THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROWN POINT
MET IN A REGULAR MEETING
ON Monday, March 1, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. PURSUANT TO AND
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
"Held Via Zoom"
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566850445

Mayor Uran called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Uran asked for a roll call of the Members. The call of the roll was as follows:
Members Present: Chad Jeffries, Dawn Stokes, Andrew Kyres, Laura Sauerman,
Carol Drasga, Zack Bryan and Council President Scott Evorik.
Absent: None

Also present were City Attorney David Nicholls, Clerk-Treasurer David Benson
and Chief Deputy Bette Babjak.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Regular Meeting
on February 1, 2021.

Member Andrew Kyres motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council
Meeting on February 1, 2021, seconded by Member Laura Sauerman.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. READING OF AGENDA

Mayor Uran related that he recently spoke with Council President Scott Evorik
about removing Resolution No. 2021-01-03R from the agenda. This was a
resolution regarding the purchase of land or structures for public improvement
projects. It needs more work in the language and will return in a more agreeable
form at some point.

Council President Scott Evorik motioned to remove Item #2 under Old Business,
Resolution No. 2021-01-03R from the agenda, seconded by Member Zack Bryan.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Uran also related that a request to defer was brought to his attention
regarding Resolution No. 2021-03-05R. The Resolution allowing a Multifamily
Apartment Community in a B3 business district located at 10601 Delaware
Parkway.

This was listed as Item #2 under New Business on the agenda. Mayor Uran said
the petitioner has asked for a 30-day deferral to provide additional information that
might be germane to the Council towards their consideration. Council President
Scott Evorik inquired what the informational reason for deferral was?
Planning Administrator Anthony Schlueter presented the letter from the petitioner requesting a deferral for more information until the next scheduled meeting on April 5th.

Member Chad Jeffries said that we do sometimes grant deferrals on these matters and Mayor Uran called for Attorney Kuiper to address the Council.

Attorney Kuiper said the request was for gathering additional information to present to the Council.

Further discussion took place and no specific information requested could be identified.

Council President Scott Evorik made a motion to defer Resolution No. 2021-03-05R for 30 days, seconded by Member Zack Bryan.

Member Laura Sauerman brought up the timing issue with the deferral. Council President Scott Evorik then amended his motion to the next Council meeting scheduled for April 5th, seconded Member Zack Bryan. The motion voice vote was unclear, so Mayor Uran called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Members Bryan and Evorik.

Nays: Members Jeffries, Stokes, Kyres, Sauerman and Drasga.

Motion denied 5 to 2.

Mayor Uran said that Resolution No. 2021-03-05R will remain on the agenda as #2 under New Business.

Attorney Kuiper then advised the Council that Petitioner Edward Rose would like to withdraw his Petition.

After discussion about the legality, Member Laura Sauerman made a motion to remove Resolution No. 2021-03-05R from the agenda, seconded by Member Zack Bryan. Under discussion, further legality concerns were addressed. Mayor Uran called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Members Jeffries, Stokes, Kyres, Sauerman, Drasga, Bryan and Evorik.

Nays: None

Motion to remove passed 7 to 0.

Mayor Uran continued to read the agenda.

E. ADDITION OF NEW ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

None at this time.
F.  APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND SRF DISTRIBUTIONS

Member Zack Bryan reported that he reviewed the claims and the numerous SRF Distributions for the period. They all appear to be in the normal course of City business and therefore moved to approve the claims and SRF Distributions, seconded by Member Dawn Stokes.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

G.  PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Media Relations and Information Technology Director Adam Graper reported that there were a handful of comments in opposition to the apartments, but no questions.

Dena Ivezic of 905 Heritage Court Apt.103 listed a few comments about Resolution No. 2021-03-05R which was removed.

Christine Vranjes of 780 S. Main St. was concerned about traffic and school with Resolution No. 2021-03-05R which was removed.

H.  SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Greek Independence Day

Member Andrew Kyres addressed everyone about recognizing the Bicentennial Independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

Mayor David Uran then read the official City of Crown Point Proclamation, and it will be placed into our permanent records as follows:
Regular Council Meeting
March 1, 2021

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

Recognizing the bicentennial independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States

Whereas, the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people; and

Whereas, the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek, political philosophy, in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in framing the representative democracy of the United States; and

Whereas, the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence; and

Whereas, Greece heroically resisted Axis forces for a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia; and

Whereas, Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state; and

Whereas, the second United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue on October 7, 2019 underscored Greece’s importance to the United States as a pillar of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally; and

Whereas, the government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization where Greece is a key contributor to defense expenditures, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and

Whereas, the governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

Whereas, Americans of Greek descent in Crown Point, Indiana and Lake County have made a positive impact in our community by building housing for the low-income elderly, building vibrant parishes in Hammond, Merrillville and Schererville that give back to the community by hosting St. Patrick’s dinner for the less fortunate, operate and donate to the St. John’s Township food pantry, deliver meals-on-wheels, collecting hats and scarves for the less fortunate, donate to local soup kitchens, donate and volunteer for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, provide educational scholarships, been elected to local government positions and much more; and

Whereas, these efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas, it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2021 as the Bicentennial of Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David D.F. Ezra, Mayor of the City of Crown Point, do hereby proclaim March 25th, 2021 as Greek Independence Day in the City of Crown Point, and invite all citizens to join me this occasion.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Crown Point, on this 8th day of March 2021.

BY THE MAYOR: David D.F. Ezra, Mayor
City of Crown Point

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Employee of the Month – EMA Director Mike Wysocki for March 2021.

CITY OF CROWN POINT  PARKS & SPECIAL EVENTS
David D. Uran  Jennie Burgess, CPRP, CPO
Mayor  Parks Administrator

Dianna Bost
Special Events Administrator

Employee of the Month
March 2021

Michael Wysocki
Years with the City – 5 years, hired 5/25/2015 (Director since 2/13/2019)
Nominated by Pastor Mark Wilkins of First United Methodist Church

Dear Mayor Uran and members of the Crown Point City Council;

As the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist, Crown Point, I wanted to take a moment to write you to heartily commend the work of one of your department heads, Mr. Mike Wysocki.

As you may be aware, over the last two years First Methodist has taken on the project of becoming a warming and cooling center for the City of Crown Point. This has necessitated us working with Mr. Wysocki from the inception of this project to it’s current active status as a warming center. From the very beginning, Mike has been an incredible partner. We have found him always available, and always willing to lend his support and advice. He is well versed in his job and willing (and in fact eager) to help out in any way possible. In short, he epitomizes what it means to not simply be a great employee, but to be a great public servant.

As a church, we are sincerely grateful for partnering with our city in ways that will benefit the citizen of Crown Point. Having someone like Mike Wysocki to work with in doing so makes that partnership even more of a pleasure. He is a credit to our city, and to your administration. He deserves and has our sincerest gratitude.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your administration for the benefit of our great city.

Mayor Uran added that Station 21 and Crown Brewing have been proud sponsors of our Employee of the Month recognitions for several years.

Pastor Mark Wilkins had complimentary words of Mike Wysocki for his partnership with the First United Methodist Church warming shelter.

Mike Wysocki was very appreciative of this award and thanked everyone.
I. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

Member Andrew Kyres spoke about updating the Human Resources Committee Handbook.

The HREDC is waiting for April to meet and address abatement renewals.

J. APPOINTMENTS:

None at this time.

K. PRESENTATIONS:

None at this time.

L. OLD BUSINESS

**Ordinance No. 2021-02-04** – Ordinance Reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Fund. (Public Hearing/Second Reading)

Mayor Uran confirmed with Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson that everything was properly advertised. Mr. Benson replied that advertisements were done, and copies are on file.

Mr. Nicholls then confirmed with Mayor Uran that the public hearing could be opened on this topic. Adam Graper said that there was nobody on Zoom or Facebook. Mayor Uran then closed the public hearing portion of Ordinance No. 2021-02-04.

Member Chad Jeffries made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-02-04, seconded by Council President Scott Evorik. Mayor Uran called for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Members Jeffries, Stokes, Kyres, Sauerman, Drasga, Bryan and Evorik.

Nays: None

Motion to approve passed 7 to 0.

M. NEW BUSINESS

**Resolution No. 2021-03-04R** – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Crown Point to Enter into an Agreement with Lake County in Undertaking Community Development Activities.

Mr. Nicholls advised that based upon the documents that have been presented to us as a City, he would recommend that we adopt Resolution No. 2021-03-04R.

Mayor Uran added that we use these funds to improve areas with ADA compatibility, income qualifying neighborhoods for sidewalks and things of that nature. This agreement will be for the fiscal years of 2022 through 2024.

Member Zack Bryan motioned to approve Resolution No-2021-03-04R, seconded by Andrew Kyres.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
Resolution No. 2021-03-06R – A Resolution Authorizing the Budgetary Non-Series Transfer of Funds.

Mayor Uran reported to the Council that this was a series transfer within the Public Works Division for the funding for salt.

We went through the amount of salt that was spread throughout the City due to our harsh winter.

Member Chad Jeffries made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Dawn Stokes.

Motion carried by voice vote.

N. REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adam said there was a question online about the status of the City Hall remodeling. Mayor Uran responded that everything is on schedule. We had a meeting with the Clerk-Treasurer and staff, and it could be the first or second week of April for a return.

Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson added that we will probably return the way we left considering the operations of the office.

We will move the Billing Clerks and Bookkeepers back first. After the Community Service Bills are due on the 15th, the duties of the upfront Clerks lighten up slightly, so that would be a good time to move them back.

Mayor Uran added that the Building Department remodeling is moving along fine too. We are waiting for some pocket door orders.

When it warms up, there will be some outside work completed. Both buildings will be fully operational to service the Community and the Employees in April.

We will move back to public meetings then as well.

Member Dawn Stokes inquired about the elevator. Mayor Uran replied that this will be one of the things addressed in the spring as the weather improves.

Member Carol Drasga inquired about the automatic door assist at Bulldog Park and Mayor Uran answered that it is in place.

Council President Scott Evorik gave a shout out and congratulated the Crown Point High School Lady Bulldogs for their recent victory down state.

He also mentioned that Jesse Mendez won his third State Championship at 138 lbs.

Mayor Uran also congratulated Crown Point Hockey Team for winning the Roper Cup along with the Dive Team winning Sectionals.

Special Events Director Diana Bosse gave her update.

Senior citizens age 60 and over are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. To schedule your appointment through the State of Indiana website visit www.ourshot.in.gov or call 211. To schedule an appointment at Walmart visit
www.walmart.com/cp/1228302, to schedule an appointment at Sam's Club visit www.samsclub/pharmacy.

Join Mayor Uran for Tuesday Talks on Zoom tomorrow Tuesday, March 2nd at 11:00 a.m. The zoom code to participate is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89369 302072.

You may also participate on the City of Crown Point and Crown Point Special Events Facebook pages.

The City of Crown Point is hosting a blood drive through Versiti Blood Centers on Tuesday, March 9th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Bulldog Park in the 1st floor Community Room. To schedule an appointment visit www.versiti.org/IL or call 1-800-786-4483.

Save the date! The 2019/2020 State of the City Address has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Health Pavilion at Bulldog Park. This is to provide increased space and allow for social distancing.

Although the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade has been canceled due to the State of Indiana's restrictions on large gatherings.

The Mayor's Office of Special Events is still providing opportunities to celebrate with the following activities: Children's St. Patrick's Day drawing contest. St. Patrick's Day downtown business window decorating contest and drive-thru corned beef and cabbage carry out dinners. For more information on these activities please visit www.crownpoint.in.gov.

Congratulations to Crown Point High School Lady Bulldogs Varsity Basketball team on winning the IHSAA Class 4A State Championship.

Council President Scott Evorik inquired if anything was going to be done for the Lady Bulldogs State Basketball victory?

Mayor Uran replied that we are currently planning something with the School Corporation. There was tremendous Community support over the weekend when they were downstate and when they came home.

The Facebook posts were incredible, and he has to give credit to the Babjak Family on S. Main Street for putting on a fireworks display each and every time the Lady Bulldogs won, so that was exciting!

We are working on something with the schools and all the other athletes that have done something very successful in Crown Point. As the pandemic decreases, we will work on a way to recognize them with the Council in a more safe and effective way.

Next Regular Council Meeting Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Member Andrew Kyres motioned for adjournment, seconded by Member Laura Sauerman.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.
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March 1, 2021

SUBMITTED:

David B. Benson, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED:

David D.F. Uran, Mayor

*Audio available upon request*