

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

**MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 6, 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 **6th Day of February, 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 LINDA BARNES-CALDWELL
THE HONORABLE LORI LATHAM
THE HONORABLE MARK SPENCER
THE HONORABLE DWIGHT WILLIAMS

ABSENT

THE HONORABLE MARY BROWN
THE HONORABLE DWAYNE HALLIBURTON (see pg.3)
THE HONORABLE DARREN WASHINGTON

The Chair asked for a “Moment of Silence” in honor of the late Cozey Weatherspoon (Calumet Township Accessor and former Councilman of the 2nd District).

The meeting was opened at 6:20 pm with a moment of prayer by Councilman Spencer, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair asked for Roll Call.

Roll call showed 6 present 3 absent (Brown, Halliburton, Washington). 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 January 23, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Spencer and Councilwoman Caldwell.

Roll call showed a vote of 6 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

The Chair acknowledged the presence of Atty. Ragen Hatcher (State Representative House 3) and Atty. Clorius L. Lay (Lake County Councilman) at the meeting.

ASSIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTION:

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Councilwoman Caldwell Acting Chairwoman of Ways/Means Committee has:

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 **before it. For the record President Adkins and Councilwoman Caldwell approved C.P.O. 2024-05 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. 2024-05.**

Councilman Brewer moved to accept the 2024 “Revised” Committee Listing. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell.

*The Chair acknowledged the presence of Councilman Halliburton to the meeting.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 aye 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

Councilman Brewer moved to cancel the Gary Common Council meeting of Tuesday, February 20, 2024. It was seconded by Councilwoman Caldwell. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 5, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Earnestine Carey
Reverend Darryl Johnson
Nick Vasil
Jnaie Marcinowski
Latanya Rodgers
Beut Martinez
Emmani Ellis

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

None

COUNCIL PENDING ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND 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

Councilwoman Caldwell moved for passage of **C.P.O. 2024-05** (Second Reading) with a Committee Hearing set on March 5, at 5:30 pm and a Public Hearing set for March 5, 2024. It was seconded by Councilman Brewer.

Roll call showed a vote of 7 ayes 0 nays. The Chair declared this motion duly passed.

REPORTS/QUESTIONS OF CITY OFFICIAL:

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

- 1) Condolences were extended to those who have recently lost loved ones.
- 2) Mayor Melton asked William Allen (City Engineer) to introduce himself to the Common Council and give an overview of projects he was currently working on.
- 3) Appreciation was expressed to President Joseph Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris for the invitation to the White House to discuss infrastructure.
- 4) 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.
- 5) An organizational chart and brief update was submitted to the Common Council. An updated version will be given once all of the department heads and cabinet members are announced.
- 6) Appreciation was expressed to the public safety officials who aided in the BP outage that took place February 1, 2024.
- 7) Clean-up efforts are underway in the City of Gary parks along with the help of Lavetta Sparks-Wade (Director of Parks & Recreation Department) and Nate George (Director of Public Works) with the cleaning of the inside/outside of Gleason Golf Course.
- 8) Appreciation was expressed to the Recycling and Demolition departments for removing the old phone booths and ordering new trash receptacles.
- 9) Community Development will host a public meeting on February 15, 2024, at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers regarding CBD monies.
- 10) Appreciation was expressed to Chief Larry Tillman (Gary Fire Department) and Chief Robert Grady (Gary Fire Department) for bringing in the iron workers and the teamsters to aid in the building of the rescue tower at the training facility site on 35th Avenue.
- 11) Appreciation was expressed to Chief Derrick Cannon (Gary Police Department) for setting up a ride-along for him throughout the City of Gary.
- 12) The Gary Police Department is currently hiring and citizens are encouraged to consider the Gary Police Department for future opportunities.
- 13) A plan is being put in place to adequately repair all of the traffic and street lights.
- 14) Citizens are encouraged to continue using the “311 Emergency System” as the features will be updated.
- 15) A tour was taken of the Genesis Convention Center by Powers & Sons Construction to give their analysis of the structure.

16) The Gary Health Department is offering free pregnancy tests in an effort to provide earlier notice and reduce the infant mortality rate.

17) The City of Gary received an Economic Development Administration Grant (EDA) which will allow the City to bring in a "Fellow" in conjunction with Michigan City to help with the redevelopment and development efforts downtown and around the train stations.

18) The City of Gary will partner with the Lake County Recorder to bring the first satellite office to City Hall.

Councilman Brewer raised concerns of an audible alert system being installed inside the City of Gary.

Mayor Melton responded.

President Adkins stated that information was requested from the Redevelopment Commission that has not been forthcoming in regards to an overview and details of the financial state of the Redevelopment Department to include all non-reverting balances and reverting balances; a list of accounts and account balances; an update on the TIF balances after December with updates and debt associated with each; information on the "Memo of Agreement" that was voted on during the last Redevelopment meeting that spoke to census tracts 105 and 106 which are in the 4th District; along with an update on Professional Services Contracts in the queue for the Gary Common Council that were submitted the second week of January.

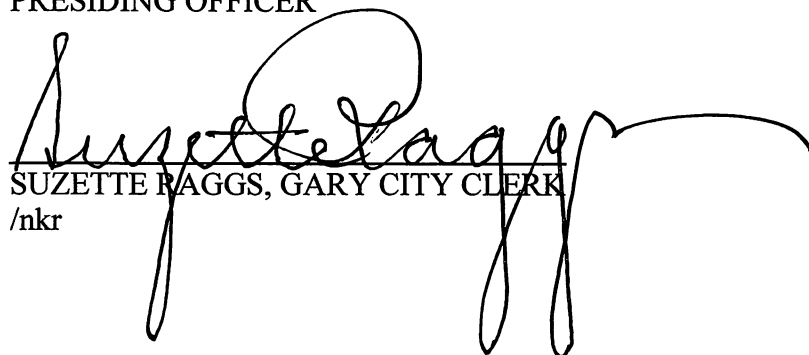
Mayor Melton responded.

President Adkins announced that there will be a "Legislative Forum" held on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at Indiana University Northwest.

President Adkins also announced that there are scholarship opportunities listed on the Urban League of Northwest Indiana website where she and Mayor Melton are sponsors of scholarships.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMON COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THIS MEETING OF **February 6, 2024** ADJOURNED AT 7:41 PM SO ORDERED.

Tai Adkins
PRESIDING OFFICER


SUZETTE RAGGS, GARY CITY CLERK
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