

**CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
PERU CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PERU, INDIANA  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Sturch

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**led by: Council

**INVOCATION-** Reverend Steven Kynthaus

**ROLL CALL-** Andrea Newnum, Clerk Treasurer

**PRESENT:** Steve Anderson, Tim Fisher, Bob Huber, Brandy Murphy, Pete Sahaidachny, Drew Stevenson and Aricka Ulery.

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:** Dustin Kern

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**READING & CORRECTING MINUTES OF-** Regular Meeting October 7<sup>th</sup> and Special Meeting October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Sahaidachny, to suspend the rules and to adopt the minutes as presented. Vote 7-0, **MOTION CARRIED.**

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**COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

Stevenson-nothing

Huber-nothing

Sahaidachny- attended the Board of Works where the open house and parade for November 23<sup>rd</sup>, along with the Miami Indian Memorial March.

Fisher-Attended the October 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Works, Peru Utilities meeting, Miami County Economic Development meeting, County Recycling meeting, Rediscover Downtown meeting, Peru School Board meeting along with City Planning meeting.

Anderson-nothing

Ulery- attended the City Planning Commission meeting where Jill Sharp was appointed by Miami County, there is one additional seat open for the county on this board.

Murphy-no park board meeting this month

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Request was made by MCEDA for \$35,000 to help fund the SMART Manufacturing pathway lab at Peru Ivy Tech. Jim Tidd stated this will not only help the 3 area schools but would also help adults as well. A motion was made by Councilperson Ulery, seconded by Councilperson Stevenson. Vote 6-1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Revisit Ordinance 14-2024 amending the bee ordinance. It was suggested by the council that we have a meeting with Tim Simpkins, the attorney, and a few council members to review the ordinance and get it complete before bringing it back before the council. A motion was made by Councilperson Ulery, seconded by Councilperson Huber to table Ordinance 14-2024. Vote 6-1 **MOTION CARRIED**

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilperson Anderson moved to consider Resolution 22-2024, seconded by Councilperson Stevenson. Vote 7-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION 22-2024**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA**

This Resolution would allow Mayor Sturch to sign the lease/purchase agreement with Crossroads Bank, for the purchase of 2 garbage trucks and 3 plow trucks. The purchase agreement was voted on and approved in October 7<sup>th</sup>'s meeting. A motion was moved by Councilperson Huber, seconded by Councilperson Sahaidachny to approve Resolution 22-2024. Vote 7-0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilperson Huber moved to consider Ordinance 19-2024, seconded by Councilperson Stevenson. Vote 7-0  
MOTION CARRIED.

### **ORDINANCE 19-2024**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA, TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR THE USE OF UTILITY TASK VEHICLES ON CERTAIN CITY PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

Councilperson Sahaidachny stated that he is not for this Ordinance, that a cousin of his was in a UTV accident and was in ICU then rehab and continues in rehab due to her injuries. He stated that UTV's are known for rollovers because they are narrow and top heavy.

Councilperson Huber stated in 1983 he wrecked his motorcycle and has 2 artificial hips. Huber stated that everything comes with a risk and to him the joy far outweighs the risk.

Councilperson Fisher stated that his son has a UTV, and they are fun, however they act differently on pavement. Fisher stated that this ordinance does not have an age restriction for passengers. Small children get bounced around and cannot reach the handles in front of them nor above them. The police will have added responsibilities. Also, once the word gets out that UTV's are allowed in the city they will all still need to be registered in Peru along with having the additions to them.

Councilperson Anderson stated he spoke to 10-15 other cities that allow them, some have a population twice our size, he spoke to the police, and they do not see an increase in issues.

Chief Feller stated he is not in favor of this ordinance; he is viewing it from a public safety perspective. Chief Feller stated that 2022/2023/2024-October 1 there were 21 off road and 241 on roadway accidents. He stated that this year there have been 9 fatal UTV/golfcart accidents at this rate Indiana will meet or surpass last year. Chief Feller stated that majority of the cities that had been contacted are much smaller than Peru. He stated that UTV's are not made for side impact, that UTV's come with a warning that states not made for public roadways/pavement. Majority of accidents in Peru are on the side streets, there are blind spots due to parked cars along the streets. Chief Feller also stated that this will not benefit a lot of people in city limits, it will be more for the people that live out of town. Councilperson Anderson questioned what type of burden it would put on the police, other than inspections. Chief Feller stated that not only will it be the inspections it will be the regulation of the ordinance will put an undue burden.

Councilperson Huber polled the audience on owning of UTV's, majority raised their hand. He stated the average UTV cost is \$30,000 and the average age of a UTV owner is 40. He stated that allowing people to drive their UTV into town would make the city more inviting and driving an UTV is relaxing. That it would be nice to allow UTV's to come fill up with fuel and drive someplace for dinner. Huber questioned Chief Feller how many fatalities the city has had with bicycles? Feller stated that the State mandates that bicycles are allowed on streets. Feller also stated that he does see UTV's at the gas station also sees UTV's coming into town to plow and the police do not bother them. Councilperson Ulery stated if there are issues regarding the side streets maybe we need to amend that ordinance and revisit the parking along the streets.

#### **Public Comments:**

Tom Lennon stated that cars come with warnings as well. He stated that if UTV drivers are not obeying the law the citations should be written. He stated that he thinks this ordinance would be a positive for Peru.

Timm Simpkins stated that he believes that a lot of the accidents with UTV's is in the county where speed is involved, that in the city they would be going 25-35 mph. He stated that it would give people a personal freedom and choice, that it would be a positive for Peru.

Barry Thomas stated that he switched from a motorcycle to a UTV for safety. That UTV's have roll cage along with safety harnesses. That having an accident in a sling shot or motorcycle is usually a hospital visit.

Councilperson moved to adopt Ordinance 22-2024, seconded by Councilperson Ulery. Vote 5-2 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilperson Ulery moved to consider Ordinance 20-2024, seconded by Councilperson Stevenson. Vote 7-0 MOTION CARRIED.

**ORDINANCE 20-2024**

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AN ALLEY IN THE CITY OF PERU WHEREAS; A PETITION TO VACATE a portion of the North/ South alley bound to the North by E 6th St, to the East by parcel 52-08-27-116-012.000-016 commonly known as 319 E 6th St, on the West by parcel 52-08-27-115-007.000-016 commonly known as 315 E 6th , on the south by the East/ West Alley between Benton St and N Wayne St in Peru, Indiana 46970. This alley has been acting as a closed alley for years, they are asking for final closure.

Councilperson Ulery moved to adopt Ordinance 20-2024, seconded by Councilperson Anderson Vote 7-0 MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLUTION 23-2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA APPROVING CERTAIN MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AMENDMENT OF A PLAN AND AREA BOUNDARIES OF A CERTAIN ALLOCATION AREA**

MCEDA is requesting to update the Tif areas, they are wanting to add an area on West Main that is 5 acres on its own allocation, to maybe spike some interest in development, along with removing some residential Tif in areas that it does not qualify for. Councilperson Stevenson moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilperson Ulery Vote 7-0 MOTION CARRIED

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**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being nothing further, Councilperson Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Stevenson. Motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

  
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Don Sturch, Mayor  
City of Peru

  
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Andrea Newnum, City Clerk Treasurer  
City of Peru, Indiana