

COMMON COUNCIL
November 1, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER, 311 N. Washington Street

Mayor Werling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich took the roll call:

Present were Gayle Conner, Mike Isley, Spencer Kingery, and Cody Nelson. Sandra Flora was absent.

A quorum being present, the meeting was suspended at 6:01 p.m. and the public hearing on the OCRA planning grant was opened. Emily Albaugh from K-IRPC presented an overview of the planning grant of \$50,000 with a local match requirement of \$5,560 for a total of \$55,560. The purpose is to assist communities with strategic planning for land use, transportation, housing, parks and recreation, and other areas of impact. The application submittal is November 12 with awards announced December 7. The community can then solicit proposals from consultants for the planning process. Mayor Werling asked if anyone wished to be heard on the matter. Debbie Lowe inquired if this was a land use plan. Albaugh indicated that land use was one aspect but that economic and community development, transportation, broadband, and other aspects would be considered as well. Gayle Conner asked Albaugh to expand on the low-to-moderate income impact. Albaugh indicated that CDBG funding requires that the area being served have a 51% LMI by census data or income survey. Delphi's LMI % has previously qualified. The grant requires a local steering committee to be selected and participate in the planning process. The plan document will be review by Gerry White, the OCRA liaison for Carroll County, prior to a public hearing and adoption. Conner asked the total cost. Albaugh replied \$55,560. There being no further questions, the public hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m. and the Council meeting resumed.

Minutes from the meeting held on October 18, 2021 were presented for approval. Gayle Conner noted two corrections. Cody Nelson moved to approve as corrected. Second by Mike Isley. Without objection the minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Mayor Werling reported on the October 2th Fire Territory Executive Board meeting at which Dan Dulin briefed the board on ISO audit preparations and meetings. Consensus was given to Dulin to explore acquisition of an emergency vehicle from Logansport FD and also to present a request to the County and/or City of Delphi to fund projects with ARP dollars.

The Carroll County Administrative Transportation Committee met October focusing on review of census data.

Gayle Conner reported on the Delphi RDC met on October 19 and approved the resolution for the RTIF and approved recommending to APC that the Burnbrae Farms development plan be adopted as part of the comprehensive plan, Delphi section.

Without objection department head reports were incorporated into the minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Broadband.

Berry Comm LLC was introduced by JT Doane to present their proposal on supplying broadband services to the community. President Cory Jobs presented Rob Ramsey who described the company's proposal. Berry Comm would create a 13-mile backbone ring around the central service area of Delphi. Equipment for customers and installation of fiber is projected at \$1,038,600 not including the \$1,500 drop per

customer. Berry Comm price to customers would be \$75 for 250 Mbps; \$119 for 1 Gig. In response to questions from Werling, Conner, and Nelson: Service area would be expanded in phase two; Project could start within 30 days of acceptance; construction within 45 days with an expected 12-18 months to completion; life expectancy of fiber is 20+ years; reliability is 99%.

Small Business Resilience Grant Program.

Discussion resulted in the following consensus concerning round IV to award the remaining \$73,500 from the OCRA COVID Phase III grant: 1) The application process will open December 13, 2021 with submission deadline of Friday, January 14, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.; Council will hold a special work session to score and determine awardees and amounts to be awarded; claims for awards will be presented to BOW on February 7, 2022 with checks available by end of the week. 2) Businesses within one mile of the City limits will be eligible, however priority will be given to those within the corporate limit with 15 points deducted from score for businesses outside of city limits; businesses that have received funding in all three previous rounds will have 15 points deducted from their score.

NEW BUSINESS

OCRA Planning Grant Authorization.

Resolution 2021-13 authorizing application for the OCRA planning grant and approving match of \$5,560 to come from EDIT Community Development fund was presented. This resolution will replace 2021-11 previously approved by Council which did not provide for match. Cody Nelson moved to approve resolution 2021-13. Second by Spencer Kingery. Motion carried. (4-0)

2022 Observed City Holidays.

Mayor Werling presented the 2022 Observed City Holiday Schedule for review.

- New Year's Day - Friday December 31st
- President's Day – Monday February 21st
- Memorial Day – Monday May 30th
- Independence Day – Monday July 4th
- Labor Day – Monday September 5th
- Veterans Day – Friday November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday November 24th & Friday November 25th
- Christmas Eve – Friday, December 23rd
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 26th

Gayle Conner moved to approve. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (4-0)

Trash Collection Contract 2022-2023.

The agreement with Trash Kans LLC to provide curbside trash and recycling collection and spring cleanup from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 was presented as approved by the BOW. Cody Nelson moved to approve the two-year contract. Second by Mike Isley. Motion carried. (4-0)

Setting 2022 Rate for Trash Collection.

Mayor Werling stated that by ordinance the trash collection rate is to be reviewed annually acknowledging that this has not been done for at least a decade. The current rate of \$10 per customer per month would result in revenue of \$108,960 for 908 residents; the annual cost will be \$14.95 per customer per month or \$162,895.20 for 908 residents for a shortfall of \$53,935 per year. At the end of September 2021, the balance in the Solid Waste Fund was \$106,348. Without an increase in the rate, that reserve would be gone in two years. Gayle Conner recommended that the city eliminate the fee and provide trash collection at no charge. Spencer Kingery moved to raise the rate to \$13.00. Second by Cody Nelson. Conner moved to table the motion. Attorney Robeson indicated that was not valid since a motion was on the table. Conner moved to amend the motion to keep the rate at \$10.00. Motion failed for lack of a second. On the question of increasing the rate to \$13.00, the motion carried. (3-1: Ayes--

Isley, Kingery, Nelson; Nay--Conner) Mayor Werling stated that an ordinance would be presented at the December meeting. A public notice of the rate increase would need to be filed and a public hearing held at the December meeting

COMMENTS

Gayle Conner expressed her opinion that Mayor Werling had bid on parcel #12 at the Bowen Acres auction on October 26th on behalf of the City without prior approval from Council. Conner indicated that she had reviewed the video from the October 18th Council meeting and did not find that specific permission had been sought for the City to bid on the parcel. Conner stated her opinion that a formal resolution would have been required for the city to purchase. She stated that the auction company showed that Leanne Aldrich had registered for bid number 42 that Mayor Werling used but that the City of Delphi was not registered. Leanne Aldrich stated that she had registered as Leanne Aldrich, Clerk-Treasurer, City of Delphi. Mayor Werling stated that no purchase had been made. Attorney Robeson indicated that had a bid been successful, a purchase agreement would have been brought to the Council or BOW for approval.

Conner moved to adjourn. Mayor Werling asked if other council members had comments. Mike Isley stated that he was in support of the actions of the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer. Conner expressed her opinion that laws had been broken.

There being no further comments, Cody Nelson seconded the motion to adjourn. Without objection the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Mayor Anita Werling



Clerk-Treasurer, Leanne Aldrich, Attest