

COMMON COUNCIL

February 5, 2024 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     | Absent  |
| Rex Peckinpaugh | Present |

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- Vice- President Hancock moved to approve the minutes from the former meeting.  
Councilman Walden seconded. Motion carried 6-0

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- No Public Hearing

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

- No Proclamations

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- Water Plant Superintendent, Greg Phipps recognized his employees with a standing ovation for their hard work and efforts over the last few months with all the water main breaks the city has experienced. They have missed out on Holidays and Family time. Their dedication to this City is amazing and they are appreciated.
- Chief Moore of the NCFD presented local New Castle High School student, Coy Adkins with a Plaque and Life Saving Medal . He rescued his neighbor from a burning home next door without hesitation. The State Fire Marshall, Steve Jones also presented Coy with the Heroic Life Saving Award. Coy thanked everyone for the recognition and stated he wants to be a Fireman when he graduates and he was just doing what needed to be done.
- Assistant Chief Wardlow gave the 2023 NCPD Annual report to Council. He also stated

within this report that Boars Head is donating funds for the purchase of a new K-9 for NCPD. This will be 3- K-9's that the squad has. Private donors are also purchasing armor and a trauma kit for the new K-9.

- Dr. Shoemaker of the New Castle School Corporation came before Council to invite them to a School Connections Luncheon on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at Sunnyside Education Center. This luncheon will highlight the new opportunities available for the schools and New Castle businesses and organizations to partner together and engage students in meaningful career and future focused experiences. Registering for this luncheon is ideal as availability will fill up quickly. Dr. Shoemaker also thanked the City RDC for their contribution of \$125,000 for the restroom remodel/additions. This will accommodate visitors in the education center along with Macatee Field events.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- #02052024-1 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Councilman Koger seconded. Motion carried 6-0

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|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

**ORDINANCES:**

- #3918 AMENDING SECTION 152.25 OF THE CITY CODE President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Vice-President Hancock seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

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

- #3919 AN ORDINANCE REPLACING CHAPTER 98.20 OF THE CITY CODE President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Councilman Guffey seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

- President Peckinpaugh moved to suspend the rules for Second Reading. Councilman Guffey seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

- President Peckinpaugh moved to suspend the rules for Third Reading. Councilman Guffey seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

- #3920 AN ORDINANCE REMOVING THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE WATER UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE APPROVAL OF RATES, CHARGES, AND EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS President Peckinpaugh moved to approve. Vice-President Hancock seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

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| Yes         | Yes          | Yes          | Yes          | Yes        |             | Yes             |

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Councilman Guffey:**

- Asked about the Railroad and if the owner has plans to make repairs. Mayor York stated the owner is working to secure a grant to make the needed repairs. It was noted that I. Ave, G. Ave, A. Ave, Grand Ave, 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Street need repairs badly.
- Also noted that some manholes need to be raised since the new paving has been completed, specifically I. Ave. Councilman Koger stated that funds can be taken from the Water Plant to cover costs of this. Contractors need to be held responsible for this once paving is completed.

**Vice-President Hancock:**

- Thanked the Street Department for working to fix pot holes on city streets along with contacting INDOT to fill pot holes on State Road 3.

**Councilman Walden:**

- Stated that he recently attended the EIRPC meeting and sent an email to council and administration to follow up.
- Also noted that \$270 million dollars has been award from the State for high-speed internet. If you do not have internet, a flyer was passed around with a phone number and email link to sign up. He encouraged council to share this flyer as funding is subject to end in August.
- Thanked Dave Barker for driving around with him and looking at future project areas around the city. Former Engineer with INDOT, Teresa Gray is willing to work with Council and Administration for the future INDOT projects and provide any information

needed.

**Councilman Dicken:**

- Asked for an update regarding Riley Road and Insurance. Mayor York stated it is in litigation and Attorney Harvey is handling the City side of it. The lawsuits in questions total \$12 million dollars.

**Councilman Koger:**

- No Comments

**Councilman Perdue:**

- No Comments

**President Peckinpaugh:**

- No Comments

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

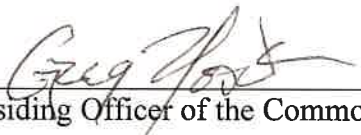
- Water Plant Superintendent, Greg Phipps thanked his employees again for all their hard work and efforts the last several months with the water main breaks. He also thanked the Stret Department and Waste Water Department for their work in helping them out. It is a team effort and when in need, we call come together.
- Street Superintendent, Lee Walker noted that in two weeks, Council will receive a proposed amended ordinance to the toter fund. This fund is to specifically purchase toters and lids. Lee is requesting this ordinance be amended to purchase a truck and equipment to deliver toters, as needed.
- Mayor York replied to Councilman Walden's comment regarding high-speed internet specifically in rural New Castle, Henry County. In order to install internet, boring companies have to come in to do work. We have had major issues with boring companies recently in the city and he is hesitant for work to be done by them. This is why we are revising our rules and regulations for our current boring ordinance.

**CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL:**

- None

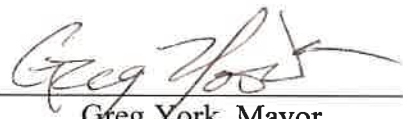
Meeting Adjourned President Peckinpaugh.

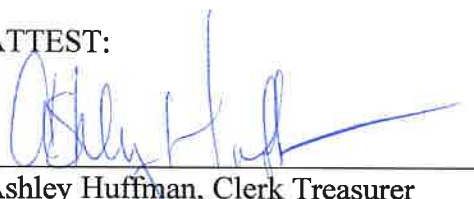
February 5, 2024

  
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Presiding Officer of the Common Council

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Huffman, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by me this **5th Day of February 2024.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg York, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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Ashley Huffman, Clerk Treasurer