

**MINUTES**  
**Goshen City Council**  
**January 10, 2023 at 6:30pm**  
**Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street**

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Stroud called the meeting to order at 630pm, Carolyn Jordan was appointed to be Parliamentarian.

2. **Roll Call:** Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, Jamie Van Becelaere were present. City Attorney Brian Hogue and Mayor Russell Stroud were present. Birch Wright was absent until 7pm and Bill Hewat was absent.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. Brian Hogue clarified that item G, H and I were correct per John Vaillancourt's request. Vaillancourt clarified that item J will be Job Advertising, item K will be terminations and item L will be Mayoral Concerns. Paula Anderson motioned to approved the agenda. Vaillancourt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** John Vaillancourt made a motion to approve the 12/13/22 council meeting minutes. Paula Anderson seconded. Per Vaillancourt and Mayor Stroud, council will table 01/03/23 minutes until the next meeting as they are not available at this time.

**5. Reports for December:**

A. **Police Department Report:** Report in packet. Chief Travis reported.

B. **Street Report:** Report in in packet. Mayor Stroud reported on behalf of David Gatlin.

**Mill Branch Park:** Three signs were installed at the back entrance from Firetower.

Continued trash pick up.

**Roads:** Paul Prey Rd has been repaved and is finished. J St has been fixed and repaired.

Continued trash pickup on Habberton, Hale, Wilson and Ledford. A crosswalk has been installed on Tuttle Rd by Andersons.

**Maintenance:** Brush ahs been hauled off from the community building. All storm debris was removed. Main tractor is being repaired as hydraulics are not working properly.

Mayor Stroud reported that over 100 tons of gravel has been laid on 3 diff rd this past week.

C. **Goshen Volunteer Fire Department:** Department was not present to report

D. **Planning Commission Report:** Meeting was cancelled therefore no report was provided.

F. **Financial Report:** Report is in packet. Mayor Stroud reported on work that was produced by Lora Nanak after request from the council. As of 12/31/22, The General Fund was \$1,526,616.96; The street fund was \$416,580.82, the ARPA fund was \$10, The Act 988

Police Account was #3,304.77 and the AR Fun Park Grant was \$308.

**G. Parks and Rec. Report:** Report is in packet. Ken Smith reported. The city has has a lot of success. \$121,000 granted for land acquisition. News that congressional appropriation of almost \$900,000 was successfully granted to the city for Mill Branch Park. Grant will be used to help buy the remaining property at Mill Branch Park. Rased \$1.35 million for parks and rec for the receiving considerable hiking, biking, and playground use.

**H. Arbor Board Report:** Report is in the packet. Mary Smith reported. 13 large stones were placed free of charge by different Arbor Board Members and installed by Wesley McGinnis. 9 stones have plaques. Specific thanks to the members who provided these stones: **Beth Nichols, Max Poye, Bank of Fayetteville, Chuck Jacobus, Mary Loftus, Mary and Ken Smith, Karen and Dennis Boyd, Cynthia and Steve Snyder, Wesley McGinnis, and Larry and "Citizen" S. of Fayetteville.**

## **6. City Business**

**A. Council Position for Ward 2, Position 2:** John Vaillancourt made a motion to appoint Shawn Mayfield to Ward 2, Position 2 City Council Seat. Chuck Jacobus withdrew, Michael Thompson was not in the correct ward and Bill Hewitt was not present. Ken Smith and Mayor Stroud both spoke in support of Mayfield. Vaillancourt made a motion to appoint Shawn Mayfield to Ward 2, position 2 city council seat. Jamie Becelaere seconded the motion.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, Jamie Becelaere and Birch Wright all voted YES. Resolution 2023-2**

Shawn Mayfield was officially sworn in effective 01/11/23

**B. RFQ for Hay:** Will be presented in the next meeting.

**C. 2022 Budget Approval:** There was an amendment that was discussed per Brian Hogue. There was not a resolution to consider so it will be tabled until next month.

**D. Ordinance of the CITY REGARDING THE CITY COUNCIL, ITS MEETINGS, AND RULES OF THEIR PROCEEDINGS:** John Vaillancourt made a motion to continue ordinance #181 as is. This motion was seconded by Birch Wright. The motion carried. Public Comment was offered. Linda Moore asked if it included an organizational chart. The council reponded no.

**E. Recorder/Treasurer Position:** Jamie Becelaere made a motion to appoint Marjorie Vaillancourt as Recorder/Treasurer. Birch Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Paula Anderson, Birch Wright, Jamie Van Becelaere and Shawn Mayfield all voted YES. Resolution 2023-1**

**Colton Martin voted NO.**

**John Vaillancourt abstained from voting.**

Marjorie Vaillancourt was appointed and sworn in as Recorder/Treasurer effective 01/11/23 over Dr. Martha Dodson.

- F. Employee Handbook and Grievance Procedure:** A draft began in 2019 for a handbook however was never completed. A member of the council agreed to assist; however the audio was unclear. Dr. Martha Dodson also agreed to being on the committee to help get this completed as well.
- G. Revision of Ordinance 166 Requiring Mayor of Dept Heads to inform City Council of ANY decisions to hire or terminate city employees:** Confusion on the ordinance regarding the word "shall". Brian Hogue presented a new ordinance revising this. Jamie Becelaere wanted to confirm that all presenting it at the next meeting. Becelaere made a motion that the mayor do not hire/fire without a 24 hr notice to the city council. All was in favor.
- H. Ordinance to Lower Spending Limits:** Mayorial spending limit was decreased from \$5,000 to \$1,000.  
**Roll Call:**  
**Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, Jamie Van Becelaere, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright and Shawn Mayfield ALL voted YES.**
- I. Ordinance regarding Personnel File Procedures:** Responsibility was changed from Office Manager to Chief Jason Travis only.  
**Roll Call:**  
**Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, Jamie Van Becelaere, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright and Shawn Mayfield ALL voted YES.**
- J. Job Advertising / Posting:** All positions will need to be posted in 5 places as well as cityofgoshenar.net Ordinance 212
- K. Terminations:** Jamie Van Becelaere made a motion that all council members be aware of all terminations before they occur and at an official council meetings. Ordinance 210. John Vaillancourt motioned and Jamie Van Becelaere seconded the motion. The motion carried.  
**Roll Call: Paula Anderson, Jamie Van Becelaere, Birch Wright, John Vaillancourt and Shawn Mayfield ALL voted YES.**  
**Colton Martin voted NO.**  
Brian Hogue made it clear that it is up to the mayor to hire and fire employees.
- L. Mayoral Concerns:** Various concerns were addressed by the city council with no actions taken.

**7. Reports/Comments by Mayor, Alderman, City Attorney:** Various concerns were addressed by the city council with no action taken. Hogue stated that there are very limited ways that an elected official can be removed from office and that it would have to be reviewed by a judge. Hogue offered additional information regarding removal procedures.

**8. Public Input:** Kim Watson expressed concern for the Mayor as well.

**9. Adjournment:** John Vaillancourt made a motion to adjourn and Jamie Van Becelaere seconded the motion at 900pm.

  
Marjorie Vaillancourt

  
Mayor Russell Stroud