

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY
ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Baird, Mr. Gonder, Mr. Zurschmiede and President McLaughlin.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Lorch, Mr. Wood, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Nash, Officer Grant, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Byerley, Mr. Hall, Mr. Brewer and Mrs. Glotzbach

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2015 as corrected, Mrs. Baird second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS):

Warren Nash explained that he saw in the paper where the County Council failed to act with regards to funding the Solid Waste District so it is coming before the City Council which to him sounds like another example of the county not meeting their obligations and expecting the city to take up the slack. He stated that that solid waste does an excellent job collecting pharmaceuticals, recycling at the collections sites, and they have excellent workers at the sites. He explained that New Albany does pay their portion of recycling in their sewer bills so he isn't sure why they would pay it twice or even three times if you include county taxes. He stated that one thing they could do for the city residents is collect household hazardous waste and as he understands they don't even do that anymore and that is something that wouldn't cost them anything after the pass through cost. He explained that he can't imagine why this council would want to appropriate money for this when they county to find a way to fund it.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Benedetti asked Mr. Wood about the zoning on the home on Scheller Lane.

Mr. Wood stated that they are considered a family home just like anywhere else and they don't need special provisions.

Mrs. Benedetti asked Mr. Blair if he spoke with the gentleman that was bit.

Mr. Blair replied that he was contacted with concerns but he wasn't contacted by the individual that tried to break up a fight. He stated that the people aren't against a group home in general but they do need to address their concerns.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if he followed up with Chief Bailey because she was told there were two phone calls made before the chief arrived.

Mr. Blair stated that he did he did talk to the chief and the residents were very complimentary of the police.

Mr. Coffey asked if group homes have to abide by the same laws as regular family homes with regards to how many people can dwell in one house and the number of bedrooms that is required for adults and children.

Mr. Wood stated that because of the Fair Housing Act they do not define “family” under the zoning ordinance but they do have requirements regarding amount of square feet per person per bedroom that are applicable.

Mr. Coffey stated that everyone should have to follow the same guidelines.

Mrs. Benedetti asked Mr. Wood if he has had any follow up on Knobview.

Mr. Wood replied yes but stated that he can’t talk about it because of the lawsuit.

Mr. Blair stated that he is aware of other group homes in his district that do not have any issues and this seemed like a one-off.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that people are still blowing leaves out in the street and there are a lot of yard sale signs that never get taken down.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if people blow them into the street and get them picked up.

Mr. Thompson replied yes

Mr. Thompson stated that the last two days they worked on sign cleanup.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Michael Hall stated that Saturday, November 28th is the Holiday Fest along with the Jingle Walk which starts at 1:00 p.m. as well as a children’s event at the YMCA. He explained that there is going to be an Oath of Office Ceremony at Bicentennial Park on the same day at 4:30 p.m. and invited everyone to come out and join them for those events and to stay for the light-up ceremony at 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

REPORTS – COMMITTEES, BOARDS OR OTHER OFFICIALS AS REQUESTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL:

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

A-15-09	Ordinance for Appropriation of Riverboat/EDIT for Floyd County Solid Waste	Coffey 1&2
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Mr. Coffey introduced A-15-09 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps and Mr. McLaughlin who voted no and Mr. Gonder who abstained.

Mrs. Benedetti asked Mrs. Byerley to come up and address some of the comments that Mr. Nash made.

Mary Lou Byerley explained that they have to pay for the disposal of oil now but BNC Auto will accept the oil any time they are open. She stated that with regards to the HHW they pay about \$1,200 a month to clean that out and they are open the second Saturday of the month and they also pay to get rid of anti-freeze.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if there is anything else in their budget that doesn't relate to their operations.

Mrs. Byerley stated that there is \$5,000.00 from their budget that is paid to the comptroller because she is not allowed to do the books herself.

Mrs. Benedetti asked about an attorney.

Mrs. Byerley stated that they used to pay an attorney but now he gets paid through the commissioners.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if the Grant Line site takes electronics.

Mrs. Byerley replied yes.

Mr. Coffey stated that the County Council did not come to them asking for money he did. He explained that it isn't about the county and the city but it is about a clean environment. He stated that if they don't step in these facilities are going to close and that is going to hurt the city and set recycling back for years.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked if the recycling is being separated.

Mrs. Byerley explained that they take theirs to Rumpke and it is shipped to Cincinnati that separates it all and it gets recycled.

Mr. Blair asked if she has to close will they leave the Grant Line Road center open.

Mrs. Byerley stated that if they all have to be closed, she will leave a site open in Georgetown.

Mr. Blair asked what would happen if they pass this appropriation.

Mrs. Byerley stated that all sites will stay open.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that next year the commissioners would appropriate enough money to keep all the sites open.

Mr. Blair asked what would happen if they appropriated enough to keep a city site open.

Mrs. Byerley stated that she would have to take that back to her board.

Mr. Coffey stated that ECOTECH doesn't take the waste that they are talking about so they can't get too caught up in the city/county aspect of it because this services all of them.

Mr. Caesar stated that he is not going to bail out the county and so he would let them close up. He explained that this needs to be at the county meeting not at the city meeting and he thinks there are other companies that can pick this stuff up. He stated that they can readdress it starting January if the county still hasn't taken action but government isn't in the business of budgeting for a half a year or three quarters of a year and this shouldn't be a problem that they city has to address for this year.

Ms. Barnett stated that the case managers at other agencies can barely keep up with their own programs much less to keep up with what other agencies offer so this could be a bridge between them all.

Mr. Blair stated that they have salary and benefits for two people set at \$80,000.00 for the case manager in the business plan.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that a lot of people that are in Haven House right now are not even from our area so he thinks that if the city is going to do this they should reach out to all surrounding communities to participate. He explained that they are taking taxpayer's money and giving it out to charitable organizations and it seems to be more frequent in this community. He stated that if they have that much extra money to appropriate then maybe they should think about cutting taxes and letting the taxpayers decide what charitable organizations that they money goes to.

Ms. Barnett stated that she understands where he is coming from and she really doesn't think they want this to be an agency that is funded by the city every year. She explained that her understanding is that this is seed money to do something different and get started and then they will seek funding elsewhere.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he sure doesn't want to take away from monies from proven organizations like the Salvation Army to set this up.

Mrs. Barnett stated that the Salvation Army is a member of this coalition which means that their board approved it so that is essentially them signing off and saying that they think this will be beneficial to their organization.

Mrs. Benedetti asked to clarify if she is saying that the Salvation Army Board of Directors knows what is going on with this.

Ms. Barnett explained that her understanding is that the agencies met and went back through their boards and the approval process to be a member of the coalition.

Mr. Blair stated that last year they gave \$25,000.00 to St. Elizabeth's and to Salvation Army and both organizations said that they will not be back to ask for that amount because they feel like this homeless coalition was a much better use of the funds.

Mr. Coffey stated that it is an opportunity to break the cycle.

Z-15-04 Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Baird 3
Of New Albany, Indiana Title XV, Chapter 156
(Docket P-02-15: JFN, LLC, by Brian Foxworthy)

Mrs. Baird introduced Z-15-04 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Blair who abstained. Bill Z-15-04 becomes Ordinance Z-15-15.

Mr. Caesar stated that this project is in his district and he is comfortable with the plans. He mentioned that all the stipulations have to go back before Planning and Zoning for final approval and he thinks it will be an asset to the community.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she agrees that it will be an asset to the community but they need to continue to look at all the vacant property in the city.

Mr. Coffey stated that he doesn't want this project to influence the land around it.

Mr. Wood stated that each time an individual has come to the Plan Commission to ask for commercial zoning they have been denied.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Nick Vaughn spoke to the council on behalf Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Barksdale and Dr. Knable. He read a statement into the record that explained that the incoming candidates are looking forward to working with their fellow council members and the mayor to find common ground to address the many concerns voice by the citizens of New Albany. He stated that they are ready to serve the people of New Albany by working in the spirit of cooperation with the existing council members dutifully and conscientiously.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk