

**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, JANUARY 4, 2018
AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Nash, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Barksdale, Dr. Knable and President McLaughlin.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Hall, Mr. Thompson, Police Officer Applegate and Mrs. Glotzbach

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Phipps nominated Mr. Caesar for President, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Nash and Mr. McLaughlin voted in favor.

Mr. Barksdale nominated Dr. Knable for President, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Barksdale and Dr. Knable voted in favor. Dr. Knable was named Common Council President.

Mr. Aebersold nominated Mr. Blair for Vice President, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Barksdale and Dr. Knable voted in favor. Mr. Blair was named Common Council Vice President.

Mr. Nash nominated Mr. Phipps for Vice President, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Nash and Mr. McLaughlin voted in favor.

Mr. Blair thanked Mr. McLaughlin for his service. He stated that five years as president is unprecedented and he has done a great job.

Dr. Knable added that Mr. McLaughlin served the council nobly and will serve in a mentorship type role for him moving forward.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS):

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Barksdale reminded the council about the Community Health Fair that is coming up at St. Marks on February 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. He stated that there are hundreds of clients that are taken in that day for eye exams, free meals, and other health screenings. He added that they are always in need of volunteers if anyone would like to sign up.

Mr. Coffey suggested that have the event added to the city website.

Dr. Knable asked if there is a maximum capacity on that as far as participants.

Mr. Barksdale replied no.

Dr. Knable suggested having someone from NAHA make an announcement to their tenants.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to thank everyone for a wonderful 2017 and added that as a city they have a lot of momentum moving forward and they look forward to keeping that going. He wished the council a Happy New Year and thanked them for being a big part of making New Albany a great place to live.

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-18-01	Appropriation to Provide Funding to Haven House for the Provision of Homeless Services As Amended	Caesar/ Phipps 1&2
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Mr. Caesar introduced A-18-01 and moved to approve the first and second readings as amended, **Mr. Phipps** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Coffey moved to amend A-18-01 to change the requested amount from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00, **Mr. Phipps** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Caesar asked Ms. Barb Anderson to speak to the council.

Ms. Anderson stated that she has been doing this since 1985 and on a night like tonight they have 87 people at the house with 33 being from New Albany. She added that the numbers vary but last year they got up to 123 which makes it very hard to house them. She explained that the purpose of this is to expand their bathrooms which is estimated between \$7,000-\$10,000, replace bedding which has a price tag of \$18,000.00 and a heat treatment from Black Diamond which will cost \$6,200.00

Mr. Caesar asked if all their services go directly to the individuals.

Ms. Anderson replied yes and added that it also goes into the building as well but that serves the individuals too. She added that she is voluntarily an unpaid director and hasn't received a salary in 10 years but they do have a few paid employees through the older workers program.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about the hours of operation.

Ms. Anderson stated that they never close their doors.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if most of the influx is at night.

Ms. Anderson stated that most of the walk-ins are during the day and those that come at night are usually brought there by the police or someone else that has found them on the street.

Dr. Knable stated that Ms. Anderson authored a very gracious letter in the evening newspaper.

Ms. Anderson stated that they had a marvelous Christmas and were so grateful for all the help that they received.

Dr. Knable encouraged any member that hasn't read the letter to do so.

Mr. Coffey stated that the homeless coalition is asking for \$75,000.00 and asked the council if they would be interested in giving the coalition \$50,000.00 and the Haven House \$50,000.00.

Ms. Anderson stated that they would certainly be grateful for that but she doesn't want to take anything away from anyone else.

Dr. Knable stated that he thinks it is a little unusual to discuss those two together but if he has the latitude to do so he will allow it, especially since they are both here tonight.

Ms. Stein stated that he is basically proposing that they amend both ordinances.

Dr. Knable asked if they have to have the other one up for discussion in order to amend it.

Ms. Stein stated that he could move to amend each one as they come up.

Mr. Coffey stated that the fact of the matter is that Ms. Anderson has proven herself and they need more.

Mr. Aebersold asked what the total was on the four projects.

Ms. Anderson replied ~ \$35,000.00 or a little less depending on the Greenwell Plumbing estimate.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he has been to Haven House and it is bare bones and would highly recommend the members of the council to stop by.

Ms. Anderson stated that she would be happy to do tours at any time. She added that the Secretary of HUD came into the shelter 2 years ago and did a sit down with the residents and the council is welcome to do something like that as well.

Mr. Coffey added that his recommendation is not a punishment to the Homeless Coalition.

Mr. Blair clarified for anyone that wasn't present at the last meeting that Ms. Anderson gave a nice presentation at that time which explains the lack of dialog tonight.

Dr. Knable stated that he thinks before they amend either of these, it would be nice for the representatives from the Homeless Coalition to speak.

Mr. Caesar stated that Ms. Anderson has boots on the ground every day of the year and this is how you take care of the homeless. He explained that they do not need to spend money on salaries and overhead which is just another bureaucracy when they have someone like Ms. Anderson who doesn't take a penny for all of her hard work. He added that he would be willing to amend this but they are two completely different entities and he would only want the money for the Homeless Coalition to go towards the individuals for things like cots, showers and food.

Ms. Anderson stated that there are a lot of good people involved in the Homeless Coalition and they are two totally different organizations that serve in a different capacity but it certainly discusses needs that need to be advocated for.

Mr. Nash asked Ms. Anderson if she could provide a punch list for what the rest of the funds would be going to before the 3rd reading.

Ms. Anderson stated that she would be glad to do that.

A-17-09 Ordinance for the Appropriation of Riverboat Knable 3
Funds for the Homeless Coalition
of Southern Indiana as Amended

Mr. Barksdale introduced A-17-09 and moved to approve the third reading as amended, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. McLaughlin who voted no. Bill A-17-09 becomes Ordinance A-18-01.

Mr. Caesar moved to amend the amount of appropriation to \$50,000.00 with the stipulation that the majority of the money goes directly to paragraph three (White Flag, cots, food) and require a presentation including financial statements to the council in six months, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Blair and Mr. McLaughlin who voted no.

Mr. Barksdale stated that Ms. Keeley Stingel is here to address the council.

Ms. Stingel presented the council with financial statements that that they requested at the last meeting and stated that she would be happy to answer any questions they may have. She drew their attention to the amount of funds that they were able to leverage based on their initial investment of \$75,000.00 and explained that not only have they received cash donations but they are also able to operate the White Flag program, which was open 11 consecutive nights before Christmas. She talked about the partnerships that they are building and explained that their organization was built to collaborate among the existing service providers. She added that they serve a very different role than direct service or a particular shelter and explained that they are working to get together across all industries so that the services are centralized. She stated that they have a strong partnership with Life Springs and they have committed to volunteering one night a month to staff the White Flag Shelter as well as blocking out appointments for any of their guests that have medical needs. She explained that they have been able to secure over \$150,000.00 more

in donation since the council's initial investment in 2015 and have served a median number of 9 guests per night and they are growing every year. She stated that they have activated the faith based community to be active in this cause and they are committed to giving back to the community to make sure people are safely housed during the cold winter season. She explained that they are constantly working on ideas of how to pull in other entities and they are currently working in partnership with Volunteers of America and Systems of Care for Clark and Floyd County to pilot a coordinated entry process system. She stated that they have an active partnership with WorkOne to connect individuals with immediate needs as well as long term opportunities. She explained that they have a partnership with Exit 0 and stated that the director is able to go through the camps and bring them to the White Flag Shelter. She added that she is working with NAHA director Dave Duggins to see what a potential partnership would look like for them and they will be meeting this month.

Mr. Phipps asked if the numbers indicate unique individuals or repeat users.

Ms. Stingel stated that they don't take down names so they don't know the amount of unique individuals but she would be happy to follow up with the White Flag coordinator.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about the operating hours for the White Flag Shelter.

Ms. Stingel replied 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.

Mr. McLaughlin asked what happens at 7:00 a.m. because they can freeze just as easily at that time of the morning as they can at night.

Ms. Stingel stated that is something they are actively working on.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if she has contacted the Community Foundation or the Floyd County Council.

Ms. Stingel stated that they haven't contacted the Floyd County Council at this time but it is something they need to explore.

Mr. Blair stated that one of the initiatives was a day shelter and asked how they are progressing on that.

Ms. Stingel stated that this was something the Salvation Army had applied for a grant to do and they were denied funding. She added that they aren't looking to reinvent the wheel but look across the service providers and see if there are needs that aren't being met.

Mr. Blair asked who is on the board of directors.

Ms. Stingel introduced 4 of the 8 board members that were present.

Dr. Knable asked how many volunteers they have.

Ms. Stingel replied over 90 representing 9 entities.

Mr. Aebersold asked who uses their website because it isn't likely that their target demographic would have access to do so.

Ms. Stingel stated that they have two target demographics for the site, one being the guests and the other is their members who are actively providing services.

Dr. Knable stated that during the day a lot of those folks end up over at the library where they do have access to computers.

Mr. Coffey stated that they are doing this through partnership with other entities and he feels they should be further along at this point.

Ms. Stingel stated that they are not here to duplicate services or to provide the direct services that are already in existence. She explained that they are working to pull together those resources and services that are currently in existence and better streamline them so that people do not have to go through so many entities to get the services that they need.

Mr. Coffey stated that he feels the coalition is still struggling to find their identity.

Ms. Stingel stated that is a valid concern and something they did struggle with which is why they created the strategic plan.

Dr. Knable thanked Ms. Stingel for being present and being open with them at the podium and with their financial statements.

Mr. Barksdale stated that the goal of a shelter like Haven House is to get the homeless into a shelter and that isn't the only goal of this Coalition. He clarified that Haven House meets immediate needs and the Homeless Coalition meets more long term needs.

Ms. Stingel encouraged all of them to sign up for a night with White Flag and stated that they would be happy to host them and give them a first-hand look at some of the work that they do.

Mr. Blair stated that he does agree with Mr. Coffey with some of his concerns and a lot of times with a startup there are stumbles along the way. He added that he also looks at it from the perspective of taking care of their citizens and believes this fills a need that isn't being met.

Mr. Coffey stated that he will stop by on a White Flag night and if they come back and show that things are getting done then they can request the additional \$25,000.00 at that time.

Mr. Caesar stated that he saw all of the money that was wasted on the director leaving instead of helping people and he just doesn't believe in funding these salaries and/or bureaucracies. He added that he thinks in many ways what they are trying to do by streamlining the services is already being taken care of and he thinks that this ordinance is an extreme slap in the face to all of the other organizations in the community that are out there every day helping and doing whatever they can. He stated that neither the city nor the state has enough money to cure the problem and while he is happy to help and thinks that they all should, he thinks this organization is unrealistic. He suggested amending it to \$25,000.00 and stipulating what it is to be used for.

Dr. Knable stated that he sits on the board of the Salvation Army and no one on that board felt like it was a slap in the face.

Mr. Blair stated that he believes that they originally asked for \$150,000.00 which was broken up into two payment.

Mr. Caesar stated that he absolutely did not vote in favor of that and asked the other council members if that is how they remembered it.

Mr. Blair stated that this was prior to several of the council members being elected but either way from what they understood it was seed money, not ongoing support. He added that he doesn't expect them to come back on a regular basis for funding.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the last time they used it as an obligation, it was not lived up to.

Mr. Blair stated that unfortunately they had a misstep and a change in directors which isn't uncommon for a startup organization.

Mr. Coffey stated that they did not promise them the other \$75,000.00 and specifically said they wanted to see the results first and as of right now, the results are not good.

Mr. Phipps stated that is his recollection of the stipulation as well.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he thinks that the council needs to find out from other organizations what they think of the coalition. He added that he thinks most of them feel the same way in that they will give them one more chance but they need to see the results.

Mr. Coffey stated that he thinks they should split the money between the two organizations.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks that is a fair compromise and would be willing to do one more year on this but he wants to see some hard data before any future funding.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Dr. Knable stated that there was a recommendation from Mayor Gahan regarding the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Barksdale explained that Mr. Jeff Sumler moved to this community about 15 years ago and his first restoration project was an old fire house on State Street and then he purchased a home on Elm Street and did the same thing. He stated that about four or five years ago he bought a building on 10th Street and he and his wife have spent at least four years working on the property to restore/rehab it into their living area. He added that he is definitely preservation minded.

Mr. Barksdale moved to approve the reappointment of Mr. Jeff Sumler to the Historic Preservation Commission, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

Dr. Knable stated that he is honored to be sitting in the president chair and it means a great deal to him and that he will work hard for the entire body and city in this capacity.

He explained that he is going to postpone the appointments until the next meeting so that he can get input from everyone on where they would like to serve. He stated that he would like to have a standing calendar of committee discussion to touch base so that the community is also aware of what is going on.

Mr. Barksdale stated that the tree board will be coming in with an update in the next couple of months.

Mr. Caesar pointed out that there are two meetings that will take place before the next council meeting.

Dr. Knable asked that the members that are currently in those positions to go and represent the council with fill authority.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dr. Al Knable, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk