

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
WILL HOLD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members: Mrs. Collier, Mr. Caesar, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate, Dr. Knable and President Phipps.

ALSO PRESENT: Amy Stein, Josh Staten, Larry Summers, Linda Moeller, Warren Nash, Shane Gibson and Vicki Glotzbach

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phipps 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:

Mr. Aebersold moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2021 as corrected, Dr. Knable second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Collier explained that she would like to speak regarding the issues going on with the animal shelter as it has been weighing heavy on her since she watched the meeting with the Floyd County Council. She stated that she finds it ridiculous that they did not approve any funds for the budget this year and that they have been relying on Riverboat funds for this in the past. She added that it is indicative to her how much of a priority animals and the shelter is to them. She stated that as the fiscal body of the city, they need to look at the possibility of funding the shelter themselves because the county pays late every year when they do pay.

Mr. Caesar stated that he agrees with Mrs. Collier and he just found out that the county didn't budget anything for the animal shelter and to him it sounds like they are pulling themselves away from the interlocal agreement. He added that if this is what is going to be, he thinks they can cut services to the county and still maintain a first-class shelter for the city.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the meeting started with the parks department coming in and requesting a funding entity that included taxing and it was interesting to him that the same person that presented at that meeting was the one deep in the situation regarding the city-county parks situation with funding shortfalls before the city and the county split. He explained that this is governed by an interlocal agreement and they seem to think that the councils can get together and do something about this but that isn't the case. He added that it will need to come from the mayor and the commissioners. He stated that if the city is hitting them with additional billing, it is likely because they have been deficient in previous years. He added that at the end of the day this is a service that they have to have, because it facilitates the humane treatment of animals and he finds it rather disturbing that perhaps county officials don't see this need. He stated that he has no doubt that the city will not let service or even the quality of service be disturbed, but if they are going to bring up transparency, he would like to apply that to the sale of the hospital as well. He

added that it seems like as times start getting rough and COVID began wreaking havoc on the local economy, the price for the sale of the hospital starts going down.

Mr. Turner stated that he isn't concerned about how the county funds their portion but it is concerning to him that they possibly don't have access to financial information and they are paying 51% of the budget.

Mr. Aebersold brought up the issues with big dumpsters on the streets, particularly ones on Market, Culbertson and Ekin. He stated that none of them are being marked at night which makes them very dangerous and they are lucky no one has had a bad accident. He added that he was in Corydon recently and they have five cones out around their dumpsters and he believes they should require the same in the city.

Mr. Applegate stated that with the weather getting colder he would remind everyone to consider keeping additional blankets/supplies in their vehicles in case they get stuck. He asked that everyone continue to wear their mask, possibly carry extras for those that might not have one, and to be accountable when out at local businesses to protect the community. He added that anything they can do to help get their businesses back up and running sooner than later is going to benefit everyone. He stated that the situation with the animal shelter is very frustrating to him because his family is full of animal lovers. He added that they said in the meeting that all they want is animal control and that seems to be all they want to pay for, but from his standpoint, the New Albany Shelter is a great asset to the community and maybe they do need to start looking at what a city shelter looks like.

Dr. Knable stated that the team removing snow and ice is doing a great job and if possible stay out of their way if you see them out on the road to ease their burden. He explained that the shelter provides excellent service and he doesn't think anyone would dispute that. He added that the only people he has heard discussing pulling out of an interlocal agreement have been the discussions of the members tonight that spoke before him. He stated that he doesn't know what two shelters would look like or if it would increase services or not, but it would increase the tax burden on the average citizen. He added that this really is an executive decision and he would suggest that this body does whatever they can do to leverage to get the executive officers that should be working on this together so that they don't have duplication of effort. He stated that it is ludicrous to be talking about splitting the services when they haven't taken the most basic step of getting the leaders together in a room to salvage it. He reported the greatest amount of funds from the sale of the hospital has gone into the creation of foundations at this point so it isn't going towards the prison.

Mr. Phipps stated that city has done a good job of keeping the streets clear and he agrees with some of his other colleagues that if the county isn't willing to pay their share of the animal shelter budget, then it is time to cut the ties. He added that they have had a fairly bad track record with these interlocal agreements in the past, with the parks being a perfect example, and he is convinced that if they aren't willing to pay their share that the city needs to take it over. He encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing and to wear their masks because it is very important to stop the spread of the virus. He added that he is glad to see the vaccines rolling out pretty efficiently in Floyd County compared to other parts of the nation.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Shane Gibson reminded the members that he sent out an email a couple of weeks ago regarding a question Mr. Tuner had about Cares Act funding and he is here tonight to go over that with them. He explained that at one point they were worried about the ability to

capture the \$1.2M that was allocated through the governor's office, but they were able to determine that the city could get reimbursed for public safety expenses during that time period and that is what a majority of the communities did. He reported that at the time they had expended ~\$75,000-\$100,000 for those expenses and they were able to incorporate that into the budget form last year. He stated that as they finish up the financials they are on track to be ~\$1.5M in the black in the general fund and of that, about \$1.2M is the cares money, which means that they will be ~300,000.00 in the black from the budgetary process and operations.

Dr. Knable asked if there was an end date on the money.

Mr. Gibson explained that the original Cares Act ended 12/31 but they already captured all of that money so there would be nothing more for them to capture even if it hadn't.

Dr. Knable asked if they are still able to use what they have.

Mr. Gibson explained that it is now money within the city's coffers to use as they ultimately see fit. He added that as they went through the budget period last fall, he wasn't overly concerned about 2021 but 2022 was financially going to be a little shaky. He explained that when the state approved 2021 funding, they basically extended filing times for state returns by a couple of months, so they are allocating that money (two additional months) into the budget process for 2021. He added that this means in 2022 they will only get 10 months of the money which is ~1.3M short. He stated that the Cares Money that they received almost equates to the money they are going to ultimately lose in 2022.

Dr. Knable asked if they were intending for it to bridge that gap.

Mr. Gibson stated that no one ever said it but he thinks it was their way of helping to fund local communities.

Mr. Blair stated that he thinks it was a wise move to put that money into a "savings account" that the city can draw on in the future, particularly if they are looking at deficit spending in 2022. He added that he has seen a lot of organizations that do not have a cash balance or reserve and that is how they get themselves in trouble. He added that he appreciates all the work that Mr. Gibson is doing with this.

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

1 SOUTHERN INDIANA PRESENTATION

Matt Hall thanked the council for this opportunity to give an update for 2020. The Economic Development Year in Review PowerPoint is on file with the City Clerk's office.

Economic Development focused on the following:

- New Business Attraction
- Existing Business Expansion
- Existing Business Retention.

He stated that the **2020 1si Economic Development Projects** consisted of 9 projects (5 expansions and 3 attractions) which is 9 more projects than they expected to have during a pandemic. He provided a list of the nine projects that were split between Clark and Floyd counties and all the projects announced in Floyd were within the city. He explained

that half of these projects were manufacturing followed by warehouse distribution, service operations and R&D/manufacturing.

2020 Attraction Projects:

- Kenco Logistic Services
- ETS Jet Engine Standard INC
- Smiffys
- KOLIGO Therapeutics.

2020 Expansion Projects:

- Parker
- Northwest Ordinance
- Rivera Group
- Owings Patterns
- Niagara Bottling

2020 1si Project Announcements Include:

- 423 new jobs that were created by those (9 projects with and even split of attraction and expansion.)
- \$26.2M in new payroll in Clark and Floyd Counties
- \$115.6M in New Capital (mainly expansion)
- 2020 Average wages were \$29.74 (above the average wage from 2019)
- Wages over time have consistently raised over time in both Clark and Floyd

1si Return on Investment is calculated by taking every dollar received for economic development and dividing it by the payroll number and the capital investment number. For every dollar received to support economic development there has been \$77.30 returned in annual payroll. For every dollar received there has been \$204.98 returned in capital investment.

1si Cares!

Wendy Dant Chesser stated that they could not have done this without the support from the city. She explained that when the pandemic hit, small businesses were panicked because of the uncertainty regarding what relief would be available from federal or state sources. She stated that within the first 3-4 weeks of the recession they pulled friends together and were able to collect donations from the City of New Albany and other private/public donors in the amount of ~1.25M in loan programs, and within 4 months those dollars were distributed to 125 small business loans and grants. She added that they couldn't have been more proud as a community to watch everyone come together. She explained that in addition to dollars people needed information so their job was to respond to this need and get answers out to businesses and they did this through the following:

- Launched 1si COVID-19 website
- 35 "Ask the Expert" videos
- 23,100 minutes of Facebook video viewed
- 8 "Wednesdays with Wendy" virtual interviews
- 60+ Vendors and resource organizations listed on PPE website.

New Albany's Recent Engagement with 1si:

- 7 Ribbon Cuttings from January-November
- Pearls of Wisdom Event at the Calumet Club
- Lunch with Governor Holcomb at The Grand

- Sales & Marketing Series at The Root.

2020 Activity Business Resources:

- Total Members – 993
- In person events attendees (Pre-COVID) – 1,198
- 41 Ribbon Cuttings
- 11 Companies using Insurance Under One
- 59 Virtual Events with 20,700 views
- Launched new 1si Website
- Launched New Business Resource Guide.

Dr. Knable asked about the limit on their travel and how the use of virtual tools such as Zoom has translated. He asked if they found a windfall in their funds with the lack of travel that they were able to use for something else and if they might want to keep some of that practice.

Mr. Hall stated that a lot of their work is virtual but they were able to have a couple of “touchless tours” early on. He added that that they have a tour planned tomorrow for someone coming in from Germany and he loves the opportunity to be able to do any of this type of work safely in-person because it really makes a difference.

Ms. Dant Chesser stated that as an organization they have done their best to shore up with where they stand at this time because they had not been eligible for any of the federal assistance programs until the last round. She reported that they had to furlough employees and have been able to maintain the budget. She added that they didn’t really have a windfall from the lack of travel because they had losses in other areas but they are on a path to stability.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: G-21-02 AMENDING 119.06 (TAXI CABS)

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: G-21-02 AMENDING 119.06 (TAXI CABS)

G-21-02	AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY ORDINANCE 119.06	Applegate 1&2
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Mr. Applegate introduced G-21-02 and moved to approve the first and second readings as amended, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner who voted no.

Mr. Applegate explained that this is regarding increasing the minimum insurance requirements for taxi cab drivers in the City of New Albany from the current version that provides for the payment in the sum not less than the state statutory minimum of 25/50/20 to the amended version of 100/300/100. He added that the current state minimum is very little, especially considering that medical cost are rising so this levels out the risk that the residents of New Albany take when they choose to take taxi cab in the city.

Dr. Knable asked what brought this on.

Mr. Gibson stated that this came up several years ago as one of the more well-established companies had a larger policy than was required and this prompted them to

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Mrs. Glotzbach reported that she received a letter from Diane Williamson and read it into the minutes. Said letter is on file with the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Applegate stated that since it is February 1st, he wanted to recognize that it is Black History Month.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Greg Phipps, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk