

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 THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Police Officer Davis, Mr. Hall, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Knable 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. Phipps moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2018, **Mr. McLaughlin** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2018, **Mr. Phipps** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Barksdale moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2018, **Mr. Caesar** second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Barksdale reminded everyone of the tree walk on Saturday morning starting at the Farmer’s Market at 10:00 a.m. He then said that he felt it was important to acknowledge two nationally acclaimed New Albany High School students. He stated that the council president’s son, Harrison Knable, was named 2018 Presidential Scholar which means he is one of the top 171 students in the entire nation. He stated that the second student is Romeo Langford who was a McDonald’s All American, Gatorade Player of the Year, Indiana’s Mr. Basketball and one of the top five recruits in his class in the nation. He said we have two nationally acclaimed students, which is so exciting, but it is even better because they are both going to IU.

Dr. Knable thanked Mr. Barksdale.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to invite everyone to the Back In Time Car Club Spring 2018 Car Show this Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. He said that the proceeds do benefit the New Albany Fire Department Toy Drive and the New Albany Police Department Cops for Kids program.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold and Mr. McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he touched base with Police Chief Bailey with some issues including Mr. Tony Nava’s concerns. He explained that they have addressed those issues as well as the temporary camp set up behind the trailer business on 8th Street, which has been cleaned out.

Dr. Knable asked if chief had any foreshadowing on fleet needs for the year.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he didn’t at this time. He said that he will give him a call back on that.

Mr. Blair stated that if he does that, he thinks it is important that the police committee looks at what cars are being replaced and what their needs are and so forth.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps and Mr. McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he spoke with Fire Chief Juliot a couple of weeks ago and he doesn’t know of any requests coming up in the near future.

SCHOOL & LIBRARY – Mr. Barksdale and Mr. Phipps

Mr. Barksdale stated that he and Mr. Phipps discussed bringing someone in from the school corporation to update the council on the wonderful facilities that are going up and that Dr. Brad Snyder couldn’t be at the meeting tonight. He then introduced Mr. Bill Wisheart in his place and said that he is by all means equally qualified.

NEW ALBANY/FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Mr. Bill Wisheart, Director of Facilities, passed out handouts for the council to review and stated that Dr. Snyder wanted him to convey their gratitude to the council for their support of the referendum which was the first referendum in Indiana to go through. He stated that on Wednesday, July 25th at 11:30 a.m. they are having a soft grand opening and ribbon cutting at Green Valley Elementary School and on the 9th of September they will have a larger celebration for the opening of the school. He said that the process they followed was that they tried to stagger bidding on all of the projects so they wouldn’t be competing against themselves and to maximize competition. He stated that Highland Hills was the first project out and was a small project so it is already completed. He also stated that Green Valley Elementary was a first project and most aggressive start. He said that the goal was to get it dried in before winter and they did that so it is nearly completed other than laying floors so they are at a good point to start school. He also said that Prosser was another job that they jumped on very heavily and reviewed the rendering in the packet with the council. He then stated that Slate Run School was originally going to be completed in 2020 but they are already in progress now and reviewed that rendering in the packet with the council. He moved on to New Albany High School and stated that it has structural steel up and walls torn out so things are moving along very nicely. He said that bids came in very well for Floyds Knobs and they have started work there. He said that looking to the future, they are doing a feasibility study on Greenville Elementary since bidding has been so successful and things have been falling within budget as well

as bond sales being very successful. He said that they think they can add four classrooms there and expand the building which is beyond the original scope of the referendum. He stated that they are also hoping to put an artificial soccer field at the front of Green Valley Elementary. He added that they had to displace a practice field at Prosser. He then said that they are looking at tearing the old Green Valley School down in late summer or early fall. He stated that they have been very fortunate with having good contractors and good aggressive bidding.

Mr. Caesar asked what the school year is.

Mr. Wisheart stated that school starts the last week in July.

Mr. Caesar asked if Green Valley will be opened then.

Mr. Wisheart replied yes.

Mr. Caesar asked if the students at Slate Run will have to attend Graceland for one more year.

Mr. Wisheart replied yes and stated that if they can get it done by Christmas, they will probably try to move them mid-semester, but right now it looks like that project will finish up right around spring break. He said that with that being so close to ISTEP testing, they probably won't want to make the move at that time.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he and Mr. Aebersold received complaints about the loud noise above the gym at the high school. He asked if that turned out to be the air handler.

Mr. Wisheart stated there is an air cool chiller on the roof and there is a water cool chiller inside the mechanical room. He said the high school has an unusual HVAC system which runs air conditioners in the winter and the boilers in the summer. He also said they found that they had a problem in the sequence where it should have been running on the inside instead of the outside but they did correct that. He explained that they are also looking at putting sound blankets on the compressors because it is a very noisy chiller and added that the chiller is scheduled for replacement sometime next year.

Mr. Barksdale thanked Mr. Wisheart for coming in.

Mr. Wisheart thanked the council again and said that they are trying to be good stewards with the money and get as much as they can out of it.

Mr. Coffey stated that he is really impressed with the work they have accomplished and never would've dreamed that they would already be at this point.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

G-18-06 Authorizing the Entry by the City of New Albany into A BOT Lease Agreement and Related Documents, Pledging Certain Repayment Sources Thereto and Taking Certain Other Actions Related Thereto; and Further Authorizing

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**the Removal of a Local Income Tax (Formerly
Known as Economic Development Income Tax)
Pledge to Certain Sewage Works Bonds of the City
of New Albany**

Mr. Barksdale tabled this item so that it could be referred to a special committee and then brought back to the council.

Mr. Coffey told Mr. Barksdale that he is glad that he is tabling it because he is not against doing something with that building, but he just thinks that a city hall is the worst possible project. He added that we need real retail in that area. He then stated that when Mayor Overton was in office, L.L. Bean looked at that building and decided not to move there so they must've seen something.

Dr. Knable stated that he is going to name Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Caesar and himself to the committee and asked that questions be submitted to them by phone and/or in writing.

Mr. Barksdale asked that they be submitted by Sunday evening.

Mr. Coffey asked if the meeting is going to be open to the public and then pointed out that every time there is a board appointment, the independent members get left out. He said he feels that Mr. Blair should be included because he understands the loans.

Dr. Knable stated that three on the committee are the three on the committee and they will be able to utilize anyone that they want to. He added that the initial meeting will not be public but he expects to hold a public meeting before it comes back before the council.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS):

Mr. Roger Baylor stated that he feels that if this is such an important project then he would love to see the mayor present to talk about it himself because he gets a little weary hearing from a spokesman for the mayor at every meeting.

Dr. Jessica Gradel, 152 E. Main Street, stated that last meeting she listened to the discussion of the project and though the lack of transparency about the building was concerning, it was even more concerning for her to find that this undertaking was not a done deal as she was led to believe by talking with community members and from news reports. She said that for the last year she has thought that this was a done deal and last week her heart sank when she learned differently. She stated that New Albany's downtown is picking itself up with private investors like the Carters rehabbing neglected buildings and it has brought in young professionals like herself to support and serve the community. She also stated that the YMCA showed everyone that the downtown area still has potential and geographic draw to support a vibrant community of small businesses which is imperative to have sustainable growth. She said that the Reisz building is an eyesore on New Albany's Riverfront and hindering further growth. She also said that she walks by the building every day with its broken windows, stray cats and displaced bricks, but it has potential to be something more but is a large project to undertake. She feels that backing out at this point would signal a lack of support by the city for redevelopment of the downtown district. She believes it is in the best interest of the community to move forward with this project and has spoken with other business owners who are very supportive. She then added that her office literally shares a wall with that building.

Mr. Alan Butts, Owner of Coffee Crossings and 410 Bakery, stated that he was also surprised like Dr. Gradel that this project wasn't a done deal. He said that they hired a chef at 410 Bakery to serve breakfast and lunch because of what they expected to be happening next door. He explained that they will obviously benefit from the project by being right next door and is very much in favor of it. He then explained that the YMCA was a boom for the downtown area and feels that downtown could use another one and that this building would be one. He said that recently several downtown businesses have closed and others have expressed that they are struggling as they are just because they don't have enough people walk through the door. He added that their reviews are first rate but you have to have enough people come in. He would like to see the project happen from the standpoint of adding something really fresh to brighten up the area and feels that it would be an outstanding boom to the downtown community.

Mr. Kent McDaniel stated that he doesn't have an opinion on it but this is a big deal and should get a majority vote that has nothing to do with politics. He said that when you look at the dynamic between the city and the county, it is like a marriage in that you depend on one another but don't always get along. He also said that things done in haste such as building the Titanic as compared to the Queen Mary, which was well built, can go dreadfully wrong. He recommended taking a second look and take the politics out of it and appoint a small committee to get all questions and concerns answered and be as transparent as possible. He then asked if we are ready to launch a possible Titanic or a Queen Mary.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Mr. Michael Sorrels, 208 Cherry Street, stated that he spoke with many of the council members for several years about Bono Road and he recently drove down it and thinks it is very beautiful now. He then thanked them for taking care of it.

Mr. Roger Baylor read a statement into the record regarding the Taco Walk. The full statement is on file in the city clerk's office. He stated that there are two fundamental problems, neither of which the organization has been willing to address openly. He said that the first one is cultural appropriation and explained that the most recent numbers show that the population of New Albany is 85% White, 8% African-American and 3% Hispanic/Latino. He then explained that the Taco Walk was brought to DNA in 2017 by a citizen volunteer named Kelly Winslow, as a way of showcasing any and all downtown restaurants willing to fashion a taco, without reference to ethnicity, including Japanese tacos, vegan tacos, fudge tacos or any other creative flourish. He stated that DNA, with the governing committee itself, minus Winslow (the volunteer, who was horrified) brought sombreros and maracas to Taco Walk, then added the creative twist of parading through the streets while singing the Frito Bandito corn chip theme song, and posing for photos in the News and Tribune – which also failed to notice what was happening. He stated that there are good reasons to wear a sombrero, but cultural appropriation is when you borrow the symbols and use them to reinforce a stereotype, which in this instance is the view that while Mexicans are happy napping while using a sombrero as shade, and rising from their naps to sing and dance, it's unlikely they'll do any useful work – and this, as most of us should know by now, is really, really dumb. He said that the second

issue has to do with Winslow, who brought the idea to DNA in the first place, thinking she'd found an organization to partner with, but was very disappointed in the way Taco Walk went down. She decided to take her idea and decline further participation, to which DNA said nope, it's ours now. He said that from where he is sitting, DNA has been bullying and trolling Winslow ever since, and he's not the only one who's noticed it. He then said that he'd like to ask at what point this organization, which he believes still receives a funding tithe each year from the city, is held accountable for matters like these – like cultural appropriation and infringement of intellectual property rights. He then added that last year, seeing a Taco Walk board member wearing a sombrero, shaking maracas and singing the Frito Bandito song made one employee of a downtown eatery cry.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Al Knable, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk