

The Common Council of the City of Connersville held their regular meeting on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Councilwoman Barrett led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Mel Gibson offered an invocation before the start of the meeting.

Mayor Chad Frank presided and called the meeting to order with Councilwoman Sharon McQueen, Councilwoman Jenny Barrett, Councilman Tommy Lee Williams Jr., Councilwoman Diana Phillips, Councilman Brian Robb, Councilman Bill Gray, and Councilman Jabin Collins were present. Attorney Geoff Wesling was also present.

Councilwoman Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024, regular meeting; Councilwoman McQueen seconded the motion. All Council members voted "yes."

Paul Shaffer with Bulter Fairman & Seufert presented **Resolution 2024-37**, a resolution approving a loan contract for Airport hanger development. The Construction loan will be with FCN Bank, the actual interest rate will be set at the time of the closing once we have the grant schedule. Federal Aviation Grant programs will make the 6 years of payments. There will not be any tax dollars going toward this investment. Councilwoman McQueen made the motion to approve, Councilwoman Phillips seconded the motion. All council members voted "yes".

Clerk Treasurer Rosemary Brown requested approval of **Resolution 2024-38**, a resolution to reimburse Fifteen and 00/100 dollars (\$15.00) into City Hall 324 Telephone, **Resolution 2024-39**, a resolution to reimburse Fifteen and 00/100 dollars (\$15.00) into Cable 324 Telephone, and **Resolution 2024-40**, a resolution to reimburse Six Hundred Twenty and 00/100 dollars (\$620.00) into Police 324 Telephone. Councilman Williams Jr. made the motion to approve **Resolution 2024-38, -39, and -40**, Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "yes".

Mayor Frank presented **Pending Ordinance 3947**, an ordinance modifying local income tax rates, changing the special purpose rate from 0% to .25%. Adam Stone with Stone Municipal presented trends if we do not consider this additional tax. He stated that the state has done a 3-year property tax capped at 4%. The current tax cap is 40%. Mayor Frank closed the council meeting and opened the public meeting.

Chad Ripberger, 8051 N Co Rd 550 West, is currently the Chief of the Bentonville Fire Department and a Captain of the Connersville Fire Department. He stated that the volunteer fire departments cover 90% of the fire territory and get the least amount of taxes as support. They do get \$5,000.00 a year from the county to help remove trees in the roadways after the storms. He thinks the City and the County needs to work together to make sure the volunteer departments get help with this tax.

Brian Starr, 721 Willow Drive, is the current Local 2205 Union President. He stated the safety tax is a crucial investment in the safety and well-being of our community. This tax supports the essential services and operations for emergency services ensuring they have the necessary resources to protect lives and property. By supporting this tax, we are investing in the safety and security of our families, homes, and businesses. By passing this tax and using it for wage

compensation it will not cure but help burden the cost-of-living increases that have not been adjusted by prior administrations for several years. Passing this tax will help employee morale and retention, a current concern with the loss of several firefighters to other surrounding departments. By passing this tax it can help with recruitment and hiring personnel. Connersville Firefighters take pride in making sure new recruits are properly trained to serve all citizens by safeguarding lives and property through fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical service, education, and other hazards that may occur with efficient, effective, and well-trained personnel.

Chad Gronning, 3505 South Co Rd 350 East, is the current Everton Volunteer Chief. The Volunteer departments go on all of the county EMS and Police calls. They are teams. They/we need to continue to work together.

Scott Jones, 3483 East Springersville Road, is the current City Fire Department chief. He agrees that everyone needs to work together. He thinks the county won't share, but the City's portion needs to stay here. He will attend the County Council meeting stating the same.

Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilman Collins asked Adam Stone where we stand if we approve this tax according to his examples from June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Adam stated that this tax will have a positive impact on our budget.

Councilwoman Phillips made the motion to approve **Pending Ordinance 3947** on first reading, Councilman Robb seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Councilwoman Sharon McQueen, Councilwoman Jenny Barrett, Councilman Tommy Lee Williams Jr., Councilwoman Diana Phillips, Councilman Brian Robb, Councilman Bill Gray, and Councilman Jabin Collins voted "yes".

Councilman Gray made the motion to suspend the Rules on **Pending Ordinance 3947** and move on to Third and Final Reading; Councilman Robb seconded the motion. All Council members voted "yes."

Councilwoman Phillips made the motion to approve **Pending Ordinance 3947**; on Third and Final Reading; Councilman Gray seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Councilwoman Sharon McQueen, Councilwoman Jenny Barrett, Councilman Tommy Lee Williams Jr., Councilwoman Diana Phillips, Councilman Brian Robb, Councilman Bill Gray, and Councilman Jabin Collins voted "yes".

Clerk Treasurer Rosemary Brown presented **Pending Ordinance 3948**, an ordinance transferring Forty Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Two and 00/100 dollars (\$40,442.00) from Council 116 Community Coordinator to DOT 365 Other Contractual Services. Councilwoman McQueen made the motion to approve **Pending Ordinance 3948** on first reading, Councilman Williams Jr. seconded the motion. All Council members voted "yes".

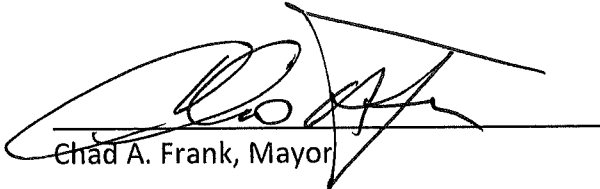
Councilwoman Phillips made the motion to suspend the Rules on **Pending Ordinance 3948** and move on to Third and Final Reading; Councilman Robb seconded the motion. All Council members voted "yes."

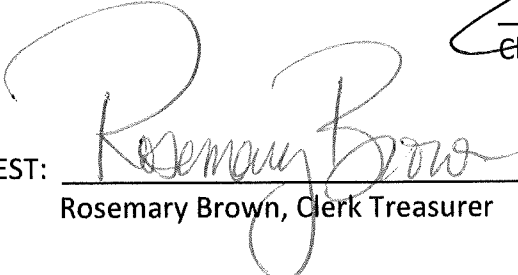
Councilwoman McQueen made the motion to approve **Pending Ordinance 3945**; on Third and Final Reading; Councilman Robb seconded the motion. All Council members voted "yes".

Councilwoman Phillips congratulated the fire department on making the ISO Rating of 3. Not many departments have this great rating.

Mayor Frank stated that our community has suffered 2 great losses this week. You need to hold your kids tight and tell them that you love them.

Councilwoman Phillips made a motion to adjourn with Councilman Robb seconding. All Council members voted "yes."

  
Chad A. Frank, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Rosemary Brown, Clerk Treasurer