

OCTOBER 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Angola, Indiana was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Angola Training Center, 306 West Mill Street 1B, with Mayor Richard M. Hickman presiding. Council Members Gary L. Crum, David A. Olson, Kathleen G. Armstrong, David B. Martin, and Jerold D. McDermid answered roll call. No Council Member was absent. Clerk-Treasurer Debra A. Twitchell recorded the minutes.

Among those present were Chief of Police Stu Hamblen, City Attorney Kim Shoup, Deputy Clerk Ryan Herbert, City Engineer Amanda Cope, Wastewater Superintendent Craig Williams, Water Superintendent Tom Selman, Economic Development and Planning Director Vivian Likes, Fire Chief TR Hagerty, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Harter, Building Commissioner Scott Lehman, Human Resources Administrator Sue Essman, Patrol Officer Mike Wood, Patrol Officer Evan Howe, Detective Darrin Taylor, Firefighter Hillary Cope, Firefighter Paul Thiel, Fire Lieutenant Kevin Mory, Fire Captain Pete Decker, Police Sergeant Trent Crooks, Dispatcher Lisa Freed, Dispatcher Tish Covell, and Patrol Officer Max Essman.

Also, among those present were Ashlee Hoos of *The Herald Republican*, Colin Meadowcroft of WLKI, Jill Smith with Steuben County Department of Child Services, Steuben County Economic Development Corporation Director Isaac Lee, and Walter J. Krohn.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Hickman recognized Patrol Officer Howe, Patrol Officer Mike Wood, Dispatcher Tish Covell, Police Detective Darrin Taylor, Jill Smith with the Steuben County Department of Child Services, and Dispatcher Lisa Freed for an incident on June 18, 2020. A 911 caller reported children were left in a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot. The day was hot with a temperature of 90.2 degrees. Patrol Officer Howe responded to the scene and found all windows were rolled up and two children inside the vehicle. Howe broke the vehicle's window and removed the two children, ages two and three. The children were crying, their hair was wet, and faces were red. Howe put the children in his air-conditioned patrol car and then located the children's mother inside Walmart with a six-month old infant. Patrol Officer Wood immediately started to pull Walmart video and determined that the children were left in the vehicle for 37 minutes. While the mother was interviewed at the Police Department, City dispatch was turned into a daycare center. Dispatcher Covell began to take care of the children while dispatching. After working his eight-hour shift, Detective Taylor was called in to interview the mother. Howe and Wood took turns responding to calls and answering phones while Covell attended the children and dispatching. Jill Smith with the Steuben County Department of Child Services was called to assist with the case. Smith had been working since 8:00 a.m. that morning and was not on call for the evening but stayed with the officers in dispatch until 11:00 p.m. to interview the mother and make arrangements to get the children to a safe place. Wood used his own money to buy food for the children and used his computer for cartoons to entertain the

children. Dispatcher Freed arrived at 7:00 p.m. for her shift, immediately took one of the children and after five minutes of rocking, the child was fast asleep in her lap. After her shift, Covell remained at the police department just to help officers and Freed take care of the children. Freed, Covell, and Smith took the children to the bathroom, changed diapers and rocked the children to sleep. Detective Taylor interviewed the mother for almost two hours. If it was not for the actions of all the officers and dispatchers, these children might not be with us today. It shows how the members of the Angola Police Department come together as a team in a time of need. Plaques were presented to those involved.

Mayor Hickman then recognized Patrol Officer Max Essman, Fire Captain Pete Decker, Fire Lieutenant Kevin Mory, Firefighter Paul Thiel, and Firefighter Hillary Cope. On March 9, 2020, dispatch received a call of a man down at the VFW. After arriving on the scene and determining the man was not breathing, Patrol Officer Essman began CPR and continued to do so until the Fire Department and EMS arrived. The departments worked together to provide life saving measures on the patient. The patient was transported to Fort Wayne where he made a full recovery and is home in Angola doing well. The City receives calls like this on a weekly basis and its not always the case that the outcome is successful. Each of these employees showed professionalism and compassion in saving the life of a fellow citizen of Angola. Mayor Hickman then invited Walter Krohn to the podium to speak and present plaques to those involved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Council Member Olson moved to approve the September 21, 2020 minutes. Council Member Crum seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 1651-2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF ANGOLA, INDIANA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, EMPLOYMENT POLICIES – EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND MACHINES, was read by title and presented to Council on third and final reading. Council Member Olson moved to approve. Council Member Armstrong seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to approve on third and final reading carried 5-0. (add crash vehicle data recorder review)

NEW BUSINESS

At 7:17 p.m., Mayor Hickman declared open the public hearing for the proposed 2021 Budget. There being no public comment, the hearing was considered closed at 7:17 p.m. Ordinance No. 1652-2020, ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES, was read by title and presented to Council on first reading. Council Member Martin moved to approved. Council Member Crum seconded the motion. The motion to approve on first reading carried 5-0.

Ordinance No. 1653-2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANGOLA MUNICIPAL CODE INVESTMENT FUND ACCOUNT CHANGING THE

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, was read by title and presented to Council on first reading. Council Member Olson moved to approve. Council Member Armstrong seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried 5-0. (AMC 3.10.120)

Resolution No. 2020-786, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANGOLA, STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT ALL LOCATED WITHIN AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF ANGOLA, INDIANA, was read by title and presented to Council for approval. Steuben County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Isaac Lee described the abatement. The new equipment will be used to manufacture PPE (personal protective equipment). Council Member Martin moved to approve. Council Member Crum seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to approve carried 5-0. (Angola Wire Products, Inc, 803 Wohlert Street)

John Julien with Baker Tilly presented schedules for the proposed water and sewer adjustments to rates and charges. There are challenges with the sewage works. The day to day operating costs have increased revenue requirements. There is a gap of about \$560,000 per year or 22%. There are matters that still need study including operating costs and the capital budget going up in a meaningful way. There are potential regulatory issues which still need to be evaluated, therefore, adjusting rates is essential. A definitive sewer rate increase is too early to determine. Consequently, a 9% increase is recommended to eliminate part of the gap until other questions are answered and other matters addressed. The Water Utility Cost of Service Study supported the idea of an actual rate restructuring meaning modifications to change what class of customer is paying what. It is recommended to move forward with the water rates and charges adjustment consistent with the Cost of Service Study. Regarding the fire protection hydrant rental fee paid from the General Fund, during the last 20 years, municipalities have gravitated from property tax to a utility user fee. Julien recommended moving that charge to the customer over a three-year period for a total increase of about \$9. There would be a larger impact on large users. In summary, Julien recommended that water rates be adjusted proportionate to the Cost of Service Study, sewer rates increase 9% across the board, and fire protection services moved from the General Fund to a monthly customer service fee. Discussion followed. Wastewater Superintendent Williams shared again with Council the chlorides regulatory issue and the possibility of pursuing a site-specific limit with an unknown cost. The alternative is reverse osmosis with an estimated cost of \$10 to \$15 million which would also impact operating costs \$250,000 to \$500,000 per year. It is an extraordinarily complicated issue with no viable solution. Discussion followed. Julien will work with City Attorney Shoup on the rate ordinances.

CLERK-TREASURER AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

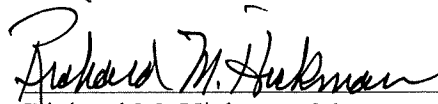
Economic Development and Planning Director Likes noted Angola Wire Products, Inc. consented to a 3% fee collected to one or more public or nonprofit entities established to promote economic development within the boundaries of the City.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS

Council Member Martin moved to approve the Allowance of Accounts Payable Vouchers 48034 through 48219 totaling \$638,956. Council Member McDermid seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

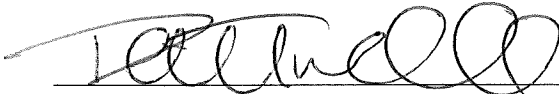
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was considered adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Richard M. Hickman, Mayor
Presiding Officer

Attest:



Debra A. Twitchell, Clerk-Treasurer