

COMMON COUNCIL

March 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor York.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mike Guffey	Present
Jeff Hancock	Present
Jerry Walden	Present
Aaron Dicken	Present
Mark Koger	Present
Lynn Perdue	Present
Rex Peckinpaugh	Present

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- Vice President Hancock moved to accept the minutes from the former meeting.  
Councilman Walden seconded. Motion carried 7-0

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- No Public Hearing

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

- No Proclamations

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- #03012021-1 APPROVE ACQUISTION OF POLICE VEHICLES Councilman Guffey asked how many police cars were being leased at present. Clerk Treasurer Grider informed Council that the City currently owned all the Police vehicles. Council Walden asked what vehicles were being leased. Chief Schofield stated 5 Dodge Chargers and 5 Dodge Durangos. With no further discussion, President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Vice President Hancock seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**ORDINANCES:**

- #3859 CREATING A NON-REVERTING DEMOLITION WATER UTILITY FUND  
Councilman Walden asked who would track the properties. Attorney Harvey stated Building Inspector would keep track of the properties. With no further discussion, President Peckinpaugh moved approve on first reading. Councilman Dicken seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- #3858 ESTABLISHING REGULATION ON THE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES  
President Peckinpaugh moved to approve on second reading. Councilman Dicken seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- President Peckinpaugh informed Council that they new state guidelines for shutting down a road that connects to a state road is now required to have 4ft Barricades in order to close connecting roads. President Peckinpaugh stated that Street Superintendent Walker had asked that Council take the money out of Loit to purchase thirty barricades at a cost of three hundred and ninety dollars each. President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Vice President Hancock seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- Chief Schofield presented Council with the Police Departments Annual Report. Chief Schofield stated 2020 was a Hell of a Year. Law Enforcement as a whole had taken a hit all over the country but the Citizens of New Castle stood behind our Officers. With seven Officers out with Covid and others that were quarantined, plus injuries and two Officers trying to get through the academy, more overtime was needed to cover the shifts. Three new Officers were hired to replace Retiring Officers or Officers that resigned. Chief Schofield stated they were still moving forward in getting the new Police Department completed next to the water office. More gun arrests were made in 2020 than in other years, but burglaries, theft and shoplifting were down. Chief Schofield said moving forward in 2021 the departments objectives would be; hiring another Officer, getting Officers to become more proactive, continuing renovation of the new Police Department, and increased training for the Officers. Chief Schofield stated that just in the first two months we are in the process of purchasing a Bearcat armored vehicle and license plate readers will be installed soon. Chief Schofield thanked everyone for working with the department in fulfilling their needs.
- Councilman Perdue inquired about the number of crimes being down and was it due to Covid. Chief Schofield stated that for two months they only served warrants on violent crimes because of an outbreak of Covid at the jail.
- Councilman Dicken asked if the expense in archiving body camera footage had went down. Chief Schofield stated that storing the data was still very expensive.
- Councilman Walden thanked all the Emergency Services working for all of their help in these unforeseen times.
- President Peckinpaugh thanked Chief Schofield for presenting the report and that he always looked forward to hearing it and stated the level of professionalism in our

Emergency Services was next to none.

- On a final note, Chief Schofield stated that if anyone had any questions that would like to have answered, even a community member, please don't hesitate to contact Assistant Chief Wardlow or himself.
- President Peckinpaugh informed Council that INDOT is requiring new barricades to be placed on roads that intersect with a state road when closing them down. President Peckinpaugh moved to accept the quote from ISB for 30 barricades at \$290.00 Each for a total of \$8,700.00. from the Loit fund. Vice President Hancock seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Mike Guffey	Jeff Hancock	Jerry Walden	Aaron Dicken	Mark Koger	Lynn Perdue	Rex Peckinpaugh
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- After the Vote Melvin Campbell, mechanic for the Street Department, addressed the council, thanking everyone involved on their new facility and it is working out great, Mr. Campbell also stated that taking the trash to Muncie has saved a lot of maintenance on the vehicles.
- Brian Slavey, Street Department employee, addressed Council, stating that he would like to continue to take the trash to the Muncie site. Mr. Slavey informed Council that it was much cleaner, easier access in and out and you did not have to drive on any mud or trash to dump your load.
- Jeremy Brown, Street Department Employee, addressed Council, stating that he also would like to keep taking trash to the Muncie facilities for all of the reasons that were previously stated.
- Superintendent Walker advised Council that two months into last year we had already spent two thousand dollars on repairs and tires for the trash truck. This year he has only spent forty dollars.
- Councilman Walden thanked the Street Department for coming and expressing their concerns. Councilman Walden stated that this is who Council needs to hear from the people actually out there doing they daily operations.
- Mayor York read a thank you letter sent on behalf of the Street Department from a City Resident Omar Auxier;

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Councilman Guffey:**       Noted;

- Thanked all the workers for the great job they have been doing.
- Thanked Street Department for working on the pot holes but stated that 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> still needs some attention. Superintendent Walker stated they had filled some of the bigger holes and would be going back to take care of the smaller ones.
- Council Guffey also stated that he had seen old tires laying around at 21<sup>st</sup> and C, 22<sup>nd</sup> and I and 2520 Walnut. Mayor York stated he would get them picked up and take them to Henry County Solid Waste Management drop off site.

**Vice-President Hancock:**   Noted;

- Thanked Street Department for working all hours off and on to get all the roads cleared and the trash picked up.
- Thanked the Water Plant for all their hard work in the cold and wet for working thru several nights to fix some water main breaks.
- Stated there was an empty residence at 1401 Woodbrooke with a tree falling down and some Citizens had contacted him. Assistant Building Inspector Marcum stated the tree had already been removed. Mayor York also stated the removal of the tree was the responsibility of the home owner.

**Councilman Walden:** Noted;

- No Comments

**Councilman Dicken:** Noted;

- Informed Council that he had sent them an email of the Resolution sent to him by a County Official and please take a look at it.

**Councilman Koger:** Noted;

- Thanked Councilman Dicken for working the phone banks for the Expo Center. Councilman Koger also stated that the Expo Center was not just a County Project it was a project for the whole community.

**Councilman Perdue:** Noted;

- Nothing

**President Peckinpugh:** Noted;

- Nothing


#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- Superintendent Walker thanked the water plant employees for helping with snow removal.
- Superintendent Phipps thanked his department for working hard this year with all the water main breaks and being out in the cold.
- Mayor York thanked all the departments for the hard work that they have been putting in and said everyone has done an outstanding job.
- Mayor York also stated that 2020 is behind us and 2021 is going to be New Castles breakout year. Exciting things are going on, The City is getting new restaurants, new housing is being built in different areas of town. New Castle is looking up in 2021 and it will be our breakout year.

#### **CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:**

- Corey Murphy with the NC/HC EDC presented the 2021 Investor newsletter. Mr. Murphy stated they did a tourism survey and they got over 400 responses. They have launched the new TAC Tourism Advisory Committee and the house from the Visitors Bureau was sold for approximately \$138,500.00 and the proceeds will be used for marketing infrastructure. They will also be launching a Community calendar that everyone will be able to access.

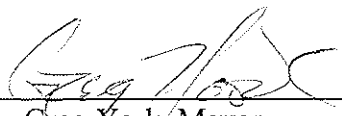
- Meeting Adjourned President Peckinpagh

  
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Presiding Officer of the Common Council


ATTEST:

  
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Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by me this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of March 2021.

  
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Greg York, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer