

MINUTES
Goshen City Council Commission
January 14, 2025 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen City Council was held on January 14, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Goshen Community Center.

City Council

Call to Order: Mayor Stroud @ 6:30pm

Roll Call: PRESENT - Paula Anderson, Sean Mayfield, Curtis Vaughn, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright, ABSENT - None. City Attorney and Recorder/Treasurer Gina Swanson were present.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Stroud re-ordered the agenda - New Business; Resolution for elected official(s) 9A&B were removed as the positions were unopposed; 9C, Resolution of Planning Chairman was removed because the committee appoints their own chairperson. Birch Wright motioned to accept and Colton Martin seconded. All were in favor; no Nay's

1-Call to Order;

2-Roll Call;

3-Approval of Agenda;

4-Public Input;

5-Approval of Minutes

6-Approval of Financial Reports

7-Reports for 12/24

8-Old Business

9-New Business

10-Reports/Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney & Recorder/Treasurer

11-Public Input

12-Adjournment

Public Input (#4) - Bernadette Boyle thanks the Goshen Extension Homemakers for both ramp installation/addition. Ramps will be easier when larger items are needing to be hauled into the Community Center.

Bernadette Boyle - The Goshen Extension Homemakers are having their 80th anniversary celebration on 2/22/25; invitations are forthcoming

Linda Moore - Linda thanked the road crew with the snow removal that was done quickly and smoothly for Goshen residents; our roads were done better than Highway 45. The new product (ice slicer) purchased by the City is working well and the Johnson City Mayor even reached out to inquire about the product.

Approval of Minutes from December, 2025 - Mayor Stroud pointed out a couple of grammatical changes; a motion to accept was made by John Vaillancourt and a second by Birch Wright. All in favor - so carried

Police Report (7A) - Chief Travis

37 Charges in total, 3 criminal citations, 1 PDP charge, 3 warrants 34 Moving citations, 1 DWI, 124 Warning citations, 267 service calls

Approval of Financial Report

As of 12/31/24 the General Fund has \$785,387.01 and the Street Fund has \$237,643.48 and Police 988 Fund has \$8,468.16. Our CD Balance is \$1,041,000.

Birch Wright asked for clarity that the sales tax is \$40K more in sales tax this year vs. last year. Mayor Stroud confirmed.

John Vaillancourt asked about business licenses and Mayor Stroud clarified that was voted down by Council at a previous meeting. Mayor Stroud confirmed that anyone doing business in the City of Goshen must pay City Sales Tax.

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve and it was seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor; none opposed.

Infrastructure & Facilities Report

Privacy Fence installed at the park and it did meet the exemption because of it being recreational so an 8' fence was installed.

New street signs were installed on Kyle Circle, J Street, Church Street, Hale Street, and Fire Tower Rd.

Trees were trimmed on Goshen Tuttle, Oxford Bend, Blue Springs, and Wyman

Tree debris under the bridge on Oxford Bend has been cleared out and trash on Hale and Fire Tower was picked up.

Concrete ramp has been poured at the Community Center

The door at the Community Center still needs switching out (or replace it) to open in the other direction for handicap access.

Future Projects - Continue to install street signs and the install the Welcome Stone at the north parking entrance and the Eagle Scout project of raised flower bed(s).

Thank you to Wesley McGinnis for donating two large base stones for the rock sign to sit in.

Birch Wright asked how far we are on the street signs - Mayor Stroud indicates we are about a quarter of the way through all the street signs. Slight delay being caused by 8-1-1 (utilities) having to be called for every single sign that is installed

The new fence on the south side park entrance was installed adjacent to Debbie McDonald's home.

Homeowners are pleased with the fence. The fence will cure for about a month or two, then it will be stained (cedar color), and then the posts will be painted black.

Colton Martin asked where does Littering fall under on the police report; clarity is that they have to be visually seen to be cited for littering. If illegal dumping then Boston Mountain (an EPA officer) will be called and it is reported as a separate category (via Jason). It (littering) would be added as a separate category.

Goshen Fire District Report

December, 2024 - 45 incidents total and the total types, 13 - Medical Assist is the highest on those.

Planning Commission Report

For Q4 2024, we had \$200 each for a property line adjustment and a setback variance for a total of \$400

Shawn Mayfield asked about water tap moratorium and if there's any update from Fayetteville Water Dept. Mayor Stroud had a conversation with Mr. Anderson (Fayetteville water) he indicated that if an existing lot is ready for building, Fayetteville will honor giving those taps but there is no current verdict or update. Goshen City Hall will follow up but as of right now, everyone is being told 'no' at this point. Birch Wright indicates that a Fayetteville Council Member mentioned it won't be done until there's a new tower. City Hall will provide update(s) as we receive them.

Building Inspection Report - JD was not in attendance; Mayor Stroud read the report and every inspection passed at this time.

Parks and Recreation Report - Danielle Edwards - in December a grant was received for the outdoor park and recreation for a pavilion on the south entrance; that's a match grant of 50-50
Fence was put in
Rock base is done for Rosie's project
Meeting with DesignScapes for tree landscaping at the south entrance
Master plan to be discussed in 2-weeks from this date (1/14/25)
Down one member (Kyle left) - Mayor Stroud has a recommendation of a person to fill that spot.
No meetings were done in Nov or Dec of 2024

Old City Business

Master Plan for the Parks -Motion to table it until next month by Paula Anderson, seconded by John Vaillaincourt. All in favor; none opposed.

Public Comment? None

Ordinance Ensuring Master Plan Adherence - Motion to table it by Paula Andreson and seconded by Shawn Mayfield. All in favor; none opposed.

Public Comment? None

Discussion of Proposed City Shop Building

Blueprints provided to the Council

Shop will run parallel to the salt storage shed and where the other current portable shed is now.

Shed is 50' deep and 65' to salt shed and add'l 20' parallel to salt storage building. 12'x14' doors

The reason it cuts back and then cuts over is due to the line that takes the septic sewage to the D-Box and we can't build over that. Mayor has asked for preliminary architectural drawings. Cost estimations are \$250K-\$350K. Scott Stokenbury (Planning) believes that is a realistic amount. Usage would be to park lawnmowers, bucket truck, 2 tractors, future skid steer; Mayor is also encouraging the addition of mini splits as they are less expensive but would allow work to be done on equipment in the shop during the hot months. Mayor Stroud would like to put this out for bid in March and have them (bids) back in April and start the project in June and hope to be done by the end of summer.

This project would be a capital improvement and come out of the General Fund with potentially using maturing CD money and then putting the CDs back in the General Fund (only if necessary). Excess of \$54K rolled over from last year

Public Comment? None

Mayor Stroud asked if Planning is ok with using what's in the budget for engineering fees to draw up plans. Paula Anderson suggested a pre-fab building to reduce costs. John Vaillancourt agrees with Paul Anderson and further added that the City doesn't need to be in a hurry to get this project done in June. Mayor Stroud will look into that and bring some options forward.

Project Updates

Community Building project is finished

The Park - Issue of north entrance concrete with no boundary to keep people from driving off into the field. Mayor Stroud suggested some form of restraint/fencing. Mayor Stroud would like to get it done this year to prevent people from further damaging the work that's already been done.

Birch Wright asked to consider cable vs chain link fencing on the perimeter fence

The new rock sign had to be put outside of the right of way; we can't ARDOT approval to put it in the right of way when we don't have plumbed bathrooms with running water. Mayor Stroud proposes a clean up in that area and removal of that vegetation so that people can see better to get in and out and they can see the sign(s).

Plans for the south park entrance are slightly on hold due to Crossland having all of their construction stuff parked over there. We can still plant trees but improvements to the drive are on hold until they are done with construction.

The City is working with an engineering firm to figure out how to run electric from Ron Russell's place - looks like it'll need to be underground (as part of requirement) to where new building will be built; water is already there but we are working on getting meters. Mayor Stroud will follow up.

New City Business

Resolution Appointing Planning Commission Chairman - A resolution to appoint Matt Dickhut to the Planning Commission, a realtor involved with the Goshen Farmers Market and Goshen City itself. He is ready, willing, and able.

Any questions for Matt? None

Paula Anderson made a motion in read and title only and seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor; None opposed. Brian Hogue read resolution aloud. Paula Anderson made motion to approve resolution and John Vaillancourt seconded.

Public Comment? None - All in favor; none opposed

Annual Procedural Rules

Brian Hogue confirmed how to conduct council meetings and asked if anyone wanted to make changes and, if not, you can continue to operate under Ordinance 181 and 225. Birch Wright asked if there was any specific reason(s) to change. John Vaillancourt made a motion to continue on as is and Coltin Martin seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Public Comment? None

All in favor; none opposed

Resolution Approving Final 2024 Budgets

Birch Wright provided kudos for a very well done budget.

Birch Wright made a motion in read and title only; Colton Martin seconded; all in favor - none opposed

Brian Hogue read out resolution for revised 2024 budget

Motion to approve by Birch Wright and seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor - none opposed

Ordinance Amending Ordinance 133

Mayor Stroud clarified purchase order spending limit is \$250 (purchase orders) and he is asking for that amount to be raised to \$500-\$1000; Birch Wright questioned if that was actually enough of a carte-blanche amount; Paula Anderson asked if there was a set state-wide amount and it was clarified that Council is the one that determines the amount.

Colton Martin made a motion in read and title only to accept the \$1000 spend limit and to suspend the rules waiving the 2nd and 3rd reading and it was seconded by John Vaillancourt.

Public Comment? None

Roll Call for Vote: In Attendance: Birch Wright, John Vaillancourt, Paula Anderson, Shawn Mayfield, Curtis Vaughn, Colton Martin

All in favor - none opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud amending Ordinance 133, which was an ordinance amending ordinance numbers 30 and 73, which established certain procedures regarding the expenditures of funds of the City of Goshen and for other purposes.

Motion made by Colton Martin to accept limit and a second by Shawn Mayfield - all in favor; none opposed
Ordinance 133

Mayor Stroud made announcement to welcome Curtis Vaughn as a new Council Member and Gina Swanson as new Recorder/Treasurer.

Resolution Authorizing DesignScapes Proposal

This resolution authorizes us to start working with DesignScapes for City business (trees and screen). Grant is for \$10K for this project and the City would use part of the parks fund for the \$18,216.13 (total estimate).

Paula Anderson made a motion in read and title only and seconded by Colton Martin

Public Comment? None

All in favor - none opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud resolution authorizing the Mayor to contract with DesignScapes and acceptance of Community and Forestry Grant.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve and Colton Martin seconded.

Public Comment? None

All in favor - none opposed

Resolution Authorizing Police Vehicle Purchase

Police Dept has been working with Lewis Ford to purchase a 2024 Durango (but trying for a 2025) at a cost of no more than \$70K. If more money is needed it would come out of the Police Fund 988.

Motion made by Colton Martin and seconded by Birch Wright in read and title only

Public Comment? Max Poye asked if that includes the uplifts; Mayor did not know but will seek answer

All designs will be brought to Council for approval before any work is done on police cars.

Birch Wright supports that any changes for police business/vehicles is police business; if the Mayor is fine with it and the department head is fine with it, then Council should not legislate; Mayor Stroud provided assurance that all new vehicle changes WILL come before the Council.

Birch Wright shared concern about the warranty being voided with uplifts and add-ons to police vehicles; Kaseana will look into this more for verification of governor

Mayor Stroud is ok with 1 vehicle being 'stealth' and the rest to be regular; Birch Wright and John Vaillancourt disagree; Birch Wright supports 'stealth' and the rest to be regular; John Vaillancourt is not happy that Council is not being presented with the option and the reason why before changes are made to the vehicles.

Kaseana Williams confirmed that a governor would NOT be included in the vehicle upfit

Motion in read and title only

All in favor - None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud the Resolution Authorizing the purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the City of Goshen Police Department. A motion to adopt was made by Colton Martin and seconded by Birch Wright.

Public Comment? None

All in favor - None opposed

Discussion by Council

Birch Wright thanked Lacie Lawson and Brian Hogue for taking care of the issue with the Green Space last month. Outcome was that vendor agreed to fix what he tore up and the rest will be addressed. City of Goshen is NOT involved.

Mayor Stroud mentioned there will be significant changes that are being proposed to the Planning Commission over the next couple of months regarding zoning, driveway ordinance, lighting ordinance, and commercial design standards; Want these things more streamlined and maintain what we want in Goshen as a nice and aesthetically pleasing environment/theme.

Public Comment? Max Poye asked about reasoning and process behind the change(s):

- The idea is to take it out of subdivision and zoning regulations and have it be it's own ordinance so it's easier to find and read instead of being contradictory in several different locations
- It'll go to Planning Commission first for input/feedback;
- Then to Council for voting approval or declination
- Zoning regulations will go out for public notice, then Board of Zoning Adjustments for recommendations, then to Council
- Suggestion of variance availability for all ordinance(s)

Mr. Nemo asked about digitizing minutes so that they can be searchable for people; Mayor Stroud advised that the City has contracted with a company to get this started. Looking at March/April for this project to start.

Goshen Farmers Market has been taken over by the City of Goshen who will oversee the market. LLC has been dissolved by former Managing Members of the LLC. Abby (office staff) will work with one of the vendors to get processes lined up and ready for the 2025 season. Proceeds would come into the General Fund and the City will use that for advertising, etc., to continue to have the Farmers Market. The City will issue permits and all vendors (unless exempted) will be paying sales tax to the City

Birch Wright asked if it is ok for the City to take in the proceeds;

Confirmed that the Farmers Market is NOT a non-profit (as LLC no longer exists);

Music for the Farmers Market is covered by a Sponsorship; Sponsorship money will be taken in by City and then paid out of the General City Fund for the music/entertainment.

City goal is to not spend any actual city funding on this; Market to be self-supporting from vendors and sponsorship(s)

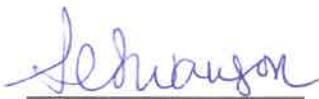
Mayor and Keseana will confirm with Municipal League about charging fees, etc

Shawn Mayfield asked about being the third signatory; Mayor Stroud asked if he wanted to turn it over to someone else, then he is welcome to do that but if he (Mayfield) is good with it, then City Hall is good with it. Shawn Mayfield just wanted to make sure, with his travel schedule, that it is being taken care of. John Vaillancourt offered that there hasn't been an issue because Mayor Stroud AND Marge Vaillancourt (former Recorder/Treasurer) was always/usually in town and that the reason he stepped down was because of Marge's position (potential conflict, I assume). John Vaillancourt offered to take over for Shawn Mayfield if he no longer wants it; Shawn Mayfield decided to stay put as third signator.

Public Comment? None

Birch Wright motioned to adjourn; Shawn Mayfield seconded
All in favor; None opposed

Adjournment: 7:40pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor