



City of Carmel

CARMEL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/CITY HALL/ONE CIVIC SQUARE

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Matthew Snyder; Council Members: Shannon Minnaar, Anita Joshi, Adam Aasen, Ryan Locke, Rich Taylor, Jeff Worrell, Teresa Ayers, Tony Green, and Deputy Clerk Jessica Komp were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved 9-0.

INVOCATION

Pastor DeMarqueis Harvey of Mercy Road Church delivered the invocation.

RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

Upon his retirement, David Haboush was honored for his 34 years of service to the Carmel Fire Department, including ten years as Fire Chief. Chief Haboush was thanked for his dedication, compassion, and leadership, which guided the Carmel Fire Department to an unmatched level of excellence.

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ellen Rozmaryn, President of the Carmel Mayor's Youth Council (CMYC) spoke to Council about the student organization. She shared that members of the CMYC will be attending Council meetings for the rest of the school semester, with the goals of increasing their visibility, sharing a youth perspective on city issues, and to encourage other Carmel youth to get involved, too. Ms. Rozmaryn also shared that applications for the 2026-2027 school year went live on the Carmel city website today, and will remain open until March 1st. She encouraged any motivated young people who attend high school in Carmel, and are interested in leadership, service, and civic engagement to apply.

Nancy Tatum implored the Council to carefully consider the environmental impact of decisions made on future developments in the city. Ms. Tatum is concerned about the decline of forested areas, as well as the impact this has on the animals that inhabit them.

Dee Fox spoke to Council about House Bill 1001. Ms. Fox believes that this bill is state government overreach, and will take away the ability to make important decisions from local municipalities, especially in terms of affordable housing options. Ms. Fox stated that this bill is too vague, too rushed, and does not address many important factors.

Jack Feldman spoke to Council about the school zone ordinance that was passed, and the resulting school zone signage that has been installed at some of the Carmel Clay schools. Mr. Feldman is particularly concerned about the signage installed at Clay Middle School, which should indicate reduced speed limits within the school zone from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He stated that he had recently been at Clay Middle School after a basketball game and students were crossing the street at 6:30 p.m., but the reduced speed limit signs were not flashing. He also asked when Mohawk Trails Elementary School would receive their new signage.

COUNCIL AND MAYORAL COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS

Irie Sams, a fifth-grader at Cherry Tree Elementary School, was Mayor Finkam's "Deputy Mayor" for this meeting. The Mayor thanked all the city teams who worked to keep our roads safe during the recent snowstorm, including the Park, Utilities, Fire, Police and Street Departments. We have exciting opportunities for Carmel youth to announce. The Art Day contest is open to Carmel students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Students are invited to design a poster that celebrates caring for our planet. Entries are due by February 11th, and details can be found at www.carmelgreen.org. The Carmel Fire Department is also offering Safe Sitter classes for students in grades 6-8. More information is available on the Safe Sitter website. Applications for the Carmel Mayor's Youth Council opened yesterday, and are due by March 1st. Mayor Finkam also added that the CYMC will be helping with America's 250th and Carmel's 50th anniversary celebration. She also again thanked everyone who helped keep Carmel safe over the last two weeks as we dealt with the heavy snowfall. The Street Department alone worked 4,333 man hours, used 6,200 gallons of fuel and 920 tons of salt, totaling \$400,000.00 of cost to our taxpayers to fight Mother Nature's dumping of nearly 10 inches of snow in about 24 hours. Mayor Finkam also thanked the Councilors for communicating so well with our constituents and helping to keep them off the roads so our crews could clear them.

Councilor Joshi spoke to Council about the importance of being engaged with what is happening at the State level. Senate Bill 7, which passed out of judiciary committee today, forces local police to cooperate with ICE, while offering no funding, or even an appropriate ability to distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants, in the way it was written. House Bill 1001, which deprives local communities of making decisions regarding housing and design standards, is also moving forward. These bills both remove the ability of our local community to respond to real problems such as immigration and housing with local knowledge, local accountability, and basic human compassion. Dr. Joshi believes that decisions are best made closest to the people affected by them. Communities are not interchangeable, and what works in one part of Indiana may, in fact, cause harm in another. These bills replace the local judgement with blanket mandates. Carmel functions best when we have the ability to address local issues locally, guided by our values and the needs of our residents.

Councilor Taylor stated that as he drove around the state the last few weeks, Carmel's streets and paths were cleared more thoroughly than the other towns and cities he drove through. He also thanked Mayor Finkam, our Commissioners and Representative Danny Lopez for taking action to try and file a number of amendments to House Bill 1001, to help protect Carmel.

Councilor Minnaar thanked our Police Department for going above and beyond to help our residents during the recent snowstorm. Councilor Minnaar's neighbor had open-heart surgery

scheduled in the early morning hours, but her road had not been cleared yet. Finding this out, Councilor Minnaar called the Mayor, who called our police and fire chiefs to see what could be done. Our Police Chief personally drove this resident and her husband to her surgery appointment. She also voiced concern with Carmel losing its voice if House Bill 1001 passes in its current form.

Councilor Worrell shared that Project Civility and Current in Carmel will be hosting a joint community conversation about housing challenges in Carmel on March 5th. This will be after the session ends, so we'll be dealing with whatever the outcome of House Bill 1001 will be.

Council President Snyder echoed the previously spoken sentiments of House Bill 1001, and emphasized the importance of speaking with your state reps and senators. He also shared a story of how unexpected connections can happen and how loving your community and your neighbors can bring unexpected gifts in the years to come. In particular, something unexpected has come back to Councilor Jeff Worrell tonight. Then President Snyder surprised Councilor Worrell with something found within the walls of a friend's home that was being renovated – a home that Councilor Worrell had once lived in. It was a rug from Councilor Worrell's days as an Iowa State basketball player.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Joshi moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Green seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. Consent Agenda approved, 9-0.

a. Approval of Minutes

1. January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. January 7, 2026 Executive Session

b. Claims

1. Payroll - \$4,590,329.96
2. General Claims - \$1,981,911.28

ACTION ON MAYORAL VETOES

There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Joshi shared that the last Land Use and Special Studies Committee meeting was focused on the US 31 Subarea Plan, and that discussion will continue this Wednesday, February 4th at the Carmel Clay Public Library. Councilor Ayers asked if the Council could hold a workshop or have the Engineering Department do a presentation on the results of the parking study. It was decided that a Committee of the Whole meeting would be held just prior to the next Council meeting, on Monday, February 16th. Councilor Taylor reported that the Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee will hold their first meeting of the year on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m., here in Council Chambers. Council President Snyder then assigned two items to the Finance Committee – an analysis of the Audit Committee and an analysis of the Advisory Committee on Disability.

OTHER REPORTS – (at the first meeting of the month specified below):

Henry Mestetsky, Director of the Carmel Redevelopment Commission, gave the monthly report to Council. The Wren and the Windsor continue their buildout. The condo project at Monon Square North is now under construction. Magnolia continues working on its remaining condos. All of the retail is full at the Muse. 24 out of 25 condos have sold at Civic Square Condos. At Hamilton Crossing the skin on the garage is under construction. Lots of work is going on at Icon on Main. Ardan Plaza's façade is going up.

Mark Dollase gave the quarterly report for the Carmel Historic Preservation Commission. In the last quarter of 2025, two ordinances were passed by the City Council. These were historic designations for 14420 Cherry Tree Road and 2724 E. Smoky Row. CHPC staff coordinated a mailing for over 1,000 properties identified in 2021 for inclusion in the Carmel Historic Architecture Survey. Additionally, staff continued research on the North Rangeline district to prepare a preservation plan. Final approval was given for several façade grant projects. Commissioners also received training on different treatment methods and the Department of the Interior standards. Mr. Dollase also shared that Indiana Landmarks jointly operates a grant program with The Central Indiana Community Foundation called the Cox Fund Grant, which is specifically for Black Heritage sites in Indiana. He asked that if anyone knows of sites in Carmel that could be eligible for this grant, to please contact him. Councilor Aasen asked Mr. Dollase if they could have a conversation regarding the potential North Rangeline historical district regarding the overlap of two different overlays and how this impacts code enforcement. Mr. Dollase agreed that this is a complicated matter and should be discussed. Council President Snyder assigned a discussion of the North Rangeline overlay area to the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.

Michael Klitzing, Director of Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation, gave their quarterly report to Council. There are currently 710 acres under the management of Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation. Year-round, there are around 500 employees of CCPR, but with additional summer hires, there are around 710 employees. CCPR's cost recovery number for 2025 was 74%. The national average is around 27%. About 80% of Carmel parks are in a natural state. Estimated visits to Carmel Clay Parks were 6.3 million. If we were a national park, we'd be the second most visited national park in the country. CCPR was established 35 years ago through an interlocal cooperation agreement between the City of Carmel and Clay Township. For every dollar that we receive from Clay Township, CCPR receives just under 3 cents from the city, and 11 cents in impact fees. This highlights how impactful this partnership is in terms of funding for our phenomenal parks. Last year, Burr Oak Bridge in Hazel Landing Park opened on October 20th. Clay Township provided \$5 million to this project and Carmel provided \$3 million. We also had funding from Hamilton County, Delaware Township, and the City of Fishers. Last year, CCPR also opened Monon Station, which is both a child care facility for members of the Monon Center, and an indoor playspace that is available to the public. CCPR also purchased the historic Silas & Hannah Moffit House, which is adjacent to River Heritage Park. There are plans to use this space for parks programming. The Japanese garden south of City Hall was reopened. This year, CCPR will begin development of Phase I of Bear Creek Park, which will include trails, a playground and an overlook. Other projects that are in the planning stages are Veterans Park, Veterans Greenway and Autumn Greenway. Phase III of Monon Boulevard is

planned to begin this Spring, and the floating boardwalk will be installed at Founders Park. The floors are being replaced in the Aquatic locker rooms of the Monon Community Center. This spring we will also be opening the North extension of the White River Greenway. CCPR is continuing to try and work with legislators to keep existing funding sources in place. Council President Snyder commended Director Klitzing on his many accolades as Director of CCPR, and thanked him for staying here in Carmel. He also asked about the impact of the support we receive from Clay Township. Director Klitzing stated that we would not have the park system we have today if not for our unique funding arrangement between the township and the city.

OLD BUSINESS

Twenty-second Reading of Ordinance D-2762-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Chapter 8, Article 5, Sections 8-37, 8-47, and 8-48 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor: Councilor Aasen. This item returns from the Land Use and Special Studies Committee with a unanimous recommendation for approval, with amendments. Benjamin Legge, City Attorney, explained that a 15-minute loading zone was added back in, and some renumbering was done because new subsections of code have been added since the original version of this ordinance was introduced. Brad Pease, Director of Engineering, explained that the 15-minute parking spaces have been moved to the beginning of each block for consistency, parking has been prohibited on the west side of Rangeline Road from Main Street to 1st Street, and duplications and inconsistencies have been removed. Overall, there is one new 15-minute parking space, and two 15-minute spaces that are being moved, for a total of 15 spaces. There will be three new 2-hour spaces on Main Street for the high school. Cost to complete these changes is around \$1,000.00. He also shared that the new school zone signage at Mohawk Trails Elementary was delayed by the weather, but will be installed soon. Councilor Minnaar expressed concerns about loading spaces on Main Street being used by customers as quick parking spaces. Councilor Aasen stated these spaces are not loading zones, they are 15-minute parking spaces. The actual deliveries are supposed to be made in the back of the buildings, and not on Main Street. Council President Snyder expressed concern over sign pollution. Councilor Worrell stated that the parking spaces marked in red on the curb at City Center are effective, and perhaps we could do the same on Main Street. Councilor Aasen made a motion to amend the ordinance to include these revisions. Councilor Joshi seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Motion to Amend** approved, 9-0. Councilor Aasen moved to approve the ordinance as amended. Councilor Joshi seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Ordinance D-2762-25** approved as amended, 9-0.

Seventeenth Reading of Ordinance D-2772-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Adopting a New Article 8 Under Chapter 2 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Aasen, Ayers, Minnaar, Snyder and Worrell. **Remains in the Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee.**

Seventh Reading of Ordinance D-2795-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Establishing Public Areas of City Hall; Sponsor: Councilor Snyder. **Remains in the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.**

Resolution CC-11-17-25-03; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Approving an Amendment to the Carmel Comprehensive Plan to Incorporate a new Subarea Plan for the US-31 Corridor; Sponsor: Councilor Minnaar. **Remains in the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.**

Resolution CC-12-01-25-04; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Approving an Amendment to the Carmel Comprehensive Plan to Incorporate a New Subarea Plan for the Home Place Area; Sponsor: Councilor Minnaar. **Remains in the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

First Reading of Ordinance D-2809-26; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Authorizing and Approving an Additional Appropriation of Funds from the Parks and Recreation Non-Reverting Capital Fund (#103) to Line Item 4462000 Other Structure Improvements; Sponsors: Councilors Worrell and Taylor. Councilor Taylor moved to introduce the item into business. Councilor Green seconded. Councilor Taylor presented the item to Council. Michael Klitzing explained that Conner Prairie provided us an easement for a good portion of the trail. There were expenses for grading and drainage, a new entrance and fencing. Conner Prairie is fully reimbursing us for expenses that directly benefit their project. This ordinance moves the money deposited from Conner Prairie into the #103 account to Parks for reimbursement. Council President Snyder opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m. Seeing no one who wished to speak, he closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m. Councilor Green moved to suspend the rules and act on this tonight. Councilor Taylor seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Motion to Suspend the Rules** approved, 9-0. Councilor Green moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor Minnaar seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Ordinance D-2809-26** approved, 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution CC-02-02-26-01; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Approving a Transfer of Funds between the Grant Fund (#900) and the Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Fund (#106); Sponsors: Councilors Worrell and Taylor. Councilor Worrell moved to introduce the item into business. Councilor Green seconded. Councilor Worrell presented the item to Council. Michael Klitzing explained that this pertains to the White River Greenway North extension project. We received a \$4 million READI grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and this is the last of those expenditures to be reimbursed to us. Councilor Worrell moved to approve the resolution. Councilor Green seconded. Councilor Taylor asked if this was reimbursing impact fees. Director Klitzing confirmed that these expenses were cash flowed out of impact fees. There was no further discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Resolution CC-02-02-26-01** approved, 8-0. (Councilor Locke abstained.)

First Reading of Ordinance D-2810-26; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Chapter 8, Article 5, Section 8-47 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsors: Councilors Joshi and Taylor. Councilor Taylor moved to introduce the item into business. Councilor Green seconded. Councilor Joshi presented the item to Council. Brad

Pease explained that this ordinance creates a no-parking zone in the Westons neighborhood. Councilor Taylor moved to suspend the rules and act on this tonight. Councilor Green seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Motion to Suspend the Rules** approved, 9-0. Councilor Green moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor Joshi seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. **Ordinance D-2810-26** approved, 9-0.

AGENDA ADD-ON ITEMS

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Council Appointments

Council President Snyder thanked 2025 Council President Aasen for making it an initiative to create a new method for interested candidates to apply for city appointments. A public portal was created to accept applications from any Carmel resident who wished to apply. Councilors Joshi and Green worked together on this initiative which produced a large number of new applicants.

Carmel Audit Committee (Term expires 12/31/27, two-year term); One appointment. Councilor Joshi moved to nominate Santosh Rajmane. Councilor Worrell moved to nominate Dustin Mikesell. Councilor Worrell moved to close nominations. Councilor Taylor seconded. There was discussion over this nominee needing to be a CPA. Councilor Worrell withdrew his nomination. Councilor Taylor rescinded his second of closing nominations and seconded Councilor Joshi's nomination. Council President Snyder called for the vote. Appointment of Santosh Rajmane to the Carmel Audit Committee approved, 9-0.

Carmel City Center Community Development Corporation, commonly known as 4CDC (Term expires 12/31/2026, one-year term); One appointment. Councilor Taylor moved to nominate Cheryl Wessell. Councilor Aasen seconded. Councilor Taylor moved to close the nominations. Councilor Aasen seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. Appointment of Cheryl Wessell to 4CDC approved, 9-0.

Climate Action Advisory Committee (Terms expire 12/31/2027, two-year terms); Two appointments. Councilor Ayers moved to nominate John Martin and Robert Boynton. Councilor Green seconded. Councilor Ayers moved to close nominations. Councilor Green seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the first vote. Appointment of John Martin to the Climate Action Advisory Committee approved, 9-0. Council President Snyder called for the second vote. Appointment of Robert Boynton to the Climate Action Advisory Committee approved, 9-0.

Ethics Board (Terms expire 12/31/2027, two-year terms); Two appointments. Councilor Worrell nominated Dustin Mikesell and Sarah Ogren. Councilor Taylor seconded both nominations. Councilor Worrell moved to close nominations. Councilor Taylor seconded. Council President Snyder called for the first vote. Appointment of Dustin Mikesell to the

Ethics Board approved, 9-0. Council President Snyder called for the second vote. Appointment of Sarah Ogren to the Ethics Board approved, 9-0.

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Arts (Term expires 12/31/2027, two-year term); One appointment. Councilor Minnaar moved to nominate Tina Mangos. Councilor Taylor seconded. Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations. Councilor Green seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. Appointment of Tina Mangos to the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Arts approved, 9-0.

Carmel Redevelopment Commission (Term expires 12/31/2026, one-year term); One appointment. Councilor Green nominated David Bowers. Councilor Taylor seconded. Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations. Councilor Green seconded. There was no discussion. Council President Snyder called for the vote. Appointment of David Bowers to the Carmel Redevelopment Commission approved, 9-0.

Councilor Worrell announced that Dustin Mikesell, new appointee to the Ethics Board, was in the audience tonight. Councilor Minnaar thanked him for coming tonight. Council President Snyder announced that appointments to the Audit Committee and the Christkindlmarkt Board will happen at a later date. He also stated that the Christkindlmarkt has hired a new Chief Operating Officer, which will be announced in soon. Councilor Aasen asked if we could work with IT to thank all applicants who were not chosen at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Snyder adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Quinn

Jacob Quinn, Clerk

Approved,

MS

Matthew Snyder, Council President

ATTEST:

Jacob Quinn

Jacob Quinn, Clerk