

REGULAR SESSION, COMMON COUNCIL, JANUARY 13, 2020

Be it Remembered that the Common Council of the City of Plymouth, Indiana, met in regular session on January 13, 2020. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, on the second floor of the City Building, 124 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, Indiana and was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Senter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Ecker offered prayer.

Senter presided for Councilmembers Greg Compton, Duane Culp, Don Ecker, Jeff Houin, Robert Listenberger, Randy Longanecker, and Shiloh Carothers Milner. City Attorney Sean Surrisi and Clerk-Treasurer Jeanine Xavier were also present.

Council Members Culp and Longanecker moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last regular Common Council meeting on December 23, 2019 as presented. The motion carried.

Council Members Culp and Longanecker moved and seconded to elect Don Ecker as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion carried. Ecker abstained.

Council Members Compton and Ecker moved and seconded to set the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, as the meeting dates and times for the Council meetings, with the exception of the fourth Monday of May, which falls on Memorial Day. That meeting will be moved to the next day, Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Xavier said the Fire Department received a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Vickie and Billy Ellinger for the Fire Training Tower. She asked if the council wished to accept the donation with the restricted terms, conditions, and purposes attached to the donation. If so, the donation would be receipted into the Monetary Gift Fund

Council Members Ecker and Milner moved and seconded to accept the \$200.00 donation for the Fire Training Tower and approve receipt into the City Monetary Gift Fund. The motion carried.

City Attorney Surrisi presented a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement from Greg Compton, who is an employee of KeyBank National Association, and Randy Longanecker, who is an employee of Michiana Contracting, Inc.

Council Members Ecker and Milner moved and seconded to accept the Conflict of Interest Statements for both councilmen. The motion carried with Compton and Longanecker abstaining.

Ed Rodriguez, from the local chapter of the Faith in Indiana organization, addressed the council members regarding implementation of a City of Plymouth identification card program. He introduced Juan Constantino from La Casa de Amistad, who reviewed the history of the ID cards nationwide and the benefits of having them. La Casa de Amistad is the not-for-profit organization that would help implement and oversee the application process and distribution of the identification

cards in Plymouth. Constantino noted that these cards do not replace government-issued forms of identification. He said the purpose of the card is for city agencies to be able to easily identify a person. The application process requires three things in order to issue a card to a resident: photo identification (i.e. passport, driver's license, etc.), secondary form of identification (i.e. birth certificate, social security card, etc.), and lastly proof of address to prove residency within the city limits. Constantino said these forms of identification are items that the person would have already been thoroughly vetted in order to obtain, such as a passport. There is a \$25 fee for the applicant to obtain the ID card and the process would take place here in Plymouth.

Councilman Compton asked how the process would take place in Plymouth. Constantino said La Casa de Amistad would bring trained staff, IT equipment, cameras, scanners, etc. and perform the vetting process here, similar to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Applicants would call and schedule an appointment with La Casa de Amistad and go to a rented space within the city, for example a school or library, and bring their documentation to their appointment. ID cards would be mailed to the applicant at a later date, typically about a 5-day turnaround. The La Casa de Amistad staff members are trained to conduct a thorough vetting process including knowledge to detect legitimacy of the documents being presented.

Councilman Ecker asked if the card becomes invalid if that resident moves outside the city limits. Constantino said it would be similar to a driver's license in that it would still be usable, but would ideally be updated within a certain time frame to reflect their new address.

Councilman Houin asked how long the card is valid. Constantino said two years.

Ecker asked if it has been difficult for the Latino population to find quality jobs. Constantino said this ID card cannot be used in order to obtain a job. The purpose is for identification with city agencies such as police officers, pharmacies, the school corporation, or libraries. He said the hope is to have more residents engaged and involved in the community.

Mayor Senter said he has talked with City Attorney Surrisi and Clerk-Treasurer Xaver about the ID cards. That form of ID would be accepted here at city hall for city services. He said the City of Plymouth would like to bring a resolution forward to the City Council to vote on at their next meeting, rather than signing an Executive Order as South Bend and Goshen have done.

Councilman Culp asked what the difference is between an individual obtaining this ID card versus one through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Constantino said there are examples in marginalized communities where someone might not have all the items needed to obtain a photo ID

through the BMV, such as an undocumented immigrant, the elderly who can no longer drive, or someone who is homeless. This would be an alternative for them.

Police Chief Bacon and Plymouth Community School Corporation Superintendent Andy Hartley spoke in favor of the identification cards. Hartley said the schools require that people entering the buildings during school hours have ID cards and this will hopefully break down some barriers and have more parent/guardian participation.

Culp asked if Goshen or South Bend have had any liability issues with using their city logo on the cards they issue. Constantino said the City of South Bend chose to use the city flag rather than the state seal, but it would ultimately be up to the city and legal counsel as to what can be legally used to represent the city on the card. Compton asked if the city is taking any legal responsibility in issuing the cards. Surrisi said he does not foresee any legal ramifications.

Citizen, Norma Rodriguez, addressed the council. She said she attended one of the informational meetings in South Bend and these cards are not just for the Latino community. The hope is that all citizens would join in and be honored to have the Plymouth ID card.

Ed Rodriguez emphasized that the Plymouth chapter of Faith in Indiana has worked very hard to make these cards work for the Plymouth community. They have involved many local leaders to give advice and ask questions about the cards so the correct process is in place.

Senter asked how often they would conduct appointments for citizens to obtain cards. Constantino said they would probably have scheduled appointments once every other week during the initiation of the program because they think there will be quite a bit of interest. They can process 72 applications within a 3-hour timeframe. After they get caught up and things slow down, it would likely be once a month. The venue they are looking at is the Plymouth High School cafeteria and sign-ups would consistently be at this location.

Houin suggested that the card be called the Plymouth Resident Identification Enrollment, which spells pride because this is a way for us to share the pride of all the city's residents.

Councilwoman Milner spoke in favor of the cards and noted that she attended the informational meeting in October. She agrees that these cards will help many Plymouth citizens.

Mayor Senter offered the privilege of the floor. There were no comments.

Members Ecker and Culp moved and seconded to accept the following communications:

- Minutes of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting of December 23, 2019
- Minutes of the Plan Commission meeting of November 6, 2019
- Minutes of the Technical Review Committee meeting of December 10, 2019

The motion carried.

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There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Members Longanecker and Ecker moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Jeanine M. Xaver, IAMC, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

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Mark Senter, Mayor