

**CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PERU CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PERU, INDIANA**

**January 9, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Peru, Indiana met in regular session at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on January 9, 2023. The following members were present: Steve Anderson, Tom Gustin, Mark Ramsey, Patricia Russell, Peter Sahaidachny and Betsy Wolfe, Kathleen Plohow.

Others present were Mayor Hewitt, City Clerk/Treasurer Kurt Krauskopf, City Attorney Dustin Kern, department heads and other interested persons.

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - led by Mark Ramsey

**INVOCATION** – led by Pastor Brent Wedding

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**ROLL CALL** – Anderson, Gustin, Plohow, Ramsey, Russell, Sahaidachny, and Wolfe were all present.

**READING & CORRECTING JOURNAL** - of minutes of Regular Meeting on December 5, 2022

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Plohow, to adopt the minutes as written.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays

**Motion Carried**

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**Election of the Council President Pro-Tem for 2023**

Councilperson Gustin nominated Peter Sahaidachny

Councilperson Anderson nominated Elizabeth Wolfe

The vote totals were four votes for Sahaidachny and three votes for Wolfe.

**LIASON ASSIGNMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Council President Russel asked the members if they wished to continue with their current liaison assignments. Councilperson Plohow volunteered to be added as an additional Parks liaison as there was a need for a second council representative. She was removed from the MCEDA and incentive committee

liaison positions. Councilperson Russell was appointed to replace her on those committees. All the other councilpersons retained the assignments.

Wolfe: Reported on the Cable Committee

Ramsey: Animal Control, Street Department, and Park Department

Kathleen: Ordinance Committee and the Utility Service Board

Russell: Aviation, Civic Center

Anderson: Update on the Ambulance Grants

Fire Chief Erick Hawk reported that grants have been approved in the amount of \$182,506 for a new ambulance, with USDA providing \$129,500 and Dukes Foundation providing the balance of \$53,006.

Sahaidachny: County Council

Gustin: Solid Waste and Central Dispatch: Tom reported that all the 911 positions are now filled.

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## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **ORDINANCE 34, 2022**

Councilperson Gustin moved, seconded by Councilperson Sahaidachny, to remove Ordinance 34-2022 from the table. Motion passed with 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

#### **ORDINANCE 34-22 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 11-2012**

Eric Walsh from bakertilly accounting firm explained the rationale behind the need to increase the trash collection from the current amount of \$15.00 monthly, to the new rate of \$20.00.

An increase of \$1.50 would cover wage increases for all the sanitation drivers/collectors.

An increase of \$2.25 would cover wage increases for the entire sanitation department.

An increase of \$5.00 would cover all increased expenses for the sanitation department including salaries, wages, landfill fees and increased operating expenses.

After some discussion, Councilperson Russel moved, seconded by Councilperson Plohow, to adopt Ordinance 34-22. Motion passed with 6 Ayes and 1 Nay, with Councilperson Wolfe voting nay.

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### **ORDINANCE 35-2022 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 24-22**

Councilperson Wolfe, seconded by Council Member Anderson, moved to remove Ordinance 35-22 from the table. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance 24-22. Motion Passed with 6 Ayes and 1 Nay, with Councilperson Wolfe voting Nay.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD RESOLUTION 5-22**

#### **SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND UTILITY SERVICE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Whereas, the Peru Utility Service Board has the responsibility for establishing the compensation of its employees and for recommending the annual salary to be paid from Utility funds to the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, and Utility Service Board Members.**

**Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the following salaries be established for the City of Peru Common Council for their consideration and approval for 2023: Mayor \$28,281.47 and Clerk Treasurer \$18,710.89 and Utility Service Board Members \$6,108.19.**

Councilperson Wolfe moved and Councilperson Plathow seconded to consider Resolution 5-22. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Councilperson Russell, seconded by Councilperson Gustin to adopt Resolution 5-22. Motion carried with a vote of 6 Ayes and 1 Nay with Councilperson Wolfe voting Nay.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

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## **ORDINANCE 1-2023**

### **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NON-REVERTING OPIOID SETTLEMENT UNRESTRICTED USE FUND**

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey to consider Ordinance 1-23. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey to adopt Ordinance 1-2023. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 nays.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

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## **ORDINANCE 2-2023**

### **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NON-REVERTING OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED USE FUND**

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey to consider Ordinance 2-23. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

It was moved by Councilperson Russell, seconded by Councilperson Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2-2023. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 nays.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

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## **ORDINANCE 3-2023**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO RE-ZONE IN THE CITY OF PERU**

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey to consider Ordinance 3-23. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Anderson to adopt Ordinance 3-2023. Motion carried with 7 Ayes and 0 Nays

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

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Garry Clark from the Municipal Golf Course asked for an appropriation of \$40,000 out of the golf course fund to be used to fund repairs to the irrigation system. It will require a much larger outlay to repair or replace the entire irrigation system, but these funds will allow them to repair the areas most in need of repair as time and funds allow. The council asked him to come back the following month with a detailed list of repair parts and supplies that he will require.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilperson Plochow read a letter concerning emissions from the former Schneider Electric facility on East Ninth Street. A group of concerned citizens residing in the immediate vicinity asked questions about the letter they had received the previous week informing them of the testing being conducted in the area. It was suggested by the city attorney that our state representative and state senator be apprised of the situation to keep them informed. IDEM is aware of the situation and has been involved in the meetings and discussions that have taken place.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With nothing further to come before this meeting, Councilperson Gustin made a move to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anderson. All said Aye.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

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Miles Hewitt, Council President

Mayor of Peru, Indiana

Attest:

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Kurt Krauskopf, City Clerk Treasurer

City of Peru, Indiana