

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,  
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY  
ROOM IN THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019  
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ms. Stein, Police Officer Sturdivant, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Hall, Mr. Staten, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach

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

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**Mr. Barksdale moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2019 with amendments, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he attended the Human Rights Commission meeting and they are very concerned about hate stickers appearing around the city in the last 30-60 days. He explained that there was one instance where someone was trying to remove a sticker at the corner of Bank and Market and a passing vehicle stopped and an individual inside began threatening them for trying to remove the sticker. He stated that in response to these instances, the commission drafted a statement that they asked him to read into the record. He added that they will be holding a special meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for anyone that would like to comment about these issues. He read the statement from the Human Rights Commissions into the record; said statement is on file with the Clerk's office.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked Mr. Phipps where the stickers were being posted.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that they have been primarily found in the downtown area but others were found as far out as Charlestown Road.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked if they have any idea how long they have been up.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that the reports say starting approximately 60 days ago.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he still doesn't understand why there isn't an African-American on the HRC board.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that this has been a concern. He explained that they had a recent resignation and they intend to make sure that the board reflects the diversity of the community.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he received a few calls from residents regarding recycling or selling car parts from homes in the area. He explained that code enforcement told the individuals complaining that they can't do anything about it but they should call the City Clerk to express to the council that an ordinance is needed regarding this type of

business. He stated that this has been on the books for years but they refuse to enforce it and are trying to make it look like the council isn't doing their job. He asked the council how they want to handle this and recommended drafting a resolution asking that the departments enforce the ordinances on the books.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he has an auto repair business operating out of a garage within 100 feet of his home.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he hopes as a group they can make a statement to ask them to start enforcing these items.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he got a call about speeding at the top of the hill on Camp Avenue. He explained that a few months ago there was a digital sign at this location and things seemed to have gotten better but now it is back to status quo. He stated that if the digital signs do work, he would like to look into purchasing more.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that the digital signs do work and he thinks these signs should be there for at least 30 days.

**Dr. Knable** agreed and stated that they should follow up the signs with more enforcement.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that the signs have not helped on Spring Street.

**Mr. Coffey** asked if it is possible to get the signs that take a photo of the car and license plate.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he thinks there was a legality issue with those in Indiana.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would encourage residents as well as himself to document the issues and email or deliver them to the code enforcement office.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if they have an acting Building Commissioner right now.

**Mr. Hall** stated that Russ Seagraves is the interim building commissioner.

**Mr. Blair** stated that Wendy Dant-Chesser and Ken Rush will be at the next council meeting to give a presentation on the Regional Development Authority to get input from various government entities. He explained that they are looking for projects that can be done in the five county region and will be soliciting suggestions on anything from housing to infrastructure. He asked that each member start thinking about projects that they and/or their constituents would like to see. He stated that he would like to make a change to the committee reporting by asking that they share information for committees that only meet a couple of times a year during "Communications – Council." He stated that Redevelopment, Horseshoe and Plan Commission meet regularly and asked that those reports are done on a monthly basis after the commissions meet. He asked that during committee reports that they refrain from disagreements because a lot of times the council member is simply reporting what took place.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

**Mr. Hall** stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to pass along that several new businesses have moved into the downtown area including The Root, Cox's Hot Chicken, La Catrina and Purple Pearl Skin and Beauty. He encouraged all of them to go check out the new places if they haven't yet. He explained that this week they sent out an update on the Mt. Tabor

Road Project detailing the drilled shafts going into the side of the roadway to stabilize the hillside and they will be doing regular updates regarding this as well.

**COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:**

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

**PLAN COMMISSION – Mr. Phipps**

**Mr. Phipps** stated that they met Tuesday and approved the applicant that is here tonight as well as another daycare center on Culbertson.

**HORSESHOE FOUNDATION – Mr. Caesar & Mr. Aebersold**

**Mr. Caesar** reported that Mayor Gahan was voted in as President, Mr. Aebersold was voted in as Vice-President and Mr. Shawn Carruthers is the representative from the county.

**Mr. Blair** added that Mr. Caesar continues to be the council representative.

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: R-19-01 (PAAR, LLC)**

**COMMUNICATIONS – PETITIONER: R-19-01 (PAAR, LLC)**

**Mr. Staten** introduced Roger Ledbetter from Custom Plywood and explained that they have gone before the Plan Commission.

**Mr. Ledbetter** stated that the name of the company is currently Custom Plywood Incorporated and they operate out of the north park in 80,000 square feet. He explained that they want to build a new 45,000 square foot building on Security Parkway that will house the private aircraft plywood. He added that by moving this division out of the current facility, it will allow them to expand the plywood indoor operation in north park as well. He stated that right now they have 61 employees and estimate 15-25 additional in the next five years.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he has known Mr. Ledbetter for many years and is impressed with what he has accomplished in New Albany.

**R-19-01            Resolution Concerning Statement of Benefits for            Caesar**  
**PAAR, LLC by the Common Council of the**  
**City of New Albany**

**Mr. Caesar introduced R-19-01 and moved to approve, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Caesar** thanked Mr. Ledbetter for being at the meeting tonight and stated that he is very proud to have him in our community. He explained that this is a standard 10 year abatement and recommended approval.

**Mr. Barksdale** asked when his business was established.

**Mr. Ledbetter** replied 1991.

**Mr. Barksdale** asked what the salary would be for any additional employees.

**Mr. Ledbetter** replied approximately \$25.00 per hour plus benefits and that doesn't include bonuses.

**Mr. Barksdale** stated that when they see an established business wanting to expand and do well in the community, he is all for it. He congratulated Mr. Ledbetter and wished him luck.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

**Mr. Blair** read through the committees and appointments. He explained that Mr. Coffey was added to Development and Annexation which makes it a three person committee now, Mrs. Benedetti was added to the Building Authority Trustee Board, Scott Whalen was added to BZA, Mr. Coffey was added to Develop New Albany and they created a new position after joining One Southern Indiana which will include Dr. Knable.

### **STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

BUDGET – Council as Whole

DEVELOPMENT & ANNEXATION – Blair, Caesar, Coffey

RULES & FINANCE - Blair, Caesar, Knable

PUBLIC UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION - Coffey, Phipps, Knable

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Blair, Aebersold, McLaughlin

SCHOOL & LIBRARY - Barksdale, Phipps

PUBLIC WORKS – Nash, Caesar

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC - Nash, Aebersold, Phipps

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Caesar, Phipps, McLaughlin

**Council as a whole voted in favor of appointments.**

### **COMMISSION & BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

HORSESHOE BOARD - Aebersold, Caesar

PLAN COMMISSION - Phipps

BUILDING AUTHORITY – Diane Benedetti

ZONING APPEAL BOARD – Scott Whalen

DEVELOP NEW ALBANY - Coffey

SOLID WASTE - Coffey

PARKS & RECREATION – McLaughlin

URBAN ENTERPRISE - Barksdale

REDEVELOPMENT - Barksdale, Stewart

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Blair

BUILDING COMMISSION - Caesar

ANIMAL CONTROL - Aebersold

HEAD START - Ms. Hardin

HUMAN RIGHTS – Janson, Kiger  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Barksdale  
TREE BOARD – Barksdale  
ONE SOUTHERN INDIANA – Knable, Nash (substitute)

**Council as a whole voted in favor of appointments with the exception of Mr. Nash who abstained.**

**Mr. Nash** stated that the BZA position is a four year term and feels that this position should be decided as a group and asked Mr. Blair to consider this request.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he looked at the Indiana Code as well as the New Albany Code of Ordinances and it says as appointed by the City Council not specifically president or the council as a whole. He explained that he started looking at precedence after reading that to see how most positions were appointed and most were done by the president position.

**Mr. Nash** stated that they have had members put forward individuals for Police Merit Commission in particular when Mr. Blair nominated someone in the past.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would say that indicates that the precedence is that they have been inconsistent.

**Mr. Nash** stated that they don't even know if anyone sitting here tonight is going to be on the council next year and he doesn't think they should lock the next council into a four year appointment.

**Dr. Knable** stated that for the record the charter does say that the president shall make all committee appointments.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that it goes on to read in 30.20 that Plan Commission or any special body to committees to which the council shall be entitled to name a member or members shall be elected by the council.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that it goes on to say that the ones that the president does appoint by-right and those are the standing committees. He explained that the fact that they outlined the ones that he has the right to appoint indicates that maybe it isn't as clear cut.

**Mr. Blair** stated that maybe the Rules and Finance Committee needs to meet to clarify how appointments are done because it is very vague. He added that it is his opinion that the president has the right to appoint those positions and he plans to do so tonight.

**Mr. Nash** stated that this wasn't his opinion with the Police Merit Board came up.

**Mr. Blair** stated that they have done various things over the years.

**Mr. Nash** stated that he doesn't understand how that was his opinion on one committee but now it isn't.

**Mr. Blair** stated that as he recalls the president opened up nominations.

**Mr. Nash** stated that the problem he has is that he gets to name it this year but the next three council presidents do not get to name anyone. He added that he thinks this is a special appointment because of the length of service.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he is afraid that this is getting political because they have done things differently in the past.

**Mr. Nash** stated that he is afraid of the same thing.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that he is okay with what is going on tonight but he wouldn't mind sitting down in committee to make a rule.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there is a meeting in February and he wants to proceed with the appointments.

**COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):**

**ADJOURN:**

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

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Scott Blair, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk