

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

**MINUTES OF
December 5, 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 **5th Day of December, 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 DAVID FOSSETT
THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM
THE HONORABLE MARK SPENCER
THE HONORABLE DARREN WASHINGTON
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

ABSENT

THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL

The meeting was opened at 6:08 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 (Caldwell). The Chair declared this duly a quorum in order to conduct business in the City of Gary.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

C.P.O. 2023-79

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND AND BUDGETS FOR THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT. Sponsored by: Christopher Harris, City of Gary Redevelopment Commission

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2023-80

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARY, IN TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO MEET CURRENT RUNNING EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE ISSUER, IN ANTICIPATION OF AND NOT IN EXCESS OF CURRENT TAXES LEVIED IN THE YEAR 2023, AND COLLECTABLE IN THE YEAR 2024; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY LOAN TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOANS AND THE SALE OF SUCH WARRANTS TO THE INDIANA BOND BANK; AND APPROPRIATING AND PLEDGING THE TAXES TO BE RECEIVED IN SUCH FUNDS TO THE PUNCTUAL PAYMENT OF SUCH WARRANTS INCLUDING THE INTEREST THEREON. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C.P.R. 2023-10

A RESOLUTION 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: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

President Adkins, Chairwoman of Ways/Means Committee has:

C.P.O. 2023-79

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND AND BUDGETS FOR THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT. Sponsored by: Christopher Harris, City of Gary Redevelopment Commission **before it. For the record President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.O. 2023-79 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman of Finance Committee has:

C.P.O. 2023-80

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARY, IN TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO MEET CURRENT RUNNING EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE ISSUER, IN ANTICIPATION OF AND NOT IN EXCESS OF CURRENT TAXES LEVIED IN THE YEAR 2023, AND COLLECTABLE IN THE YEAR 2024; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY LOAN TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOANS AND THE SALE OF SUCH WARRANTS TO THE INDIANA BOND BANK; AND APPROPRIATING AND PLEDGING THE TAXES TO BE RECEIVED IN SUCH FUNDS TO THE PUNCTUAL PAYMENT OF SUCH WARRANTS INCLUDING THE INTEREST THEREON. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown and President Adkins approved C.P.O. 2023-80 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilman Washington, Chairman of Planning & Development Committee has:

C.P.R. 2023-10

A RESOLUTION 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: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilman Washington, President Adkins, Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Fossett approved C.P.R. 2023-10 to be reported out of committee.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE:

President Adkins reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-79.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-80.**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Councilman Washington reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.R. 2023-10.**

Councilman Brewer and Councilman Washington moved to approve and accept the minutes of November 21, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

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

PRESENTATION:

Milton Thaxton (Chief Innovation Officer) gave an update of the Fiber and Broadband project for the City of Gary.

President Adkins spoke in regards to the update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

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

President Adkins requested the Clerk to read **C.P.R. 2023-06** first.

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 for passage of **C.P.R. 2023-06**. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett.

President Adkins gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2023-06**.

Councilwoman Latham spoke in regards of **C.P.R. 2023-06**.

Roll call showed a vote of 2 ayes (Brewer, Fossett) 5 nays and 1 abstention (Spencer). The Chair declared this Council Pending Resolution duly **DEFEATED**.

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 moved to lay **C.P.O. 2023-56** on the table. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-73**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Spencer.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-73**.

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-74**. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

President Adkins gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-74**.

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

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-75**. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-75**.

Councilwoman Brown moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-75** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilman Brewer, Christopher Harris (Executive Director of Redevelopment Department) and President Adkins spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-75**.

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-75** as amended. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

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

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

Councilwoman Brown moved to postpone **C.P.O. 2023-76** until December 19, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

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. 2023-77**. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilwoman Brown moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-77** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilman Washington.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-77**.

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

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

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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-78**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Spencer.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-78**.

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. 2023-79

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND AND BUDGETS FOR THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT. Sponsored by: Christopher Harris, City of Gary Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-79** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on December 12, 2023, at 5:15 pm and a Public Hearing set for December 19, 2023. 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. 2023-80

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARY, IN TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO MEET CURRENT RUNNING EXPENSES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE ISSUER, IN ANTICIPATION OF AND NOT IN EXCESS OF CURRENT TAXES LEVIED IN THE YEAR 2023, AND COLLECTABLE IN THE YEAR 2024; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY LOAN TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOANS AND THE SALE OF SUCH WARRANTS TO THE INDIANA BOND BANK: AND APPROPRIATING AND PLEDGING THE TAXES TO BE RECEIVED IN SUCH FUNDS TO THE PUNCTUAL PAYMENT OF SUCH WARRANTS INCLUDING THE INTEREST THEREON. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-80** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on December 12, 2023, at 5:00 pm and a Public Hearing set for December 19, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

C.P.R. 2023-10

A RESOLUTION 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: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2023-10** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on December 12, 2023, at 5:30 pm and a Public Hearing set for December 19, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer and Councilman Spencer.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion 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) Congratulations were extended to Indiana State Police Major and former interim Police Chief Jerry Williams for being awarded the "Key to the City" by Mayor Jerome Prince.

Councilman Fossett raised a question to Deputy Mayor McCain in regards to plans for any Christmas party given by the City of Gary.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

Councilwoman Brown raised concerns in regards to the lack of handicap accessibility into City Hall.

Councilman Brewer acknowledged the presence of Councilman Elect of the 2nd District, Dwayne Halliburton to the meeting.

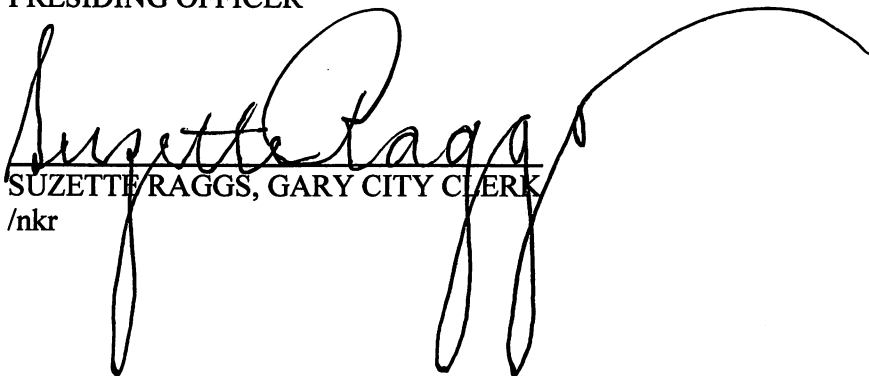
(G.C.C. Meeting 12/05/23 Cont.)

President Adkins requested from Deputy Mayor McCain that an updated list of warming centers throughout the city be provided to the Council.

Deputy Mayor McCain responded.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **December 5, 2023** ADJOURNED AT 7:08 PM SO ORDERED.

Tail Adkins
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK
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