

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA, HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members: Mrs. Collier, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate, Dr. Knable and President Caesar. Mr. McLaughlin was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach.

President Caesar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

Mr. Caesar stated that he knows all of our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have had the virus and all of those who have had to deal with this especially to the first responders who have committed their lives to taking care of all of these patients. He wanted to commemorate Juneteenth tomorrow which is a significant holiday in our nation commemorating the end of slavery in 1865.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2020, **Mr. Blair** second, all voted in favor with the exception of **Mr. McLaughlin** who was not present.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Caesar stated that there was an email sent out at the beginning of the week for a tour of the new city hall tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. and asked if everyone has responded to Mr. Gibson's Assistant, Krystina Jarboe. He said that whoever wants to go is welcome and it should be pretty interesting. He then stated that the council's next meeting is Monday, July 6th and that's the day that we are supposed to be able to come back to regular meetings. He said that as of today, the City/County Building is not prepared to have us there yet but he thinks he would like to wait a few days to see if we can have it there or he could go ahead and schedule it for Griffin Street Center. He stated that he was talking with Mr. Applegate earlier today because they had a meeting there and on one hand it went well but there were some issues and we do need some microphones that will work there because it was very difficult to hear anyone.

Mr. Applegate stated that he attended the planning meeting at Griffin Street Center and they had no microphones. He said that everyone was set up in a line on one side of the gym and the spacing was fine. He stated that the amount of chairs that are there he feels would be fine for a public meeting. He said that the only problem was that you could not hear especially when the AC was on. He also said that if we hold a meeting there, we will have to address the microphone issue and everyone would have to have their own individual microphone because you couldn't just pass one around because that would defeat the purpose. He stated that if we are going to take public comments then we would need a boom microphone or something like that to pass around because everyone was coming to same podium which again defeats the purpose.

Mr. Caesar stated that he would like to wait a few days to see if we can have it at the City/County Building and if not, we will have it at Griffin Street Center and he will take care of all of the particulars that need to be taken care of.

Mr. Blair stated that one thing he has heard consistently for the last year or so is issues on traffic, particularly speeding but also traffic violations such as running stop signs,

reckless driving, etc. He feels that it is time that the council address it because he doesn't want to not address it and then someone gets hurt. He said that last year when he was president he took an informal poll as far as the top three issues that they heard while campaigning and the number one issue was dangerous driving. He said that he has constituents worried about Green Valley Road, Greenview Drive, Spickert Knob Road, Glen Mill Road, Pennwood Drive, Castlewood Drive, Woodside Drive, Woodbourne Drive, Lynnwood Drive, Nassau Drive, Oxford Drive and Farmgate Drive. He stated that a common denominator that he is seeing is that any road that is a connector road to other roads, people are speeding through. He said that he would like to put a group together or join the traffic and safety committee and come up with some solutions. He would then like to meet with the mayor, the police chief, the city engineer and Mr. Ham of the street department to come up with solutions. He stated that they could possibly look at studies that some other cities have done and come back and recommend solutions that are more systematic in what we can do to calm traffic. He said they could do more patrolling, speed tables, radar signs, etc.

Mr. Caesar stated that he agrees that people are driving quite fast and he has some people in a subdivision that want to see bike lanes in their subdivision so that the kids can ride safely. He said that he was speaking with Mr. Applegate and they had set up a committee right before the Coronavirus hit and he would like to get that committee back together to go through the proper channels so that we can effectively make some good changes. He then asked Mr. Applegate who was on that committee.

Mr. Applegate stated that it was Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Phipps and himself. He said that they met and tried to formulate a plan to work with the board of works and then have a liaison of the committee go before the board of works to work out a process to follow. He stated that right before the Coronavirus hit, he sent out a form for everyone to look over and decide if it was something that could be sent out. He explained that the process was going to be that the forms would be sent to a committee member and they would put it on a list and then work that list with board of works.

Mr. Caesar asked Mr. Applegate if he would mind if Mr. Blair added some specific comments to that committee to kind of move things along a little bit.

Mr. Applegate stated that he would welcome that.

Mr. Blair stated that he looked at that process as addressing more of parking issues, striping issues, stop sign issues, etc. He said that he is thinking more comprehensive and more expensive. He explained that he feels that it has to be based on studies and evidence to make sure that we do the right thing and we may even review what other communities have done. He stated that instead of being reactionary and have constituents comes to us, maybe we should be proactive and look at what can be done in certain areas. He also stated that it is going to be expensive so they need to look at where it will fit into their spending.

Mr. Phipps stated that he would concur with what Mr. Applegate said as far as accomplishments of their meetings. He said maybe it would be a good idea for each council member to develop a list of problem areas in their district and submit that to the committee and they can compile that as a report.

Mr. Aebersold stated they got information from all of them a couple of months ago and he didn't think there was that much on the list.

Mr. Phipps stated that he was not the one compiling that but he knows they came up with one collectively that Mr. Applegate mentioned and he did send that out but it was right before the COVID-19 crisis occurred so he is not even sure that he has a copy of it.

Mr. Applegate stated that it was from a meeting that the committee had and they talked about a few problem spots. He said that they just need to decide what they want to go back to and maybe set up a google drive or something that they can all look at and add to it. He said that they ended the meeting right before COVID-19 hit with trying to decide

how they want to formulate the process so he thinks that is the discussion that is kind of open so they can finish that part off. He added that they can then take the problem areas to the city engineer to see what can be done.

Mr. Blair stated that he was thinking more of hiring a consultant or someone that does traffic calming design and look at where the situations are. He explained that if they all compile a list that will probably be two or three pages of complaints but if you have an engineer look at it, they know what is a true complaint or a true danger. He stated that he feels if they do hire a firm, they will get a better study and it also takes the politics, of whoever yells the loudest, out of it.

Mr. Caesar suggested starting out with the committee and get a general feeling of what is going on here and he would not rule out Mr. Blair's idea of doing some kind of a comprehensive study. He reminded everyone that if they have a problem area, call Police Chief Bailey and he can designate an officer to that area.

Mr. Applegate stated that he thinks Mr. Blair should get an estimate on what a study would cost the city and the length of time that would be and then maybe how long it will take to do a project. He said that this could be a five year or ten year type of project.

Mr. Blair asked Mr. Applegate if he could schedule a meeting so the four of them can get to work on this.

Mr. Applegate said that he would send everyone an email after the meeting.

Mr. Turner stated that this issue is a common concern for him too but he doesn't believe that the police should be on the hook for it because they have limited resources as well. He said that he thinks real prevention would come from traffic management and traffic calming solutions. He read the streets that he has received complaints on which were Market, Genung, Twin Oaks, Korb, Roselawn, Beharrell, Lafayette, Lexington, Slate Run, Old Ford, Klerner, McDonald Lane, N. Audubon and Charlestown Road. He said that he appreciates the forms that the committee created and thinks it is a great idea but he agrees with Mr. Blair that it seems to be for a smaller scale. He then shared some information that he got from the department of transportation as well as some case studies that he has been reading for the last six months. He said that he will share all of them with the council through email. He stated that there are some really low cost options for traffic calming which are speed tables, speed cushions, speed humps, chicanes and lateral shifts. He stated that you can even stagger parking in like a downtown parking area to where it naturally creates a chicane. He said that police departments around the country are usually on board with these for traffic calming because since they prevent speeding, it frees up their resources. He said that ambulances in other cities have traversed speed tables without any problems but fire departments do have issues with a lot of traffic calming and the solution that cities have found is offset speed tables. He explained that those speed tables are split going in each direction and there is about a 50 ft. gap between them so when the fire trucks come, they can just lead around them without any deflection at all. He stated that there are no concerns with waste removal but snow removal is a huge concern because you can really damage some traffic calming. He said that cities have trained their drivers and basically show them what their routes are so they get the idea of their routes. He stated that the first steps are for the committee to get together and sit down with the chiefs, the city engineer and the street department and go over all of the routes to see if this is worth it. He then stated that he lives on a street with the radar signs and they are \$16,000.00 apiece and they work for just a small amount of time. He said that people speed down McDonald Lane constantly and it seems like since they are there and established, some people drive fast just to see what number they can get up to. He added that these low cost options are much less expensive than those signs. He also added that if they compile a list of the whole city that will take a long time so he believes that the best way to go is with a study.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he received a phone call the other day from Jackie Vaught who lives on Vincennes Street across the street from where the shooting was last week. He said that she has grandchildren that come to her house. He said that he thinks that Mr.

McLaughlin is aware of the situation in that area and it probably has to do with drug dealing. He stated that Ms. Vaught is very concerned and said that with this going on, it is getting very dangerous and asked what they can do about something like this that consistently happens in a certain house. He said that this is a rental house and the guy that owns it is using it as a business so if there is something illegal going on, he should be held accountable. He said that the landlord should not rent to them any longer, but then that will just put it off to another area. He stated that the point is that this lady is scared and there are probably more people in her neighborhood that are scared. He asked what they can do about it as a city or local officials. He also asked if there is something they can do as far as that being a rental house.

Mr. Caesar stated that he wishes he had an answer for Mr. Aebersold but he is sorry to say that he doesn't. He suggested talking with the police chief and go from there.

Mrs. Collier stated that she has been taking a lot of calls about particular houses that just seem to be problematic over and over again. She said that it is very concerning to the neighbors and they don't feel safe in their own yards.

Mr. Caesar stated that he knows you can call a residence a common nuisance and there are some pretty specific laws on the books about that. He said that is something that can be used to get people out of a house but he doesn't know how far you can go with it.

Mr. Aebersold asked if you start out at the board of works with something like this.

Dr. Knable stated that it might be code enforcement if you are going to go down the road of a common nuisance.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks that is the way to go and we have the rental registration so if you find a lot of violations, then you can shut them down.

Mr. Turner stated that he had something similar to this and he called Police Chief Bailey and they actually ran a warrant on the guy's house and got in there. He said that it was very quick so that may be a step too.

Dr. Knable stated that he likes the comments he heard about traffic but he thinks he has received at least two phone calls in every precinct with regards to speeding in the last five years that he has been on the council. He said that if we are going to do this committee, let's please do it with a sense of urgency because we have summer coming up and lots of children are out as well as lots of people on bicycles. He stated that it is a systemic problem so maybe if we approached it in not only a comprehensive way, but also some way to act upon identified areas that we have all gotten phone calls on. He then stated that there was a wonderful peaceful demonstration Saturday for Black Lives Matter and it was really everything you would want in a demonstration with regards to respect for the community at large. He said there is a lot to be learned from such an event and what he is hearing from sources is to really scrutinize our budget when it comes up here towards the end of the summer and really look to see whether or not we can be more mindful of where some of our budgetary items are going through. He stated that he wants to emphasize that he thinks our police do a great job of interacting with the community but he would really like to do line item checks on where we are spending the money. He also stated that he thinks they should start with the council's police committee, which is Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold and Mr. McLaughlin, having a meeting with Police Chief Bailey to see whether or not they need more resources from us. He said that he would then like to see the council meet as a committee as a whole with law enforcement representatives and some people from the community to address long standing concerns. He stated that New Albany seems to be getting a lot of that right but we can always do things better. He said that he thought it was a great event which was wonderfully executed but he would like for us to move forward and do something meaningful from the event because it is not just a one day thing.

Mrs. Collier asked if anyone knows where we are on the rental registration and if COVID-19 affected the deadline for registration.

Mr. Phipps stated that the deadline is the first of the year or shortly thereafter so it shouldn't have been affected by COVID-19. He also stated that he talked to the building commissioner's office and they had very high compliance with the landlords registering.

Mrs. Collier asked if there is any way to force someone to register if you know they haven't.

Mr. Phipps stated that there are fines if they don't register. He said that the property on Vincennes Street should be checked for registration and if it hasn't been registered then there is the first violation to go after them with.

Mrs. Collier stated that she doesn't know about Vincennes Street but she just wanted it for her own information because she does get asked.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks you should just be able to call down to the building commissioner's office and ask on any particular property and they could look it up. He added that would be a very useful piece of information for any of us concerning these problem properties.

Dr. Knable stated that when Mr. Brewer was the Building Commissioner he would come before the council every once in a while and give an update with regards to that registration percentage so maybe whoever has taken his place can come before us and give us an update.

Mr. Caesar said that he will check into that to see if he can line something up.

Mr. Phipps stated that there is a cheap and quick fix to a lot of this speeding and it is four-way stops. He said that he has requested three of them in the 3rd District and he did follow up with the board of works about two weeks ago and they assured him that they were still looking into it. He stated that he requested one at 4th and Elm streets, one at Jay and Elm streets and one at 13th and Market streets to help slow down some of the traffic on those streets. He said that there is still a big issue on Spring Street but that will take more than a four-way stop; it will take a traffic signal or some other mechanism to deal with. He stated that if we can take the baby steps, he would be happy right now with getting those three four-way stops. He also stated that if we do a study then they need to look at high traffic areas like Spring Street, Charlestown Road, Green Valley Road, etc. that will require something a little more complicated. He said that he doesn't think that we need to spend a lot of money on some of these residential areas where you could just put more four-way stops in. He said that in Jeffersonville they have four-way stops at every other block in what would be comparable to our midtown area and they don't have speeding on those east/west streets in their urban core the way you do in New Albany.

Mr. Applegate stated that with regards to the demonstration event held on Saturday, he was very proud of our city and to be in New Albany.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Bob Caesar, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk