5, 2023. 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.R. 2023-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ANDREW A. MEANS, THE FIRST BLACK BUILDING CONTRACTOR TO HIRE ALL BLACK CRAFTSMEN. Sponsored by: All Common Councilmembers

Councilwoman Latham moved to Suspend the Rules for passage of **C.P.R. 2023-08** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

Councilwoman Latham moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2023-08** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

President Adkins gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2023-08**.

Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Fossett spoke in regards to **C.P.R. 2023-08**.

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

REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:

Atty. Trent McCain (Deputy Mayor) presented the following announcement(s)/update(s) on behalf of the administration:

- 1) Mayor Prince along with the Police Chief, Chief of Staff, Councilman Fossett and a representative of Congressman Frank Mrvan's office unveiled the "Real Time Crime Center". Tours with Corporal Larry McKinley can be scheduled.
- 2) Citizens can pick up free gun locks at the Public Safety Building, 555 Polk Street in the wake of the 2-year-old fatal shooting.
- 3) On December 5, 2023, Mayor Prince will award Indiana State Police Major and former interim Police Chief Jerry Williams with the "Key to the City".
- 4) The 15th Annual Lakeshore Classic will take place Friday, November 24, 2023 and Saturday, November 25, 2023.

Councilwoman Latham raised a question to the Deputy Mayor McCain in regards to the City of Gary receiving Community Crossings Grants for the year 2023.

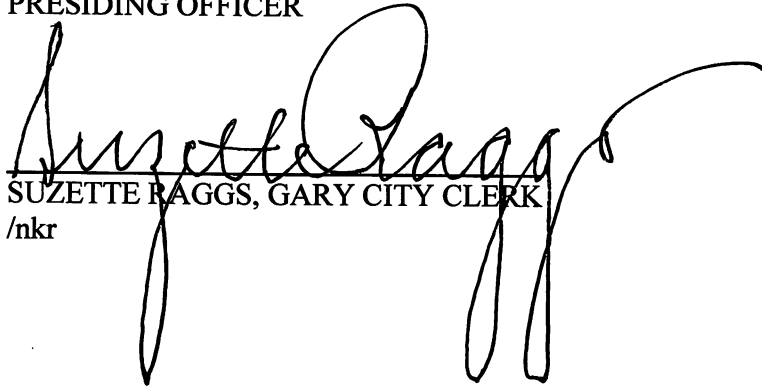
Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

(G.C.C. Meeting 11/08/23 Cont.)

Councilman Brewer wished the City of Gary a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **November 21, 2023** ADJOURNED AT 8:08 PM SO ORDERED.

Tail Adkins
PRESIDING OFFICER

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzette Raggs', is written over the printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK
/nkr