

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT
NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mr. Hall, Mr. Staten and Mrs. Glotzbach

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Dr. Knable moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2022, Mr. Aebersold second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar and Mr. Blair who were not present.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Turner explained that he was contacted by the VFW Post 3281 on E. 5th Street in downtown and they said that they have reached out to redevelopment because they are trying to get some ARP funds to get their parking lot repaired. He stated that they don't feel like they have been heard so they reached out to him to see if he could help. He explained that he thinks it is a good opportunity to spend these funds as they are a non-profit that serves veterans and their families. He stated that he did encourage them to fill out the application for phase 2 but he doesn't know if that is enough or if they should take a look at it further

Mr. Staten stated that he has spoken with them and since it is a parking lot, there might be some other options to be explored for funding available before they turn to ARP funds. He added that they will not rule out using those funds but he is going to look into a couple of other options first.

Mr. Turner stated that there was a Falling Run Study that was being done with the Army Corp of Engineers and they were going to look at the flooding along the creek. He explained that they had a planning commission meeting and the neighbors expressed concerns about the development on the roundabout and possible flooding, so he started looking into the Falling Run Study and found that it expired in May of last year. He stated that with the expiration they were supposed to get funds back from the Army Corp of Engineers as well as a breakdown of what was discovered, and asked if he could have access to that report.

Mr. Staten asked him if he knows if redevelopment funded that study.

Mr. Turner stated that he doesn't think it was but he knows Mr. Staten is connected to a lot of different projects and thought he would be able to help him out. He added that Mr. Gardner used to talk about it but they never received any report.

Mr. Staten stated that he doesn't know much about it but he will see what he can find out.

Mr. Turner explained that city ordinance chapter 30.01 section B states that city controller should provide to the council a budget printout and a year-end income expenditure report at the second regular monthly meeting as well as deliver/present monthly bank reconciliations, reports with any variances clearly identified, monthly fund reports, monthly budget to actual reports, monthly appropriations, and any other items that the council notifies the controller of. He stated that he would like to start seeing these reports and asked Ms. Stein if there is a penalty for not providing these documents.

Ms. Stein replied no.

Mr. Turner asked how this can be enforced. He then stated that the city enforces codes on residents which makes this sort of a "rules for thee and not for me" situation and it isn't fair that the council doesn't see these reports.

Mrs. Moeller stated that the council received the November 2021 report which would bring them up-to-date. She explained that they have not received some of the bank statements for the month of December yet so they have done a "soft close" for the end of the year with an entire checklist of things that have to be done prior to closing the year, which will allow them to do the reports he is asking for. She added that it is not that they are not giving these reports to the council, it is the fact that they do not want to give them data that is not accurate.

Mr. Turner asked if it is data that is coming to them or a resource issue in her department.

Mrs. Moeller stated that it is a combination of things and explained that some of their bank statements haven't come in until the middle of the month, which pushes everything back. She also stated that some of their bank statements are rather large with the amount of money that goes through them so it is quite a bit of work to reconcile all of the transactions.

Mr. Turner asked if the ordinance should be amended to every quarter.

Mrs. Moeller stated that the information is given to the council as soon as it is ready and they are 100% sure what they are giving them is the correct and most up-to-date data. She added that they probably won't do a hard close until February or March.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he understands the difficulties in closing out the year because he deals with it in his business as well and it is difficult. He added that he doesn't see a need to change the ordinance and the controller's office is doing the best that they can do by giving the information to the council as soon as it is ready. He stated that putting a limit on this is almost impossible at times and he thinks that getting the information as soon as it is ready is the best way to handle it.

Dr. Knable stated that it wouldn't be a bad idea to have that process in writing even if it they are waiting for the information and nothing new to report or waiting for documentation so that at least the council can feel like they are doing their due-diligence.

Mrs. Moeller stated that President Phipps wanted those financial documents sent electronically so they might want to revisit that process when they are ready to send the information out.

Dr. Knable stated that he would be fine with a monthly email even if it is just to say this is where we are or we are waiting on this information.

Mr. Applegate stated that he will get with Mrs. Moeller to figure out exactly what would work best to get the information to everyone's satisfaction.

Dr. Knable reported that he has received a couple of reports of speeding through the Cherokee Drive area. He stated that they have new members on the traffic and safety committee and he would like this to be the year where they come up with something a little more comprehensive and proactive. He added that Chief Bailey and his staff do a good job when they report any issues, but they can only put extra patrols in place for a certain amount of time and while he doesn't have the answer, it is something that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Applegate stated that they can definitely revisit the committee and set up a meeting to talk about the items from last year.

Dr. Knable stated that perhaps even some mechanism for not only this body but for the populous at-large to be able to report speeding issues. He continued that after six months to one year, they can revisit those reports to see what needs to be addressed.

Mr. Applegate clarified his previous statements about the process of legislation that comes before the council and stated that items from redevelopment, annexations, zoning ordinances such as PUD's or abatements and budgets will always follow the normal rules for coming before the council because a lot of those are time sensitive. He explained that all other items that are not discussed with a committee before it is brought to the council for a vote will be referred to the appropriate committee and if the sponsor would like to have it heard that night, it will take a majority vote to proceed as normal. He said that if the bill doesn't get the majority vote, then it would be considered "dead" and not referred to committee. He stated that if they do go to committee they will be brought back with a favorable or unfavorable recommendation at the next meeting for the vote if there are no changes that need to be made.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall reported that demolition started at the former QRS recycling site so if they see any machinery going in at that location that is what is going on over the next couple of weeks. He requested a couple of items to be added to the agenda of the next few council meetings that include an ARP plan update at the February 7th meeting and a New Albany Shoreline update at the February 17th meeting. He added that the mayor would like to request that the public safety committee meet again to discuss the future police station.

Mr. Turner explained that last year he requested to have the building authority come speak about why the police department was blindsided with the police station eviction and stated that he thinks this would still be pertinent as he would like to hear their side of the story.

Mr. Applegate stated that they will set the meeting up to discuss the police station as well as the traffic situations. He stated that he is of the opinion that they should dissolve

the relationship with the building authority if they aren't going to be housed in that property. He added that while they are having their committee meetings regarding the police station, they can discuss this and would like to have Ms. Stein and Mr. Gibson there as well.

Mr. Turner stated that Police Chief Bailey came before them and said that he was blindsided but the building authority said in the newspaper that the city knew about it.

Mr. Applegate stated that he isn't interested in the "he said, she said" but they will meet and discuss all that has been discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Summers stated that the city became aware of some railing changes on the Sherman Minton Bridge so Mayor Gahan asked that INDOT meet with city staff to see what options were available. He reported that they have had multiple meetings with INDOT personnel and extensive communications to determine what could be done about some of the visibility changes through the railings. He stated that they asked INDOT if there was any potential for railing with some visibility as opposed to the full concrete railing that they plan to go with, so that people could actually see the City of New Albany as they are crossing the bridge. He said that INDOT, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Federal Highway Administration determined that the proposed railing is the only feasible way of protecting the cables that will be on the new bridge. He stated that ultimately the city cares most about the safety of the citizens and those that will be crossing the bridge, but they did want to make the effort to inform everyone why there is going to be a change.

Dr. Knable asked what the solid railings were protecting the cables from.

Mr. Summers stated that it is basically a catastrophic event of someone running into one of the cables.

Mr. Phipps asked what the height of the barriers is.

Mr. Summers stated that INDOT has indicated that it will be one inch taller than the existing railing so it is not that much difference in height but the existing railing was somewhat see through where this will be a solid barrier.

Mr. Applegate asked if cars will be able to see New Albany at all when crossing the bridge.

Mr. Summers stated that most vehicles will have the ability to see over the railing but lower profile cars probably will notice a difference.

Mr. Turner asked if this will create a delay in the project.

Mr. Summers explained that this is the proposed plan so it will not cause any delays.

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 7:27 p.m.

Jason Applegate, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk