

COMMON COUNCIL
August 23, 2021

The Common Council met in a regular meeting on August 23, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, 301 East Clinton Street, Frankfort, Indiana.

Councilmember Eric Woods called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Brandt Fuller, Joe Palmer, Clarence Warthan, Megan Sheets, and Steve Beardsley. Mayor Judy Sheets and Mike Brite were absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley and City Attorney Les Bergum.

MINUTES: The minutes for the August 9, 2021, regular meeting were presented. Councilmember Palmer asked that the minutes be amended under ordinance 21-11 to note that Councilmember Fuller had voted nay on the water rate ordinance. Councilmember Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2021 meeting as amended, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 21-12: AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY IN THE CITY OF FRANKFORT, STATE OF INDIANA

Councilmember Woods called a recess of the meeting at 7:02 P.M. and opened a public hearing to discuss any comments or questions about the proposed vacancy of the alley behind the Eagles Lodge. Tom Little provided the Council with updated maps indicating the exact portion of the alley to be vacated and asked that the council approve the vacation to allow them to make improvements to the property. Councilmember Warthan asked if the Eagles would be able to pave the alley without vacating it and questioned if they did not want to pave it because it belonged to the City. Mr. Little informed him that they wanted to make sure it was their property and Steve Timmons, with the Eagles, informed the council that when they have an event the Eagles are required to obtain a second permit to cross the alley. Councilmember Woods inquired as to reversing the vacancy if the property were to ever be sold, and was informed by Les Bergum once the property is vacated the title would revert to the owners on either side and cannot be reversed. Councilmember Palmer inquired about the utilities in place and was informed that there is an overhead power line but per Les Bergum all utility companies have been notified via certified mail. Councilmember Woods closed the public hearing at 7:05 P.M. and reopened the council meeting.

ORDINANCE 21-12: AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY IN THE CITY OF FRANKFORT, STATE OF INDIANA

Councilmember Beardsley made a motion to pass ordinance 21-12 on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0

ORDINANCE 21-13: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND FEES FOR TRASH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND WASTE

The street committee addressed the Council regarding the dump fees that are charged to the city and the inordinate amount of cost to the city from taking waste to the landfill. Councilmember Sheets informed the board that the rates were last increased in 2018. The City will not be making money on the waste disposal, they are simply trying to fund the yearly dump fees that are charged. With this ordinance the fees will increase incrementally from 2022 to 2024 and will cap at \$18.00 per month. These increases will generate approximately \$66,000.00 in revenue for every dollar the fees are increased. This will allow the city to obtain a much-needed new sanitation vehicle and fund the dump fees.

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to read ordinance 21-13 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to pass ordinance 21-13 on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

The council will hear from Street Department Superintendent Jason Forsythe at the next meeting before the second reading of the ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Council discussed the budget for 2022 and is working on a solid plan for the American Rescue Plan funds which should keep the city from having deficit spending. The council technology budget may be amended due to the plan to purchase an audio/video system for the council chambers but no quote has been provided yet. That change will be addressed at a later meeting.

Councilmember Warthan advised the council that he is not happy with the general fund being in deficit even with the American Rescue Plan funds and suggested reducing the raises for city employees by 1% and putting the new fire station vehicle on hold for one year. The city would still have a deficit, but it would be less. Councilmember Fuller disagreed with the raise reduction and suggested the council looking into making cuts in the budget elsewhere. Councilmember Warthan informed the council that he would agree with getting rid of the council raises entirely but that would not free up enough funds. Councilmember Sheets and Councilmember Woods advised that it would not create a safety issue if the new vehicle for the fire department was put on hold for a year. Councilmember Warthan made a motion to remove the fire department vehicle from the LIT budget, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, five ayes were recorded and Councilmember Fuller voted nay. Motion carried 5-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, Councilmember Palmer moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Councilmember Woods adjourned the meeting at 7:20 P.M.