

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

**MINUTES OF
JANUARY 2, 2024**
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, **Common Council Vice-President**

THE HONORABLE DWAYNE HALLIBURTON
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 EDDIE MELTON, MAYOR, CITY OF GARY
THE HONORABLE SUZETTE RAGGS, CLERK, CITY OF GARY

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 **2nd Day of January, 2024 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 DWAYNE HALLIBURTON
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 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 19, 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

President Adkins recognized the presence of former Councilman William Godwin, Indiana State Representative Ragen Hatcher and Lake County Councilman Clorius Lay to the meeting.

Councilman Washington moved to accept the 2024 Standing Committee List. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to reschedule the next regular Common Council meeting to Tuesday, January 23, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer and Councilman Spencer.

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. 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE REVISING 2024 SALARIES AND OPERATING BUDGETS FOR CITY OF GARY'S GENERAL FUND, PARKS FUND, AND MEDIA FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR PETITIONER RANJIT SINGH FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4067-87 BROADWAY TO BE USED AS A GAS/AUTO SERVICE STATION. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary **Petitioner: Ranjit Singh, 4067-87 Broadway, Gary, Indiana**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MARCIA HARDINSON AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

C.P.O. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ELLIS DUMAS AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

C.P.R. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO I.C. 36-8-3.5-11 FOR LARRY TILLMAN'S APPOINTMENT AS FIRE CHIEF TO THE GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Caldwell, Acting Chairwoman Ways/Means Committee has:

C.P.O. 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE REVISING 2024 SALARIES AND OPERATING BUDGETS FOR CITY OF GARY'S GENERAL FUND, PARKS FUND, AND MEDIA FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.O. 2024-01 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilman Washington, Chairman Planning & Development Committee has:

C.P.O. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR PETITIONER RANJIT SINGH FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4067-87 BROADWAY TO BE USED AS A GAS/AUTO SERVICE STATION. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary **Petitioner: Ranjit Singh, 4067-87 Broadway, Gary, Indiana before it. For the record Councilman Washington, President Adkins and Councilwoman Latham approved C.P.O. 2024-02 to be reported out of committee.**

Councilwoman Caldwell, Chairwoman of Boards & Commissions Committee has:

C.P.O. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MARCIA HARDINSON AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

C.P.O. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ELLIS DUMAS AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

C.P.R. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO I.C. 36-8-3.5-11 FOR LARRY TILLMAN'S APPOINTMENT AS FIRE CHIEF TO THE GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Williams approved C.P.O. 2024-03, C.P.O. 2024-04 and C.P.R. 2024-01 to be reported out of committee.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

BOARDS & COMMISSION COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Caldwell reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2024-03, C.P.O. 2024-04 and C.P.R. 2024-01.**

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Caldwell reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2024-01.**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Councilman Washington reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2024-02.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Nowacki

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

None

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

C.P.O. 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE REVISING 2024 SALARIES AND OPERATING BUDGETS FOR CITY OF GARY'S GENERAL FUND, PARKS FUND, AND MEDIA FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-01** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set for January 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm and a Public Hearing set for January 23, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

C.P.O. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR PETITIONER RANJIT SINGH FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4067-87 BROADWAY TO BE USED AS A GAS/AUTO SERVICE STATION. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary **Petitioner: Ranjit Singh, 4067-87 Broadway, Gary, Indiana**

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-02** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set for January 9, 2024, at 5:15 pm and a Public Hearing set for January 23, 2024. 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. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MARCIA HARDINSON AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

C.P.O. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ELLIS DUMAS AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

C.P.R. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO I.C. 36-8-3.5-11 FOR LARRY TILLMAN'S APPOINTMENT AS FIRE CHIEF TO THE GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved to suspend the rules to pass **C.P.O. 2024-03**, **C.P.O. 2024-04** and **C.P.R. 2024-01** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilman Washington.

Mayor Melton gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2024-03**, **C.P.O. 2024-04** and **C.P.R. 2024-01**.

Councilwoman Caldwell raised a question in regards to **C.P.O. 2024-03**, **C.P.O. 2024-04** and **C.P.R. 2024-01**.

Mayor Melton responded.

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

C.P.O. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MARCIA HARDINSON AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-03** on all 3 readings retroactive to January 1, 2024. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Spencer.

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

C.P.O. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A RESIDENCY WAIVER FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ELLIS DUMAS AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-04** on all 3 readings retroactive to January 1, 2024. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Spencer.

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

C.P.R. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO I.C. 36-8-3.5-11 FOR LARRY TILLMAN'S APPOINTMENT AS FIRE CHIEF TO THE GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary

Councilman Brewer moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2024-01** on all 3 readings retroactive to January 1, 2024. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

President Adkins apologized to the citizens of Gary, Councilman Halliburton, Mayor Melton and his administration for the lack of audio in the Council Chambers and that the Council will work to rectify the issues in a timely manner.

REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:

Mayor Eddie Melton, City of Gary, presented the following announcement(s)/update(s):

- 1) Congratulations were expressed to Council President Tai Adkins and Council Vice-President Lori Latham on their elected positions as President and Vice-President of the Common Council, respectively, for the year 2024.
- 2) An overview/update was provided on the progress of his first day in office, along with gratitude to the staff, maintenance crew and former Mayor Prince's administration for their assistance in the transition process. Congratulations were expressed to all the elected officials along with Chief Derrick Cannon (Gary Police Department) and Chief Larry Tillman (Gary Fire Department) who all were sworn in at the Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony on Saturday, December 30, 2024.
- 3) On Friday, January 5, 2024, the members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated will be welcomed to City Hall for the celebration of their Founders Day and all other civic, social, fraternal and sorority organizations will be welcomed to City Hall as well.
- 4) Gratitude was expressed to Chuck Hughes (Director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce) for his invitation (to Mayor Melton) as the keynote speaker for the "Gary Chamber Luncheon" on January 8, 2024, at Marquette Park Pavilion. Gratitude was also expressed to the "Katie Hall Foundation" for their invitation (to Mayor Melton) the keynote speaker at the "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration" on January 15, 2024 at Van Buren Baptist Church.

5) Glenn Johnson was congratulated as the Mayor's appointment to the Gary Community School Board; and gratitude was expressed to Raven Hall, Keith Stone, Marianetta Barber and the Department of Public Works for their response in the recent inclement weather.

Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Latham and President Adkins expressed their appreciation to Mayor Melton and his administration for his plans for the future of Gary and expressed their desire to work along with the administration.

Councilman Washington expressed appreciation to Mayor Melton and the planning committee of the Mayor's Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony held on Saturday, December 30, 2024 for a spectacular event.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **January 2, 2024** ADJOURNED AT 7:15 PM SO ORDERED.

Tai Adkins
PRESIDING OFFICER



SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK
/nkr