

**CITY OF PERU COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES**

**PERU CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PERU, INDIANA**

**March 6, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of Peru, Indiana met in regular session at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on March 6, 2023. The following members were present: Steve Anderson, Tom Gustin, Mark Ramsey, Peter Sahaidachny, Betsy Wolfe, and Kathleen Plothow.

Others present were Mayor Hewitt, City Clerk/Treasurer Kurt Krauskopf, City Attorney Dustin Kern, department heads and other interested persons and members of the community.

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - led by Peter Sahaidachny      **INVOCATION** – led by Pastor Brent Wedding

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**ROLL CALL** – Anderson, Gustin, Plothow, Ramsey, Sahaidachny, and Wolfe were all present. Councilperson Russell was absent.

**READING & CORRECTING JOURNAL** - of minutes of Regular Meeting on February 6, 2023

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Plothow, to adopt the minutes with two minor corrections.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes   0 Nays

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Wolfe: Nothing to report but did commend the PHS boys' basketball team on their sectional wins.

Ramsey: Reported on number of dogs at Animal Control and Parks Board needs two members.

Kathleen: Reported on the Utility Board

Anderson: Nothing to report.

Sahaidachny: Reported that the Board of Works approved permits for the CCFI parade and festival, Helping Hands annual walk, Relay for Life annual walk and fundraiser, the interlocal agreement between the Fire Dept and Jefferson Township, and the Police Dept has hired a new officer, Malory Grizzle.

Gustin: Reported that Solid Waste has a new director, Jenny Gatliff.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Joe Molyneux appeared before the council and requested that the agenda be modified to allow Ordinance 5-2023 to be heard at the beginning of the meeting rather than later as scheduled. Motion was made by councilperson Wolfe, seconded by councilperson Gustin to amend the agenda and consider Ordinance 5-2023 first. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 5-2023**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE IN THE CITY OF PERU**

A motion to consider Ordinance 5-2023 was made by councilperson Wolf, seconded by councilperson Anderson to consider Ordinance 5-2023. Motion carried.

An approved petition to rezone a building at 104 S Miami from R-3 to B-3 was presented to the council. The City of Peru Planning Commission had given its Favorable Recommendation.

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Plothow to adopt Ordinance 5-2023.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION # 2, 2023**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY OF THE CITY OF PERU, INDIANA**

This is the quarterly tracking factor adjustment.

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Plothow, to consider Resolution5--23. Motion passed with 6 ayes.

Councilperson Wolfe, Seconded by Councilperson Anderson, to adopt Resolution 5-2023.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**RESOLUTION #3-2023**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE CITY OF PERU MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY LOCATED AT THE GRISSOM AEROPLEX SERVICE AREA**

There was a calculation error when computing the new rates and Josh Chance, General Manager of the Utilities, asked that the agenda be amended to remove this resolution from the agenda.

Councilperson Wolfe moved, seconded by Councilperson Plothow, to remove this resolution from the agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED**



**RESOLUTION #4-2023**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATE TRACKING FACTOR FOR THE CITY OF PERU MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

Councilperson Wolfe, seconded by Council Member Plothow, to consider Resolution # 4, 2023. Motion carried with 6 Ayes. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution #4, 2023. Motion Passed with 6 Ayes.

**MOTION CARRIED**



**A REQUEST FROM THE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE FOR \$40,000 FOR REPAIRS TO THE COURSE**

Garry Clark from the Municipal Golf Course asked for an appropriation of \$40,000 out of the golf course fund to be used to fund repairs to the irrigation system. He presented an itemized list totaling \$39,499.85. The council thanked him for the information. However, due to a misinterpretation of where the money was coming from, he will have to come back to the April meeting to request the fund transfer from the unappropriated non-reverting fund to the golf operating budget.



**A REQUEST FROM PERU VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL TO HOST THE SECOND ANNUAL EVENE AND FOR COMMUNITY AND FINANCIAL SUPORT**

Patrick Redmon and Marlee Mickelson appeared before the council to advocate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Visual Arts Festival. This will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and will involve closing parts of 5<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway. They also asked if any financial support could be allocated to them. They were told that there are a number of non-for-profit activities during the year and the city needs to adopt some type of plan to ensure equity among them. They were thanked for their presentation.



**RESOLUTION 5, 2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM ARP FUND FOR SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.**

It was moved by councilperson Wolfe, seconded by councilperson Anderson to table this motion under the April meeting because it had not yet been advertised. Motion carried.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilperson Plothow introduced Matthew from Enviro Forensics who works with communities dealing with environmental issues. He offered his firm's services with a price of between \$3000 and \$5000 per month initially. This would not necessarily be a reoccurring monthly fee. He explained how they had helped Franklin Indiana. The council members had several questions for him. It was decided not to engage his firm at the present time. IDEM is aware of the situation and has been involved in the meetings and discussions that have taken place. They conducted a meeting on March 2, 2023, along with state representative Ethan Manning in the City Council chambers in City Hall. They have been very proactive in their efforts to get the answers to this problem and are still doing testing at various sites around the extended perimeter area of Schneider Electric.

Janice Edwards was present and represented many residents of the former Leonda mobile home park. The park has been sold to out of town investors and they have made a number of demands of the current residents and also raised their monthly lot rent. Several residents also spoke about their situation and difficulties with the new leases and rules and regulations. While the council empathized with their plight, there is nothing the city can directly do. A member of the audience suggested that they contact Carmen Long with Indiana Legal Help. She is available in the courthouse each Monday.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

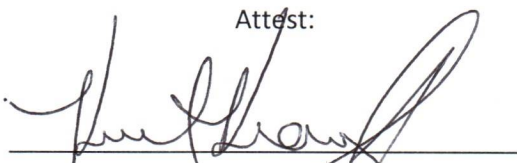
With nothing further to come before this meeting, Councilperson Gustin made a move to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anderson. All said Aye.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**



Miles Hewitt, Council President  
Mayor of Peru, Indiana

Attest:



Kurt Krauskopf, City Clerk Treasurer

City of Peru, Indiana