

# Minutes

## Seymour Common Council

November 25, 2024

The November 25th, 2024, Seymour City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Rev. Angel Armstrong, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A virtual/steaming option was available.

**Members Present:** Mayor Matt Nicholson, Clerk/Treasurer Darrin Boas, Jerry Hackney, Seth Davidson, Brian Terrell, Chad Hubbard, Bob Beatty, City Attorney Chris Engleking, January Rutherford, Drew Storey, Police Chief Greg O'Brien, Erica Moore with the Tribune, Fred and Sally Vogel, Fire Chief Eric Roll, Jon and Laura Stahl, Mark and Diana King, Mike Wright, Les Linz, Dr. Calhoun, Mark Woods, Bethany Rust, Chip Everhart, Kevin Kaplin, JJ Reinhart, and roughly 20 other Community citizens.

On a motion made by Mr. Storey, seconded by Mr. Beatty, the minutes for the November 11th, 2024, Council meeting were approved.

### Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- None to report

### Public Hearing:

- None to report

### Old Business

- Councilman Terrell introduced Ordinance No. 34, Council Bill No. 63 (2024) for second reading, seconded by Councilman Beatty, 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. Mr. Beatty spoke of the next steps involved in opening this business once the rezone was approved. On a motion by Mr. Terrell, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 6-0-1.
- Councilman Davidson introduced in Councilman Lucas's absence, Ordinance No. 35, Council Bill No. 65 (2024), seconded by Councilman Storey for second reading, 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. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 6-0-1.
- Councilman Davidson introduced, in Councilman Lucas's absence, Ordinance No. 36, Council Bill No. 66 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard for second

reading, 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. Councilman Storey spoke that he had requested a list of contacts from Jim Plump of the County's tax abatement recipients and wanted to reach out to them with to see their thoughts on the proposed ordinance. On a motion by Mr. Storey, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance was tabled 6-0-1.

### **New Business**

- a. Councilman Hackney introduced (brought off the table) Resolution No. 31, Council Bill No. 64 (2024), seconded by Councilman Storey, a resolution of the City of Seymour, Indiana, to establish structure for City Employees tuition reimbursement assistance program. Mr. Hackney read the points of the program to the audience. Les Linz asked if employees left City employment after receiving the reimbursement, did they have to repay the City. Mr. Hackney shared this had not been discussed. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the resolution passed 6-0-1.

### **Miscellaneous Business:**

- Councilman Beatty shared a Power Point presentation presenting the facts and figures that led to Brad's Law as written by Mike Wright, and the two resolutions passed at Jackson County Council, Resolution 8 supporting Brad's Law, and Resolution 9, supporting the detention and documenting of individuals driving without a license. Mr. Beatty's reason for the presentation was to get Council support for these resolutions and have them formatted to be presented to the Seymour City Council for a vote next meeting. There was some discussion about whether this should go to the Governmental Committee, but then it was requested to form an Ad hoc committee composed of Mr. Hackney, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Beatty, Police Chief O'Brien, Assistant Chief John Watson, with some invites from the County side. There was some additional discussion about how some of this would work, the costs associated with the purchase of fingerprint scanners and software, along with data accumulation. Mr. Beatty made a motion for Council support for the 2 County resolutions as written and for them to go to the City Legal department to be formatted to Seymour City resolutions. This was seconded by Mr. Storey, and the motion was approved 5-1-1 (1 abstention).
- The Mayor touched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of City Codes that were sent out for review as there seemed to be none that needed updated.
- Downtown business owner Ashley Grizzle spoke of harassment she and her business were experiencing, sharing copies of police reports. She shared that her competition was selling dangerous, illegal products to kids at gas stations. She was very frustrated due to the harassment, and the bad name the competition was giving her business due to the competition's questionable business practices. Councilman Hubbard of the Retail Development committee met with her after the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the meeting was properly adjourned.

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Matt Nicholson, Mayor

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Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/ Treasurer