

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

**MINUTES OF  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**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, Common Council Vice-President

**THE HONORABLE DWAYNE HALLIBURTON**  
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 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 **5<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 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 Chair asked for a “Moment of Silence” in honor of the late Atty. Clorius L. Lay (Lake County Councilman and former Councilman-At-Large).

The meeting was opened at 6:18 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 February 6, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Williams.

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

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

**C.P.O. 2024-06**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW FUND TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR BLIGHT ELIMINATION WITHIN THE TDD DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 434. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**C.P.R. 2024-02**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL TO ACCEPT DONATIONS. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**C.P.R. 2024-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIREARM EDUCATION AND THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS. Sponsored by: Mark Spencer, Councilman-At-Large

## **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

#### **Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman of Finance Committee has:**

##### **C.P.O. 2024-06**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW FUND TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR BLIGHT ELIMINATION WITHIN THE TDD DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 434. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and President Adkins approved C.P.O. 2024-06 to be reported out of committee.**

##### **C.P.R. 2024-02**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL TO ACCEPT DONATIONS. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and President Adkins approved C.P.R. 2024-02 to be reported out of committee.**

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

##### **C.P.R. 2024-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIREARM EDUCATION AND THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS. Sponsored by: Mark Spencer, Councilman-At-Large **before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Williams approved C.P.R. 2024-03 to be reported out of committee.**

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2024-06** and **C.P.R. 2024-02**.

#### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Caldwell reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.R. 2024-03**.

Councilwoman Brown moved to accept the following donations to the Rainbow-Ark Shelter: Vivian Barnwell (\$200 Check Donation for General Operating Support), AAUW of Gary/Merrillville (\$100 Check Donation for General Operating Support) and First Baptist Church Gary (\$200 Check Donation for General Operating Support). It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to reschedule the next regularly scheduled meeting of Tuesday, March 19, 2024 to Tuesday, March 26, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 1 nay (Williams). The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Earnestine Carey  
Mattie Perry Lightfoot  
Daisy Ware  
Sonya Braden

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

**C.P.O. 2024-05**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MAYOR'S DONATION FUND OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, INCLUDING ALL OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AND OBLIGATIONS AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL TAKE EFFECT. Sponsored by: Eddie Melton, Mayor City of Gary, M. Celita Green, City Controller

President Adkins moved to withdraw **C.P.O. 2024-05** from the agenda. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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. 2024-06**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW FUND TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR BLIGHT ELIMINATION WITHIN THE TDD DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 434. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-06** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set for March 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm and a Public Hearing set for March 26, 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.R. 2024-02**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GARY COMMON COUNCIL TO ACCEPT DONATIONS. Sponsored by: Mayor Eddie D. Melton, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved to suspend the rules to pass **C.P.R. 2024-02** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2024-02** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Brewer.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2024-02**.

President Adkins spoke in regards to **C.P.R. 2024-02**.

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

### **C.P.R. 2024-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIREARM EDUCATION AND THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS. Sponsored by: Mark Spencer, Councilman-At-Large

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to suspend the rules to pass **C.P.R. 2024-03** 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 Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.R. 2024-03** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Councilman Spencer gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2024-03**.

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

### **REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:**

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

- 1) Mayor Melton along with the Chief of Staff, Chief of Police and the Director of Redevelopment met with Governor Eric Holcomb in Indianapolis, Indiana to discuss the issues and progress in the City of Gary.
- 2) An update in public safety showed that the Gary Police Department had received 13,000 calls to date, averaging 200 calls per day and noting that there had been a significant drop in homicides compared to last year. Mayor Melton commended the Chief of Police and his staff as well as the Fire Chief and his staff along with the EMS workers for their dedication.
- 3) Indiana Sugars in Gary, Indiana will be relocating to Buffington Harbor where they purchased the property and will build their new manufacturing plant and corporate headquarters. Mayor Melton stated that the City of Gary did not offer any tax abatements or any other resources.
- 4) Expressions of appreciation were given to Atty. Carla Morgan (Corporation Counsel) and Michael Suggs (Chief Operating Officer) for taking the Westside Leadership Academy's women basketball team to Notre Dame for a tour of the campus and to experience the college environment.
- 5) The City of Gary was awarded a grant for \$100,000.00 from the Legacy Foundation for a full-time grant writer for the City of Gary. The Knight Foundation will provide \$75,000.00 and the City of Gary will match with \$25,000.00. There are 14 applicants with proposals that will be reviewed before a decision is made.

- 6) The “State of the City Address” will be held on April 10, 2024.
- 7) Appreciation was expressed to the Gary Public Library and First AME Church for inviting the city administration to their Black History Month events. The City of Gary also hosted an event with Maryum Ali, daughter of world-renowned Boxer Muhammad Ali. She donated signed copies of her children’s book “I Shook Up the World” to many students in the city of Gary.
- 8) Appreciation was expressed to Councilwoman Latham and her team who hosted a group of 8 black mayors from around the State of Indiana to discuss labor issues in their communities.
- 9) Appreciation was expressed to President Adkins for her annual “Senior Valentine’s Brunch” held on February 24, 2024.
- 10) Councilman Halliburton was congratulated on his recent retirement of 25 years with the Indiana State Police.
- 11) The “Gary Air Show” will be held on August 17, 2024 thru August 18, 2024. Details are forthcoming.
- 12) Appreciation was expressed to everyone who attended the “United Negro College Fund Mayor’s Breakfast” hosted at the Gary Career Center.
- 13) Mayor Melton requested that Dr. Janet Seabrook (Gary Health Commissioner) and Kianna Grant (Director of Constituent Services) be allowed to introduce themselves to the Common Council.

Dr. Janet Seabrook (Gary Health Commissioner) introduced herself to the Common Council and spoke in regards of the goals of the Gary Health Department.

Kianna Grant (Director of Constituent Services) introduced herself to the Common Council and spoke in regards to improving and enhancing the 311 system.

Councilwoman Brown raised concerns to the administration in regards to the handicap accessibility at city hall.

Mayor Melton responded.

Councilman Washington expressed appreciation to the administration for their success in keeping Indiana Sugars located in the city of Gary.

Councilwoman Latham expressed appreciation to the administration for the demolition of the many structures in the Aetna community.

Mayor Melton responded.

Councilman Halliburton congratulated Andrea Roscoe for winning the Boys & Girls Club of Northwest Indiana’s “2024 Youth of the Year” award.

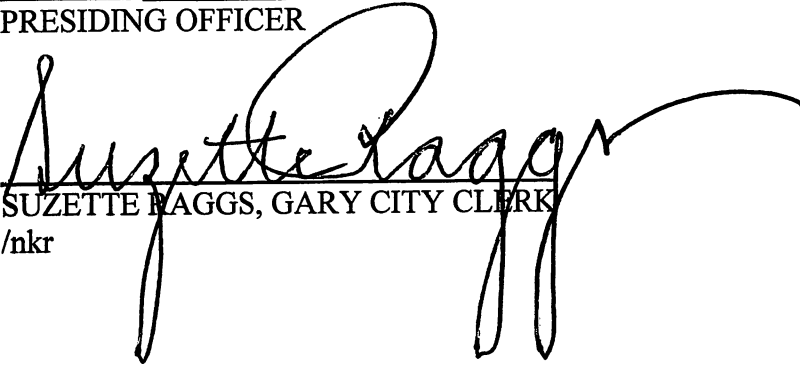
President Adkins spoke in regards to updating the public on the status of the ARPA projects and the spending of the funds in the near future along with working with the Planning & Development committee on the status of new developments in the City of Gary.

(G.C.C. Meeting 3/5/2024 Cont.)

President Adkins congratulated the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Charter School basketball team for winning the sectionals and advancing to the regionals. She also expressed condolences to the family of Jesse Crowder on his passing.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **March 5, 2024** ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM SO ORDERED.

Tai Adkins  
PRESIDING OFFICER



SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK  
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