

CITY OF INDIAN HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 16, 2024 Minutes of Regular Meeting
Louisville Boat Club
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Chip Hancock

Council: Bob Astorino, Sr.
Ann Dreisbach
Laura Dunbar
David Ferguson

John Harralson, III

Lee Maddox
Kay Matton

Attorney: Finn Cato

Public Works: Jim Graven

Police Chief: Kelly Spratt

City Clerk: Donna M. Sinkhorn

Visitors: Fiona Campbell
Rae Rudwell

ABSENT

Lee Garlove
Chip Hayward, Jr.

1) Call to Order – Mayor Hancock called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Recognize any visitors – Mayor Hancock recognized residents, Fiona Campbell and her daughter, Rae Rudwell. Ms. Campbell asked Council for approval of placing a lending library for the area children in the round-about at the intersection of Indian Crest, Moccasin Trail and Eastwind Rd. She showed a picture of one that included a bench with it. Councilor Dreisbach stated she drove by the intersection this afternoon and thought it was a great location for one. In response to questions, Ms. Campbell stated she will pay for it and children’s books will be donated/exchanged out. The neighbors are all committed to keeping it look nice. It will be situated in the middle of the island, so it would not be in a fire lane. She believes the neighbors will walk to it vs driving to it. There should be no digging. The bench is three feet long and it will support the library. If it is approved, it may take four weeks to arrive once she orders it. Mr. Graven and Mayor Hancock said to call Mr. Graven when the library is delivered, and he will get it installed for her.

Following discussion, Councilor Matton moved to approve the placement of a lending library in the round-about / island at the intersection of Indian Crest, Moccasin Trail and Eastwind Rd. purchased by Ms. Campbell, to be installed with the assistance of Mr. Graven and his crew; and is expected to be maintained by neighbors in that area; Councilor Dunbar seconded; none opposed.

3) (a) Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes – Emailed - Councilor Dunbar moved to approve the September 18, 2024, minutes as emailed, seconded by Councilor Astorino; none opposed.

4) Committee Reports – Emailed

(a) Finance (Dunbar)

1. Report – September – Councilor Dunbar presented September’s financial report to Council.
2. City & Police Disbursements – Approval – September

Councilor Matton moved to accept the September financial report as presented and to approve September city and police checks disbursed; seconded by Councilor Ferguson; none opposed.

(b) Public Safety Report – September - Spratt & Garlove & Harralson

1. Police Report – Chief Spratt’s report included eight criminal reports; two traffic collision reports; one criminal arrest/citation & criminal complaint filed and year-to-date stats.

(c) Public Works & Building – Mayor Hancock and council thanked Mr. Graven for doing such a great job with the Octoberfest.

Mr. Graven gave the following report:

- RV on Blankenbaker Ln –Mr. Graven received a complaint call this afternoon; Chief Spratt said the owners told him they are getting ready to put it in storage for the year, so it should be gone in a couple of days.
- Apache Rd – two deer had killed each other and with the assistance of our police, Mr. Graven had them removed.
- Remodeling projects have slowed down.

5) Other Reports

(a) Waste Management Report – Graven/Hancock

1. Report – Mayor Hancock stated that the calls with questions regarding Rumpke’s services have slowed down.

(b) Environment Committee – Maddox

1. Councilor Maddox’s report included the following:

- Tree Program Update– Despite the interest shown by several residents at the Octoberfest, there were not many applications received. Councilor Maddox said there have been some Councilmembers interested in participating in the Tree Program, but would need approval in doing so. Councilor Maddox said some residents have expressed interest in having some trees planted on Indian Hills Trail near River Road. Councilor Dunbar stated that vines are killing the trees that are already there. Mayor Hancock said the trees should be for residents and not be put throughout the city.

Following discussion, Councilor Dunbar moved to approve, after every effort had been made in good faith and there are trees left over, Councilmembers may purchase a tree at ½ the price, same as any other resident; seconded by Councilor Matton; none opposed.

Discussion ensued regarding the invasive honeysuckle and the vines killing the city’s canopy trees, and regarding an overgrowth of bamboo on residents’ properties. Councilor Dunbar said removing the Virginia creeper and the honeysuckle is a starting point but once honeysuckle is removed, the area must be treated, or it will come back. Councilor Astorino suggested in the spring the Environment Committee organize a group of volunteers to give up their Saturday morning to work on the honeysuckle. Mayor Hancock and several Councilmembers suggested asking former Councilmember LuAnn George for her assistance. She is a great organizer, and she is knowledgeable of other invasive species. Councilor Maddox will contact Ms. George. Councilor Astorino also suggested placing pictures of two or three invasive species in the spring newsletter to educate/inform residents that they may want to remove them from their properties. Mayor Hancock said we will discuss this further possibly at the next meeting.

6) Council Members Comments – None

7) Old Business – None

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8) New Business – None

9) Legal – Cato – Attorney Cato

(a) Ordinance No. 4, Series 2024 – Amending Ordinance No. 1, Series 2024 – Budget FYE 2025-First Reading. Councilor Dunbar introduced, and Attorney Cato gave first reading to Ordinance No. 4, Series 2024.

Mayor Hancock explained to Council the reason the budget is being amended is due to the allocation of ARPA funds for paving work which must be obligated by December 31st. If there were to be any changes to the contractual obligation between December 31st and the performance of the paving work in the spring, those changes could compromise the city's ability to use the ARPA funds, and at the extreme might require the city to return those funds to US Treasury. Instead, and as a safeguard, some of the ARPA funds are being allocated immediately to waste removal expenses instead of paving. The remaining ARPA funds are also being allocated immediately to city employees' payroll.

10) Mayor's Comments – Mayor Hancock thanked Mr. Graven once more for all his hard work at the Octoberfest. It was a beautiful day and Jim did a wonderful job organizing it. He also asked Chief Spratt to thank his staff for the great job they are doing.

11) Adjournment – Councilor Matton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Maddox, none opposed.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting:
Wednesday – November 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.

/S/ _____
Chip Hancock, Mayor

/S/ _____
Donna M. Sinkhorn, City Clerk