

# THE COMMON COUNCIL

MARCH 01, 2021

6:30 P.M.

## THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 01, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL WITH MAYOR TREVA HODGES PRESIDING.

Council members present were: Ruthie Jackson, Brian Hester, BJ Steele, Bo Bertram and JT Cox. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer, Common Council Attorney Michael Gillenwater and City Attorney Mickey Weber.

### Pledge

Charlestown High School Wrestling Team

### Invocation

Father Adam Ahern from St. Michaels Church

### Agenda

Mayor Hodges is asking to add the Executive Minutes from February 22, 2021 to the agenda.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to add the Executive Minutes from 2/22/21 and approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

### Minutes, Claims and PR Voucher

A motion was made by Councilman Steele to approve the Minutes of 02/01/2021 and the Executive Minutes from 2/22/21, Claims and PR Voucher from 02/01/2021 to 02/28/2021, seconded by Councilman Bertram Approved 5-0.

### Public Comment

Barbara Meredith at 180 First Street is requesting for the record that Councilwoman Jackson responds with a reason for the Sanitary Board.

Irv Meurer at 8230 Witten Drive wants the Council to explain why establish a Sanitary Board that adds unnecessary cost to the taxpayer.

### Ethan Biggs Legislative Youth Advisor Report

Ethan Biggs gave a report on Charlestown High School activities and events.

## Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hodges introduced engineer Josh Hillman from JTL to give a presentation on the plant.

### Wastewater System Assessment.

Mr. Hillman presented an assessment overview of the Wastewater plant, which include components, two main pumping stations and probable costs. They looked at improvements, growth and future development. The WWTP is operating at 50% capacity. The Head works Building is nearing the end of life and is an aging structure. Biolac Basin and blowers in need of rehabilitation and are near the end of life. Office space is limited. Phosphorus Treatment does not have a permanent structure.

Alternatives for increasing capacity include:

On Site Expansion - 3.6 -3.8 MGD \$21-22 million.

Rehabilitation Only - 2.2 MGD \$8-9 million

New Wastewater Plant 3.6-3.8 MGD \$25-26 million

Mayor Hodges said the City hired consultant Rick Wheeler, who is working with current employees, showing them how to maintain equipment at the plant. They have started doing recordkeeping that IDEM requires and keeping a log book for tracking overflows. Our pumps are not on the scada system and we rely on residents to call and say the alarm is going off. Records are kept on the overflows where it goes back into the river. The electric cost for the plant is over \$10,000.00. Repairs and maintenance that will reduce the amount of electric for the plant have been made.

### Parks Master Plan

Mayor Hodges told the Council, the Redevelopment meeting tomorrow will present the Parks Department Master Plan. If they want to attend.

### Resolution 2021-R-1

A Resolution approving an interlocal agreement between Clark County and the City of Charlestown concerning the **Bethany Road Construction Project**. Mayor Hodges said the change in the Resolution is, we pay 20% of the match on the area that is within our city limits.

Councilman Cox made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-1, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

### Resolution 2021-R-2

This Resolution authorizes the submittal application for the **COVID-19 Relief Phase III** application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Addressing Related Matters. Nick Creevy from River Hills needs approval to submit our application for the OCRA grant of \$250,000.00 which is due March 15, 2021.

The grant will be \$150,000.00 for business relief and \$100,000.00 for social worker/community liaison commission. Mayor Hodges said we should be notified in April if awarded the grant.

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-2, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

### **Resolution 2021-R-3**

A **Resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds** and the purpose of providing funds to be applied to pay for refunding certain outstanding obligations and paying incidental expenses in connection with the issuance of the bonds. Mr. Paul Wheatley explained that this is a 15-year note and presented a chart on the comparison of estimated tax increment, illustrative and outstanding debt service. The 2013 bond is principal and interest the 2017 BAN is interest only and the 2019 BAN is part of the Renaissance Project and interest only. Paul said for disclosure he is a board member for New Washington State Bank and they were the lowest bidder. Paul said he was not in the room during deliberations nor involved in those solicitations.

Beau Zoeller with Frost Brown Todd said there is no new debt. This is an existing debt and Baker Tilly did the analysis. The Redevelopment Authority was created to avoid hitting the constitutional debt limit. They will be refinanced and repackaged into two bonds. One taxable and one nontaxable bond. The Redevelopment Authority can't sell or dispose of the property. The only one that has an option to purchase the property is the Redevelopment Commission through a lease.

Councilman Steele made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-3, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

### **Ordinance 2021-OR-02**

This Ordinance is an additional **appropriation from the General Fund to Salary Reimbursement Cares Act Relief**. It will be used for Police Salary for \$4,700.00 and Police Overtime/Training of \$4,861.44. The total appropriation is \$9,561.44.

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-OR-02 on the first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

Councilman Cox made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2021-OR-02, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-OR-02 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Steele Approved 5-0.

### **Ordinance 2021 OR-03**

This **Ordinance establishes a Sanitary Board** and Councilwoman Jackson is asking to approve it as written. Mayor Hodges said the date on this ordinance needs to be corrected. It currently shows April 15, 2020, but should be April 15, 2021. There are two corrections on the third page. The year should be changed to 2021.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to correct the dates and approve Ordinance 2021-OR-03 on the first reading, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson spoke in favor of having experienced engineering and financial people oversee the Sewer Plant, which would be best for long term decision making and future growth and making the best financial decisions.

Mayor Hodges made comments in opposition to the creation of a sewer board, instead of allowing the Board of Public Works to continue to oversee the wastewater utility. Councilman Hester pointed out that it could be a 26 million-dollar investment and that he would like to have a board with more technical and financial experience to oversee it permanently.

### **Council Comments**

Councilman Bertram asked about the sidewalks on Monroe Street. Mayor Hodges said they are next on the list when the weather permits. The culvert under the bridge needs to be replaced.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve changing the meeting date from Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to change the meeting date from Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson asked when the website would be ready. Mayor Hodges said we contracted with Civic Engage so we could have a state-of-the-art website. but so did other municipalities engage them. We are paying for it under the cares act money.


Councilwoman Jackson asked about getting the minutes and audio on line. Leah Lowe said she will put up a link on the old website.

Councilwoman Jackson presented a bracelet that is being sold by the police department to cover the cost so families can go to Washington DC to the Memorial of Fallen Officers.

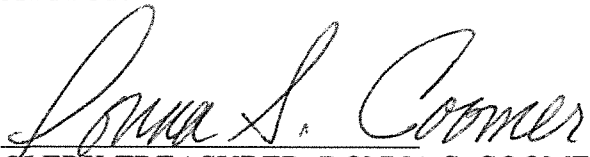
### **Adjournment**

Councilman Cox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

  
MAYOR, TREVA HODGES

  
DATE

ATTEST:

  
CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER

  
DATE