

Minutes

Seymour Common Council

April 14, 2025

The April 14, 2025, Seymour City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00 PM. The invocation was given by Rev. Ralph Blomenburg and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A virtual/streaming option was available.

Members Present: Mayor Matt Nicholson, First Deputy Nancy Pulsford, Jerry Hackney, Bob Beatty, Seth Davidson, Brad Lucas, Brian Terrell, Chad Hubbard, Denny Frey, Christine Engleking, Fire Chief Eric Roll, Police Chief Greg O'Brien, Mark Gillaspy, Asst Fire Chief Anthony Walker, Brent Kilgas, Colin Smith, January Rutherford, Randy Klemen, Sam Markel, Noriko Taguchi, Whitney, from ARA, Fred and Sally Vogel, The Parkers, and a few other community citizens.

On a motion made by Councilman Denny Frey, seconded by Bob Beatty, the minutes from the March 24, 2025 council meeting were approved.

Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions:

Seth Davidson with the Industrial Development Committee made a motion to hear Compliance with Statement of Benefits from PD Sub, LLC (dba Particle Dynamics) 2223 Killion Ave. This was seconded by Mr. Lucas. Mr. Jim Plump with JCIDC explained this is the final year for 1 real and 1 personal abatements for this company. The company projected \$ 366,000 but invested \$ 584,000; and estimated \$1.485 million on new equipment but has invested \$3,089,000. The company has also exceeded the projected workforce as they now employ 66 workers. After no questions by the council on a motion made by Mr. Davidson to approve the Compliance for Particle Dynamics, that was seconded by Mr. Frey, after a 7/0 vote the compliance for Particle Dynamics was passed by council.

Seth Davidson introduced a reading for the Compliance and Statement of Benefits for Excel Manufacturing, Inc. This was seconded by Mr. Frey. Mr. Plump with JCIDC explained that the company has compliances from 2014,2017,2019, and 2021, and in estimating their investment projection gave a total of 6.1 million in new equipment, their total investment ended up being 5.31 million, with a current employment of 90 and a payroll of 3.150 million. After having no questions from the council, Seth Davidson made a motion to pass the compliance. This was seconded by Mr. Frey, and after a 7/0 vote the compliance was passed by council.

Seth Davidson introduced a reading for the Statement of Compliance for Guardian Bikes. This was seconded by Mr. Beatty. Mr. Plump with JCIDC, explained that the company had a projected investment of \$ 260,000 and ended up with an expenditure of \$297,860, with an estimated 15 employees and

currently have 190 employees with a payroll of \$9 million. Councilman Beatty mentioned that going from the projected 15 workers to 190 was a good thing and questioned how the project from abatement issued in late 2024 was progressing, Mr. Sam Markel from the company said they were moving along well with it. After a motion made by Mr. Davidson seconded by Mr. Beatty, the council passed the compliance 7/0.

Seth Davidson introduced the reading of the Statement of Compliance for Nippon Steel. This was seconded by Mr. Lucas. Jim Pump from JCIDC had 3 personal and 1 real for the company. In 2015 projected a new investment of \$ 814,000 for real property and actually had an investment of \$750,052 and three personal property abatements with an estimated \$ 3,709,546 with an actual investment of \$ 3,358,698, The company has lost a few workers over the past ten years with a high of 482 in 2020 to the current employment of 408, with a payroll of \$23.9 million. After no questions from the council, Mr. Davidson made the motion to approve the abatement for Nippon Steel, this was seconded by Mr. Hackney. After a vote of 7/0, the abatement was passed.

Seth Davidson introduced a new Abatement request from Nippon Steel, this was seconded by Mr. Frey. The company is requesting an abatement on new equipment investment of \$ 646,000. scheduled to begin May 1, 2025, and be completed by February 2026. Although there are no new jobs, the investment will allow the company to retain its workforce of 408 employees with a payroll of 23.9 million. The investment is for a new boiler. After a few questions from the council Seth Davidson made a motion to pass the compliance, This was seconded by Mr. Frey. After a vote of 7/0 the compliance was passed.

Mr. Hubbard announced the Committee of Retail merchants would have an Ordinance for Itinerant Merchants permits to clean up wording in the current ordinance.

Public Hearing: None to report

Old Business: None to report

New Business:

Mr. Hackney introduced Resolution No. 3 Council Bill No. 12 (2025) to be read by title only, and was seconded by Mr. Terrell. A resolution authorizing the filing of CY2026 Application for a grant under Section 5311/5339 of the Federal Transit Act. Whitney Koelling from ARA explained that this is filed every year, and this is just an amendment updating the information to 2026 to keep in compliance with INDOT. This funds up to 50% of the City's transit department. On a motion by Mr. Hackney to pass this resolution on the 1st and only reading, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the resolution passed 7/0.

Mr. Davidson introduced Resolution # 4 Council Bill # 13, approving a tax abatement for Nippon Steel Pipe America, Inc. for Qualified Personal Property. This was seconded by Mr. Frey. Mr. Davidson indicated this is a resolution talked about previously for a new boiler at Nippon Steel. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the resolution passed one and only reading with a 7/0 vote.

Mr. Brad Lucas introduced Ord # 7 CB # 9. This ordinance amending Chapter 92 of the Seymour City Code regarding outdoor and refuse-burning, seconded by Mr. Frey. Anthony Walker, Asst Fire Chief spoke on behalf of the ordinance explaining updated verbiage in giving people the understanding of what is an approved container, that should have a mesh screen over the fire for backyard fire pits. After a small discussion by the council Mr. Lucas made a motion to pass the ordinance. This was seconded by Mr. Beatty. After a 7/0 vote the ordinance passed 1st reading and will return for final reading at the next council meeting.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Beatty gave the fire crew a pat on the back and a couple of “Atta boys” for their professionalism in handling the Seymour Manufacturing fire, which was contained within half an hour.

Mr. Beatty questioned the mobile fingerprinting device and if it would work for our community. Police Chief O’Brien confirmed that they could not implement it using it with federal law enforcement as it is too costly, and the money is not available in the budget. What they have now the Spillman system which is only county wide. In order to make it statewide they would be required to purchase a server and license to operate with the state and they are running into roadblocks as far as making it efficient.

Christina Engleking brought up that members need to refrain from sitting in on committee meetings they are not a part of. This brings up the issue of a quorum of council members which creates liability for the City. After the discussion Chris reiterated that Council members, please not show up to committee meetings which they do not sit. After some discussion they suggested getting in touch with someone in the Public Access office on The Indiana Open door law office.

Kevin Kaplen stood up and wanted to be clear on the previous statement on why Council members should not attend committee meetings on which they are not a part of. Receiving information is under the interpretation that this creates a quorum, which makes it wrong to do without advertising meetings.

The mayor gave praise to Fire Dept on their quick actions for the Fire at Seymour Manufacturing.

On a motion made by Mayor Matt seconded by Mr. Lucas the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Matt Nicholson _____

Attest: Darrin Boas , City Clerk Treasurer