

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

**MINUTES OF  
AUGUST 22, 2023**

**GARY COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
401 BROADWAY, GARY, INDIANA 46402**

**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM GODWIN**  
Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> District, **Common Council President**

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

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

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

**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 LORI LATHAM**  
Councilwoman-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 **22<sup>nd</sup> Day of August, 2023 at 6:00 pm** with the Honorable William Godwin 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 WILLIAM GODWIN  
THE HONORABLE DARREN WASHINGTON  
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

**ABSENT**

THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM (\*See pg 3)

The meeting was opened at 6:04 pm with a moment of prayer by Councilman Washington., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair asked for Roll Call.

Roll call showed 8 present 1 absent (Councilwoman Latham). The Chair declared this duly a quorum in order to conduct business in the City of Gary.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to approve and accept the minutes of the August 1, 2023. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

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

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

**C.P.O. 2023-41**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9446 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENDING PLAN FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING-EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2023-42**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND (FUND 2487) FOR THE GARY EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKFORCE HOUSING. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE**

**C.P.O. 2023-56**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, APPROVING A GURANTEED 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 THERWITH; AND REPEALING ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome A. Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**UNASSIGNED**

**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

**UNASSIGNED**

Councilman Brewer made a motion to repeal the decision of the Chair to unassign **C.P.O 2023-56** and **C.P.R. 2023-06**. It was seconded by Councilman Fossett.

Councilman Brewer and Councilman Washington spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-56** and **C.P.R. 2023-06**.

\*The Chair acknowledged the presence of Councilwoman Latham to the meeting.

Roll call showed 3 ayes (Brewer, Fossett, Williams) 6 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly defeated.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to Suspend the Rules to add **C.P.O. 2023-55** to the agenda. 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. 2023-55**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA REQUIRING FIREARMS DEALERS TO DELIVER THEIR FIREARMS TRANSACTION RECORDS TO THE GARY POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER A DEALER DISCONTINUES ITS BUSINESS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince City of Gary

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Councilwoman Adkins, Chairwoman of the Ways/Means Committee has:**

**C.P.O. 2023-41**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9446 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENDING PLAN FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING-EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**C.P.O. 2023-42**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND (FUND 2487) FOR THE GARY EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKFORCE HOUSING. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller **before it. For the record Councilwoman Adkins, Councilman Washington and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2023-41 and C.P.O. 2023-42 to be reported out of committee.**

**Councilwoman Adkins, Chairwoman of Public Safety Committee has:**

**C.P.O. 2023-55**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA REQUIRING FIREARMS DEALERS TO DELIVER THEIR FIREARMS TRANSACTION RECORDS TO THE GARY POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER A DEALER DISCONTINUES ITS BUSINESS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince City of Gary **before it. For the record Councilwoman Adkins and Councilman Brewer approved C.P.O. 2023-55 to be reported out of committee.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**WAYS/MEANS COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Adkins reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-41 and C.P.O. 2023-42.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Adkins reported the following legislation out of committee: **C.P.O. 2023-55.**

Councilwoman Adkins moved to make Councilman Washington the Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee for the remaining year of 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

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

**BOARDS & COMMISSION COMMITTEE:**

Councilwoman Caldwell moved to appoint Antoine Goffin Sr. to the Gary Transportation Board. It was seconded by Councilman Williams.

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

President Godwin read his letter of resignation in its entirety to be effective August 27, 2023 and included within the minutes (as attached).

Councilman Brewer, Councilman Fossett, Councilman Williams, Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Latham, Councilman Washington, Councilwoman Caldwell and Councilwoman Adkins expressed appreciation and well wishes to President Godwin.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

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

**C.P.O. 2023-31**

AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPIOID FUND – RESTRICTED. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-31**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-31** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Angela Lockett (Corporation Counsel), Dr. Roland Walker (Health Commissioner of the Gary Health Department) and Veronica Collins (Director of Gary Health Department) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-31**.

Councilwoman Latham, President Godwin and Councilwoman Adkins spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-31**.

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

Roll call showed a vote of 4 ayes 5 nays (Adkins, Caldwell, Latham, Washington, Godwin). The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **DEFEATED**.

**C.P.O. 2023-35**

AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE CASINO OPERATING FUND FOR SUBSIDIES TO MARQUETTE PARK AND HUDSON CAMPBELL. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Brown moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-35**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Brown moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-35** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-35**.

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

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 1 nay (Caldwell). The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.

**C.P.O. 2023-47**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9446 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENDING PLAN FOR THE WASHINGTON MANOR SUBDIVISION. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Councilwoman Tai Adkins, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Washington moved to postpone **C.P.O. 2023-47** until September 12, 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Latham requested to be a co-sponsor of **C.P.O. 2023-47**.

The Chair stated that Councilwoman Latham's name will be added on the amended version for the September 12, 2023 meeting.

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

**C.P.O. 2023-48**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND (FUND 2487) FOR THE WASHINGTON MANOR SUBDIVISION. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Councilwoman Tai Adkins, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilman Washington moved to postpone **C.P.O. 2023-48** until September 12, 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Latham requested to be a co-sponsor of **C.P.O. 2023-48**.

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

**C.P.O. 2023-50**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW BUDGETS FOR THE FIRE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (2226-5569) AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (2226-536). Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-50**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-50** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Angela Lockett (Corporation Counsel) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-50**.

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

Roll call showed a vote of 8 ayes 1 nay (Caldwell). The Chair declared this Council Pending Ordinance duly **PASSED**.



**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, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved to postpone **C.P.O. 2023-51** to September 12, 2023. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

President Godwin, Councilman Brewer, Councilwoman Adkins, Councilwoman Caldwell, Councilwoman Brown, Charles "Spike" Pellar (Executive Director of the Gary Sanitary District) and Councilman Fossett spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-51**.

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

**C.P.O. 2023-52**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, LAKE COUNTY, APPROVING PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE CERTAIN FUND LEDGER BALANCES AND BANK STATEMENTS.

Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-52**. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Councilwoman Adkins moved to amend **C.P.O. 2023-52** by substitution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Celita Green (City Controller) and Eric Cender (CPA Senior Associate of Cender & Dalton Municipal Advisors) gave a brief overview of **C.P.O. 2023-52**.

Councilwoman Latham, Celita Green (City Controller) and Councilwoman Adkins spoke on **C.P.O. 2023-52**.

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

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. 2023-41**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 9446 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

SPENDING PLAN FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING-EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

**C.P.O. 2023-42**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND (FUND 2487) FOR THE GARY EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKFORCE HOUSING. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary, Celita Green, City Controller

Councilwoman Adkin moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-41 and C.P.O. 2023-42** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on August 30, 2023, at 5:30 pm and Public Hearing set for September 12, 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. 2023-55**

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA REQUIRING FIREARMS DEALERS TO DELIVER THEIR FIREARMS TRANSACTION RECORDS TO THE GARY POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER A DEALER DISCONTINUES ITS BUSINESS. Sponsored by: Mayor Jerome Prince City of Gary

Councilwoman Adkins moved to Suspend the Rules for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-55** on all 3 readings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

Atty. Rodney Pol (City Attorney) spoke in regards to **C.P.O. 2023-55**.

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

Councilwoman Adkins moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2023-55** 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**.

President Godwin acknowledged the presence of Debra Carrington (Business Entrepreneur) in the City of Gary at the meeting.

**REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:**

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

- 1) A statement was read on behalf of Mayor Jerome Prince in regards to the resignation of President Godwin.
- 2) The final installation of "Wind Down Wednesday" will be held on September 6, 2023 at Marquette Park Pavilion from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- 3) The "State of the City Address" will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at Marquette Park Pavilion. The Luncheon will be from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm followed by the "State of the City Address" at 1:00 pm.

President Godwin expressed appreciation to Mayor Jerome Prince and Atty. Trent McCain (Deputy Mayor) for the words of encouragement.



Councilwoman Latham requested information in regards to a contract for some work involving the City of Gary and the Railcats stadium.

Atty. McCain (Deputy Mayor) responded.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **August 22, 2023** ADJOURNED AT 8:20 PM SO ORDERED.

William Godwin  
PRESIDING OFFICER

 /nkr  
SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK  
/nkr

# Gary Common Council



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 25, 2023

Suzette Raggs  
Gary City Clerk  
555 Polk Street  
Gary, IN 46402

**RE: Letter of Resignation**

Dear Madam Clerk:

Serving as a member of the Gary Common Council over the past three years and 8 months has been the highest honor of my life. I have truly enjoyed serving with each of you, my colleagues, even when we disagreed, in our shared effort to provide strong legislative leadership, solid representation, a voice, for the people of Gary, Indiana. Today, I announce my resignation as President and 1st District Councilman of the Gary Common Council, effective Sunday, August 27, 2023. This is a bittersweet decision because I fully intended to serve all four years of my term when I was sworn in on January 1, 2020. But as is so often the case, we make plans, and God laughs.

While I'm not yet permitted to disclose the specific details of my plans, I can share that I have accepted a professional opportunity that will broaden my work in public service. This opportunity begins very soon and doesn't allow me to hold elected office. As soon as I'm authorized to share details about this new opportunity, I most certainly will do so.

While prospects of continuing this amazing journey for another term on the council ended for me a few months ago, my love for and appreciation of the people of this great City who put their faith in me four years ago as a new kid on the block, a transplant not born and raised here, who gave me a chance to lead and to serve will remain a blessing for me that I will never forget.

I'm so proud of the work we've done during this term: navigating the unpredictability of COVID, standing up for funding public education even when it cost some of us mightily, making tough choices to increase trash collection rates to balance the Gary Sanitary District's operating deficit, planning for and appropriating nearly \$60M of American Rescue Plan Act funds; Redistricting, yes, redistricting our city to be in compliance with the law achieving a standard deviation between the districts well below the recommended percentage, approving an additional \$3M through ARPA generated savings to expand paving at an unprecedented level in 2022, taking the lead on approving \$3.2M for an ongoing jewel parks initiative to ensure a decent park in each of our 6 districts, fighting for, yes, fighting for and not giving up on approving historic increases to police and fire/ems salaries by a combined total of 15% and ensuring public safety pension increases were put in place before the state deadline expired; developing a short term rental ordinance to bring order and accountability within the confines of state law, establishing an official Gary Common Council radio show creating a forum for all council members to share updates on our work, take questions, and engage with the public.

Office of the Gary Common Council  
401 Broadway, Ste. 209  
Gary, IN 46402  
[www.garycommoncouncil.org](http://www.garycommoncouncil.org)

Listening to and responding to residents who pushed us on animal welfare, environmental and zoning justice, mental health, and the needs of small business owners; we have increased base pay for animal control officers and approved funding to improve animal care facilities; we have been a forum for residents to voice their concerns about pollution vis-a-vis economic development; we've approved funding for a mobile mental health unit. And, recently, nearly \$2M of small business grants have been awarded to businesses throughout the city. For those who say we haven't gotten things done that were within our legislative powers, I strongly beg to differ.

We have been vigilant. We have spoken out. We have read and paid close attention to the ordinances before us. While not perfect, we have taken seriously our duty as the fiscal oversight body of this great city. And, just maybe, we've come very close to perfecting our audio-visual systems to ensure public access to our meetings in a clear and uninterrupted fashion.

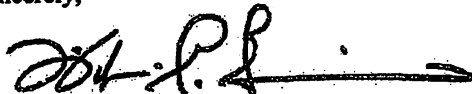
I have spoken with our Vice-President, Councilwoman Tai Adkins, who is ready, willing, and able to fulfill her duty as Vice-President—to serve the balance of this year with the same excellence, preparation, and rigor that we've all seen her exhibit with grace, dedication, and focus. I'm so appreciative for her being a rock and a consistent friend in leadership as we've made tough choices, dealt with the criticisms that come with leadership, and attempted to establish a culture of legislative excellence. Thank You Councilwoman Tai Adkins! I'm also very thankful to our dedicated council office staff without whom none of what we have achieved would be possible.

As I reflect on our work this term, and I prepare to turn the page on a new chapter in my career, I'm reminded of words once spoken by the late Senator Ted Kennedy: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." I'm excited about the future of Gary, and I stand ready to help in any way I can as a private citizen.

I kindly request that my letter of resignation which was presented at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, be documented in the minutes of the upcoming regular session of the Gary Common Council.

It's been a pleasure working with you and I extend my best wishes to you.

Sincerely,



William G. Godwin  
President & 1<sup>st</sup> District Councilman

cc: Gary Common Council  
Rinzer Williams, Legal Counsel  
Mayor Jerome Prince  
Diedre Monroe, Gary City Judge  
Jim Weiser, Lake County Democratic Party Chair  
Kim Robinson, Gary Democratic Precinct Organization Chair

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