

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Indiana Borough held October 4, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the George E. Hood Municipal Building.

Present: Council President Broad, Presiding: Councilmembers Collazzo, DeBuyser, Ford, Herring, Kratsa, Lancaster, Newell, Smith, Steelman, Warnock; Mayor Simmons, Solicitor Dougherty, Chief of Police Schawl; Manager Sipos; Communications & Grants Coordinator Mudry; Recording Secretary Busovicki; Pat Cloonan, Indiana Gazette; Josh Widdowson, Renda Broadcasting; one (1) member of UWUA 580, and four (4) members of the public.

President Broad called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

After a moment of silent reflection, Steelman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Broad asked for a Roll Call: 11 Councilmembers were present, 1 absent.
(Councilmember Newell arrived after roll call was taken)

There was one addition/change to the agenda. 1) An Executive Session will occur at the end of the meeting for legal matters.

There was a motion by Lancaster, seconded by Smith, to approve the September 2022 Council minutes. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Smith, seconded by Lancaster, to approve the September 2022 Work Session minutes.

There was a motion by Warnock, seconded by Herring, to approve the August 2022 Financial Report. Motion carried.

The following action occurred during Public Comment:

- Tony Greenwalt, resident of 1601 Philadelphia Street, inquired if the upcoming changes in ward structure would cause anyone currently serving to lose their seat and was told they would not. He also expressed concerns regarding the stormwater drains backing up along Nixon Avenue.

The following occurred during Committee Reports:

- There was a motion by the Administration Committee to move to adopt the advertised Ordinance revising Chapter 288: Parking Meters. There was a roll call vote ten (10) yes, zero (0) no. Motion carried.
- There was a motion by the Administration Committee to approve a resolution authorizing the Administration department to apply for a DCED STMP grant for technology and equipment upgrades. Motion carried.

- There was a motion by the Administration Committee to advertise an Ordinance to reduce the number of Councilmembers serving on Borough Council from the current (12) twelve to eight (8). There was a roll call vote ten yes, zero (0) no. Motion carried.
- the number of wards within the Indiana borough from four (4) to (2) two. There was a roll call vote eleven (11) yes, zero (0) no. Motion carried.
- There was motion by the Community Development Committee to adopt the advertised Ordinance amending Chapter 327: Property Maintenance. There was a roll call vote eleven (11) yes, zero (0) no. Motion carried.
- There was a motion by the Community Development Committee to adopt the Strategic Management Planning Program Report as prepared by Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) and Downtown Redevelopment Services. Motion carried.
- The owners of Robinson Funeral Home raised concerns at the Community Development meeting regarding the possible permanent closure of North 7th Street at IRMC Park and the impact it would have on their business.
- The Community Development Committee announced upcoming events including the Oktoberfest on October 8th, from 2-6 PM, working with the Fraternal Orders Eagles #1468 to have a trick or treat night the last Saturday in October, an annual Wine Walk on November 4th, and the It's a Wonderful Life festival starting on November 18th.
- The Planning Commission would like to take the next step and hold meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan.
- It was announced the Borough will contract with the Stewart Group Consulting Firm to provide professional planning services on a consulting basis.
- Two 2022 Ford Explorers have been obtained with assistance of grant funding and the Marcellus Shale monies and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.
- The Public Safety Committee announced that the Police Department acquired crime scene processing equipment via the PA Chiefs of Police Association.
- The 2023 budget will be discussed at the next Public Safety meeting. 2021 and 2022 saw a decrease in the Indiana Borough Police Department of 6%, but there is an anticipated increase of 1% for the 2023 budget.
- The Civil Service entry level eligibility list is valid thru December 3rd, 2022 and two eligible candidates remain.

The following occurred during Personnel Reports:

- Manager Sipos said milling will begin October 6th, and paving Nixon Avenue between 4th and 11th and Shryock Avenue between 6th and 9th will occur from October 10th to the 14th.

- Engineers will be visiting the borough building to gather information for the upgrades. Phase I will take approximately 6 months to obtain permits.
- Kay Smith offered to donate her services to landscape the flower beds in IRMC park and the work would be completed next week. There was a brief discussion on whether a written plan could be provided to council and if more details on what exactly would be done could be made available. Sipos said there really wasn't enough time as the project will be completed next Tuesday.
- Action Item: Chief Schawl is seeking approval to combine agencies and apply for a grant for the police department to purchase new radio equipment. A motion was made by Lancaster, seconded by DeBuyser, to apply for the new equipment. Motion carried.
- Schawl stated that the Calls for Service Report for IUP Homecoming would be available at the Work Session meeting at the end of October.
- Schawl thanked all local agencies that partnered with borough police department and participated in IUP Homecoming.
- Solicitor Dougherty said the plaintiff and defendant involved in the Dunkin' case are awaiting a ruling from the Judge.
- Broad reminded the Council that Oktoberfest will be held in the S&T Bank parking lot.
- Simmons remarked there are ongoing complaints regarding meter ticketing after 5:00 PM and hopes a resolution can be found soon. One solution is to provide free parking in the Borough Garage after 5:00 PM.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Council adjourned into an Executive Session at 8:14 PM for legal matters.

Council reconvened into Regular Session at 8:57 PM

There was a motion by Kratsa to adjourn at 8:59 PM

A recording of the full meeting can be viewed and downloaded by clicking the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tjOpQHUCF4>