

**State of Indiana  
Greene County  
City of Linton**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**August 12, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.**

**WELCOME – OPENING OF MEETING  
Mayor Preble opened the meeting at 6 p.m.**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**Linda Bedwell, Greg Sapp, Tony Richards, Ed Singleton and  
Leslie Newman.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Ed Singleton to approve the June 10th minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by  
Leslie Newman. 5 Ayes, passed.**

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS PROPERLY SIGNED**

**A motion to approve the claims properly signed was made by Tony Richards,  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Bedwell. 5 Ayes, passed.**

**APPROVAL OF FUND & APPROPRIATION REPORT**

**A motion to approve the fund and appropriation report was made by Linda  
Bedwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Sapp. 5 Ayes, passed.**

**APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

**A motion was made to approve the allowance docket by Linda Bedwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by  
Leslie Newman.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A presentation was made by Bob Evans from the park board regarding the  
results from a survey recently done for a 5-year plan for Humphrey's Park.**

**Mr. Evans stated that there were 440 responses. The survey could be found on Facebook and also in residents utility bills.**

**1. Question one established demographics, with 89% from Linton or Stockton Township.**

**2. Question two asked if park beautification and safety improvements should be a priority, to which 72% of survey-takers strongly agreed.**

**3. Question three asked if the park's playground equipment needs updating and/or safety improvements, and 35% answered in agreement, while 31% strongly agreed and 5% disagreed.**

**4. Question four was to determine if improvements are needed to community buildings in the park. 37% strongly agreed they do, 26% neither agreed nor disagreed and 3% disagreed that improvements are needed.**

**5. Question five asked people if they agreed the historical field stone structures in the park should be preserved. Of the 443 who gave their opinion, 51% strongly agreed, 32% agreed, 14% neither agreed nor disagreed, 3% disagreed and .7% strongly disagreed.**

**6. Question 6 asked about the need for new or improved sport facilities at the park, such as resurfaced basketball courts and additional pickleball courts. 37% strongly agreed these were needed and 1.6% strongly disagreed.**

**7. Question 7 asked whether the respondent lived within walking distance of Humphreys Park. The answers were close, with 49% saying yes and 51% answering no.**

**8. Question 8 asked survey takers to rate the existing recreational facilities in the city. The highest percentage of responses, 44%, said they are neither high nor low quality, 37% rated them high quality, 12% answered low quality, 5% said very high quality and 1.35% rated them as very low quality.**

**9. Question 9 offered a list of 10 defined improvements that could be made to Linton's parks and facilities, and asked respondents to indicate which of them they felt were important. An additional choice of "other" asked for specific suggestions. The improvements receiving the highest number of checks were improving drainage (57%), adding lighting (55%), updating existing shelter houses (55%), increasing beautification (51%) and adding or improving trails (50%).**

35% of survey-takers checked “other,” with 110 specific suggestions offered.

These included specific playground improvements, with adding fencing as the most mentioned. Also suggested were pool improvements, creating a dog park in the city, repair of drinking fountains and restrooms, adding more pickleball courts, improving park security, building improvements, opening the Conservation Club, improvements to the splash pad and adding trees and shaded areas to the park.

10. The final question asked how many would support the addition of a trail system connecting Humphreys Park, the Conservation Club, Sunset Park and Greene County General Hospital. 87% of those surveyed answered yes and 13% said they would not.

The next step, Evans said, will be to incorporate the findings into the five-year park system master plan.

A copy of the survey will be added to the city’s website for viewing. The council and Mayor Preble thanked Mr. Evans for the presentation.

### **Policy for Public Participation**

Mayor Preble stated this is the first reading of the policy for live streaming of all public meetings. The state requires everyone to comply by January 2025.

Council member Linda Bedwell made a motion to waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Richards. 5 Ayes, passed. A motion was made by Linda Bedwell to adopt the proposed policy for public participation at council meetings and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Richards. 5 Ayes, passed.

### **Proposed purchase agreement for Kennedy Lot**

Mayor Preble stated the city had been unsuccessful in finding someone to appraise the commercial property. Mayor Preble and city attorney Sam Drummy had discussed options available to the city for the sale of the property.

### **Option A**

The property has an assessed value of less than \$10,000.00. Therefore, the appraisal could be waived and publish a notice of the sale of property. There would be a hearing at the next council meeting and interested buyers would be able to submit a bid for the purchase. The council would be able to award the bid and sell the property to the highest bidder. This would forgo the requirement of having an appraisal.

### **Option B**

Since the city is interested in selling the property for the purpose of facilitating economic development and the city already has an offer the city could choose to negotiate with the individual and the city would not have to offer to other parties. An appraisal would be required but the statute allows two city employees familiar with the value of the building to appraise and they do not need to be licensed appraisers.

Mr. Drummy stated the sale could not be for less than the average of the two appraised amounts. The city would be able to negotiate for a higher amount but not less. There was discussion regarding who the two employees would be and was decided that Mayor Preble would be assigning the two city employees for the appraisal. Linda Bedwell made a motion to accept option B with the stipulation that Mayor Preble will assign two city employees to do the appraisals. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Singleton. 5 Ayes, passed. A public hearing will take place 10 minutes prior to the September council meeting.

### **Firefighter Grant – Department of Homeland Security**

Fire Chief Eric Carpenter stated that at the time when Colton Murray was Fire Chief, Colton applied for a grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program and was awarded a \$68,853.00 from FEMA. The money will be used to purchase a new exhaust system for the station to eliminate exhaust off the trucks and a gear-washer which will help the fireman to be able to safely clean their gear of all contaminants after a fire. Fire Chief Carpenter said he met with Fireman Colton Murray earlier in the week and they would be reaching out to the vendors Colton used when writing the grant to see if they would honor the prices used at the time of the grant submission. If so, he said they would likely go with those vendors. Fire Chief Carpenter wanted to thank Fireman Colton Murray and Clerk-Treasurer Claudia Walker for

putting in the work and time involved to apply for the grant. Councilman Greg Sapp said he appreciated the energy that went into the grant. He stated it was a 95%-5% grant which means the city only had to contribute 5% of the money. Greg Sapp and Linda Bedwell thanked Colton and Claudia for the time and work put in on the grant. Colton was in attendance and wanted to also thank Orry Phipps and Noah Wilson for their assistance with the grant as well.

### Resolution 2024-06

Resolution 2024-06 is for utilizing ARPA funds which must be appropriated by the end of this calendar year and spent by the end of next year. There is \$30,000.00 which could be set aside for park improvements, shelter houses, chairs and chair racks. Mayor Preble stated that there are not enough chairs to support the tables in the community building and shelter houses. The Roy Clark Building is short 100 chairs, there is work that needs to be done on the west shelter house and the east shelter house needs new windows. A motion was made by Linda Bedwell to adopt resolution 2024-06 and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leslie Newman. 5 Ayes, passed. Linda Bedwell wanted to recognize the UMWA for their recent donation of \$3,000 to the park. Mayor Preble stated 35 chairs and table racks or dollies were purchased. Linda Bedwell and Mayor Preble thanked the UMWA for the donation.

### DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTING

Police Chief Paul Clark said this year's National Night Out on August 6, was a success. Chief Clark said the turnout was not as big as in the past but other events in the county were going on as well. Chief Clark said approximately \$6,000.00 in prizes were given out. He wanted to thank all the vendors (partners) that donated. He stated they could not do this without their support. Chief Clark said anyone interested in volunteering can email [NNO@lintonpolice.com](mailto:NNO@lintonpolice.com).

Utilities Operation Manager Brent Murray stated that road work for the Community Crossings Grant will begin in approximately a month. He asked

for everyone to be patient with them and drive carefully. Also, he said there would be resealing of the roads at the cemetery coming up soon.

Fire Chief Eric Carpenter stated there were 89 runs, 73 EMS, 10 fires, and 6 others. Chief Carpenter also mentioned Linton's Fire Safety Training Tower will have training on August 22nd and 25<sup>th</sup>. He said this will be the last step of the training for now and will soon be able to open to train our own and area departments.

Brent Slover stated in the next utility bill there will be a push to get information to identify water service line materials. He said residents can also go on the city's website to give their information. The list must be finalized and submitted to the EPA in October. This is to determine if your water line is copper or plastic. There was a water inspection done last week and went well. The city is working with Commonwealth Engineering on devising a plan for upgrading infrastructure.

Mayor Preble introduced the Mayor's Youth Council that was started before the end of school last year. Applications were submitted and three people were selected for the council. One has dropped out due to a heavy schedule.

The other members are Brayden Crynes and Ian Sullivan. Ian was in attendance. They are on the conservation club committee as well. Also, appointed to the committee are Ed Singleton (representing the council), Bill Keller, Brad Feaster, Dick Kaiser and Shad Cox.

#### Harold Smith

Linton business owner Harold Smith spoke to the council. He stated he had spoken with the mayor about volunteering to write a grant for brick, roof and façade work on the downtown buildings. After some research you must be a municipality to qualify for most of the larger grants. He said he would be happy to start the process if they were interested. It is a 50/50 matching grant. He is also going to start putting information clings in the windows of some of his buildings reminding people to shop and eat locally.

**Earl Reagan**

Mr. Reagan and his wife were in attendance. Mr. Reagan wanted to know the status of the conversation club. He and his wife would volunteer to help with cleaning up. He also thought the building in front of the conservation club should be on the National Historic Register. Council member Linda Bedwell said the building is leased to the Civitan Club. He also had a complaint regarding Sunset Park. Mayor Preble reminded him that this was public comments only, but a committee had been formed regarding the Conservation Club.

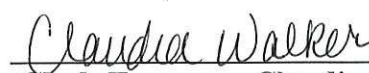
**Adam Wence**

Adam Wence was in attendance and commented that he felt there was not enough information out to the community regarding council meetings. He said he would like to see current council minutes on the city's website. Mayor Preble reminded everyone that the council meetings are published in the Greene County Daily World as well as his blog "Coffee with the Mayor". Also, per the state, the meetings will be live streamed in 2025. Mayor Preble said he would address the issue concerning minutes and have them posted on the website in a timelier manner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda Bedwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leslie Newman. 5 Ayes, passed.

  
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Mayor John Preble

  
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Clerk-Treasurer Claudia Walker