

**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 MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015
AT 7:30 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by Mr. McLaughlin at 7:30 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorch, Mr. Duggins, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Michael Hall, Police Chief Bailey and Mrs. Glotzbach

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the January 5, 2015 Work Session Minutes, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor.

Mrs. Baird moved to approve the January 5, 2015 Public Hearing Minutes, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the January 5, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, Mr. Gonder second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:

Roger Miller spoke on behalf of the Pillsbury employees in support of the R-15-01. He stated that they would like to keep their jobs and keep the plant in New Albany and explained that this will be a huge hit to the community and not just the employees that will be losing their jobs.

COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OFFICIALS:

Mrs. Benedetti thanked all the Pillsbury employees for coming out tonight and stated that she knows this is a very tough thing for them to be going through. She explained that this affects the community and their livelihoods and while the council will do everything it can they don't want to put out any false hope.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mayor Gahan thanked the council for considering R-15-01 and stated that he just wants to make sure everyone understands what they are trying to achieve. He explained that the resolution will establish a committee to induce discussions concerning the closure of the Pillsbury plant. He stated that the press release explained that the plant will close in the next 18 months subject to union negotiations so they need to give those individuals the opportunity to work that out and they certainly support all those negotiations. He explained that it is very important that they get the communications right and this resolution will help by making it clear that the city is here to assist because the last thing they want is for General Mills to leave after 55 years of operations without considering all possibilities. He stated that a lot of elected officials have reached out since the announcement including the Lieutenant Governor who came by the office, the staff at

Senator Donnelly's office, as well as Congressman Young's staff. He explained that he made a point to discuss the rapid response orientation with Workone and they hope everyone here will support the resolution. He stated that the leaders of their higher education institutions have begun a dialogue and it is their hope that they can assist the city and the residence in any way that they can concerning this announcement.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: READING

R-15-01	Resolution Establishing a Joint Executive and Council Committee to Induce Discussions to Support the Continuous Operations of the Pillsbury Facility in New Albany	Caesar
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Mr. Caesar introduced R-15-01 and moved to approve, Mr. Zurschmiede second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Caesar thanked everyone for coming out tonight and stated that he is very familiar with Pillsbury and the number of employees out there. He stated that they want to do everything they can to help and work diligently with all parties to support them all the best way that they can.

Mr. Caesar asked Mr. McLaughlin if he wanted to make those appointments tonight.

Mr. Coffey stated that they can't let this company go. He explained that what they have done in the years past has been amazing for this community and they will leave no stone unturned to find a way to work this out. He stated that they were all stunned by the announcement and they are here to take care of the community.

Mr. Gonder stated that this is a big impact on the city other than the loss of jobs. He explained that they are the last customer on the rail line and it undermines an essential part of the infrastructure on New Albany.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that it is in Mr. Blair's district so she thinks he should be appointed to the committee.

Mr. McLaughlin appointed Mr. Caesar and Mr. Blair to this committee.

Mr. McLaughlin asked Mr. Coffey if he would be interested in being a reserve member of the committee.

Mrs. Benedetti asked that the committee keep them all updated on what is going on.

Mr. Coffey asked that when the meetings take place that they are made aware so that they can be at the meetings to get the information in real time.

Mrs. Baird thanked Mr. Caesar for bringing forth this resolution.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- BUDGET
- DEVELOPMENT & ANNEXATION
- RULES
- PUBLIC UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION
- POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL & LIBRARY
PUBLIC WORKS
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Blair requested that he stay on the police committee and be added to development and annexation.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that the council needs to be kept more up-to-date on police and fire especially during arbitrations.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that it wouldn't be the council talking to union reps during arbitration but it is the administrations responsibility to keep them informed.

Mr. Phipps stated that maybe those committees should be the council as a whole.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he would agree that they need to be kept more in the loop or the committee needs to be made up of all of them.

Mr. Gonder stated that the committees have absolutely no input on negotiations so they can't bring back information that they don't have and he views it more as a committee that brings grievances and such.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if they wanted to change that because it seems like they get blindsided.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that they did try to change this process and went in with the city to hire an attorney and it has backfired at times.

Mr. Coffey stated that when he first came to the council the union people would come to them and try to utilize them but their responsibility is not to the union it is to the city. He explained that if there are negotiations to be done then it needs to be the administration and the council as a whole.

Mr. Caesar stated that he feels that if there is communication with police and fire with the administration it needs to be relayed to the council in a timely fashion and if it has to be in an executive session then that is fine.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that the only way they are going to get that is by ordinance.

Mr. Gonder stated that he remembers having an executive and had a list

Mr. Coffey asked how many members have been before a judge during arbitration. He stated that sometimes the city's hands are tied behind their back and there is nothing they can do so there isn't much that the council can do in those situations either.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that sometimes the more people that are involved the worse things can get.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she would just like to see the information being communicated in a timely fashion so that they know what is going on even if there isn't much they can do about it.

Mr. Blair stated that he believes that the smaller group you have the more effective you can be and it did come out in the documentation during the previous arbitration that someone from their group was leaking information to the FOP and that was 9 individuals

so it is much easier to control the information flow when it is a smaller group. He explained that it would eventually come to a vote so they would inform the entire council.

Mr. Coffey stated that the council needs to take some responsibility for the lack of information. He explained that if he wants to know something he will go over and ask the administration directly and they all have the ability to do that. He stated that he agrees that they need better communication but they can't micromanage the administration.

Mr. Caesar suggested sending a letter to department heads to let them know which council members are on their committee.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he doesn't think that a lot of the department heads know that they should come to the committees because there is nothing in writing. He explained that it is all about communication and it could be better going both ways.

Mr. Coffey stated that they are pointing fingers but it is one thing that goes both ways. He explained that there is a lot to be proud of as well because under this administration they have gotten more accomplished than previous terms and they have a balanced budget so that gives them time to attack the smaller issues.

COMMISSION & BOARD APPOINTMENTS

HORSESHOE BOARD
PLAN COMMISSION
BUILDING AUTHORITY
ZONING APPEAL BOARD
DEVELOP NEW ALBANY
SOLID WASTE
PARKS & RECREATION
URBAN ENTERPRISE
REDEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING COMMISSION
ANIMAL CONTROL
HEAD START

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she called and requested to sit on the Horseshoe board and was told there was a letter sent to them from the council attorney and none of them received a copy of it. He explained that when a legal document goes out from their attorney it should be approved by the council as a whole.

Mr. Coffey stated that instead of pointing fingers they need to try to work together because there have been many instances of council members doing things without letting the entire group know about it. He stated that he has the utmost confidence in Mr. Lorch and that he has their best interest in mind.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that it isn't about confidence in him but if a legal document goes out from this board they all need to be made aware of it.

Mr. Lorch stated that he can provide her a copy of the letter.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that it should have been approved by the body as a whole.

Mr. Lorch stated when they send a letter that is on council letter head regarding a vote that has taken place or any matter like that they do receive copies of it. He explained that

in this particular instance there was a board meeting happening on Wednesday and they felt that they needed to know the appointments for that meeting and they sent a letter out to make sure that they knew what Mr. McLaughlin's appointments were.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that this board has had complications and they have pushed back on Horseshoe regarding it and she wants to know who facilitated that and if there was an outside attorney hired to research this issue.

Mr. Blair stated that it went through their attorney with his signature and his letterhead.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that this council has not hired an outside attorney to look into this appointment.

Mr. Blair asked what any of that has to do with the letter that Mr. Lorch sent out confirming Mr. McLaughlin's appointments to the board.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that all the behind closed doors things keep happening.

Mr. Coffey asked what letter went out.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that Mr. Lorch sent a letter to Horseshoe confirming his appointments to the Horseshoe Board.

Mrs. Glotzbach read Mr. Lorch's letter to the Horseshoe Foundation into the record, said letter is on file with the City Clerk's office.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that this was an expediency issue and it didn't cross his mind that they were keeping anything behind closed doors because the appointments would be made public.

Mrs. Benedetti asked for a copy of the letter and stated that she has issues with it going out without any of them knowing about it.

Mr. Blair stated that he does not see her point at all because the letter is just stating factual information and relaying the council president's appointments. He explained that when she sat as council president she made her appointments and didn't consider what anyone else had to say and presented them to the council as is and there is no reason why Mr. McLaughlin can't do the same thing.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that they still needed to be informed and when a legal document goes out it needs to come to the council members.

Mr. Coffey stated that this appointment has been a point of political contention from the start and they fought to keep Mr. Blair on he agrees with the appointment.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he stands by his appointment.

Mr. Gonder stated that he isn't sure that the letter is a legal document. It is a privileged communication that really should have been private.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that if the attorney sends out a letter on behalf of the council everyone needs to be copied on it. He explained that he doesn't care if Mr. Blair is put on the board and if legally he can be he would be thrilled with that.

Mr. Lorch stated that he usually does send copies of communications to all of them and this one slipped through the cracks.

Mr. McLaughlin went through the remaining appointments.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mr. Coffey stated that he does think that it is a good idea to advertise for storm water and sewer just to have resumes if they need them.

Mr. Caesar stated in his block of Pearl Street during the entire Christmas season and now there are only two lights working. He explained that they need to address this.

Mr. Gonder stated that a couple of months back he was driving downtown and saw someone cleaning the sidewalks and it was one of the only businesses that he sees doing that and it does make a difference.

Mr. Caesar stated that the unwritten rule was always that the businesses take care of the sidewalks and the city takes care of the street.

Mrs. Baird stated that she got a complaint about how the trash buildup is awful when coming off the expressways and asked if there is anything they can do about that.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thought Mr. Thompson and he crew went out and cleaned that area once before.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he doesn't know why they can't because the ramps get very bad on State Street. He explained that he has called the state before regarding this and he just gets the runaround.

Mr. Coffey stated that they should try to set some money back and just do it themselves.

Mr. Phipps stated that the public sessions have been advertised for the downtown street study.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that the three meetings are downtown and asked if they could have on further out.

Mr. Phipps stated the public has to come downtown for council meetings and this is no different.

Mr. Coffey stated that this has to be done to benefit everyone because if they make it to where you can't drive in downtown many people will just take their business out to State Street. He explained that everyone has a stake in this, not just those that are downtown.

Mr. Phipps stated that he doesn't think they should have as much weigh in as those that live in the area or have businesses in the area.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he thinks as long as it is well advertised then it doesn't matter where the meetings take place.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that they have to push the administration on these vacant buildings and explained that Cash Saver closed in Colonial Manor so it is going to be a blighted area again and there are more on Charlestown Road that they have to do something about.

Mr. Blair stated that he would agree that if they have vacant or abandon buildings anywhere in town they need to try to put a package together to try to fill them up.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he attended a meeting today and they were discussing how they don't get taxes on a building that is just sitting there

Mr. Coffey stated that he is tired of giving money out to businesses while they neglect the residents.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he is sure everyone has heard about the school board referendum so he asked Brad Schneider to speak to the council to help them understand it a little better and he asked the council if he could come before one of the meetings in February.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (non-agenda items):

Mark Cassidy stated that he does not live downtown or have a business downtown but he is in favor of the street grid change.

Roger Baylor stated that a newspaper carrier said the he called the street department regarding a light at the crosswalk at S. Ellen Jones School and they told him that they couldn't afford to fix it. He spoke in favor of the street grid and stated that it works in other communities that are thriving.

IN COMMITTEE:

G-14-01	Ordinance Adopting the International Property Maintenance Code Standards for the City of New Albany	Zurschmiede 1&2
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TABLED ORDINANCES:

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk