

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

December 2, 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 December 2, 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.

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 (A), Mrs. Voelker (P), Mr. Carroll (P), Mr. Banicki (P), Mr. Emmons (P), Ms. Hahn (P), Mr. Mammolenti (P), Mr. Viola (P), Mr. Hixenbaugh (P)
P: Present E: Electronically Participating A: Absent

Also Present: Mike Trippel, Council Attorney

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on November 18, 2024, were approved as received from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Block read the following appeal and petition by title.

Appeal No. 2024-52	Use Variance for 3 Tenants in C-1 Commercial District & Developmental Variance for 60 square foot Monument Sign – 917 Union Street
Petition No. 2024-10	Annexation of 7.72 Acres and Rezoning to S-2 Planned Unit Development for Apartment Complex – Douglas Rd.

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-34

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 121 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, COMMONLY KNOWN AS “THE FLOOD CONTROL ORDINANCE” OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

**Amending the Flood Control Ordinance
(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-35

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS “THE ZONING ORDINANCE” OF 1966 OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

Wellhead Protection Land Use Restrictions

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated at that time, in order to afford the Council an additional opportunity to consider the proposed ordinance, the chair entertained a motion to postpone indefinitely the second reading and public hearing on **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-35**. Mr. Banicki moved the motion and with a second from Mrs. Voelker, a voice vote was held on the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the matter was postponed indefinitely.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-36

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5868 FIXING THE SALARIES OF ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA EXCEPT MISHAWAKA PARK DEPARTMENT, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND THE MISHAWAKA UTILITIES FOR THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024

**Amending 5868 Civil City Salary for 2024 – Central Services
(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-37

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5907AA FIXING THE SALARIES OF ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA EXCEPT MISHAWAKA PARK DEPARTMENT, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND THE MISHAWAKA UTILITIES FOR THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024

**Amending 5907AA Civil City Salary for 2025 – Central Services
(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-38

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND TRANSFERRING AND REAPPROPRIATING FUNDS WITHIN THE BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

**Transfer of Funds: Central Services – Supplies – 1101-22-422-02 (\$30,000.00) To: Central Services – Other Services & Charges – 1101-22-436-01 (\$30,000.00) Total: \$30,000.00
(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-39

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND TRANSFERRING AND
REAPPROPRIATING FUNDS WITHIN THE BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE
CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**Transfer of Funds: Park & Rec – Personnel Services – 2204-50-411-03 (\$85,000.00),
Supplies – 2204-50-429-15 (\$10,000.00), and 2204-50-429-16 (\$5,000.00) To: Other Services
& Charges – 2204-50-436-01 (\$15,000.00) and 2204-50-436-90 (\$85,000.00) Total:
\$100,000.00**

(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-40

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND DETERMINING THE
EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND TRANSFERRING THE AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN CORONAVIRUS LOCAL RECOVERY GRANT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**Additional Appropriation: ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant – Other
Services & Charges (\$129,667.00) Transfer of Funds: Other Capital Outlays – 2403-50-443-
93 (\$12,295.00) To: Other Services & Charges – 2403-50-459-03 (\$12,295.00) Total:
\$12,295.00**

(Assigned to ARPA Funding Special Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-41

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND DETERMINING THE
EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31,
2024**

**Additional Appropriation: General Fund, Personnel Services, Controller – 1101-02-411-02
(\$40,700.00) Human Resources – 1101-04-411-02 (\$55,700.00) Code Enforcement 1101-14-
411-01 & 1101-14-411-63 (\$5,650.00 & \$4,425.00) Fire Department – 1101-19-411-60
(\$250,000.00) Other Services & Charges, Professional Services, Human Resources – 1101-
04-431-04 (\$11,200.00) Total: \$367,675.00 Other Services & Charges, Professional Services
– 2209-50-431-09 (\$250,000.00) Total: \$250,000.00**

(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-42

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA,
INDIANA, ESTABLISHING A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE MISHAWAKA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

(Assigned to Public Health & Safety Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-43

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA,
INDIANA, ESTABLISHING A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE MISHAWAKA FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

(Assigned to Public Health & Safety Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-44

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA AND MISHAWAKA FRATERNAL ORDER
OF POLICE LODGE 91**

**Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and Mishawaka Police Lodge 91 – 01-
01-2025 thru 12-31-2025**

(Assigned to Public Health & Safety Committee)

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and opened the public hearing.

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 thru 12-31-2027

Mr. Banicki reported the Personnel Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Mammolenti, the motion carried.

Tim Ryan, Director of Central Services, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-31**. Mr. Ryan stated he was on the city side of the negotiating team and requested the Council's approval of the contract. Mr. Ryan stated he thought it was well negotiated on both sides and thanked the city's negotiating team as well as Teamsters Local 364 for the good faith bargaining that they did as there were no major hangups, no issues, and it was uncontentious. Mr. Ryan stated it was probably the most pleasant negotiations he had been part of.

Craig Fitzpatrick, Business Representative for Teamsters Local 364, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-31**. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he supported what Mr. Ryan said and he had represented the group for five years and they had a very open dialogue with good negotiations and the members overwhelmingly supported the agreement and they asked that the Council support it as well. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked him for the work he and the people he represented did and thanked the administration as well for what sounded like a very productive round of negotiations.

Mrs. Voelker stated in her opinion, what Central Services had done was so important to their city and there were things that came up all the time that they took care of, and she appreciated very much that they were on top of it and taking care of the issues. Mrs. Voelker stated she had a very large yard with numerous leaves that they picked up every year and she appreciated that so much and she knew she was not the only one that did. Mrs. Voelker wanted to take the time to thank them for all that they did, because she was sure that there were times when it was not fun, but they needed to know it was very appreciated.

Question was called for at 6:14PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-31 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh.

The proposed ordinance passed 8-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5911.**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA AND 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

Mr. Banicki reported the Personnel Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Mammolenti, the motion carried.

Tom Dolly, Director of the Sewer Maintenance Department in Mishawaka, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32.** Mr. Dolly respectfully requested the Council's approval of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Mishawaka and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 364 for certain employees in the City of Mishawaka Sewer Department. Mr. Dolly stated he as well as the Central Services Department and Tim Ryan found that the negotiations with the teamsters that year went very smooth and one of the easiest negotiations they had in years and Craig Fitzpatrick, their business agent did an outstanding job. Mr. Dolly requested their approval and thanked the Council once again.

Craig Fitzpatrick, Business Representative for Teamsters Local 364, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32.** Mr. Fitzpatrick agreed with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Dolly in saying that they were very good negotiations, and he appreciated the work that was put in by the city specifically by both department heads, HR, the Controller's Office, and John Roggeman, City Attorney. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the members supported this and he asked that the Council support it as well. Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mrs. Voelker for her kind words earlier and stated both groups worked very hard and took pride in what they did for the city. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick and his team as well as the Administration's team for another round of productive negotiations.

Mrs. Voelker expressed how much she appreciated the Sewer Department and stated there had been an ongoing issue on Wilson Boulevard, as she and Mr. Violi were very well aware of, and

she knew Engineering was working on it but she knew Sewer had been working on it for a very long time and she appreciated their persistence and she knew all of the people who lived around there appreciated it as well and it sounded like they were moving in the right direction with it. Mrs. Voelker thanked them.

Question was called for at 6:18PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh.

The proposed ordinance passed 8-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5912.**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-33

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5898AA WHICH ESTABLISHED A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated based upon the request of the Administration, the chair entertained a motion to amend **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-33**. Mr. Banicki moved the motion and with a second from Mr. Violi. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked Mr. Lentsch to summarize the nature of the amendment for the record prior to the vote.

Matt Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs for the City of Mishawaka, spoke before the Council regarding the amendment. Mr. Lentsch stated the amendment would stop the expansion of the DORA boundary at the north part of Main Street and Lincolnway East. Mr. Lentsch stated after consulting with some of the Council as well as Chief Arendt from the Mishawaka Police Department, they believed that stopping the boundary made sense in terms of safety and while he thought it made sense to bring the DORA boundary into the traditional downtown crossing Lincolnway, he thought at that point it would be a street too far. Mr. Lentsch stated they would like some time to expand it, monitor it, and then see how it went before they wanted to potentially expand it again. Mr. Lentsch stated based on the conversations they had as well as his conversations with Chief Arendt, it was his recommendation that they did with the memo stating that they would stop at the northern part of Main Street and Lincolnway East.

A voice vote was held on the motion for the amendment as proposed by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, and the ordinance would be amended accordingly.

Ms. Hahn reported the Public Health and Safety Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Banicki, the motion carried.

Matt Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs for the City of Mishawaka, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-33AA**. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them that evening regarding the proposed expansion of the designated outdoor refreshment area. Mr. Lentsch stated as public servants they

were entrusted with shaping Mishawaka's future and consistently demonstrated a thoughtful approach to initiatives that balanced growth, community values, and practical governance. Mr. Lentsch stated he asked the same thoughtful consideration of them that evening as they deliberated on the expansion of their DORA boundary to include much of the traditional downtown area stopping at the corner of Main Street and Lincolnway East. Mr. Lentsch stated DORA allowed patrons to responsibly enjoy alcoholic beverages within a defined public area while participating in local events, dining, or shopping. Mr. Lentsch stated the concept had already proven successful in Mishawaka creating a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere and designated spaces. Mr. Lentsch stated the proposed expansion was not a departure from the principles, but an enhancement of them. Mr. Lentsch stated the amended boundaries strategically incorporated key areas that were downtown, aligning with the city's long-term vision of enhancing economic vitality, attracting visitors, and supporting local businesses. Mr. Lentsch stated by including five additional vendors with the potential of a sixth with the Avalon within the boundary, this expansion provided more opportunities for participation and growth directly benefiting small business owners and strengthening their local economy. Mr. Lentsch stated DORA fostered a sense of community that created memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike. Mr. Lentsch stated it enhanced their ability to host successful events, activated public spaces, and highlighted the best of what Mishawaka had to offer as a reflection of their community spirit and their shared commitment of being the best hometown in America. Mr. Lentsch stated he understood there may be concerns about enforcement, safety, or potential disruptions and he wanted to assure them that the considerations had been accounted for and addressed one major concern. Mr. Lentsch stated the Mishawaka Police Department led by Chief Arendt supported the revised boundary and was prepared to maintain the safety and integrity of the expanded area. Mr. Lentsch stated DORA rules, including the use of specially marked cups and strict boundary enforcement would remain in place. Mr. Lentsch stated approving the expansion was not only about approving boundaries, but approving progress, community connection, and opportunity. Mr. Lentsch stated the thoughtful, measured expansion would strike the right balance between growth and tradition. Mr. Lentsch urged the Council to vote in favor of the revised and mended DORA boundary to take the step forward in making Mishawaka an even more dynamic, welcoming, and thriving community. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council.

Mr. Carroll stated he just wanted to make sure that they had not had any issues, concerns, or incidents that had occurred within the current DORA area and asked if that was correct. Mr. Lentsch stated that was correct and there had been no incidents.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Lentsch for his work on the matter and appreciated his summary of what had not changed with the restrictions and the oversight of the original DORA ordinance remaining in place even after if the amended ordinance were to pass and asked if that was correct. Mr. Lentsch stated that was correct. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if that included the abilities of the Mayor and the Chief of Police to be able to, in essence, shut down DORA if there would be any significant public safety concerns. Mr. Lentsch stated that was correct. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the ordinance as amended would still retain the authority of the Council to be able to also take legislative action to restrict or otherwise delete the operation of DORA as would be appropriate and asked if that was correct. Mr. Lentsch stated that was also correct. Mr.

Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Lentsch for his work on it once again that he had done, not only by appearing at the council meetings but between time interacting with the vendors and those who were participating in it. Mr. Lentsch stated it was a pleasure.

Mr. Mammolenti thanked Mr. Lentsch and all of those that were involved in the effort to bring the matter to their attention for the expansion. Mr. Mammolenti stated although he was a bit apprehensive on the expansion, he found comfort in Chief Arendt's recommendation with the letter that was composed and circulated to the group as well but he would still remain cautious as the curve southbound on Main Street did give him some concern, but he also found comfort in the fact that, as Mr. Hixenbaugh mentioned, at any point in time where they felt it was a dangerous situation or unsafe to some of the residents that they could peel it back. Mr. Mammolenti looked forward to enjoying this in the summer months and he was glad to hear that there had not been any incidents, or any harm done to anybody. Mr. Mammolenti thanked Mr. Lentsch for his efforts and stated he would be supporting the proposed ordinance that evening.

Ms. Hahn thanked Mr. Lentsch and the Administration. Ms. Hahn stated she knew when she supported this in the summer, she was vocal about wanting to include Main Street and a lot of their local shops and she had worked closely with some of the shop owners as well as the restaurant owners and they were very excited, especially on the timeframe that they may get to be involved in with Winterfest in some capacity and they had some good ideas that she thought could add to the experience. Ms. Hahn thanked them for looking at this in a timely manner and thinking of the small businesses.

Mr. Emmons commended Mr. Lentsch for changing the boundaries of the proposed DORA. Mr. Emmons stated he still had concerns about crossing Lincolnway and by changing the outline of the DORA, he could confidently vote in favor of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Emmons thanked Mr. Lentsch for his work on it and consideration in changing it.

Question was called for at 6:30PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-33AA Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh.

The proposed ordinance passed 8-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5913.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Wood wanted to make the Council aware of a few events that would be occurring throughout the holiday season. Mayor Wood stated Saturday, December 7th at 10AM in the Council Chambers in City Hall, they would be holding a ceremony on Pearl Harbor Day to dedicate their newest additions to the outstanding memorials that they had in the city, this one being their Civil War Memorial. Mayor Wood stated there was a newly created plaque, a newly created framed battle flag from the Civil War that flew over an Indiana regiment from a Mishawaka soldier and some other artifacts and memorabilia that they would be dedicating on that day, as well as to remember their own piece of Pearl Harbor which was the USS Arizona that they had a piece of on permanent display at City Hall. Mayor Wood stated they were proud to do that and that evening, they would also be celebrating Mishawaka's great hometown

holidays with Winterfest. Mayor Wood stated they had nearly 80 lighted floats that would be part of the parade. Mayor Wood stated they would bring Santa Claus in around 5:30PM to 6PM and they would light the official city Christmas tree. Mayor Wood stated they would have free ice skating and all kinds of festivities with the event. Mayor Wood stated they would then be wrapping up the event with the city's first drone show in city history. Mayor Wood stated he had seen some glimpses of it and it was going to be pretty cool, so he was excited about that. Mayor Wood stated on Saturday December 14th at noon at Fairview Cemetery, they would be having Wreaths Across America coming back to put wreaths at all of their veterans' tombstones. Mayor Wood stated it had become one of his absolute favorite traditional Christmas events in the city and all were welcome to come out and participate. Mayor Wood stated his very own son would be representing the Air Force so you could come out and see Cadet Flight B ROTC member, Cadet Wood out there. Mayor Wood stated there were some great opportunities for them to participate in with their upcoming festivities surrounding the holiday.

Matt Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs for the City of Mishawaka, spoke under **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them that evening regarding the transition to their new solid waste and recycling service provider. Mr. Lentsch stated as they approached the important change, he wanted to highlight key aspects of the transition. Mr. Lentsch stated effective January 1, 2025, Waste Management would assume responsibility for city solid waste and recycling service. Mr. Lentsch stated the transition came after a thorough and competitive bidding process and securing reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable services for their community. Mr. Lentsch stated while transitions of this scale could present short-term challenges, the long-term benefits to their city and residents were significant. Mr. Lentsch stated WM had begun delivering new 96-gallon trash and recycling bins to every residence property in Mishawaka. Mr. Lentsch stated no citizen in Mishawaka could opt out of the service and WM would be their provider across the city. Mr. Lentsch stated this process was expected to be completed by December 20th and residents who did not receive their bins by that date were encouraged to contact Waste Management's customer service team. Mr. Lentsch stated they were asking residents to set the Waste Management trash and recycling bins aside until January 1, 2025. Mr. Lentsch stated Republic Service's bins should be continued to be used throughout the month of December and following the final collection, residents should leave Republic bins curbside for retrieval. Mr. Lentsch stated beginning in January, only WM bins should be used so please keep the WM bins aside and use the Republic bins until the beginning of the new year. Mr. Lentsch stated WM offered smaller 64-gallon bins for those who preferred them as well as additional bins for those with larger needs and those adjustments could be arranged directly with WM after the residents received their new bins. Mr. Lentsch stated many aspects would remain familiar to residents and WM would continue to provide weekly trash and recycling pickup and when necessary, residents may place one item or a 40-pound trash bag on the curb alongside their bin. Mr. Lentsch stated there would of course be weekly pickup of two bulky items furniture or indoor appliances. Mr. Lentsch stated WM would introduce a dedicated call center and an online portal for residents to easily address requests or concerns. Mr. Lentsch stated these tools would ensure responsive and efficient communication with residents. Mr. Lentsch stated transitions of this magnitude would involve minor challenges as WM familiarized itself with their city neighborhoods and routes and while the City and WM

were working to ensure a seamless transition, they asked for patience from their residents during that time. Mr. Lentsch stated residents were encouraged to stay informed through updates from the city's website and social media and they were trying to hit this in every way possible. Mr. Lentsch stated in looking to the future, this partnership with WM represented a step forward for Mishawaka, aligning with their commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and exceptional customer service. Mr. Lentsch stated from enhanced recycling capabilities to improving customer service, WM would bring modern resources and expertise that would serve their residents well for years to come. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Mishawaka Common Council for their diligence in supporting the transition and their residents for their understanding and cooperation. Mr. Lentsch stated together, they were ensuring that their Mishawaka community continued to be a model community for clean, efficient, and forward-thinking services.

Mr. Violi stated for his neighborhood with it being a Friday pickup, it would be on December 27th and since that would be after Christmas, it would bump over to the 28th which was a Saturday and asked if that was correct. Mr. Lentsch stated that was correct. Mr. Violi asked if Republic would then come and get their bins after that and if on January 2nd, WM would then start to collect. Mr. Lentsch stated both of those things were correct. Mr. Violi stated there had been a lot of misinformation and asked if they were going to get something in the communicator in the electric and utility bill. Mr. Lentsch stated there had been a few things with three or four articles on the city website, they tried to get all of the information out to all the TV stations, as well as the newspaper and they had been very willing to oblige. Mr. Violi stated he understood that, but it would be nice to have it in the utility bill. Mr. Lentsch stated it would be. Mr. Violi thanked Mr. Lentsch.

Mr. Mammolenti thanked Mr. Lentsch for all of the work and effort he had put into this and as he mentioned before, he believed communication was key. Mr. Mammolenti appreciated all of the information and stated if they could continue to sporadically be provided with information on the transition, that would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Lentsch stated they would continue with the effort to get communication out by all means. Mr. Mammolenti asked if he could, if he had not already, include the link for the app people could download on their smartphones to familiarize themselves with that. Mr. Lentsch stated he would take care of that and that would happen after all of the bins had been distributed.

Mrs. Voelker stated she was on the city website and there was really nothing on the website, specifically on the front page, about the transition. Mrs. Voelker stated under the news section, the only information there was a phone number for Mishawaka Utilities customer service and nothing for Waste Management. Mrs. Voelker asked when the information that was distinct to Waste Management would be available. Mr. Lentsch stated it would be available within the next couple of weeks, and it would be on the banner.

Mr. Emmons thanked Mr. Lentsch for looking into how the new service people were going to handle the handicap requests that had been handled previously by Republic and he had a couple call him and ask whether it was going to be the same service or if there was going to be a change, so he would appreciate him getting back to him as soon as possible so they could inform some of

the people on how exactly the service would or would not change. Mr. Lentsch stated they would handle these on a case-by-case basis, and they would work with WM to see what they could do.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Lentsch for his work on this and asked stated he knew from a recent conversation with him that, as he understood it, residents who currently enjoyed the senior discount would not have to take an additional step and that would be rolled over so that automatically when the new bill started, they would receive that same discount as opposed to the normal residential rate and asked if that was correct. Mr. Lentsch stated that was correct and they had created a list and identified the seniors, and they would continue to get the discount as they always had. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated, going back to the approval of the contract with WM, his recollection was that they committed to them in the Chambers and in writing in the contract to helping to support Mr. Lentsch with regard to the communication plan and outreach to residents, so while he sincerely appreciated the work that he was doing, he asked if WM was holding up their end of the bargain. Mr. Lentsch stated absolutely, and they had been talking and discussed the different subjects and things that they were working on like the microsite, the portal, and the push notifications and discussed what they were doing. Mr. Lentsch stated they would be continuing to have those discussions, and they were living up to what they committed to. Mr. Lentsch stated the major communication piece that they had worked on and had sent to him for approval and edits was the piece that they felt was most important, which was a piece that was going to be connected to the bin as it was distributed. Mr. Lentsch stated what they found was that piece had time, and time again met the needs of the folks requesting information, but it would be everything that they talked about. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he agreed with Mr. Violi's suggestion that using the communicator was a great way to do significant outreach, however there were people like himself who paid their utility bill digitally and he did not see the communicator as often as he would if he was still receiving a paper hard copy invoice. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated his hope was that through the use of website and the banner he had discussed with Mrs. Voelker or whatever other means would be available to them and he knew they would leave no stone unturned with regard to how they communicated with folks and he appreciated Mr. Lentsch's commitment to that. Mr. Lentsch stated they would use any and all means of communication to get the information out there. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked him again.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Carroll thanked everybody who came to the first 2nd District meeting and there were a number of council members there, which was much appreciated by him and the folks that attended the meeting. Mr. Carroll announced they were going to have one more meeting before the end of the year and that would be Thursday December 12th at 7PM in the Blair Hills common room. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Carroll for his work in helping that group spring into being.

ADJOURNMENT 6:47PM

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.