G GREENWOOD

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Meeting of the Greenwood Common Council MINUTES

Date:

March 17, 2025

Time:

7:00 pm

Place:

Council Chambers

Greenwood City Center

300 S. Madison Greenwood, Indiana

- I. <u>Call Meeting to Order President Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in person and online via Zoom</u>
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Prayer: Evangelist Howard Cottengim, from Redeemer Baptist Church
 - C. Roll Call: Roll Call of the Common Council was taken.

Council Members Present: Mike Campbell ("Mr. Campbell"), Linda Gibson, ("Ms. Gibson"), Ezra Hill ("Mr. Hill"), David Hopper ("Mr. Hopper"), David Lekse ("Mr. Lekse"), Teri Manship ("Ms. Manship"), Steve Moan ("Mr. Moan")

Erin Kasch and Mike Williams were absent.

City Officials Presents: Jeannine Myers ("Ms. Myers") Clerk, James Ison ("Chief Ison") Police Department, Brad Coy, ("Assistant Chief Coy"), Fire Department, Greg Wright, ("Mr. Wright") Controller, Gabe Nelson ("Mr. Nelson") Planning Director, Sam Hodson ("Mr. Hodson"), Corporation Counsel

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes from the regular meeting March 3, 2025

Motion to approve regular meeting minutes from March 3, 2025 by Lekse, seconded by Moan Votes: Ayes – Campbell, Gibson, Hill, Hopper, Lekse, Manship, Moan Motion Passes 7-0

III. Reports

- A. Corporation Counsel
- B. Controller
- C. Committee & Board Reports

Mr. Lekse, reporting on the Johnson County Recycling District, stating the new \$2.3 million dollar building with be opening in mid-May. This is a building where you can take your recycling like cardboard, televisions, plastic and things. We will be opening in mid-May at 2250 N. Graham Road. Thank you.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Randy Goodin, 1157 Central Park Blvd., I would like to ask for clarity on Ord No. 25-09, regarding the wheel tax. As I was reading through this one, the section that I have a question

about is, when you list recreational vehicles, you do not state if there is a gross weight, or what the tonnage is. The way I read this is, basically this could be any little pop-up camper, or anything I decide to drag around behind my vehicle. So, I was wondering if there was any clarification that can be put around that. Thank you. Mr. Campbell states that we will see if we can address that at some point

V. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Notice of Intent to Consider

B. First Reading

RESOLUTION NO. 25-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENWOOD AND THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA REGARDING FIRE PROTECTION (Sponsored by Moan)

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Motion to pass first reading Res No. 25-04 by Moan, seconded by Manship Votes: Ayes – Campbell, Gibson, Hill, Hopper, Lekse, Manship, Moan Motion Passes 7-0 ing the first of the first of the party of the party

C. Second Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 25-08 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GREENWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-66, "THE OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE", TO INCREASE FEES; TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6-339, "OBSTRUCTION OF STREETS AND SIDEWALKS", TO ESTABLISH FEES; TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6-115, "FALSE ALARMS", TO PRESCRIBE FINES, AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 7, SECTION 7-45, "RIGHT-OF-WAY EXCAVATIONS, CUTS, AND DISTURBANCES", TO INCREASE PERMIT FEES (Sponsored by Gibson)

Motion to pass second reading Ord No. 25-08 by Gibson, seconded by Manship Votes: Ayes -Gibson, Hill, Hopper, Lekse, Manship, Moan, Campbell **Motion Passes 7-0**

New Business - Introductions of New Ordinances and Resolutions VI.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-09 AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL WHEEL TAX AND MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE EXCISE TAX AND CREATING THE CITY OF GREENWOOD WHEEL TAX FUND AND THE CITY OF GREENWOOD MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE EXCISE SURTAX FUND (Sponsored by all council members)

Mr. Wright, the impetus for this municipal wheel tax coming out of HB 1461 is currently in the senate now, which is the road funding bill from Rep. Pressel. Part of the requirements under that bill, are that a city that is eligible to adopt a municipal wheel tax must have one adopted in order to be eligible for the Community Crossings grant dollars, which we have utilized quite a bit in the last few years for matching grants for road work. With this, it is not stacked with the county rate, so this will be in leu of the county rate. So, any wheel tax paid within the city of Greenwood will go to the city of Greenwood, rather than be split out by the current formula. The biggest thing for us is, the potential loss of the Community Crossings grants dollars. Right now, our limit on that is 1.5 million dollars a year so we match those 1.5 million dollars for paying projects. This year we're doing almost \$3 million worth of work in the Country Aire subdivision. It's a big deal for us to be able to do that level of paving.

The reason we are looking at this now, is that the bill its self has complete support from our republican leadership at the state house, and it is almost certain that it will be passed without any further amendments.

The fact that the general assembly will be adjourned by April 24th, we believe it will pass well before that. The ordinance's current timeline would put final adoption during the council's second April meeting, and I believe that HB 1461 will have passed the house by then. Final passage of the city's ordinance could be pushed off another meeting until it is for certain. The big thing is that it is not a new tax to the citizens, it will just be separating from the county wheel tax so we can continue to get those Community Crossings grants.

Mr. Hill, so just for clarification, we are not adding a new tax? Mr. Wright, we are not adding a new tax, it's the exact same rates that people are paying now to the county.

Mr. Campbell, so we, the citizens of Greenwood, are currently paying a wheel tax to Johnson County. Mr. Wright, there is a statutory formula that splits it out across all the units of the county that do road work. Mr. Campbell, essentially this will replace that, and we won't pay the county the tax, all the money will go directly to the city of Greenwood, from Greenwood citizens. Mr. Wright, right now, on average, we received about 1.4 million dollars for the current version. We are estimating based on Noblesville, with a similar population as us, that the municipal version will generate \$1.9 million annual for Greenwood so we anticipate that there will be an additional funding agreement without adding taxes to Greenwood.

Mr. Hill, has anyone from the state said why they want to restructure this one? Mr. Wright, explains what they have been hearing that there are a lot of options available to the county level and municipal level, that have not been taken advantage of for funding and they are trying to encourage those methods to be utilized. The municipal wheel tax has been an option around the state for about 5 years. There are about 9 communities that are taking advantage of it, because it currently stacks with their county rates, so nobody was willing to take on the extra taxation, I think they are encouraging more utilization of the tools that have been offered.

Mr. Moan, is it the way we have structured it that makes it not stacked in leu of the county tax? Mr. Wright, no it's actually the bill from Rep. Pressel that specifics that it will be unstacked. The municipalities will retain what is coming from within their boundaries that the county's funding source will be those who are not being taking care of by municipalities that prevent these double taxation situations.

Ms. Gibson, I was speaking with the mayor and that perhaps maybe, there would be some money available during the spring or the summer, if we pass this early, we might have an opportunity.

Mr. Wright, the Community Crossings grants usually do two processes each year. We are trying to adopt the taxes now so that we don't miss out when applying for the next round of funding. Communities are required by HB 1461 to adopt the tax by June 30, 2025 to be eligible.

Mr. Campbell states that he would like to clarify that adoption is one date and the date it takes effect is a second date. Mr. Wright, correct.

Mr. Campbell discussed that definitions are everything, and at first looking at the bill it talked about two taxes, a wheel tax and an excise tax. A wheel tax is on a recreational vehicle, commercial vehicle that kind of thing, and an excise tax is on our personal passenger vehicle.

Mr. Wright states that the statue does specify that you cannot adopt one without the other.

Mr. Campbell asked for clarification on a weight limit on recreational vehicles. Mr. Wright said he would have to look as to what qualifies under those definitions.

Ms. Gibson, I have a comment, I think this is one of the few times that we've had complete support by all members on the council. I think this sends a good message to our constituents that we are on the same page and that one group isn't trying to pull and do something against the other. Mr. Campbell states that it is the first time since he'd been on the council that all nine council members have sponsored a bill. It's not obviously not the first time that we've had a unanimous vote.

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VII. Miscellaneous Business

A. Public Comments

B. Council

CF-1's for consideration:

01. Main & Graham (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 4 RE Res. 19-14 (71) Motion to find Main & Graham (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 4 RE Res. 19-14 (71) in compliance by Hopper, seconded by Lekse

Votes: All Ayes

02. Main & Graham (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 5 RE Res. 19-14 (72) Motion to find Main & Graham (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 5 RE Res. 19-14 (72) in compliance by Hopper, seconded by Lekse

Votes: All Ayes

03. Southtech Drive (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 3 RE Res. 19-26 (73) Motion to find Southtech Drive (Becknell Investors) Bldg. 3 RE Res. 19-26 (73) in compliance by Hopper, seconded by Lekse

Votes: All Ayes

C. Other Miscellaneous

- A. Corporation Council
- B. Controller
- C. Mayor

VIII. Adjournment: 7:20 pm

Council President

Clerk