

COMMON COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL  
APRIL 2, 2024

City Council President Frank Miller appeared in person and called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Pastor David Burnett with First Christian Church provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Josh Burnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Introduction of Guests and Visitors – none.
- D. Roll Call was taken: Christopher Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Jerone Wood, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Kent Anderson was absent.
- E. Councilor Hilber made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on March 19, 2024, as presented. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

**II. Old Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled, “RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2024, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FISCAL PLAN FOR PROPERTY TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.” (Toyota Material Handling Annexation) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this ordinance and the following two items at the same time. He explained Toyota Material Handling, Inc., is requesting that property be annexed to the City of Columbus and rezoned to I2 (Industrial: General) zoning district for the purpose of industrial development. The property is located on the east side of I-65 / county road 225 West between Deaver Road and county road 300 South. Jeff stated the area for annexation is 70.53 acres and includes the adjacent 225 West, Deaver Road, and 300 South rights-of-way. The rezoning area is 65.03 acres. He displayed maps and photographs of the area. Jeff stated the Columbus Plan Commission reviewed the applications and forwarded both to the City Council with favorable recommendations, each by a vote of ten in favor and zero opposed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comment. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the resolution adopting a fiscal plan for property to be annexed as presented. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye

Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

- B. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2024, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." (Toyota Material Handling Annexation) Jeff Bergman offered no further information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion to adopt. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

- C. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2024, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM AP (AGRICULTURE: PREFERRED) TO I2c (INDUSTRIAL: GENERAL WITH COMMITMENTS)." (Toyota Material Handling Rezoning) Jeff Bergman offered no additional information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Foyst made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

*Councilor Dell made a motion to suspend the rules of order to hear Item A under New Business at this time. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:*

<i>Christopher Bartels</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Elaine Hilber</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Jerone Wood</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Frank Miller</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Jay Foyst</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Josh Burnett</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Tom Dell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Grace Kestler</i>	<i>Aye</i>



*Motion to suspend the rules of order to hear Item A under New Business prior to the remaining Old Business passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.*

- D. Reading of a Resolution entitled, “RESOLUTION NO. 5, 2024, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FISCAL PLAN FOR PROPERTY TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.” (Columbus Right-of-Way Annexation) Jeff Bergman presented this resolution and the following ordinance at the same time. He explained the proposed annexation is a project of the Planning Department and involves +/-40.97 acres of public right-of-way adjacent to the current city limits at 29 locations on 22 streets. The annexation is intended to address areas from the past that have resulted in uncertainty regarding street maintenance and responsibility. Jeff stated the Columbus Plan Commission reviewed the proposed annexation and forwarded it to the City Council with a favorable recommendation with a vote of nine in favor and zero opposed. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adopt the resolution adopting a fiscal plan as presented. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

- E. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2024, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE A PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA.” (Columbus Right-of-Way Annexation) Jeff Bergman presented no addition information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

- F. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2024, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE COVID FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024.” Eric Frey, Executive Director of Administration, presented this ordinance. He explained there is \$1,600,000 in Cares Funds (COVID) currently held in a grant by the Federal Transit Administration and the city is in need of five para-transit vans and one bus. He is asking \$1,600,000 be appropriated from the Transit-COVID Fund to make this purchase. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Burnett

made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

- G. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2024, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING DISPOSAL FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024." Eric Frey presented this ordinance. He stated the Department of Public Works is requesting an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for curbside recycling fees due to an increase in cost for services. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

**III. New Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled, "RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2024, A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CERTAIN AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND QUALIFYING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT, AND SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON." (Toyota Material Handling) Robin Hilber, Community Development Director, presented this resolution. She introduced Tony Miller, Senior Vice President of Operations, with Toyota Material Handling. Robin stated Jason Hester and Kristen Goecker with Greater Columbus Indiana Economic Development Corporation were available for any questions. She explained they are requesting a declaration of an economic revitalization area. Tony Miller provided details of Toyota Material Handling's investment and building size. He discussed a goal to start production in 2026, with the focus on production of electric forklifts. Tony stated the new facility would allow the company to add 85 associates to their existing campus. Discussion followed. Councilor Kestler stated the Incentive Review Commission met prior to the meeting and found the application to be in substantial compliance. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Jason Hester, on behalf of the Greater Columbus Indiana Economic Development Corporation, stated they are exceptionally excited about this project and grateful that Toyota is considering making this investment in our community. President Miller closed the meeting for public comment. Councilor Kestler made a motion



to adopt the resolution. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed.

#### IV. Other Business

- A. Homelessness Initiative - Mark Stewart, President - United Way of Bartholomew County, presented an overview of homelessness in the community.
- B. Redevelopment Commission Annual Report presented by Heather Pope, Redevelopment Director, and Consultant, Andrew Lanam.
- C. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Kestler stated a Commons Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3 to discuss a possible new tenant for the previous Bucceto's Pizza location.

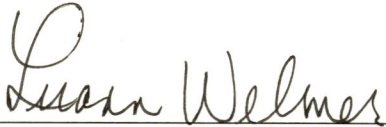
President Miller invited Mike Champlin, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, to speak. Mike requested help for people with disabilities. He asked that all Councilor members and presenters be aware that the sound system in the meeting rooms are not great and respectfully asked that when speaking they be a little bit more vocal. Eric Frey explained the city is looking into updating the sound system in Council Chambers and the large meeting room.

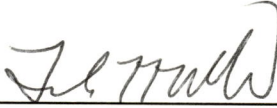
Mayor Mary Ferdon stated Monday, April 8 is the Solar Eclipse. She explained many employees are being redeployed throughout the city to other positions. Mayor thanked all city staff for their hard work to welcome visitors to our community for this event.

- D. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**
- E. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.

  
Clerk of the City of Columbus

  
Presiding Officer