

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

**MINUTES OF
November 8, 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 **8th 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 6:05 pm with a moment of prayer by Pastor Curtis Lee, 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 October 17, 2023 and October 30, 2023 (Special meeting). It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to amend the minutes of October 30, 2023 (Special Meeting) by removing the incorrect name of Councilman Clorius Lay and replacing it with Councilman David Fossett. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

PRESENTATION:

Councilwoman Brown along with Councilman Brewer presented an Official Citation to Pastor Curtis Lee and First Lady Patrician Lee, on behalf of the Common Council for their 10th Pastoral Anniversary at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Curtis Lee expressed his appreciation to the Common Council for the honor.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C.P.R. 2023-08

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO JOINT INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AND TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR RENOVATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT THE U.S. STEEL YARD BASEBALL STADIUM. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Brown, Chairwoman of Finance Committee has:

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 **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and President Adkins approved C.P.O. 2023-70 to be reported out of committee.**

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 **before it. For the record Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Caldwell and President Adkins approved C.P.O. 2023-72 to be reported out of committee.**

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

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 **before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.O. 2023-71 to be reported out of committee.**

C.P.R. 2023-08

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO JOINT INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AND TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR RENOVATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT THE U.S. STEEL YARD BASEBALL STADIUM. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller before it. For the record Councilwoman Caldwell, President Adkins and Councilman Washington approved C.P.R. 2023-08 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. 2023-71** and **C.P.R. 2023-08**.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Brown reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-70** and **C.P.O. 2023-72**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Doreen Carey
Jim Nowacki

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

C.P.O. 2023-51

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF GARBAGE COLLECTION FEES FOR USERS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF GARY. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to table **C.P.O. 2023-51**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

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

C.P.O. 2023-54

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR PETITIONER CALVIN KNIGHTEN ON BEHALF OF KNIGHTEN PROPERTY LLC FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 422 RIDGE RD FOR PETITIONER. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary **Petitioner: Calvin Knighten, 422 W. Ridge Road, Gary, Indiana**

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-54**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Heather McCarthy (Planning & Zoning Department) and Calvin Knighten (petitioner) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-54**.

President Adkins, Councilwoman Caldwell, Atty. Heather McCarthy (Planning & Zoning Department), Councilman Brewer, Calvin Knighten (petitioner), Councilman Washington, Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Fossett spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-54**.

Councilman Brewer moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-54** by adding *“that it will only be storage items related to the U-Haul business and anywhere where there is construction materials in the BZA it be stricken and be used for U-Haul material”*. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Washington.

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

Councilman Washington moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-54** as amended. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

Councilman Brewer moved to refer **C.P.O. 2023-64** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm. It was seconded by Councilman Washington.

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

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 to refer **C.P.O. 2023-65** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm. It was seconded by Councilman Washington.

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

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 to refer **C.P.O. 2023-66** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 14, 2023 at 5:45 pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 1 nay (Williams). The Chair declared this motion 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 to refer **C.P.O. 2023-66** back to committee with a Committee Hearing set for November 14, 2023 at 5:45 pm. 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. 2023-69

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN FUND 2426-HOME PROGRAM. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller, Arlene Colvin, Director of Community Development Department

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-69**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Williams.

Atty. Arlene Colvin (Director of Community Development Department) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-69**.

Councilwoman Brown moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-69** 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 Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-69** as amended. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer.

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

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

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

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. 2023-70 and C.P.O. 2023-72** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on November 14, 2023, at 5:45 pm and a Public Hearing set for November 21, 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.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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-71** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on November 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm and a Public Hearing set for November 21, 2023. 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.R. 2023-08

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO JOINT INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AND TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR RENOVATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT THE U.S. STEEL YARD BASEBALL STADIUM. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

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

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

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

Atty. Rinzer Williams (Council's Legal Advisor) gave a brief overview of **C.P.R. 2023-08**.

President Adkins, Councilwoman Latham and Councilman Washington 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**.

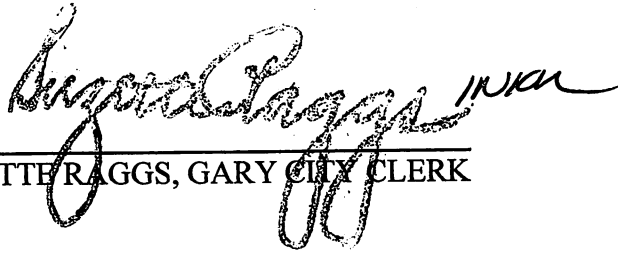
REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:

There were no announcements or updates from the administration.

President Adkins, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilman Fossett announced various holiday basket giveaways, holiday dinners, and clothing giveaways for citizens to take advantage of during the holiday season.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **November 8, 2023** ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM SO ORDERED.

Tail Adkins
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK
/nkr