

CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
PERU CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
PERU, INDIANA
December 18, 2023

Mayor Hewitt called the special meeting of the Common Council to order at 5:00 pm on December 18, 2023. The following members were present: Steve Anderson, Tom Gustin, Mark Ramsey, Peter Sahaidachny, Patricia Russell, Kathleen Plohow and Betsy Wolfe.

Others present were , City Clerk/Treasurer Kurt Krauskopf, City Attorney Dustin Kern, Heidi Amsbaugh from Baker Tilly, department heads and other interested persons and members of the community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Miles Hewitt

INVOCATION – led by Pastor Brent Wedding

ROLL CALL – Anderson, Gustin, Ramsey, Russell, Sahaidachny, Plohow and Wolfe were all present.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 32-2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA CONCERNING PARK IMPROVEMENTS BY THE PERU PARK AND RECREATION BOARD THROUGH THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS, AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Board ("Board") of the City of Peru, Indiana ("City") has determined to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed One Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,760,000) of the Peru Park and Recreation District ("District") to construct and complete the park projects as more fully described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, together with all necessary appurtenances, related improvements and equipment (collectively, "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City is authorized by IC 36-10-3-25(c) to approve the issuance of bonds of the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA, THAT:

The Common Council hereby approves the issuance of bonds of the District by the Board in the amount not to exceed One Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$1,760,000) to apply on the cost of the Projects.

Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Following discussion among the council members and Garry Clark and Jason Spencer representing the golf course, Heidi Amsbaugh from Baker Tilly presented worksheets to the council showing proposed purchases bond proceeds and what the impact to the tax rates would be. She stated that the impact would be minimal due to property tax cap circuit breakers.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sahaidachny, seconded by Councilperson Russell, to approve Ordinance 32-2023. Motion carried with a vote of 5 Ayes, 2 Nays with Councilpersons Wolfe and Plothow voting Nay.

MOTION CARRIED

CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE 33- 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE IN CHAPTER 90

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey to remove Ordinance 33-2023 from the table. Motion carried.

Jennifer Maggart addressed the council providing additional information that she had researched concerning the viability of chickens within the municipality.

Rebecca Thoden from the Building Department voiced her concerns with the way the ordinance is written and the ability of the city to enforce the ordinance and respond to the regulations. If

there are violations of the ordinance, animal control would need to get involved and he does not have a facility to house them at the present time. The ordinance has areas that are not clear and need to be refined to eliminate the unclear areas.

Ron Rylands from the plan commission addressed the council reiterating the fact that the commission had voted NO on approving the change to the ordinance. In addition, Mayor Hewitt had prepared a letter stating his opposition to when he was absent from the December 4, 2023, meeting.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Wolfe, seconded by Councilperson Plothow, to retable Ordinance 33-2023. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE # 34-2023

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 24, 2022 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 35, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Peru has caused public notice to be placed in the Peru Tribune; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peru “2023 Wage Ordinance”, Ordinance 24, 2022, an ordinance establishing salaries and wages of the civil employees and appointees for the year 2023, needs to be amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peru “2023 Wage Ordinance” has been previously amended on January 9, 2023, by Ordinance #35, 2022; and

WHEREAS, due to unprecedented overtime, it is necessary to provide a bonus to the Peru Police Department (PPD) officers; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023 calendar year, the PPD was short staff, which forced officers to work vast amounts of overtime; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide competitive wages, and to retain employees, the Compensation for the PPD need to be increased; and

WHEREAS, the rate of bonus pay for the twenty-six (26) Officers shall be @ \$3,000.0, onetime.;
and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay for the following positions shall be:

Onetime Bonus

(26) Police Officers, \$3,000.00 per officer/one time= \$78,000.00 total.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA, That:

1. It is in the best interest of the City of Peru to amend the City of Peru 2023 Wage Ordinance, City of Peru Ordinance 24, 2022, as Amended by Ordinance 35, 2022 and add the following onetime bonus.
2. Under **POLICE DEPARTMENT**, (26) Police Officers, \$3,000.00 per officer/one time = \$78,000.00 total;

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Russell, to consider Ordinance 34-2023. Motion carried.

Mike Vinopal representing the FOP presented his request that the council consider paying out unspent funds from the police department budget for a one time “bonus” to the officers due to lack of a full complement of police officers during 2023. Clerk Treasurer Krauskopf had conferred with Baker Tilly about the legality and availability of this proposal, and they concurred that the funds were available, and the payment was legal. INPRS was also contacted, and they stated that this payment would not affect pension payments.

Councilperson Russell moved, seconded by Councilperson Wolfe, to adopt Ordinance 34-2023. Motion passed with a vote of 5 Ayes, 2 Nays, with Ramsey and Sahaidachny voting Nay.

MOTION CARRIED



RESOLUTION # 22-2023
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
CITY OF PERU, MIAMI COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund to Fund #8906 Payroll State Withholding in the amount of \$26,642.72; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund to Fund #8907 Payroll County Withholding in the amount of \$7,280.87; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund to Fund #8910 Payroll Back Taxes in the amount of \$42.96; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund to Fund #8926 Payroll Amer Fidelity 2 in the amount of \$1042.09; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund to Fund #8932 Payroll Direct Deposit in the amount of \$1816.61; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8923 Payroll Garnishment Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of \$50.00; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8922 Payroll C E Bowen Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of \$541.23; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8927 Garnishment T Hughes Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of \$450.00; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8913 Payroll Support Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund in the amount of \$462.00; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8912 Payroll Prudential Life to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of 35.07; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8908 Payroll Anthem Life Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of 33.40; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that errors have been previously made in fiscal budget years of 2021 & 2022 with payroll withholding amounts, it is now necessary to transfer funds from Fund #8916 Payroll YMCA Fund to Fund #8901 Payroll Fund Net in the amount of \$225.24; and

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the Peru City Council that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following sums of money are hereby transferred out of Fund #8901 Payroll Net Fund; \$48,910.20 to the General Fund and for the purposes specified, and subject to laws governing the same:

Fund Name: Payroll Net Fund

	AMOUNT REQUESTED
General Fund (1101)	\$ 48,910.19
Total	\$ 48,910.19

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey, to consider Resolution 22-2023.
Motion carried with a vote of 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Clerk Treasurer explained that this Resolution clears up a number of miscellaneous payroll accounts that had either a negative balance or a positive balance that was incorrect. The State Board of Accounts had cited these negative balance accounts in the recent audit for the years 2021 and 2022. This resolution is to inform the council of the accounts that are incorrect and seeks their approval to make the appropriate transfers. Councilperson Wolfe stated that she was going to vote No because she had pointed out these errors in a prior year and nothing had been done to correct them.

Councilperson Sahaidachny moved, seconded by Councilperson Gustin, to approve Resolution 22-2023.
Motion carried with a vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

MOTION CARRIED

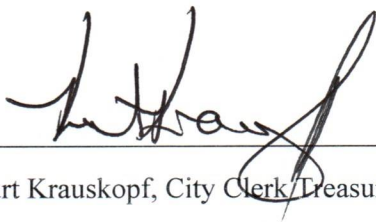
ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further, Councilperson Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilperson Ramsey. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Don Sturch, Council President
Mayor of Peru Indiana



Kurt Krauskopf, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Peru, Indiana