

# Minutes

## Seymour Common Council

November 11, 2024

The November 11th, 2024, Seymour City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Rev. Les Linz, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Cortland Crushers 4H, A virtual/steaming option was available.

**Members Present:** Mayor Matt Nicholson, Clerk/Treasurer Darrin Boas, Jerry Hackney, Seth Davidson, Brian Terrell, Chad Hubbard, Brad Lucas, Bob Beatty, City Attorney Chris Engleking, January Rutherford, Drew Storey, Assistant Police Chief John Watson, Erica Moore with the Tribune, Fred and Sally Vogel, Fire Chief Roll, Jon and Laura Stahl , WPC Assistant Director Doug Gregory, Les Linz, Dan Davis, Kevin Gabbard, Marvin Veatch, Sam Markel, Jim Plump, Jackie Hill, Dr. Calhoun, Briam Thompson, Mark Woods, Dan Robison, Building Commissioner Jeremy Gray, Jim Lucas, Parks Director Chad Keithley, Bethany Rust, Tyler Hinkle, and roughly 20 other Community citizens.

On a motion made by Mr. Hackney, Lucas seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the minutes for the October 14th, 2024, Council meeting were approved.

### Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

On a motion by Councilman Davidson, seconded by Councilman Hubbard, the statements of benefits were read for:

- Guardian Bikes, 2230 D. Ave. E, Suite C (1 personal property). Mr. Plump and Mr. Markle spoke on plan to move bicycle frame production from China to the US to be constructed in Seymour. Continued growth of their product line and changes coming from the general election necessitate this planned investment of \$15,000,000 along with 40 added jobs.
- Cummins, INC, 800 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Seymour, IN (1 personal property). Mr. Plump spoke on the plan to expand the Hedgehog Line, with a planned project cost of \$8,296,032 while maintaining current staffing levels.

On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the statements of benefits were accepted 7-0.

**Public Hearing:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** None to report.

**New Business:**

- a. Councilman Terrell introduced Ordinance No. 34, Council Bill No. 63 (2024), seconded by Councilman Storey, and Ordinance to rezone property located at 103 E. Laurel St, Seymour, Indiana. This is the old Smith's Tire location, moving from R3 to C2. The plan is to put a similar operation back in this facility and comes with a favorable recommendation from Planning and Zoning. No one spoke against this change. On a motion by Mr. Terrell, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 7-0.
- b. Councilman Hackney introduced Resolution No. 31, Council Bill 64 (2024), a Resolution of the City Council of Seymour, Indiana to Establish Structure for City Employee Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program. Mr. Hackney felt this needed to go to committee, so at the request of the Mayor, on a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard the resolution was tabled 7-0.
- c. Councilman Davidson introduced Resolution No. 32, Council Bill No. 67 (2024), seconded by Councilman Lucas, a resolution of the Common Council of the City of Seymour, Indiana approving a Tax Abatement for Guardian Bikes for qualified personal property. This was discussed above in Reports. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the resolution was approved 7-0.
- d. Councilman Davidson introduced Resolution No. 33, Council Bill No. 68 (2024), seconded by Councilman Lucas, a resolution of the Common Council of the City of Seymour, Indiana approving a Tax Abatement for Cummins, INC. for qualified personal property. This was discussed above in Reports. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the resolution was approved 7-0.
- e. Councilman Lucas introduced Ordinance No. 35, Council Bill No. 65 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, an Ordinance amending Chapter 32 of the Seymour City Code: City Policies – Purchasing. This comes about due to recommendations from the City's recent Federal Audit and the need to update/implement federal fund purchase requirements. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 7-0.
- f. Councilman Lucas introduced Ordinance No. 36, Council Bill No. 66 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, an Ordinance amending Chapter 150.38 of the Seymour City Code: Standards for ERA Evaluation. This is a recommendation from the Industrial Development Committee to add a Quality-of-Life component to City Code when considering Tax Abatements. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Davidson, the ordinance passed first reading 7-0.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

- The Mayor spoke of the City Code review he sent out on the first 10 chapters. This opened discussion of how best to discuss Code reviews and updates via email while not violating Indiana Open Door Laws. The City Attorney was asked to reach out to the State's Open-Door Council to seek input.
- Councilman Storey wanted to thank City Engineer Bernie Hauersperger for his and INDOT's quick response updating the stop light timing at Burkart and Hwy 50. Mr. Storey also asked about how many comments the City was getting from the City's website on the Report a Concern page. The Mayor said he will have Jane provide that info.

- Mr. Beatty spoke as to why he felt compelled to fill the vacated Council seat left by the resignation of Clint Blish. He felt as a retiree he had more time to do the leg work needed to present facts and figures that some of the full-time employed council members might not have time to do. He challenged citizens to be engaged and respectful, to help bring solutions not complaints, that changes were coming rapidly due to the recent presidential election. He shared that good things are happening downtown (Mainstreet) and infrastructure (South O'Brien St), but it takes time (years) for this stuff to come to fruition. He knows there are Immigration and Public Safety concerns that need addressed and plans to work on local solutions. He hopes the City continues working on a 5 to 10 year plan, which he feels they have good handle on currently.
- Mary Kidwell spoke about, in her opinion, the need to hear citizens' passion about their concerns, and not trying to limit their energized comments.
- Tyler Hinkle spoke about what he felt was a need for a Code of Conduct for elected officials, and we should be holding each other accountable. He was asked to bring back to the Council what he would like to see in such a code.
- Clerk/Treasurer Boas spoke of the completion of the annual audit, reporting for the state audit on the RDA and the City, and the Federal audit, shared the findings and the 2 ordinances regarding Disbarment and Federal Purchasing that will help correct deficiencies noted in the Audit. Boas also commented on the change in stale, city issued checks and moving those funds to Indiana Unclaimed. Boas also had the stale check report done earlier this year for Council to review if they wanted.

On a motion by Mr. Beatty, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the meeting was properly adjourned.

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Matt Nicholson, Mayor

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Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/ Treasurer