

Minutes

Seymour Common Council

October 14, 2024

The October 14th, 2024, Seymour City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Nicholson at 7:00pm. The invocation was given by Rev. Rick Prather, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, A virtual/steaming option was available.

Members Present: Mayor Matt Nicholson, 1st Deputy Nancy Pulsford, Jerry Hackney, Seth Davidson, Brian Terrell, Chad Hubbard, Brad Lucas, City Attorney Chris Engleking, January Rutherford, Clint Blish, Drew Storey, Assistant Police Chief John Watson, Erica Moore with the Tribune, Fred Vogel, Fire Chief Roll, Jon and Laura Stahl , WPC Assistant Director Doug Gregory, Les Linz, Bill Bohall, Dana Clark, Chip Everhart, 2nd Deputy Melissa Herndon, Justin Herndon and roughly 20-30 other Community citizens.

On a motion made by Mr. Brad Lucas seconded by Mr. Hubbard, the minutes for the September 23, 2024, Council meeting were approved.

Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

None to report.

Public Hearing: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- a. Council member Blish asked Ordinance No. 28, Council Bill No. 56 (2024), to be read by title only, seconded by Councilman Lucas. An 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 made by Councilman Blish seconded by Councilman Hubbard the Ordinance passed second reading 7-0.
- b. Council member Hackney asked Ordinance No. 31, Council Bill 59 (2024), to be read by title only, seconded by Councilman Hubbard. An 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. Hubbard the ordinance passed second reading 7-0
- c. Councilman Hackney asked Ordinance No. 32, Council Bill No. 60 (2024), to be read by title only seconded by Councilman Hubbard. 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 increase. There was no discussion. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Lucas, the Ordinance passed second reading 7-0.

- d. Council member Hackney asked No. 33, Council Bill No. 61 (2024), be read by title only, 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. On a motion by Mr. Hackney, seconded by Mr. Terrell, the ordinance passed second reading 6-1.
- e. Council Member Lucas asked Ordinance No. 29, Council Bill No. 57, (2024), be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Blish. 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. This received a favorable recommendation by the Governmental Affairs Committee. On a motion made by Brad Lucas, seconded by Mr. Davidson the ordinance passed second reading 7-0.

New Business:

- f. Council Member Hackman asked Resolution No. 30, Council Bill No. 62 (2024), be read by title only, seconded by Councilman Blish. A resolution of the Seymour Common Council Supporting Transfer Station Project Funding. This resolution is for tracking, transparency, and allocates all remaining ARP funds to the contract for the construction of the DPW transfer station awarded at the BOW on 10/10/24. The resolution also designates where the remaining needed funds for the transfer station will be coming from (2021 Building Corp Bond). On a motion made by Mr. Hackney to pass the resolution, seconded by Mr. Blish the resolution was passed 7-0

Miscellaneous Business:

Chip Everhart wanted to speak about himself and citizens of the community that do not want Seymour to be labeled or become a sanctuary city. Another issue he brought up is wanting to be sure that people are living in safe housing city wide by ensuring that the issue of unsafe/unsanitary housing conditions are being investigated. He is wanting an ordinance authorizing the city to inspect/investigate suspected people living in such conditions.

Bob Beatty suggested we have more people to inspect and ensure that people are living in safe and sanitary conditions.

Dana Clark spoke about the indignity of the Oktoberfest Parade allowing LGTBQ and drag queens marching in the parade. Mayor Matt let him know that he is not in charge of the Oktoberfest, there is a board that makes those decisions, and he is not a member of that board. Mayor Matt let Mr. Clark know that those complaints fall under the freedom of speech, and they have the right to express their beliefs just like he is doing when he brings his complaints to the council.

When he started to get out of hand, the mayor told him his time was up, and he needed to take his seat. He refused and Mayor Matt asked Asst Police Chief John Watson to escort him from the building.

John Stahl stood up and expressed his concerns about unlicensed drivers driving dangerously and potentially hurting other drivers.

Tyler Henkle questioned what constitutes people reporting on their neighbors and how it should not be allowed to enter their homes based on neighbor's fears.

The mayor suggested that starting with the year 2025, they should review ordinances to make sure that all citizens are treated fairly, and ordinances are understood,

Mark Kidwell spoke on behalf of the citizens of Seymour saying that they just want to make sure their voices are heard.

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

Matt Nicholson, Mayor

Attest: Darrin Boas, Clerk/ Treasurer