COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DECEMBER 3, 2013

Mayor Kristen Brown called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

## I. Meeting Called to Order

A. Opening Prayer was given by Vicar Matt Schuler with St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Brown.

C. Roll Call was taken. Dascal Bunch, Ryan Brand, Frank Jerome, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, Kenneth Whipker, and James Lienhoop were present.

D. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the Special City Council meeting on November 12, 2013. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed. Councilor Whipker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the City Council meeting on November 19, 2013. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action

A. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 27, 2013, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 5.12 OF THE COLUMBUS CITY CODE, TAXICABS." Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, presented this ordinance. Jeff explained this is an administrative cleanup of the language referencing licenses and permits appropriately. He further stated a modification of the expiration date was changed for applications to expire on a yearly basis instead of December 31 of every year. Additional language changes allow the Chief of Police to oversee the application process as well as take into account the moral character of an applicant. Jeff stated, based upon comments at the November 19 Council meeting, there are additional proposed revisions, which add limousines and limousine services to the definition of taxicabs. All of the regular provisions would apply to limousines except having the rates specifically identified within the vehicle, as well as having identification on the exterior of the vehicle. Mayor Brown opened the meeting for public comment. A woman from the audience asked how this would impact the average person who lives and works downtown. Jeff stated there would be no change to the end user. Councilor Miller questioned if there were any other ordinances that dealt with limousine services in the past. Jeff did not know of any ordinances. Discussion followed. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Councilor Jerome made the motion to amend the ordinance to raise the application fee from $5.00 to $25.00. Councilor Whipker believes the minimal fee is sufficient. Motion to increase the fee failed for a lack of a second

motion. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to amend the ordinance as presented. Councilor Lienhoop seconded the motion to amend. Motion to amend passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading with the amendments as presented and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed, six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Nay vote was Councilor Miller.

B. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO._____, 2013, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 10.48 OF THE COLUMBUS CITY CODE, ABANDONED VEHICLES." Jeff Logston presented this ordinance, which is an amendment to the city's current abandoned vehicle ordinance. He explained the revisions include unlicensed and inoperable vehicles on private property. Jeff stated some additional proposed changes include a modification to hold the owner of the vehicle or the person occupying the premises liable, instead of the owner of the premises. An additional change refers to the finding of a violation, by removing authority of a police officer and leaving only Enforcement Officers to issue a warning or written demand for unlicensed or inoperable vehicles on private property. Police officers would still be allowed to enforce abandoned vehicles. Councilor Bunch stated a subcommittee was formed and information is still being gathered from other communities. Councilor Bunch made a motion to table this ordinance until January 21, 2014 to allow the subcommittee an opportunity to come up with a recommendation to the Council. He stated the sub-committee will meet again December 10. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion to table. Mayor Brown opened the floor for public input. Brad Grayson, representing the Landlord Association, recognized 21 landlords attending the meeting. Dan Patton, 3681 Cheyenne Ct., stated he is concerned about removal of vehicles from private property whether they are licensed or not. Jeff stated if they meet the true definition of unlicensed or inoperable it is possible. Dave Jones, 1640 25th Street, asked Councilor Bunch what additional information is needed from the committee for him to make a decision. Councilor Bunch stated input is needed and he would also like to see ordinances from other communities. Councilor Bunch invited anyone to attend the subcommittee meeting scheduled for December 10, 2013 at 2:30 P.M. in conference room 3 at City Hall. An unidentified man in the audience supports the new amendment. Irida Miller, 819 Franklin Street, downtown homeowner, hopes the subcommittee will look for peaceful, harmonious ways to reach an agreement. Susan Fye, homeowner and landlord, stated she is an avid supporter of property rights. Cathy Rush, 825 Franklin Street, recognized homeowners in the audience, asking them to standup. Susan Fye asked for an official list of where the vehicles of concern were located in the city. Mayor Brown stated a list is not maintained for public disclosure and indicated this is a very significant issue for the people who voice a complaint. Mark Moore, 3650 N Marr Road, questioned if a vehicle is licensed and on private property, yet is not driven for months, does it apply to this ordinance. Jeff stated if it is licensed and operable then it does not apply. Paul Barrett asked what if the tenant receives a citation and the tenant moves, who is then responsible? Also who receives the money from the scrap value of the towed vehicles? Councilor Bunch explained these are questions that need to be addressed during the subcommittee meetings. Mayor closed the public comments. A vote was taken to

table the ordinance. Motion passed with a unanimous vote to table until the January 21, 2014 Council meeting.

**III. New Business Requiring Council Action**

A. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2013, RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE UTILITY SERVICE BOARD AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." Keith Reeves, Director of Columbus City Utilities, presented this resolution of the Utilities Department financial plan for 2014. He provided a summary of the budget and discussed depreciation expense. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**B.** First Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2013, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM "I2" (INDUSTRIAL: GENERAL) TO "CCc" (COMMERCIAL: COMMUNITY CENTER WITH COMMITMENTS)." (Orinoco Properties – 17th Street Rezoning) Jeff Bergman, Director of Planning, presented the request on behalf of Orinoco Properties. He stated the owner proposes to rezone a 1.6 acre property from I2 (Industrial: General) to CC (Commercial, Community Center). Jeff displayed maps and photographs of the area. He stated in recent years much of the area has been transitioning to fewer industrial uses and more commercial and residential uses. The Columbus Plan Commission met on November 13, 2013 and sent a favorable recommendation, with conditions, voting eight (8) in favor and none opposed. The Plan Commission placed a condition on the rezoning that would eliminate some of the permitted uses, which would strike many of the large scale commercial uses that would be intrusive to a neighborhood setting. The owner was agreeable to the conditions set by the Plan Commission. Much discussion followed. Business owner, Andrew Councellor, explained the purpose of the rezoning is to enable future commercial and possible residential use of the building. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**C.** Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2013, RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS TO AMEND SPECIFIC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS THE AMENDED 2013 CAPITAL BUDGET." Jeff Logston presented this resolution and explained the EDIT Fund capital budget already included an allocation for two (2) vehicles for the Fire Department, in the amounts of $30,000.00 and $20,000.00. This request is to total the two lines to $50,000.00 which would allow the Fire Department more flexibility to purchase vehicles which better meet their needs. Discussion followed regarding 2013 and 2014 capital items. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**IV. Other Business**

A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports - None

B. Discussion Items:

Councilor Jerome said he was surprised to read about the video cameras on the front page of the newspaper. He feels there is a need for the cameras, but feels this topic should be discussed. Conversation followed regarding locations, monitoring, liability, etc.

Mayor Brown introduced Matt Caldwell as the new Director of Operations and Finance.

A special Council meeting will be scheduled for the week of December 9, 2013 for consideration of the retail lease of the Commons.

C. Next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. in City Hall.**

D. Councilor Bunch made a motion for adjournment. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:31 P.M.

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus