**CITY OF GREENFIELD COMMON COUNCIL**

The Greenfield, Indiana Common Council met in regular session on September 13th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Room 127 located at 10 South State Street with Mayor Chuck Fewell presiding. Councilman Scott led the invocation, followed by all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Riley.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Fewell called the meeting to order of the Common Council for the purpose of conducting the business before the Greenfield Common Council.

**PRESENT:** Councilman Kerry Grass

John Jester

Mitch Pendlum

Jeff Lowder

George Plisinski

Anthony Scott

Dan Riley

 City Attorney Gregg Morelock

 Mayor Chuck Fewell

 Clerk-Treasurer Lori Elmore

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilman Plisinski moved to approve the minutes of August 23rd, 2023 as presented, duly seconded by Councilman Scott. Motion carried *viva voce.*

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY:**

Greenfield Police Chief Brian Hartman presented Probationary Patrolman Austin Boulware to be sworn in by Mayor Chuck Fewell as a Probationary Patrolman. Mayor Fewell presented Office Bowlware with his badge. He was welcomed by all members of the Common Council as well as his family and friends who were present for the ceremony.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS and COMMISSIONS: None.**

**PUBLIC HEARING on Ordinance No. 2023/25 regarding the Water Utility rate increase**

Councilman Jester moved to recess the regular business meeting, duly seconded by Councilman Riley. Motion carried *viva voce.*

Mayor Fewell opened the public hearing to discuss Ordinance No. 2023/25.

Larry Silver, of Greenfield, came forward and asked the members of the Council to vote no to this ordinance saying it was not needed.

Councilman Grass moved to close the Public Hearing, duly seconded by Councilman Plisinski. Motion carried *viva voce.*

Mayor Fewell reopened the regular business meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Councilman Jester moved to read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, duly seconded by Councilman Scott. Motion carried *viva voce.*

**Ordinance No. 2023/25 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2021/25 and Ordinance No. 2022/14 amending Title V, Chapter 52 of the Code of Ordinances of Greenfield, Indiana regarding water rates and charges; on** second reading. Councilman Plisinski moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023/25 as submitted, duly seconded by Councilman Riley. Motion carried *viva voce*.

**Ordinance No. 2023/25 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2021/25 and Ordinance No. 2022/14 amending Title V, Chapter 52 of the Code of Ordinances of Greenfield, Indiana regarding water rates and charges;** on third and final reading and eligible for final adoption by the Common Council. Councilman Plisinski moved to approve Ordinance 2023/25 as presented on third reading, seconded by Councilman Scott. Mayor Fewell called for a roll call vote by Clerk-Treasurer Elmore. AYES: Councilman Grass, Jester, Lowder, Pendlum, Plisinski, Scott, Riley. NAYES: None.

**Ordinance No. 2023/26 An Ordinance of the City of Greenfield Authorizing the Issuance of Water Works Revenue Bonds for the Purpose of Providing Funds to Pay the Cost of Certain Additions, Extensions and Improvements to the Municipal Water Works of said City, Providing for the Safeguarding of the Interests of the Owners of Said Bonds, and Other Matters Connected Therewith, including the Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of Bonds; on** second reading. Councilman Grass moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023/26 as submitted, duly seconded by Councilman Scott.

Motion carried *viva voce*.

**Ordinance No. 2023/26 An Ordinance of the City of Greenfield Authorizing the Issuance of Water Works Revenue Bonds for the Purpose of Providing Funds to Pay the Cost of Certain Additions, Extensions and Improvements to the Municipal Water Works of said City, Providing for the Safeguarding of the Interests of the Owners of Said Bonds, and Other Matters Connected Therewith, including the Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of Bonds;** on third and final reading and eligible for final adoption by the Common Council. Councilman Plisinski moved to approve Ordinance 2023/26 as presented on third reading, seconded by Councilman Riley. Mayor Fewell called for a roll call vote by Clerk-Treasurer Elmore. AYES: Councilman Grass, Jester, Lowder, Pendlum, Plisinski, Scott, Riley.

NAYES: None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Chris Melling, Director at Covance,** was present by phone to address the members of the Common Council regarding the abatement for taxes 23 pay 24. He explained he was new to the company and was trying to get things were they are meant to be. They are working through the issues on the filing of their abatement to correct this process and ensuring they are up to date on the payment of their property taxes. He was asking they reconsider the denial of the abatement and consider their efforts to correct the situation and reinstate the abatement for this final year.

Mayor Fewell responded to Mr. Melling that he would like to have him come in to meet with the Mayor, Attorney, President of the Council and Clerk-Treasurer to discuss things in more detail and find out why the issues have occurred and find a way to move forward.

Council President Dan Riley responded that he was the president last year and letters of noncompliance had been sent out but the City had received no response. Mr. Melling explained that the letter had been addressed to a different individual within the company and not to his attention. He confirmed that when he received the letter this year, he responded immediately and appeared at the meeting when the Mayor was away on City business.

Attorney Morelock confirmed the letter was sent to the person identified on the CF-1 as the contact.

Councilman Plisinski thanked Mr. Melling for his participation this evening and stated he wished Mr. Melling had been in his position earlier so they would not be in the situation they are in at the moment.

Attorney Morelock told the Council they had two options available to them and they were: to table the item and come back with a Resolution to grant the non-compliance at the next meeting or make a motion to deny the motion of reconsideration this evening.

Councilman Plisinski moved to deny the request to reconsider the abatement for Covance, duly seconded by Councilman Jester. Mayor Fewell called for a roll call vote by Clerk-Treasurer Elmore.

 AYES: Councilman Grass, Jester, Pendlum, Plisinski, Scott, Riley. NAYES: Councilman Lowder. The motion was 6 in favor and one opposed. The motion to deny the reconsideration of the abatement was approved.

**Explanation of Ordinance No. 2023/27** - Attorney Morelock provided an explanation for the annexation of two properties included in Ordinance No. 2023/27 regarding the land which the City purchased (approximately 20 acres of land) on US 40 for future use of the Electric and Water Utilities. This will be annexing the City, Hunters and the Hancock Community Foundation as a group referred to as “Legacy” into the corporate boundary of the City.

Jane Webb was also present to answer questions and confirmed they were all voluntary annexations.

**Ordinance No. 2023/27 An Ordinance changing and extending the Corporate Boundary of the City of Greenfield, Indiana. Petition for Voluntary Annexation of Real Estate into the City of Greenfield, Indiana, on behalf of Hunter Real Estate, LLC and Legacy Properties of Community Foundation of Hancock County, Inc., as** introduced by Attorney Morelock by Title only. Councilman Jester moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023/27, duly seconded by Councilman Scott.

Motion carried *viva voce*.

**Mayor Fewell confirmed a Public Hearing would be held on September 27th.**

**Randy Sorrell,** of the Hancock County Economic Development Commission, addressed the members of the Council to explain the amended request from Shear Group. He explained that Shear had come in 2021 to request an abatement. Since that time the project has changed and the parameters have been amended. The new resolution restates those changes. All items being approved and the project moving forward, the new company believes they would employ approximately 154 people. The new company would be installing an estimated $27 million dollars of equipment with an eight year abatement 80% per year. At this point in time, the new company is only known as a project name. Once all confirmed and approved, the name of the company will be disclosed.

**Resolution No. 2023/14 Amended and Restated Declaratory Resolution 2021/20 Determining that the Qualifications for an Economic Revitalization Area Have Been Met for Real Property;** as introduced by Attorney Morelock by Title only. Councilman Riley moved to approve Resolution No. 2023/14, duly seconded by Councilman Jester. Mayor Fewell called for a roll call vote by Clerk-Treasurer Elmore. AYES: Councilman Grass, Jester, Lowder, and Riley. NAYES: Councilman Plisinski and Scott. The motion was passed with 5 Councilman voting in favor and 2 Councilman voting opposed.

**Mayor Fewell confirmed a Public Hearing would be held on September 27th.**

**Resolution No. 2023/15 Declaratory Resolution Determining that the Qualifications for An Economic revitalization Area have been Met for Personal Property**; as introduced by Attorney Morelock by Title only. Councilman Riley moved to approve Resolution No. 2023/15, duly seconded by Councilman Grass. Mayor Fewell called for a roll call vote by Clerk-Treasurer Elmore. AYES: Councilman Grass, Jester, Lowder, Scott and Riley. NAYES: Councilman Plisinski.

The motion was passed with 6 Councilmen voting in favor and 1 Councilman voting opposed.

**Mayor Fewell confirmed a Public Hearing would be held on September 27th.**

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**Clerk-Treasurer Elmore** informed the members of the Common Council that the Notice to Taxpayers for the 2024 Fiscal Budget has been submitted on the Gateway Portal as required.

**A public hearing will take place at the September 27th meeting and the ordinance would be introduced on first reading.** Clerk-Treasurer Elmore further explained the steps that remained in the 2024 budget process which include: the ordinance coming to the Council for approval, the public hearing at the next meeting, the submission of the approved budget to the DLGF, return of budget in the form of the 1782 Notice and the final step of receiving the Budget Order from the County Auditor, once certified.

The entire process should be concluded by the end of this year.

**PETITION OR COMMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Greenfield Common Council, Councilman Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 19:35 p.m., duly seconded by Councilman Lowder.

Motion carried *viva voce.*

Mayor Fewell announced that the next meeting of the Common Council will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 @ 7:00pm. Mayor Fewell declared the meeting adjourned.

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Lori Elmore Chuck Fewell, Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer Presiding Officer