Regular Council Meeting
July 6, 2021

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROWN POINT
Met in a REGULAR MEETING in the Council Chambers,
Located at 101 N. East Street
On Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Pursuant to and in accordance with the Rules of the Common Council
*In Person and Via Zoom*
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566850445

Mayor Uran called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 48 opened the meeting with the 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, Carol Drasga, Andrew Kyres, Laura Sauerman, Zack Bryan and Council President Scott Evorik.

Absent: None

Also present were City Attorney David Nicholls (Zoom), Council Attorney Pat Schuster, Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson, and Deputy Clerk Sheri Herma.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Executive and
Regular Meeting on June 7, 2021.

Member Andrew Kyres motioned to approve the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting and the Regular Council Meeting on June 7, 2021, seconded by Member Laura Sauerman.

Council President Scott Evorik said his choice for the approval of the June 7th Executive Council meeting minutes was an abstention and not a nay vote.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. READING OF AGENDA

Mayor Uran 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 there were no SRF Distributions for the period. Zack said they all appear to be in the normal course of City business, and therefore, moved to approve the claims, seconded by Member Dawn Stokes.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
G. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Scott Hawkins of 11188 Louisiana Street, Crown Point, spoke about his frustrations with a pond near his residence overflowing during heavy rainstorms and encroaching on his property.

Steve Hegan of 630 S. Main Street spoke about the four way stop sign at Elmwood and Court being there year-round. He also commented about the Bike Trail in the square area.

H. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Employee of the Month for July 2021 Rick Monroe and Jason Scott

Rick Monroe hired 5/09/2001 (20 yrs)
Jason Scott hired 5/29/2000 (21 yrs)

Nominated by: Staff

On June 8, 2021, one of our Crown Point residents posted on the Crown Point Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook page about an unfortunate experience that her family endured; her 10-year-old son's basketball hoop was stolen.

Utilities Superintendent, Jason Scott came across this story and spoke to Crew Leader, Rick Monroe about it as he knew that Rick was willing to donate an almost brand-new basketball hoop, he had at his home that his children had outgrown.

Rick took the time to load up, deliver, and secure the basketball hoop for this young boy. We appreciate Rick's and Jason's roles in taking a stressful situation and turning it around for this boy and his family.
I. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Uran informed everyone that Andrew Kyres was recently named to the NIRPC Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee. Andrew will represent our City to bring Federal dollars back. Andrew will also be able to take the Master Plan back to NIRPC for consideration and networking back and forth. Congratulations Andrew.

J. APPOINTMENTS

None at this time.

K. PRESENTATIONS

None at this time.

L. OLD AND DEFERRED BUSINESS

None at this time.

M. NEW BUSINESS


Member Laura Sauerman chairs the HREDC and informed the Council of the update and recommendation from the Board.

Laura reported that there was an unanimous favorable motion for this property on a ten-year abatement. This business will bring more jobs to Crown Point, and we felt strongly that this should be approved.

Mayor Uran added that at that meeting there was some really great information that was shared with the Committee Members that he would like to share with the Council and Community itself.

From 2012 to 2021, Mr. Morris himself has been responsible for the positive potential of abatements and how they work very well.

During the last nine years certain abatements that Mr. Morris has applied for have created over 122 jobs. Of those 122 jobs, 33 went to Crown Point residents themselves. There were 20 additional properties that were added to the inventory and 6 of those are actually going to fall off the books and will be fully taxed moving forward.

They have added just under 180,000 square feet and over $15 million dollars of new property values to the City’s overall assessed valuation. This is just one person following the abatement process. This is how abatements are suppose to work.

Petitioner was present.

Member Laura Sauerman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-07-19R for a ten-year abatement, seconded by Member Carol Drasga.
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 voice vote except for 1 abstention by Council President Scott Evorik.

**Ordinance No. 2021-07-11** Granting a Vacation of Right-of-Way for the relocation and realignment of Mississippi Street. Lennar Homes of Indiana, Inc., Petitioner / Lake County Trust Co., as Trustee of Trust No. 2247, RH of Indiana, LP, Lennar Homes of Indiana, Inc., 1st Metro Dev., Owners. This received a Unanimous Favorable recommendation at the June 14, 2021 Plan Commission meeting. (First Reading)

First Assistant City Attorney Alex Kutanovski interjected and said that this needed a public hearing. This will be set for public hearing and will work with the Petitioner to notify the abutting landowners of the Public Hearing.

We will publish it on our end and then the Petitioner will notify the abutting landowners.

Member Andrew Kyres made a motion to Read In Title Only, Ordinance No. 2021-07-11, seconded by Council President Scott Evorik.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Uran advised Clerk Dave Benson that Legal will get together with him on this.

**Ordinance No. 2021-07-12** HIDTA Fiduciary Matter (First Reading)

Mr. Nicholls informed the Council that this was a matter that came to us from HIDTA, who the City is the Fiduciary Controller.

This is a matter that is strictly internal bookkeeping for the HIDTA Group within our City.

Because of the nature of HIDTA’s work and the fact that it is all confidential and privileged, Mr. Nicholls could not disclose the matter that is contained therein, other than to state that it will not cost the City any funding and is just a matter that we will be receiving a one-time payment for services to be rendered.

The internal bookkeeping will take place within the Clerk’s Office and be kept in a confidential file. Based upon the fact that the HIDTA Board of Directors had passed it themselves, he would request the Council to do so as the same and to look at this Ordinance and pass it on First Reading if possible.

Mayor Uran added that he had conversation with the Council President about the nature of the reason for this. The Council President confirmed and wished we had an Executive Meeting on this to help understand, but now understands after speaking with Mayor Uran.

Member Chad Jeffries added that this is pretty normal business for HIDTA and we are just doing the bookkeeping. We do not typically discuss what’s going on with it. It is just a matter that is being handled by the Clerk’s Office.

Member Andrew Kyres made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Member Laura Sauerman.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
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Member Chad Jeffries made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-07-12, seconded by Member Dawn Stokes. 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 passed 7 to 0.

Member Andrew Kyres made a motion to reinstate the rules, seconded by Member Carol Drasga.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Rules are reinstated.

Approval of Historic Maplewood Cemetery Fees – This will also go to the Board of Works and Public Safety Meeting on July 7, 2021.

Chief of Staff Greg Falkowski reported that the only change in fees were for the Traditional Burial and Cremation. Typically, in the past there was a charge and administrative fee. These fees are recommended by our Cemetery Caretaker Tom Hawes to be combined and get them more in line with surrounding cemeteries.

Member Carol Drasga made a motion to approve the new fee structure, seconded by Member Chad Jeffries.

Member Laura Sauerman inquired when the last time the fees were changed. Greg replied that it has been some time. Laura added that Mr. Hawes does an amazing job and trusts his judgement. Greg added that Tom wished to share that these fees are still lower than surrounding cemeteries.

Council President Scott Evorik added that he spoke with Tom about this over a year ago and knew this fee change was coming. Scott thought he recalled that Tom said it was possibly ten years since the last change.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

N. REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Grace from the Planning Department said someone was commenting about an accident on US231.

Someone wanted us to further explain HIDTA. Mayor Uran explained a slight more and said that the funding we get for Fiduciary duties are passed along to the senior citizens with their Community Service Bill discount.

Mayor Uran thanked our entire team of employees who took on for the very first time the Independence Day Parade and Fireworks. Further compliments on the Holiday were made.

Special Events Director Diana Bosse gave her update.

Time is running out! Get your tickets for the concert this weekend featuring Thompson Square with special guests Jerrod Niemann and Nate Venturelli, live on Saturday, July 10th at the Franciscan Health Amphitheatre from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Get your tickets today at Eventbrite.com.
The City Council meeting is taking place tonight at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. You can watch live on the City of Crown Point Facebook page.

Garbage Day will take place on Thursday, July 8th due to the 4th of July holiday.

The Taste of Crown Point is almost here! Join us July 16th & 17th for a fun weekend of live music, great food from our local restaurants, and much more. We hope to see you there!

Member Carol Drasga repeated the message from the DNR for everyone to take in their bird feeders due to the unknown sickness going around affecting the Cardinals and Blue Jays.

Meeting dates will be coming soon for the upcoming Budget Season Workshops.

Next Regular Council Meeting Monday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Member Laura Sauerman motioned for adjournment, seconded by President Scott Evorik.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

[Signature]

David B. Benson, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED:

[Signature]

David D.F. Uran, Mayor

**Audio available upon request**