

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 17, 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. Dr. Felipe Martinez, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Christopher Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Jerone Wood was absent.
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on September 3, 2024, as presented. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business Requiring Council Action

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE A PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA.” (Force Holdings Annexation) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this ordinance. He explained there are two petitioners, Force Holdings, LLC and Gordon & Barbara Lake, requesting an area of 96.97 acres be annexed to the city. Jeff displayed a map of the area. He stated the annexation area is located at the eastern terminus of McKinley Avenue, east of its intersection with Marr Road. Jeff reported the Columbus Plan Commission forwarded this application to City Council with a favorable recommendation by a vote of ten in favor and zero opposed. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance a place in proper channels. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye

Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE SEWAGE WORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." Roger Kelso, Executive Director of Columbus City Utilities, presented this ordinance and the following three ordinances (Items C, D, and E) at the same time. He briefly addressed a request for rate increases and bond approvals to implement capital improvements. Ashely Getz, Associate Director of Engineering, Doug Baldessari with Baker Tilley, Adam Steuerwald, bond counsel with Baker Tilley, and Stan Gamso, Attorney for Columbus City Utilities, were all present to answer any questions. Much discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Kerri Sinibaldi shared her thoughts on the projects and rate increases. President Miller closed the meeting to the public. Discussion followed. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Nay
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Nay
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Nay

Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and three (3) opposed.

- C. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SEWAGE WORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE THE COST THEREOF, THE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES OF SUCH SYSTEM, THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF THE OWNERS OF SUCH REVENUE BONDS AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH." Adam Steuerwald, bond counsel with Baker Tilley, provided information regarding the bonds. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Nay
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Nay
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Nay

Motion passed by a vote of five (5) in favor and three (3) opposed.

- D. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." Roger Kelso and Ashley Getz offered no additional information. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a unanimous vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- E. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF WATERWORKS REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY THE COST OF CERTAIN ADDITIONS, EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS OF SAID CITY, PROVIDING FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF THE OWNERS OF SAID BONDS, AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF BONDS." Roger Kelso and Ashley Getz provided no further information. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a unanimous vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- F. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024." Bryan Burton, Director of Public Works, and Eric Frey, Executive Director of Administration, both presented the ordinance. Bryan explained the request for an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for recycling fees to cover the cost of recycling for the remainder of 2024 and \$20,000 for tires. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye

Grace Kestler	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- G. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024." Nichol Birdwell-Goodin, Director of Animal Care Services, and Eric Frey both presented this ordinance. Eric stated the request is for an additional appropriation of \$43,000 for part-time wages. He explained the Animal Care Department tries to utilize part-time employees in the best way possible. Nichol reminded Council the building is staffed 7 days a week, 365 days a year caring for the animals. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- H. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2024, SALARY ORDINANCE FOR SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT." Matt Martindale, Deputy Chief with the Columbus City Police Department, and Arlette Cooper-Tinsley, Director of Human Resources, both presented the ordinance. Deputy Chief Martindale explained the request is to amend the Salary Ordinance by increasing the overtime line item by \$125,000. He stated the funding is needed due to staff shortages throughout the year. Arlette stated no additional funds are being requested. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Anderson made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Bartels seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- I. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 22, 2024, SALARY

ORDINANCE FOR SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIRE DEPARTMENT." Chief Andy Lay with the Columbus Fire Department and Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance. Arlette explained this is a similar scenario as the prior request to amend the Salary Ordinance by increasing the overtime line. Chief Lay stated the requested amendment is \$150,000 for overtime costs due to staff shortages. The funds would come from the full-time salary line item. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- J. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED MAYOR AND CLERK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance in addition to the following four agenda items. She introduced Jackson Sargent, Associate Director of Human Resources. Arlette provided an overview of changes to all salary ordinances. She stated three new positions are being requested – Director of Technology, Civilian Fire Inspector, and Field Supervisor with Department of Public Works. Arlette indicated there were a few position title amendments because of role changes. She stated there is a 4% salary increase for elected officials and civilian employees. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Anderson made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- K. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley offered no additional information. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place

in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed

- L. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley explained the ordinance contains a 4% raise. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- M. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley offered no additional information. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- N. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2024, AN ORDINANCE SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this ordinance. She explained the City conducted two previous salary studies

based on market-based data to support the salary ordinance. Arlette stated the ordinance has been modified for every employee to receive a 4% raise. President Miller opened the meeting for public comment. Mayor Mary Ferdon stated she hopes the Council is as proud of the employees as she is. She explained the City of Columbus is very fortunate to have loyal, hardworking employees. President Miller closed the meeting for public comments. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

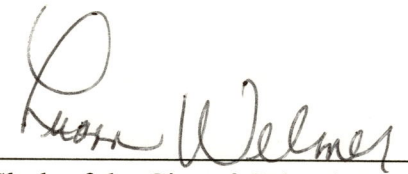
Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed


IV. Other Business

- A. President Miller received one request to address the Council. He stated the request was from Brad Davis at The Republic. President Miller stated the topic will be addressed outside of the Council meeting.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:04 p.m.


Clerk of the City of Columbus


Presiding Officer