

Minutes

Seymour Common Council

September 23, 2024

The September 23rd, 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 by the Immanuel Lutheran American Heritage Girls. 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, City Attorney Chris Engleking, January Rutherford, Assistant Police Chief John Watson, Erica Moore with the Tribune, Fred and Sally Vogel, Fire Chief Roll, Jon and Laura Stahl, Morgan Bob, Collin Smith, DPW Director Chad Dixon, WPC Director Jarin Gladstein, WPC Assistant Director Doug Gregory, Building Inspector Kelly Pifer, Building Commissioner Jeremy Gray, Admin Patty Tormoehlen, Jim Lucas, Marc Woods, Jim Fenton, Les Linz, Parks Director Chad Keithly, Main Street Director Jaylyn Stam, and roughly 20 other Community citizens.

On a motion made by Mr. Hackney seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the amended minutes for the September 9, 2024, Council meeting were approved.

Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- a. Councilman Lucas spoke on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee that at a recent meeting the following had been discussed:
 - a. Noise Ordinance due to a complaint regarding Harmony Park. Mr. Lucas had talked to the owner, and he was going to try some noise deflection devices, and as it is nearing the end of the outdoor music season, any further action was tabled.
 - b. Taxicab licensing. They are planning on modifying the ordinance to allow those with felony or alcohol convictions to obtain a license after 7 years, following the State code. The Ordinance revision is forthcoming.
 - c. Immigrant issue concerns from Will Everhart. Concerns included Housing and employment, which we cannot supersede State and Federal laws. Also since we are not a Sanctuary City and harboring illegals, there was no action to take on these 2 items.

Public Hearing

- a. Councilman Hackney opened a hearing for the budget of Fiscal Year 2025 for Seymour Civil City. Clerk Treasurer Boas shared a few numbers and information after Marc Woods asked what the budget was. There was no further discussion. The Mayor properly closed the public hearing.

Olds Business

- a. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 3 Authority Bill No. 5 (2024), seconded by Councilman Davidson, for second reading. This is the Ordinance fixing the budget of the Seymour Municipal Airport Authority for the Year 2025. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 5-0-2.
- b. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 25, Council Bill No. 53 (2024), seconded by Councilman Davidson, for second reading. This Ordinance is to Amend Chapter 74 Schedule III Table A of the Seymour City Code – S. Poplar Street and W. Oak Street. This is another 4-way stop that has a favorable recommendation from the Committee and the City Engineer. One corner of this street is a school bus pick up, and traffic has increased with the addition of Crossroads Village on the adjoining block. There have been 2 accidents since 2018 here. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the ordinance passed second reading 5-0-2.
- c. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 26, Council Bill No. 54 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, for second reading. This Ordinance is to Amend Chapter 74 Schedule III Table A of the Seymour City Code – Ewing Street and 4th Street. This comes with City Engineer approval, but he plans on digging into this intersection deeper. There have been 28 property damage incidents in this intersection since 2018, and 4th St. traffic volume continues to grow. There was also some concern shared with excessive numbers of cars parking at Kendall’s Service causing a potential for blocking the oncoming traffic view. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed second reading 5-0-2.
- d. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 27, Council Bill No. 55 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, for second reading. This Ordinance is to Amend Chapter 74 Schedule III Table A of the Seymour City Code – 4th and O’Brien. This gets the 4 way stop at 4th and O’Brien out of City Code book due to being replaced by a roundabout. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the ordinance passed second reading 5-0-2

New Business

- a. Councilman Davidson introduced Ordinance No. 28, Council Bill No. 56 (2024), seconded by Councilman Lucas, and Ordinance amending Chapter 158: Stormwater Management and Construction Site Regulations. Assistant WPC Director Gregory said that this just cleaned up some language in the Code. On a motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the ordinance passed first reading 5-0-2.
- b. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 31, Council Bill 59 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, and Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for the City of Seymour for 2025. This was discussed in the Public Hearing. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the ordinance passed first reading 5-0-2

- c. Councilman Hackney introduced Ordinance No. 32, Council Bill No. 60 (2024), seconded by Councilman Lucas, an ordinance establishing salaries for the Appointed Officials and Employees of the City of Seymour, Indiana for 2025. This gives the City employees a 4% cost of living adjustment. There was no discussion. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 5-0-2.
- d. Councilman Hackney introduced No. 33, Council Bill No. 61 (2024), seconded by Councilman Hubbard, an ordinance setting salaries of Elected Officials for the City of Seymour, Indiana for 2025. Again, this included a 4% cost of living increase. Councilman Hubbard asked if they took a raise last year, which they did. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the ordinance passed first reading 4-1-2.
- e. Councilman Lucas introduced Ordinance No. 29, Council Bill No. 57, (2024), seconded by Councilman Davidson, an ordinance amending Chapter 113 of the Seymour City Code regarding taxicabs. This removes the Chauffeur's License requirement as this requirement has changed with the State and limits the penalty of having a felony conviction to 7 years, again following State guidelines. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 5-0-2.
- f. Councilman Lucas introduced Ordinance No. 30, Council Bill No. 58 (2024), seconded by Councilman Terrell, an ordinance amending Chapter 32 of the Seymour City Code -City Policies. This adds the Suspension and/or Disbarment language that must be incorporated with any vendor where is involved using Federal Funds/Federal Assistance is involved. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed first reading 5-0-2. At this time, Mr. Davidson made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, to do the second reading. The motion passed unanimously with those in attendance 5-0-2. Mr. Lucas then reintroduced Ordinance No. 30, Council Bill No. 58, seconded by Mr. Hubbard. There was no further discussion. On a motion by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the ordinance passed seconded reading 5-0-2.

Miscellaneous Business

- Councilman Hubbard congratulated Councilman Lucas (former Fire Chief) on being the Grand Marshal for the Octoberfest parade.
- State Representative Jim Lucas asked the Mayor what was the scoop with eh 4th and O'Brien roundabout. The Mayor stated the first layer of pavement was put down today, with 2 more layers to go. Mr. Lucas requested a timeline, and the mayor declined to give a completion date because the timeline has changed so much in the past month.
- Sandra Sweeny spoke of returning home and finding a small, dark-skinned child by her mailbox, and he ran when she approached. She was concerned he would get hit by a car, and finally got him into her house and called the Sheriff. The mother was located in a subdivision

behind her, and the child had autism. A 7-yr old sister spoke on behalf of her mother, as they were Haitian. Mrs. Sweeny shared her displeasure of immigrants now in the 2-mile fringe around Seymour.

- Tony Couch, publisher of the Seymour Immigration Facebook page, shared his displeasure with local businesses receiving tax abatements and hiring immigrants, the LLC's providing vehicles to immigrants with no driver's licenses, the number of non-English speaking in our schools, and occupancy issues with renters/homeowners. The Mayor shared he had discussed some of these issues with State Rep. Lucas back in 2020, which have yet to be acted on. The Mayor and Assistant Chief Watson shared that local ordinances cannot supersede state and federal laws regarding inspecting single family dwellings.
- Marc Woods asked about the immigrant doing unlicensed dental work that was arrested several months ago, did anyone know what happened to him? Assistant Chief Watson shared this is a court issue, and it may take a year or 2 to make it to the courts. Mr. Woods feels the City should stay in tune with what is going on with these issues.
- Robin Armstrong asked about a City Meeting for citizens to share their concerns vs. coming to Council meetings. The Mayor and Mr. Hackney shared the Council voted not to hold such a meeting as the Brookings Study was voted down.
- Les Linz shared the City might try to do some fact finding and share info to appease the community's frustrations.

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

Matt Nicholson, Mayor

Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/ Treasurer

