

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A COUNCIL WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY
ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 AT
6:30 P.M.**

President Knable called the meeting of the New Albany City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Council Members, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nash, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold and President Knable. Mr. Barksdale was not present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Police Officer Applegate, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Harbison, Mr. Pennington, Linda Moeller and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Knable called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Gardner introduced Mr. Roger Harbison who is the president of the stormwater board and Mr. Terry Pennington who is the council's appointment to the stormwater board. He then stated that he believes the last stormwater update that the council received was in July of 2016. He explained that the City of New Albany is classified as a Phase 2, Municipality MS4 regulated by the US EPA and IDEM through a NPDES Permit, which is renewed every five years, and New Albany has gone through two permit renewals. He stated that the services that the stormwater department provides are maintenance of the system, response to citizens' concerns, masterplan projects identified to reduce flooding and regulatory for the city's compliance with the NPDES permit. He said that the department consists of 10 full-time crew hands, three administrators and three board members. He said that in 2017, they removed 608.23 tons of debris from the system as well as debris that they picked up with street sweepers, the stormwater jet vac truck and leafing trailer units. He added that they also cleared any blockages reported in creeks or that they found and removed. He stated that they cleaned a little over 7,000 linear feet of storm sewer conveyance as well as completed 124 construction repair projects with 110 of those being done in-house with their crew. He explained that in 2017, they did 479 development inspections, which are the inspections of properties that are under development, and making sure that erosion and sediment control protection systems are in place. He also explained that one of the projects that was started in 2017 that is ongoing is the State Street to Green Valley Road Detention Project also known as the Salvation Army Project and they are planning to have that completed by the end of 2018. He stated that in 2012, a \$6M bond was issued to the city and the last project of that bond, which is the 15th Street Project, is being completed now. He said that once that project is completed, the bond money will be completely spent and he feels they will come in right on budget on that. He stated that in 2016, we entered into an agreement with the Corp of Engineers for a 50/50 funded study of the Falling Run drainage corridor where they are looking at the Falling Run drainage between the North Y and I-265. He added that these are neighborhoods where they have noted frequent flooding issues during large rain events. He explained that the corps will take into account everything that the city has done over the last 10 years and what needs to be done now. He stated that the report is not finalized but they have been in communication with the city with regards to what they are finding. He stated that the master plan has heavily recommended detention basins as a resolution to flooding but the corps has a different opinion and are suggesting other structural improvements so they will most likely revisit the master plan once the corps has completed their visit.

Dr. Knable asked if they are talking about structures to retroactively or proactively correct issues.

Mr. Gardner replied proactively.

Mr. Caesar asked Mr. Gardner to elaborate on what “other structures” means.

Mr. Gardner stated that other structures would include bridges over creek ways and channel improvements to the creek themselves. He explained that the corps is suggesting that they may not have enough property in the city to build the appropriate amount of detention basins for permanent solutions.

Mr. Blair asked if he has a time frame of when the study will be finalized.

Mr. Gardner stated that they have a meeting in May and he should know for certain then. He explained that the Salvation Army project will reduce flow rates that run behind Martin Drive and added that the state of Indiana will eventually address the collapsed pipe that runs along 265 near Cherry and West streets.

Mr. Caesar asked if the open trench is going to stay there.

Mr. Gardner replied no and explained that the trench was part of the emergency repair to open it up so the flow continues.

Mr. Blair stated that there were talks of making the Mellwood Drive location a retention pond and asked if he has heard anything more about that because he received a lot of questions about that from residents.

Mr. Gardner stated that those talks happened before he came on to the department so he cannot speak to that, but he would be happy to speak to any of the residents that have questions.

Mr. Coffey asked Mr. Blair when the residents were told this.

Mr. Blair replied right before the election.

Mr. Caesar stated there is one gentleman out there that has had his swimming pool filled up three times with water.

Mr. Blair stated that this area is the Mellwood Drive area not Rolling Hills.

Mr. Harbison stated that they did the Castlewood Detention Basin Project that was intended to help that area but he understands that there is still flooding beyond that.

Mr. Blair stated that this one area is a low area behind Grace Lutheran Church and he thinks that is the problem.

Mr. Gardner stated that he would be happy to look into it.

Mr. Harbison stated that JTL did a study and if he recalls correctly they recommended a basin but they didn't think it would help much.

Mr. Pennington stated that there is a lot of area behind Grace Lutheran Church that would be great for a detention basin but they decided that they didn't want to sell so that took them back to square one.

Mr. Gardner stated that he and his staff are unfamiliar with the drainage improvement on Deerwood and Cliftwood but he did go out and look at it.

Mr. Blair stated that the concrete swale is broken up.

Mr. Gardner asked if the question about detention basins was referring to the basins that have been constructed by the city or the ones required to be constructed by private development.

Dr. Knable replied both.

Mr. Gardner stated that they are all functioning.

Dr. Knable stated that he was in Kroger after the Summit Springs project started during a large rain event and water was coming into the store. He explained that he was told that this resulted in-part because of the failure of the detention pond at Home Depot that hadn't been maintained. He asked if Mr. Gardner's team are the ones that inspect and maintain those.

Mr. Gardner stated that the property owners are supposed to maintain those if it is on private property.

Dr. Knable asked how they are held accountable if it truly was a failure on their part and can be proven.

Mr. Harbison stated that the problem with the basin at Home Depot is that it was done prior to a lot of the rules they have in place now.

Dr. Knable asked how often the ones that are new agreements inspected.

Mr. Gardner stated that they try to get to those annually.

Dr. Knable asked if the delay of the Salvation Army detention pond was due to having to go through a secondary part of the PUDD.

Mr. Gardner stated that the Salvation Army Detention Project has nothing to do with the development of Summit Springs.

Dr. Knable stated that he thought the water coming down from there was supposed to be taken to the area.

Mr. Gardner stated that it will eventually but before it is taken there, it will be held onsite.

Dr. Knable asked if he is saying that it will be detained on the hill.

Mr. Gardner replied yes.

Dr. Knable stated that the north and south Parkline area have been prone to many issues and asked if there is a recommendation on the books for those.

Mr. Gardner stated that it falls within the watershed of the study that they are conducting right now so they don't have any recommendations at this time.

Dr. Knable stated that these acute problems then lead to chronic issues with paving because of the heavy water.

Mr. Gardner stated that his opinion on sump pumps is that if you live in New Albany and your basement takes on water, you should have one. He explained that by ordinance they are to discharge to private property or the rear of the property. He stated that putting them into storm drains or catch basins isn't prevented by the ordinance but he would strongly discourage it.

Dr. Knable stated that the reason that he asked that is there are some addresses that are opening into an area that then pools to create secondary issues. He added that they are looking to tweak the ordinance but wanted to have his input before they do.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he thought the Silver Street Project was supposed to help.

Dr. Knable stated that he could contact Mr. Gardner and take him to that area but rather than focusing on one particular area, he just wants to ensure that the ordinance addresses this issue at any location that it may occur.

Mr. Pennington stated that he started with the wastewater plant in 1973 and at the time they had a combined sewer system. He explained that in the 90's they did various evaluations and were told that they really didn't have a combined system and had to eliminate many cross connections and remove sump pumps from the system. He stated that the history in the city is not a good one but they have made tremendous improvement over the last 30 years and it will take time to keep improving upon that.

Mr. Blair asked if they are at the bottom line as far as budgeting.

Mr. Gardner replied yes.

Mr. Coffey asked if they are going to be coming in asking for another bond after the money from the present bond is gone.

Mr. Gardner stated that he really wouldn't know that until the evaluation is done but he wouldn't rule that or a rate increase out.

Mr. Coffey stated that he is asking because they are looking at spending a big chunk of money in the next few months and the council needs to have a larger idea of what the finances are for every department.

Mr. Aebersold asked if the project on Silver Street would be finished this fall.

Mr. Gardner stated that is a wastewater project so he isn't sure.

Dr. Knable stated that they would likely want to have another session when the Army Corp is finished with their study.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Al Knable, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk