



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DAWN M. JONES, CITY CLERK

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 23, 2023, 3:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Sheila Niezgodski, Troy Warner, Rachel Tomas Morgan, Eli Wax, Canneth Lee*

Others Present: Council Member Karen White, Dawn Jones, Victoria Trujillo, Bob Palmer*, Bianca Tirado*

Presenters: Eric Horvath, Public Works Director
Kyle Willis, City Controller
Jenna Throw, City Attorney

Agenda: Bill No. 71-23 — Sewage Works (Wastewater) Board Ordinance
Bill No. 68-23 — 2024 Non-Bargaining Clerk Salary Ordinance
Bill No. 70-23 — Amending 2023 Teamster Salary Ordinance
Bill No. 72-23 — Salary for the Common Council Members for Calendar Year 2024

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are present digitally

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=376353>

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski called to order the Personnel and Finance Committee at 3:34 p.m.

Bill No. 71-23 — Sewage Works (Wastewater) Board Ordinance

Eric Horvath, Public Works Director with offices on the thirteenth (13th) floor of the Country-City building, presented this bill. This bill would authorize the issuance of bonds for Sewage Works improvements, as part of a long-term control plan under the two hundred and seventy-six (276) million dollar worth consent decree to separate a portion of stormwater and sanitary sewage flowing into the St. Joe River. The initial project includes constructing a large equalization tank at the wastewater treatment plant to capture and hold overflow, which will then be processed once flows decrease, improving plant operations and reducing river sewage overflows. Additional projects include addressing bottlenecks and installing clarifiers to achieve 100 MGD capacity, as outlined in the first phase of the plan. These projects will be funded through bonds issued in November 2023 by the SRF, the Indiana Finance Authority.

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Committee Chair Niezgodski requested questions from the Committee.

Committee Member Wax asked if the improvements that will be paid by the bond are required by the consent decree.

Eric Horvath responded that all improvements are required by the consent decree.

Committee Member Wax inquired on the value of the legal fee for bond issuance.

Jenna Throw, City Attorney with offices on the twelfth (12) floor of the Country-City Building, responded that legal fees are capped for this bond issuance and would inform the Committee of the exact capped amount.

Committee Chair Niezgodski noted that the bill stated that the GPR project adjustment fee, which is equal to the gross additional interest, would be accrued for the bonds. She added it also states that the bonds have been at the interest rate determined under the wastewater SRF program interest rate policy and practices.

Committee Chair Niezgodski requested confirmation that the principal amount was not listed because it would be determined after the bill was passed.

Eric Horvath responded that the consent decree provides authority for the principal amount to be up to thirty-six (36) million dollars but will probably be approximately thirty-two (32) million dollars for this series of bonds.

Committee Chair Niezgodski asked if the public wished to speak in favor of or against Bill *No. 71-23*. Clerk Jones advised that no one from the public wished to speak in favor of or against the bill.

Committee Vice Chair Warner motioned to forward Bill No. 79-22 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Wax and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - Aye	Committee Vice-Chair Troy Warner - Aye
Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan - Aye	Committee Member Eli Wax - Aye
Committee Member Canneth Lee - Aye	

Bill No. 68-23 — 2024 Non-Bargaining Clerk Salary Ordinance

Clerk Jones presented this substitute bill. The substitute removed the clerk’s salary from the bargaining salary of the staff.

Committee Chair Niezgodski held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Committee Chair Niezgodski motioned to accept a substitute Bill for Bill *No. 68-23*, which was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Warner and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - Aye	Committee Vice-Chair Troy Warner - Aye
Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan - Aye	Committee Member Eli Wax - Aye
Committee Member Canneth Lee - Aye	

Committee Chair Niezgodski held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Committee Vice Chair Warner motioned to forward Bill No. 68-23 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Wax and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - Aye	Committee Vice-Chair Troy Warner - Aye
Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan - Aye	Committee Member Eli Wax - Aye
Committee Member Canneth Lee - Aye	

Bill No. 70-23 — Amending 2023 Teamster Salary Ordinance

Kyle Willis, City Controller, with offices on the twelfth (12) floor of the Country-City Building, presented this bill. This bill was for three (3) amendments to the Teamster Salary Ordinance. The first (1) amendment was to amend the pay rates of the Machinist five (5) and Mechanics five (5) to ensure alignment. Approval of the amendment will ensure that one (1) employee affected by the pay rate discrepancy between Machinist five (5) and Mechanic five (5) receives relevant back pay. The second (2) amendment was to add two positions, Billings and Account Specialists one (1) and two (2) for Water Works based on reorganization under their 2024 budget presentation. The third (3) amendment was to add three group leader titles under Venues, Parks, and Arts (VPA) for clarification of positions only and are FTE positions that are already approved under the 2024 Salary Ordinance.

Committee Chair Niezgodski requested questions from the Committee.

Committee Member Wax requested further information on the new customer service positions for Water Works.

Kyle Willis responded that the new customer service positions will be based on their reorganization and will be under the one-stop-shop arrangement. At present the positions are titled Customer Service Specialist and will remain until the end of 2023. In 2024, they will assume the new titles of Billings and Account Specialists one (1) and two (2).

Committee Vice Chair Warner requested clarification on the dollar amounts as they were not clearly visible in the package documents.

Kyle Willis responded that it was two thousand two hundred and sixty-four (2,264) dollars for Billings and Account Specialist one (1), two thousand three hundred and seventeen (2,317) dollars

for Billings and Account Specialist two (2), and twenty dollars and seventy-one cents (\$20.71) per hour for the three VPA positions.

Council Member White requested for clarity in reference to the VPA positions.

Kyle Willis was not able to provide the information requested by Council Member White but agreed to provide the information at the Committee meeting.

Committee Chair Niezgodski requested if the public wished to speak in favor of or against Bill *No. 70-23*. Clerk Jones advised that no one from the public wished to speak in favor of or against the bill.

Committee Vice Chair Warner motioned to forward Bill *No. 70-23* to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Tomas Morgan and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - Aye	Committee Vice-Chair Troy Warner - Aye
Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan - Aye	Committee Member Eli Wax - Aye
Committee Member Canneth Lee - Aye	

Bill No. 72-23 — Salary for the Common Council Members for Calendar Year 2024

President Sharon McBride with offices on the fourth (4) floor of this building presented this bill. A three (3) percent increase was proposed in the Salary Ordinance for the Common Council, reflecting an increase from twenty-one thousand three hundred and twenty (21,320) dollars to twenty-one thousand nine hundred and sixty (21,960) dollars.

Committee Chair Niezgodski requested questions from the Committee. There were none.

Committee Chair Niezgodski requested if the public wished to speak in favor of or against Bill *No. 72-23*. Clerk Jones advised that no one from the public wished to speak in favor of or against the bill.

Committee Vice Chair Warner motioned to forward Bill *No. 72-23* to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Wax and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski - Aye	Committee Vice-Chair Troy Warner - Aye
Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan - Aye	Committee Member Eli Wax - Aye
Committee Member Canneth Lee - Aye	

With no further business, Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski adjourned the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting at 3:50 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Niezgodski".

Sheila Niezgodski, Committee Chair

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