

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the Indiana Borough Council held August 16, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the George E. Hood Municipal Building.

Present: Council President Broad, Presiding; Councilmembers Collazzo (arrived at 7:11 PM), DeBuyser, Ford, Herring, Kratsa, Lancaster, Newell, Steelman, Taylor, Warnock; Solicitor Dougherty; Manager Sipos; Communications & Grants Coordinator Mudry; Recording Secretary Busovicki; Pat Cloonan, Indiana Gazette; Josh Widdowson, Renda Broadcasting; two (2) virtual attendees.

President Broad asked for a Roll Call: 11 Councilmembers were present. (Collazzo arrived after roll call was taken)

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

There was no Public Comment.

The following occurred during the discussion of Municipal Reapportionment:

- Newell presented the final recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee to adopt a two-ward system with eight (8) councilmembers. Simmons advocated for an at-large option, citing the survey results indicating it to be the most embraced option by the public. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of both systems (at-large and ward-based). There was a motion by Newell, seconded by DeBuyser, to instruct the Solicitor to draft ordinances creating a two-ward map with (4) members from each ward, totaling to eight (8) members of Borough Council. During discussion, Smith spoke in opposition to the motion and requested additional time to gather public input before making a decision. There was a motion by Smith, seconded by Kratsa, to table Newell's motion. Newell and DeBuyser remarked there has been ample time for public participation already. There was a roll-call vote for the motion to table: 3 Yes, 9 No – motion rejected. Council then voted on Newell's original motion. Motion carried.

There was no second Public Comment.

There was no Executive Session.

The following occurred during Committee Reports:

- Ford announced that August's Third Thursdays event will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup>. IUP will be present with members of the Class of 2026. The IUP Marching Band will also be performing. The Borough will have a table as well for Councilmembers and staff to meet with the community.

The following occurred during Personnel Reports:

- Sipos announced financial assistance is now available to assist borough residents required to remove trees located within the Right-of-way. Information was dispersed online and will also be sent out in the form of letters from the Code Department. Anyone interested in

the program should contact the Code Department.

- The second bid for paving project has been modified due to prohibitive costs. The work will now only entail the paving of Nixon Avenue from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 11<sup>th</sup>. Work is expected to begin in early October.
- Metered parking and citations will be discussed at the next Administration meeting.
- The final report for the Strategic Management Planning Program is being revised and will be shared with Council once changes and additions are completed.
- Indiana County Emergency Management Agency would like to schedule a meeting between White Township, IUP and Indiana Borough to discuss the potential of a collaborative Emergency Operations Plan.
- A brief community intro video is now published on the homepage of the borough's website. The video is part of a County initiative to highlight municipalities in the area.
- DeBuyser inquired about the status of sidewalk repair projects or programs using American Rescue Plan funding. Smith responded that the Public Works Committee is still discussing the subject at their monthly meetings. A discussion was had regarding potential methods to implement a program similar to the recently-created program to assist with the removal of trees. Broad requested the subject be moved to Public Works Committee for further discussion at their next meeting.
- Broad stated the Italian Festival had a large turnout and events like it are what make Indiana Borough a wonderful place to live. Broad thanked all event organizers for their hard work and dedication.
- The Indiana Area Collaborative Team has begun to meet regarding 2022 IUP Homecoming planning and preparation.
- The Borough's Active Transportation Plan is almost finished, as well as the County's and White Township's Complete Streets Policy.
- The Borough continues to attend monthly stormwater-related meeting with local and regional stakeholders.
- Mayor Simmons announced the Indiana Fire Association will be seeking recruits at the upcoming Third Thursdays event. Housing information is available on their website.

There was no Old Business.

The following occurred during New Business:

- Collazzo announced she spoke with the event organizers for the Back to School Carnival, a

special event planned for September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 PM to 9 PM that was approved by Council. The event may potentially feature carnival games hosted by students.

- Collazzo announced the Indiana Senior Center will be hosting an Art Show sometime in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM upon a motion by Taylor, seconded by DeBuyser.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkYDFEltJ4U>