COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 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 Pastor Patrick Galligar 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, Aaron Hankins and James Lienhoop were present.

D. Councilor Bunch made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the City Council meeting of August 20, 2013. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action

A. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 17, 2013, AMENDED FROM ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2013, AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013." Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, presented this ordinance. He stated this is a request to increase over-time lines in the Fire Department budget, specifically an increase in the scheduled overtime by $35,000.00 and an increase in unscheduled overtime by $40,000.00. He explained the increases are due, in part, because of illnesses and extended sick leave. The total increase between the two over-time lines is $75,000.00. Jeff explained there is no need for an additional appropriation; the money would be moved from several different lines in the 100's to cover the $75,000.00. Councilor Jerome asked if any overtime was generated on the recent trip to Florida by members of the Fire Department. Jeff stated he did not believe any overtime was generated. Mayor Brown explained there may have been one firefighter that would have received overtime, and others would have received compensatory time. Councilor Bunch moved to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

A. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2013 A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 9th STREET PARK AREA COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN: PHASE I." Carl Malysz, Community Development Director, presented this Resolution, along with Mark Stewart with United Way, Mark Lindenlaub with Thrive Alliance (previously

known as Housing Partnerships, Inc.), and Diane Doup and Randy Allman with Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Mayor Brown discussed many reasons the Ninth Street Park area was selected for revitalization, including the increased level of crime and the physical condition of the properties in the neighborhood, noting a large number of vacant and abandoned properties. Mayor further stated a public/private coalition was organized to determine what could be done as a community, as well as revitalizing neighborhoods most in decline. Carl asked the Council to consider approval of the revitalization plan which includes detailed goals and strategic objectives that need to be accomplished. The next goal would be approval of an application for Thrive Alliance to receive funding from the state to address unsafe and abandoned housing in the neighborhood. Mark Stewart wanted to amplify the voice of the residents that live in the Ninth Street Park area. The heart of the plan is about affordable housing and about creating vibrant public places that then can result in neighborhood pride. Mark Lindenlaub explained Thrive Alliance would be involved in the housing piece of the revitalization plan. The neighborhood consists of about 61 houses and they are proposing acquisition of five (5) of those houses. The five homes would be at the bottom end of the quality scale which would be improved with new structures. The grant request is for $500,000.00 and the total project is about $930,000.00. Diane Doup stated on behalf of the neighborhood, they are excited to see everyone coming together for this collective impact. Randy Allman stated over the last 18 years he has watched the neighborhood decline and the area is in need of all of community help to improve the quality of life. Much discussion followed. Councilor Bunch made a motion to pass the Resolution. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Aaron Hankins voted nay.

B. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO._____, 2013, AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014." Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, explained the salary ordinance is a part of the budget process. He briefly discussed pay adjustments to specific departments, including the second phase of a plan proposed by Chief Maddix during the 2013 budget process to include incentives for police officers who continue to improve themselves and move up in the ranks to become officers. The 2014 salary ordinance includes an increase in pay for ranking officers in the Police Department. Jeff further explained the ordinance includes adjustments for the Planning Director, Assistant Director and two (2) Senior Planners stating imparity with the Engineering Department and for exceptional work by the Planning Department. Other adjustments are an increase for the Mayor's Executive Assistant, City Garage Supervisor (including a title change to Director of City Garage), and an increase for six (6) drivers/skilled trade positions. Jeff explained the ordinance also includes the addition of two (2) part-time employees at Animal Care and a two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment for all full-time employees. Discussion followed. Mayor Brown opened the meeting for public comment. Gary Burris, President of the Local Firefighters Union, questioned if differential pay had ever been proposed for the Fire Department by the prior Fire Chief, Joel Thacker. Mayor Brown responded that the Police Department is significantly ahead of the Fire Department in many respects. She stated there are no job descriptions for the ranking officers in the Fire Department and an

analysis has not been done with competitive departments and pay scales at this time. Councilor Jerome stated there is a large amount of money in the budget for upgraded EMS training and once that is completed there would be specialty pay for those employees. Councilor Miller asked Ben Wagner, Director of Parks and Recreation, if he could foresee any problems if the part-time employees were not given a cost of living adjustment. Ben said it was a concern, especially for returning seasonal employees. Discussion followed. Councilor Jerome made a motion to approve the first reading and place the ordinance in proper channels. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Councilor Jerome made a motion to amend the ordinance to include a two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment to part-time and seasonal employees. Councilor Miller seconded the motion to amend. Motion to amend passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Aaron Hankins voted nay. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels the amended salary ordinance for 2014. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Aaron Hankins voted nay.

C. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO._____, 2013, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR 2014." Jeff Logston explained this ordinance refers to the elected officials, which includes Mayor, Clerk Treasurer and Council Members. Mayor Brown stated she is not seeking a raise or cost of living adjustment; however, she has been encouraged to accept the cost of living adjustment because the Mayor's salary is too low to attract qualified individuals to consider the job, and the salary is very near the amounts being earned by some department heads. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the first reading and place this in proper channels. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Aaron Hankins voted nay.

IV. Other Business

A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Jerome stated the Airport is considering building more hangers for private planes.

B. Mayor Brown announced Governor Pence will formally dedicate the Second Street Bridge as Robert N. Stewart Bridge on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.

C. Discussion Items: Budget

D. Next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 o'clock P.M. in City Hall.**

E. Councilor Bunch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Lienhoop seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 P.M.

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus