

COMMON COUNCIL
September 11, 2023

The Common Council met in a regular meeting on September 11, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, 301 East Clinton Street, Frankfort, Indiana.

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

MINUTES:

The minutes for the August 14, 2023, regular meeting were presented. Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass the minutes from the August 14, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilmember Woods. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ORDINANCE 23-13: ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (2024 BUDGET)

Jerry Hickman with Reedy Financial spoke to the council about the budget and the changes made for 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 23-13

Mayor Sheets called a recess of the meeting at 7:08 P.M. and opened a public hearing to discuss any comments or questions about the 2024 budget. There were no comments or questions, Mayor Sheets closed the public hearing at 7:09 P.M. and reopened the council meeting.

Councilmember Beardsley made a motion to read ordinance 23-13 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Councilmember Beardsley made a motion to pass ordinance 23-13 on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 23-12:

Mayor Sheets called a recess of the meeting at 7:10 P.M. and opened a public hearing to discuss any comments or questions about the economic revitalization area. Phil Triplett spoke on behalf of Masbez LLC, and discussed the proposed abatements with the council. Mayor Sheets closed the public hearing at 7:16 P.M. and reopened the council meeting.

RESOLUTION 23-12: CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA

Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass resolution 23-12, seconded by Councilmember Palmer. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE 23-11: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RESCINDING ORDINANCE 15-02, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA

City Attorney Alicia Albertson spoke to the council and informed them that this ordinance does not change the standards and guidelines for the city. The purpose of the ordinance is to streamline the process by using the building inspectors office only.

Tommy Kleckner, the director of Indiana Landmarks Western District spoke to the council and expressed a concern about the HPC being decommissioned. He felt that the ordinance should be updated to be more in line with the state statute, and expressed a desire for the commission to have more training.

Bud McQuade of 600 E South Street, Frankfort, spoke to the council and gave them a list of possible revisions to the policy, rather than a dissolution of the commission.

Phillip Jordan of 650 E Armstrong Street, Frankfort, spoke to the council in favor of rescinding the HPC as he lives in a historic district and was told he was in violation for using the wrong color of paint. He also said the commission told him he could not use the windows, roofing, or landscaping choices he had made.

The council had a discussion about the commission and discussed what would happen if the building inspector did not manage it correctly. City Attorney Alicia Albertson informed the council that there is an appeals process and that we do have rules and guidelines in place. The council discussed the possible options and the possibility of a study group to find something that would work for the city.

Mayor Sheets addressed the council and stated that the plan is outdated, but the rules would remain the same. She further stated that this ordinance is not related to the annex for the courthouse

Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass ordinance 23-11 on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Woods. Upon a roll call vote, five ayes were recorded. Councilmember Warthan, and Councilmember Fuller voted nay. Motion carried 5-2.

Councilmember Woods addressed the members of the HPC and expressed appreciation and thanks for their service on behalf of the city.

ORDINANCE 23-12: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THREE HOUR PARKING ON SOUTH MAIN STREET

The council had a discussion regarding the change in parking and the need for three hour parking. The parking is currently unrestricted and this ordinance would restrict it to three hours.

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to read ordinance 23-12 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Brite. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass ordinance 23-12 on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Beardsley. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Councilmember Woods voted nay. Motion carried 6-1.

ORDINANCE 23-14: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES AND HOURLY WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CIVIL CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Councilmember Woods made a motion to read ordinance 23-14 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Brite. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass ordinance 23-14 on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Beardsley. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE 23-15: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES AND HOURLY WAGES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CIVIL CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA.

Councilmember Beardsley made a motion to read ordinance 23-15 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to pass ordinance 23-15 on first reading, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 23-13: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley informed the council that this resolution is to correct an error in the police clothing line that was taken out of the wrong fund for payroll.

Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass resolution 23-13, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, seven ayes were recorded. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The council discussed the Utility Service Board appointment and decided to post the job description and interview candidates at a later time and announce their results at the next meeting. Councilmember Woods also discussed the possibility of an executive session.

Councilmember Brite announced his resignation from the Frankfort Redevelopment Commission effective immediately. Councilmember Sheets made a motion to appoint Councilmember Woods as Councilmember Brite's replacement on the commission, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Councilmember Woods abstained. Motion carried 6-1.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palmer moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Mayor Sheets adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.