

CITY OF INDIAN HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 16, 2020 Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Louisville Boat Club  
4200 River Road (40207)  
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Chip Hancock

Council: Frank Doheny  
Ann Dreisbach  
Laura Dunbar (Videoconference)  
Lee Garlove (Videoconference)  
LuAnn George  
James Giesel  
Kay Matton  
Gary Ulmer  
Mimi Zinniel

Attorney: Finn Cato

Public Works:

ABSENT

Jim Graven

Police Chief: Kelly Spratt

City Clerk: Donna M. Sinkhorn

Visitors

Address

Purpose

- 1) Call to Order – Mayor Hancock called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 2) Recognize any Visitors - None
- 3) Minutes – Mailed

(a) June Minutes – Councillor Zinniel requested that page 2 of the minutes, the City Mowing paragraph be amended by including the following comments which were made at the June meeting: “Mayor Hancock asked Councillor Zinniel to send a list of the referenced properties and indicated he and the Public Works Director would discuss with the mowing contractor. Councillor Zinniel stated her belief is this is an issue to be resolved with the Council discussing the various legal or financial implications of any future mowing on private property. A policy needs to be established.” Councillor Matton moved to approve the June Minutes as amended; seconded by Councillor Zinniel; motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hancock introduced and welcomed Ann Dreisbach who was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy on the Council due to the resignation of Kate Lindsay who moved out of the city.

- 4) Committee Reports – Mailed

(a) Finance and Budget Report

1. Finance Report- June (Dunbar & Ulmer) – Councillor Ulmer presented the Finance Report to Council. The first two pages of the report will be replaced with the two pages that were just distributed with some updated notes as a result of a question he had. It appeared the insurance fee income was off for year-end more

than anticipated. The replacement pages include an explanation that the City will be collecting the insurance fee income in July and August and accruing it as of June 30<sup>th</sup> so we are right where we thought we should be.

Councillor Dunbar informed Council that the City's Certificates of Deposit will be maturing on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Hancock and the Finance Committee are looking into the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) Investment Pool since the interest rates for CDs are minimal and the interest rates may not be going up for years to come. Councillor Ulmer explained some of the basics of the program. Following discussion, Mayor Hancock recommended to have Attorney Cato review KLC's boiler plate investment policy, have the Finance Committee meet and then make a recommendation at the next Council meeting. At that time, collectively, the Council may decide as to whether to place the funds from the CDs into the KLC investment pool or some other investment.

Councillor Giesel requested the word "maintain" be changed to "generated" in the first paragraph on page one of the City Controller's Notes to Financials. Councillor Giesel moved to accept the Finance Report as amended; seconded by Councillor George; motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Disbursements (City & Police Disbursement Details-June) – Councillor Zinniel moved to approve the City and Police checks disbursed; seconded by Councillor George; motion passed unanimously.

(b) Public Safety - Spratt & Doheny & Garlove

Chief Spratt informed council that during the first week of June, a full-time officer left to go with another agency. A replacement officer, John Shifflett, has since been hired.

1. Police Report – Chief Spratt – June – Chief Spratt's report included three criminal reports, five traffic collisions, one arrest, list of traffic citations issued and year-to-date stats.

(c) Public Works & Building – Graven

1. Public Works Director Report – Graven – In the absence of Mr. Graven, Mayor Hancock reported that Mr. Graven has talked to Gerard Ackermann about the grass cutting areas that he is not to cut too low such as the island on Council Road and along the Trail.

71 Westwind – Mayor Hancock reported the security deposit was released because a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) was provided but they are working on a landscaping plan for the front yard and veneer on the front of the house needs to be finished. Councillor George stated this one bothers her because it states in the ordinance that regardless of the issuance of the CO, if the front yard and the side yard of the house are not completed the building deposit should not get released. Mayor Hancock will stay on this because it is an eyesore and needs to get finished.

Signage - Councillor George questioned why it was taking so long to get some of the City's street signs back up. The Eastwind & Westwind sign has been down for months as well as the Old Brownsboro green sign. Mayor Hancock stated he knows that sign has been ordered because he has talked to Mr. Graven about it. Councillor George said it has been nine months waiting on the Stonebridge sign. It took over nine months for the River Hill sign. Councillor Matton mentioned that also the City has provided a sign for a resident. Mayor Hancock asked Councillor George to email the list to him and he will get with Mr. Graven to have them completed and done.

Councilor George asked, referencing Councillor Matton's comment, why the City is spending taxpayers' dollars to put up a sign on private property. Who makes those decisions? Mayor Hancock asked Councillor George to email the information to him and he will get with Mr. Graven to have an update for the next meeting.

5) Other Reports

(a) Waste Management Report – No report.

(b) Environment Committee – Zinniel/George – Councillor Zinniel again addressed the issue of the City's grass cutting contractor mowing on private property and would like it to be discussed as a Council because she believes there are legal implications. If an accident were to happen, the City might be responsible and asked why the city was spending public money on private property. She would like to know what the policy should be going forward. Councillor George believes it goes beyond the mowing. Is the City going to spend public money on private property? Councillor Doheny stated the answer to the question is clearly no. Following discussion, there was general agreement amongst Council to notify property owners whose grass have been getting cut by the City- put them on notice that the City will no longer be cutting their grass.

Councillor Zinniel asked for approval to proceed with mailing the tree removal letters to approximately 40 property owners. Councillor Doheny would like the minutes to reflect that he does not favor and opposes sending the letters. He does not think anybody can accurately predict when a tree might or is going to fall. Councillor Zinniel will get the addresses to the City Clerk.

Old Brownsboro Ct. Entranceway - Councillor George said she received a call last night from resident John English regarding the trees in the entranceway of Old Brownsboro Court. She sent information to Mayor Hancock, but nothing has yet been done. Councillor George believes the trees are in need of professional pruning and the Environment Committee requested an opinion from a professional arborist about whether the trees could be saved. The arborist said they absolutely could be saved and gave descriptions of where the trees needed to be pruned. Councillor George said she sent the opinion and estimate to do the work to Mayor Hancock.

Mr. Graven had the landscapers work on the trees, but according to Councillor George, they did not prune the dead part of the trees which would have kept the trees living. Mayor Hancock said they pruned where John English told them to prune. Councillor George said Mr. English should not tell the contractor what work to do. Instead, the contractor should follow the instructions of Mr. Graven. Mayor Hancock will follow up with it and would also like to talk to Mr. English.

6) Councilmembers Comments – Councillor Matton asked if she may take over the Welcome Committee; she would love to handwrite letters to new residents and welcome them to our City. Mayor Hancock said absolutely. Ms. Carroll, a former councilmember, had put a welcome packet together while she was on the Council. Discussion.

7) Old Business

(a) American Legal Publishing – Update – Dunbar & Ulmer & Matton – Councillors Dunbar, Ulmer, Matton and Attorney Cato had a Zoom meeting regarding working on the City ordinances with Richard Frommeyer, the representative for American Legal Publishing. Councillor Dunbar reported codification encompasses organizing the material by titles, chapters, sections and the codification process includes a full legal, editorial review, removes repealed or obsolete ordinances and edits for proper grammar, consistency and clarity. The City may apply for a grant from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. The deadline to do so is September 30<sup>th</sup>. She has provided a packet containing the grant process to Mayor Hancock, Councillors Ulmer and Matton, Attorney Cato and the City Clerk. The City would need to get approval for the grant and then bid out for the codifying of the ordinances. The City's original ordinances will need to be scanned and provided to the company. Attorney Cato spoke with Mr. Frommeyer earlier today and received more details about the grant process which raised concerns. The current grant cycle already began on July 6, and there is no guarantee that grants will even be awarded during this cycle. Mr. Frommeyer expressed skepticism and indicated that he has seen at most two grants awarded in any given cycle. He also said grants may also be awarded to cities in need of funding. If the city were to apply for the grant tomorrow, a grant would not be awarded until December at the earliest, and in the unlikely event that the City were to receive a grant, it may take up to 10 months for American

Legal Publishing to accomplish the work pending the grant process. Mr. Cato certainly likes the idea of the grant but based upon his discussion with Mr. Frommeyer, it does not appear likely that the City would receive a grant. In addition, if the City does not pursue a grant it would take significantly less time for American Legal Publishing to do the work. Councillor Dunbar also likes the idea of saving the City taxpayers money but understands that the City may want to move forward and more quickly. Councillor Ulmer asked what it would cost the City if we just had American Legal do the work. Councillor Matton said it could cost up to \$15,000. Following more discussion, Councillor Doheny moved to engage American Legal Publishing to organize the City's ordinances as they have suggested, and the City allocate up to \$15,000 for that purpose; seconded by Councillor Matton; motion passed unanimously.

8) New Business

(a) Grove Hill Place – Donation of Vacant Lot – Mayor Hancock has been contacted by Chris LeBeouf, a Grove Hill Place resident. He owns a small vacant lot and asked if the City would accept it as a donation. Following discussion, there was general agreement amongst Council that there is no interest in accepting the donation of the property.

9) Legal – Cato

(a) Municipal Order No. 6, Series 2020 – Appointment of Police Officer – Councillor Dunbar introduced and Attorney Cato read Municipal Order No. 6, Series 2020 appointing a full-time Police Officer, John Shifflett. Councillor Zinniel moved, Councillor Matton seconded to approve Municipal Order No. 6, Series 2020. Mayor Hancock proceeded with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Doheny	Yea	Mr. Giesel	Yea
Ms. Dreisbach	Yea	Ms. Matton	Yea
Ms. Dunbar	Yea	Mr. Ulmer	Yea
Mr. Garlove	Yea	Ms. Zinniel	Yea
Ms. George	Yea		

Motion passed unanimously. (Municipal Order No. 6, Series 2020)

10) Mayor's Comments – Mayor Hancock commented that if any of the councilmembers would like to have an item placed on the agenda, please let him know a week to 10 days prior to the meeting. He would like to allow time to try to find out the answers to any questions there may be.

Ms. Lippmann contacted Mayor Hancock. There will be another Yard Talk for Racial Justice & Equality in Sarah Sahni's front yard at 2203 Ardsley Road on Sunday at 4:00 to 5:00 if anyone is interested in attending.

11) Executive Session and/or Adjournment – Councillor Ulmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm; seconded by Councillor Matton; motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:  
Thursday – August 20, 2020  
6:00 p.m. – Louisville Boat Club

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Chip Hancock, Mayor

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Donna M. Sinkhorn, City Clerk