

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

**MINUTES OF  
December 19, 2023**  
GARY COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
401 BROADWAY, GARY, INDIANA 46402

**THE HONORABLE TAI ADKINS**  
Councilwoman 4<sup>th</sup> District, **Common Council President**

**THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM**  
Councilwoman 1<sup>st</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE DAVID FOSSETT**  
Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN**  
Councilwoman 3<sup>rd</sup> District

**THE HONORABLE LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL**  
Councilwoman 5<sup>th</sup> District **Parliamentarian**

**THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS**  
Councilman 6<sup>th</sup> 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 **19<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 December 5, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett and Councilman Washington.

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

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

**C.P.O. 2023-81**

AN ORDINANCE BY THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GARY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Members, Gary Common Council

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2023-82**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (FUND 2487) FOR SUPPORT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Councilwoman Caldwell, Chairwoman of Boards & Commissions Committee has:**

**C.P.O. 2023-81**

AN ORDINANCE BY THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GARY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Members, Gary Common Council before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Williams approved C.P.O. 2023-81 to be reported out of committee.

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

**C.P.O. 2023-82**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (FUND 2487) FOR SUPPORT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown, President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.O. 2023-82 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. 2023-82.**

**BOARDS & COMMISSION COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-81.**

President Adkins recognized the presence of Lake County Councilman Clorius L. Lay and Councilman-Elect Dwayne Halliburton (2<sup>nd</sup> District) to the meeting.

**PRESENTATION:**

Atty. Trent McCain (Deputy Mayor) read the award from the National League of Cities honoring the City of Gary, Indiana for 50 years membership and dedicated service.

President Adkins announced that the Reorganization Meeting of the Gary Common Council will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Lloyd Keith

President Adkins requested the Clerk read C.P.R. 2023-10 for a public hearing.

**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

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 RESOLUTION.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

Atty. Tramel Raggs (Harris Law Firm)

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

**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

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-76**. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-76** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-76**.

Councilman Brewer spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-76**.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays (\*Councilman Fossett temporarily left the meeting). 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. 2023-79**

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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to refer **C.P.O. 2023-79** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm and Public Hearing January 16, 2024. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Washington.

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 Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-80**. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

Carl Cender (Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-80**.

Councilwoman Latham and Celita Green (City Controller) spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-80**.

Roll call showed a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance 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**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Tramel Raggs (Harris Law Firm) gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2023-10**.

Roll call 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. 2023-81**

AN ORDINANCE BY THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF GARY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Members, Gary Common Council

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to suspend the rules to pass **C.P.O. 2023-81** 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.

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-81** on all 3 readings. 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. 2023-82**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (FUND 2487) FOR SUPPORT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2023-10** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set for January 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm and a Public Hearing set for January 16, 2024. 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 OFFICIAL:**

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

- 1) The City of Gary Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2023 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Gary City Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).
- 2) Gratitude was expressed for the 4 years of working along the side of the Common Council members and sharing their love for the City of Gary.

Councilman Washington expressed his appreciation to Councilman Fossett for a job well done as Councilman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and gave condolences to the families of former Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant and Daisy Turner.

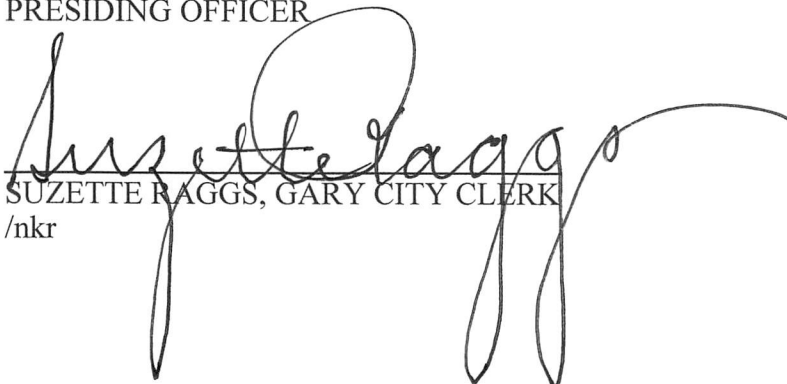
Councilman Brewer wished the citizens of Gary a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and expressed well wishes to Deputy Mayor McCain, Mayor Jerome Prince and Councilman Fossett.

Councilwoman Latham expressed well wishes to Councilman Fossett and gave condolences to Dr. Roland Walker (Health Commissioner) on the passing of his father.

President Adkins expressed well wishes to Councilman Fossett and gave condolences to Dr. Roland Walker (Health Commissioner) on the passing of his father. She also expressed gratitude to the members of the Gary Common Council for being supportive through her leadership as President of the Common Council; and extended well wishes to Mayor Jerome Prince and his administration.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **December 19, 2023** ADJOURNED AT 6:57 PM SO ORDERED.

Tai Adkins  
PRESIDING OFFICER

  
SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK  
/nkr