

COMMON COUNCIL JUNE 3, 2020

For historical purposes, this was the first Common Council meeting held in Council Chambers and with the public since the shutdown restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This was allowed under the guidelines of Phase 3 of the Governor's plan.

The Common Council of the City of Madison, Indiana, met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall, 101 W. Main Street.

Pastor Harvey Leggett of Broadway Baptist Church opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. State Representative Randy Frye led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Thevenow, Creech, L. Dattilo, Rampy, Chatham, Bartlett, and D. Dattilo (7-0).

MINUTES:

Dan Dattilo made a motion to approve the May 19, 2020 minutes, seconded by Bartlett. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

State Representative Randy Frye addressed the Council and stated he had been in a couple meetings earlier in the day to address the challenges facing our community due to the pandemic. Frye stated that in many ways we are seeing some of the biggest challenges since the Civil War. He assured the community that work is ongoing at the statehouse and commended Mayor Courtney and the Council for their leadership through the crisis.

Citizen Darius Spegal then addressed the Council. Spegal and other area young people had met with Mayor Courtney earlier in the day to discuss challenges facing our youth and our community. As a 24 year old black male Spegal stated he felt blessed to live in Madison but that we all have an obligation to make things better in the world around us. He will continue to work with area young people to address the problems facing all of us. Spegal stated he has a great relationship with former Mayor Tim Armstrong and Police Chief John Wallace and that gives him an inroad to working for the public good. He hopes that current events will actually bring us all closer together. He thanked all for giving him a platform.

Human Relations Commission member Sue Livers addressed the Council. Livers noted that Madison is a very diverse and inclusive community. She stipulated the difference between diversity and inclusiveness in that a community can be diverse but not necessarily inclusive. Being inclusive is a human choice and Livers feels Madison has made great strides moving forward and she feels she belongs in Madison.

Pastor Leggett addressed the council again. Leggett has been living in Madison since this past December and is originally from Columbus, Indiana. He has been pastor at Broadway Baptist Church for the last six years. He stated that with all the national and worldwide strife that

Madison has been a blessing to him and his family. Legett thanked the Mayor and the Council for reaching out to the community. His church is always striving to lead and make things better for the community both socially and spiritually.

RESOLUTIONS OR BILLS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-34
A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA
REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE
A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

In this Resolution the city is reaffirming the original Ordinance No. 1968-2 and amended Ordinance No. 2017-18. The reaffirmation is one where the city strongly condemns any form of discrimination, bias, bigotry, prejudice and hate against any person or group. The pursuit of an inclusive community will be strived for with full force from community leaders. Lawbreaking and violent riots are to be condemned and peaceful protests are encouraged to promote change. Thevenow made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-34, seconded by Creech. Roll call vote: Rampy – Y, Chatham – Y, Bartlett – Y, D. Dattilo – Y, L. Dattilo – Y, Creech – Y, Thevenow – Y. Resolution No. 2020-34 is passed (7-0).

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Rampy reported that the Special Projects Committee will be meeting to discuss revising the guidelines for the Riverfront District.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Chief of Staff McGee reported that the city is pursuing CARES ACT funding from the federal government formed so losses can be reimbursed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The city is eligible for \$385,399.00. Claims for any Covid related expense will be submitted. The Community Crossing paving bids are being processed. The bid opening will be on June 11. The temporary jobs program has been a big success and has been beneficial to both the city and the new hires. The DOC workers are scheduled to come back on July 1st. Some of the jobs performed include the painting and renovation of 800 fire hydrants, grass cutting and very nice renovations within City Hall. The Community Outreach Program continues to reach out to the aid of the elderly and disabled. The 2021 budget is being worked on and meetings with department heads are upcoming. The budget workshops with the Council will be on Tuesday, July 28th and Wednesday, July 29.

Police Chief John Wallace read a statement condemning the actions carried out that resulted in the death of George Floyd. Wallace reiterated that the Madison Police Department will not tolerate any such actions from his force. The department conducts 6 month evaluation of all of its officers. Two officers, Jeremy Perkins and Sean Scudder, have been promoted to detective. A 30th officer will be added to the force. A crime suppression team is now operating and consists of 14 members of the MPD. Courtney restated his goal to make Madison the “safest community”.

Parks Director Seth Pennington gave an updated report to the various parks programs. This was Pennington's first address as director. The department is currently evaluating various software programs to bring all activities and the ability to pay fees online. Improvement is being sought for all programs from youth to senior. The city has 27 parks and they are going through an evaluation to determine the amount of usage and where dollars and improvements should be targeted. Pennington is making the pursuit of grants a priority. The pool and summer sports leagues will be opening. Pennington has ongoing studies to see that such openings are conducted with the utmost safety. Thevenow stated concern that there were no season passes for the pool this year. Courtney and Pennington both explained that with the abbreviated season and split programs that, after extensive study, the only viable setup financially for the city was to move forward with that stated plan. Many community pools are not opening this year and Courtney and Pennington wanted to do everything possible to not follow suit by keeping facilities closed.

Clerk Treasurer Berry reported that the Jon Menke Award will be moved to late Summer or early Fall. The award is traditionally the first council meeting in June following Memorial Day. The Covid 19 restrictions would not have allowed for full participation presently.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Courtney stated that we are currently under Phase 3 of Governor Holcomb's reopening plan. The fireworks are still scheduled for Saturday, July 4. The state will then be operating under Phase 5 and the event should be operating very close to normal if there are no unseen circumstances. Work continues with the County Commissioners on the two-mile buffer zone. Items should be finalized at the next Commissioners meeting. Courtney thanked Lucy Dattilo for her work on the meals for kids program. Dattilo stated that they are serving approximately 800 meals a week to area youth.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall.

D. Dattilo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rampy. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

APPROVED:

President Pro Tempore,

Rick Berry, Clerk-Treasurer