

COMMON COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL and WEBEX  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Mayor James Lienhoop appeared in person and called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers meeting room.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Pastor Mike Mantooh with Community Church of Columbus provided the opening prayer.
- B. Mayor Lienhoop led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Jerone Wood, Elaine Hilber, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. David Bush was absent during roll call and voting of the meeting minutes, but arrived at 6:07 p.m. during the presentation of Item A.
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on September 5, 2023, as presented. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

**II. New Business Requiring Council Action**

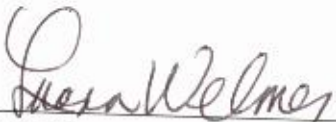
- A. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2023." Jamie Brinegar, Manager of Finance and Business Operations, presented this ordinance. He explained the request is for an additional appropriation from the City's General Fund of \$3,000,000 to complete work for the NexusPark project. Jamie stated the funds would be used for many areas including hardcourt surfaces, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E). Much discussion followed. Mayor Lienhoop opened the meeting for public comment. Chris Rutan asked if there would ever be a time the city would stop writing a blank check for this project. Mayor Lienhoop responded that we are not writing a blank check. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and two (2) opposed. Councilors Hilber and Kestler voted nay.
- B. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED MAYOR AND CLERK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley, Director of Human Resources, presented this ordinance and the following four ordinances at the same time. She provided a powerpoint presentation detailing the 2024 salary ordinance highlights,


changes, and additional positions. Arlette stated this particular ordinance pertains to the elected positions of Mayor and Clerk. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the audience. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- C. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance and stated this sets salaries for the elected positions of nine (9) council members with a 3% increase. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the audience. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- D. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance and stated this ordinance establishes salaries for sworn fire personnel with a proposed salary increase of 13.9%. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the audience. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance and stated this ordinance establishes salaries for sworn police personnel with a proposed salary increase of 16.5%. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the audience. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- F. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance and stated this sets salaries and wages for all other employees with a potential 5% salary increase. Much discussion followed. Mayor Lienhoop opened the meeting for public comment. Chris Bartels asked if city employees currently have any plans for use of NexusPark as a city benefit. Arlette said that was being discussed and brought up the city clinic that is expected to open first quarter of 2024. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote

**III. Other Business**

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – none.
- B. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**
- C. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 P.M.

  
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Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus

  
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Presiding Officer