

**\*CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES\***

**\*MEETING BY ZOOM\***

March 1, 2021

6:00PM

The Common Council of Peru, Indiana met in regular session by zoom, at 6:00 p.m. on March 1, 2021. The following members were in attendance: Tom Gustin, Patricia Russell, Peter Sahaidachny, Kathleen Plothow, Mark Ramsey, Steve Anderson, and Betsy Wolfe, all by video.

Others present were, Mayor Hewitt in person, City Attorney Dustin Kern by video, City Clerk/Treasurer Susan Rylands in person, department heads, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE: Led by Mayor Hewitt

INVOCATION: Brent Wedding

ROLL CALL: Anderson, Gustin, Plothow, Ramsey, Russell, Sahaidachny, Wolfe, and Plothow were all present.

READING AND CORRECTING JOURNAL- of the minutes of the Regular meeting on January 4, 2021. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Tom Gustin, seconded by Chairman Wolfe. Roll call vote was taken with 7 Ayes 0 Nays.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chairman Wolfe started with council liaison reports, reporting the ordinance review committee was reviewing ordinance 152.18 in regard to the city's fees for permits and inspection.

Plothow reported that she was working with the city attorney, Dustin Kern, on revising the city ordinance on nepotism to add in-laws. Attorney Kern stated that the current ordinance was in line with the states policy on nepotism but would look at this one further with Plothow. Kathleen also reported that MCEDA was watching the INDOT review on J-Turns once again in the county.

Sahaidachny reported on the committee, Peru Economic Growth and Sustainability, not a board, that he chairs with Plothow things they were planning on looking into doing in the future. Peter stated they are looking into a plaque for the Miami Indian tribe for this area. Other considerations were a water park, homeless and family shelters, renting rooms that might be available above businesses, and what plans, if any, for the old jail building downtown. Peter stated that MCEDA was planning on attending their next meeting.

Mark Ramsey reported that the golf course was planning to add disc golf at the course this year and was in the planning stage of deciding what fees to charge. Ramsey also reported that the city Library in conjunction with the Parks Board is planning on a summer event at the amphitheater on Wednesdays

starting on June 2 thru July 28 for family entertainment. Ramsey issued condolences for the family that lost three children in a house fire recently.

Russell reported that the Aviation board met to report on their budget and fuel sales. Also present was a new board member for the Aviation Board, Glenn Russell. They are planning on holding an open house this year on July 31. Patricia reported on the utility board of the new Rate Trackers which is to be presented tonight for council vote. Also, after meeting with the Civic center committee, she announced that reservations would be made to rent the center through Ashley Lowe by calling her at 765 472-2400 and they are in the process of discussing the rates in which to use to rent the center.

**\*RESOLUTION#6-2021\***

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA

Motion to consider the resolution was made by Steve Anderson, seconded by Tom Gustin. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS. Chairman Wolfe asked if any of the members had any questions for Josh Chance, General Manager of Peru Utility, also present by video. With no question or concerns after Josh explained the rate changes, the motion to adopt Resolution#6-2021 was made by Betsy Wolfe, seconded by Steve Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

MOTION CARRIED

**\*RESOLUTION#7-2021\***

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE CITY OF PERU MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

Motion was made by Steve Anderson, seconded by Peter Sahaidachny to consider Resolution#7-2021. Roll call vote taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS. Chairman Wolfe asked if any of the council had any questions for Josh Chance on this rate tracker. With questions asked and answered a motion was made by Kathleen Plohow, seconded by Betsy Wolfe to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

MOTION CARRIED

**\*RESOLUTION#8-2021\***

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE CITY OF PERU MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY LOCATED AT GRISSOM AEROPLEX SERVICE AREA

Kathleen Plohow made the motion to consider the resolution, seconded by Steve Anderson. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS. Chairman Wolfe opened up the discussion for questions and concerns for Josh Chance on this resolution. After any questions and concerns were asked and answered, Steve Anderson made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Peter Sahaidachny. A roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

MOTION CARRIED

**\*ORDINANCE#1-2021\***

**AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A NORTH/SOUTH ALLEY IN THE CITY OF PERU INDIANA**

Motion was made by Kathleen Plathow, seconded by Steve Anderson to consider the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS. Chairman Wolfe opened up the floor for discussion and questions. Present by video was resident Gracie Nice, that currently uses the alley for a driveway. Gracie explained that she had went through this process before in the former administration but that somehow it failed to be documented and filed. Gracie stated that she is the only one that lives by and uses this alley. Motion was made by Steve Anderson, seconded by Mark Ramsey to adopt the ordinance as presented. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**\*ORDINANCE#2-2021\***

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE#25-2004**

Motion to consider the ordinance was made by Kathleen Plathow, seconded by Peter Sahaidachny. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES and 0 NAYS. Haley Hewitt from zoning was present to answer questions on why they were amending this ordinance. Haley explained that the old ordinance was too restrictive on set back regulations and the new revised setbacks would make it easier for the people to add and build on their lots. Steve Anderson replied that he thought the new setbacks were indeed better than the originals. Tom Gustin motioned that they adopt Ordinance#2-2021, seconded by Steve Anderson. Roll call vote was taken with 7 AYES 0 NAYS.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**\*CHIEF HAWK TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF FIRE STATION #2\***

Chief Hawk read the following letter he had written to the council prior to the meeting:

2/26/21

The following is an explanation of financing for the Peru Fire Station 2 project.

The project has an estimated \$235K budget for completion. Financing will come from the 2021 CEDIT funds. Peru Fire Department received \$195K from Covid Cares reimbursement that was deposited back into the General Fund. That money will stay in the General Fund and the money for the Station 2 project will come from the CEDIT funds already budgeted for 2021 to eliminate the need for 2 months of reappropriations which will allow for the project to begin immediately.

After project completion, the current Station 2 will be returned to the City for sale or rental. The estimated value of the Washington Street building is \$145K.

No shortfall is expected to complete this project, but if unforeseen circumstances arise, the funds will be supplemented with funds from the Peru Fire Department Fire Equipment Fund.

Fire Station 2 is expected to be completed around September 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Erick Hawk, Chief

Chief Hawk answered questions from the council, including if they would be allowed to tour the building in the near future. The Chief said anytime any, or all of them, wanted to tour the facility, just call him and set up a time. Chief Hawk also stated that he had been in communication with Steve Anderson on the up coming renovations as Steve is a contractor and familiar with the construction process. Steve said he would be glad to be the contact for the project and work with the Fire Department on this project.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

Tom Gustin informed the council and public that the Solid Waste District would be meeting by zoom for the rest of this year.

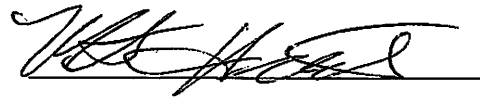
Betsy stated she hoped that the council would be able to resume in person meetings next month. It was discussed that maybe council would be able to meet in chambers next month with public still by zoom.

Kathleen said she had been in contact with Chief Sofinanos and Asst. Chief Feller and had a nice conversation with them. She stated she is hoping to hear from Nathan Hunt of the Fire Department in the future.

Betsy asked that they amend the agenda to form a budget committee. Motion to amend was made by Betsy, seconded by Anderson. Roll call vote with Anderson, Gustin, Plohow, Russell, Sahaidachny and Wolfe voting Aye. Mark Ramsey voting Nay.

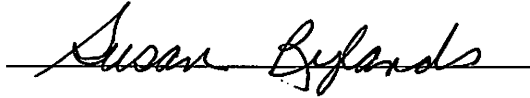
Betsy wants to form a budget committee to help with and learn the budget process. Betsy asked Steve Anderson to be the Chair and he accepted. A motion to form the committee was made by Betsy, seconded by Plohow. Roll Call vote was taken with Anderson, Plohow, Russell, and Wolfe voting Aye, and Gustin, Ramsey and Sahaidachny voting Nay. Motion passed with a 4 to 3 Vote.

With no further business Chairman Wolfe motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Anderson. All signified by saying aye and meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles Hewitt", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Miles Hewitt, City of Peru, IN

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Rylands", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk-Treasurer, Susan Rylands