

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

November 18, 2024

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, Indiana met in the Council Chambers of the New Mishawaka City Hall and via telephone on November 18, 2024, at 6:00PM. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gregg Hixenbaugh. All were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which would be followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of Linda Dotson, who served the City of Mishawaka in several different capacities most recently as Deputy Clerk to Clerk Debbie Ladyga-Block and did a wonderful job of providing service to the citizens of Mishawaka in all capacities and also a moment of silence in remembrance of longtime Mishawaka police officer and business owner Quinto Squadroni, who had the distinction at the time of his passing of being their oldest living Mishawaka Police Department retiree and went on to have a really vibrant life after he left the police department including as the owner of one of the best restaurants and after hours hangout establishments in Mishawaka. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the Council extended their condolences to both the Dotson family and the Squadroni family and may they both rest in peace.

Members attending virtually do so by WebEx. Public that attends can participate by WebEx or observe meetings by YouTube or Facebook live. The Council meetings are also streamed live on Michiana Access on Comcast/AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

Clerk Block called the roll.

Present: Mrs. Hazen (P), Mrs. Voelker (P), Mr. Carroll (P), Mr. Banicki (P), Mr. Emmons (P), Ms. Hahn (P), Mr. Mammolenti (P), Mr. Violi (P), Mr. Hixenbaugh (P)

P: Present E: Electronically Participating A: Absent

Also Present: Mike Trippel, Council Attorney

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on October 28, 2024, were approved as received from the Clerk's Office.

Mayor's Youth Council Presentation

Andrew Rimelspach, Sophomore at Penn High School and first year member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, spoke before the Council. Mr. Rimelspach thanked the Council for the opportunity to update them and inform them on their Thanksgiving food drive. Mr. Rimelspach stated members of the MYAC had been contacting business owners for monetary donations as well as asking if they could leave a donation box to collect food items. Mr. Rimelspach stated some items that were collected were canned beans, mashed potatoes, yams, stuffing, and various other Thanksgiving meal items. Mr. Rimelspach stated all donations were going to families in need and as a learning experience for the food drive the following year, they may start it earlier, seek out more media coverage, and even set up a donation page or website for online donations. Mr. Rimelspach stated although it was a challenge that year to get donations with multiple

Thanksgiving food drives happening all at once, he still could not wait to see the smiles and impact they had made for the community of Mishawaka.

Mr. Emmons asked if they were having trouble getting donations for their baskets. Mr. Rimelspach stated yes, there were a lot of other school food drives going on and other businesses doing it as well, so the problems they were having were because of that. Mr. Emmons asked if they provided ham or turkey to the people. Mr. Rimelspach stated they provided both and the President of the MYAC, Arianna Rice, would answer other questions they had more in depth in her presentation.

Arianna Rice, Senior at Penn High School and President of the MYAC, spoke before the Council. Ms. Rice stated she had the honor of serving as the President of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Rice stated their goal for the 2024 food drive was to assist 50 families and 25 veteran families for a total of 75 families served. Ms. Rice stated they were able to raise a total of 1,493 total items with a total of \$1,225 in gift cards between Meijer and Martin's. Ms. Rice stated she recently spoke about the initiative on her school's network to encourage students and teachers to get involved by donating non-perishable food items or monetary donations. Ms. Rice stated she was thrilled to report that they had exceeded their goal. Ms. Rice thanked all three schools, Penn, Mishawaka, and Marian for their incredible generosity, and they had collected enough donations to fill all 75 boxes. Ms. Rice stated this would make a real difference in the lives of so many families in their community during the holiday season. Ms. Rice thanked everyone who contributed, and she was incredibly proud of how their Mishawaka schools had come together to support the important cause. Ms. Rice stated they were truly making an impact, and this was a great example of how future leaders could help those in need. Ms. Rice thanked the Council.

Ty Caruso, Senior at Marian High School and Vice President of the MYAC, spoke before the Council. Mr. Caruso stated he was very honored to be helping with the food drive and aiding the community. Mr. Caruso stated Marian High School donated to the MYAC and they also physically brought food. Mr. Caruso read a quote by Winston Churchill that said, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' Mr. Caruso stated he thought that quote showed the great privilege they all had to help the vulnerable and how honored they all should be to be contributing to the great service. Mr. Caruso stated he thought the people of Mishawaka who had all donated to the cause, no matter how big or small the donation was, had been looked on with great gratitude and a heart full of thanks. Mr. Caruso stated to all who had donated and to all who had helped, he hoped they could all look in the mirror that evening and say they made a positive difference in someone's life. Mr. Caruso stated with the help from the Council, he hoped that with what they could and what they had, they could continue to make a difference in the lives of Mishawaka citizens.

Millie Mammolenti, Sophomore at Mishawaka High School, spoke before the Council. Ms. Mammolenti began thanking the Council for allowing them all to speak that evening and provide an update on their Thanksgiving food drive. Ms. Mammolenti stated this was the youth council's biggest service project of the year and for the last several weeks, they had been seeking donations from local high schools, businesses, community members, neighbors, friends, family,

and Mishawaka city employees. Ms. Mammolenti stated through their generous donations along with everyone else's, they were able to collect enough food items for 75 local families, including 25 veteran families. Ms. Mammolenti stated last night, the youth council members boxed all the items, and they were ready to be delivered on Thursday. Ms. Mammolenti stated as a first-year youth council member, she looked forward to seeing the impact the food drive had on the community and veterans. Ms. Mammolenti thanked all for their help and donations for this great project.

Mr. Mammolenti stated good job to the youth council, all the participants in the food drive, Mrs. Wood, and Mrs. Reinoehl for organizing a wonderful project and as the bright students mentioned, what a great impact this would be making on their community and their families. Mr. Mammolenti thanked them all for their efforts.

Mr. Emmons asked if they were still taking monetary donations. Ms. Rice stated yes.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked the youth council representatives for being there, for their comments, and more importantly for the work they were doing on behalf of the community not just regarding the food drive but all the work that they did as part of the Mayor's Youth Council. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated they looked forward to seeing the other great things that they would accomplish during the year on behalf of Mishawaka.

Presentation of the Redevelopment Commission's Spending Plan for 2025

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the record would reflect that in compliance with Indiana law, the Council had received the Redevelopment Commission Spending Plan for 2025.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Controller Maguire, Mr. Prince, and everyone who was involved in putting the plan together.

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and assigned committee.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-31

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA AND THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 364

Collective Bargaining between the City and Local 364 Central Services. 1-1-2025 thru b12-31-2027

(Assigned to Personnel Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA AND THE EMPLOYEES OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 364

**Collective Bargaining between the City and Local 364 Sewer. 1-1-2025 thru 12-31-2027
(Assigned to Personnel Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-33

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5898 AS AMENDED WHICH
ESTABLISHED A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA
(Assigned to Public Health & Safety Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emmons stated the First District Meeting would be held on Thursday November 21st at St. Bavo's Church at 7PM. Mr. Emmons stated they would have the United PetFood CEO speaking and she would be addressing some issues that they would like to help fund for the City of Mishawaka, not only in the West End but also in Rose Park. Mr. Emmons stated they were going to give them their ideas of what they wanted to do in the West End, because United PetFood wanted to be good neighbors and wanted to be a great part of the community, and they had already started to put their stamp on what they could do in the West End. Mr. Emmons stated it was basically a two-person control over there regarding the management and the CEO was a dynamic person. Mr. Emmons stated she was there five nights a week and on Friday nights, she would get on a plane to Florida and Sunday night, she caught a plane to come back to Mishawaka which demonstrated how dedicated she was. Mr. Emmons stated all were welcome to the meeting.

Mr. Mammolenti invited all that were listening, all that were in the Council Chambers, and anybody in the City of Mishawaka to come out to support the Mishawaka Cavemen football team on Friday November 22nd at 7:30PM at Steele Stadium as they would be playing in the semi-state championship. Mr. Mammolenti stated if they won, they would travel to the state championship down in Indianapolis. Mr. Mammolenti stated they could use and appreciate anyone's support, and he would be in attendance to support his fellow cavemen.

ADJOURNMENT 6:17PM

Deborah S. Block _____/s/
Deborah S. Block, IAMC, MMC, City Clerk

Gregg A. Hixenbaugh _____/s/
Gregg A. Hixenbaugh, President

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Mishawaka Common Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at www.youtube.com/@cityofmishawaka635 for as long as this media is supported.