

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON THURSDAY,
JUNE 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Amy Stein, Warren Nash, Linda Moeller, Scott Wood, Josh Staten 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. Applegate moved to approve the **Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2021**, **Mr. Caesar** second, all voted in favor.

Mrs. Collier moved to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2021 with corrections**, **Mr. Caesar** second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Phipps stated that normally our meetings are on the first Monday of the month and next month it will be July 5th which is the day that the city observes Independence Day. He said that when one of those Monday holidays occur, we change the first meeting of the month to the first Thursday which will be July 8th. He also said that meeting will be in-person and it will probably be in the old council chamber unless he notifies the council differently. He stated that the Urban Enterprise Zone had their first meeting the day before yesterday in the council chamber and it went well, however, there were only 10 available seats in the audience. He said that will probably be enough for our meeting unless we have something controversial on the agenda that would pack the house and if that is the case, we will probably need to schedule the Griffin Center so that we can have appropriate social distancing. He then updated the council on the vacancy of the 4th District seat. He stated that the caucus is going to be held during the first week of July and once that person is elected, they will be seated at the July 8th council meeting.

Dr. Knable asked if anyone else has been getting inquiries about the street sweepers because he knows that can be a point of contention. He stated that he had contact with someone on the east end of Elm Street and he thinks Mrs. Collier had some interaction with the person as well. He said that he called both Police Chief Bailey as well as Mr. Gibson to kind of look into it. He also said that he was told by NAPD that right now there is construction going on in that area that really kind of makes enforcement onerous. He stated that he is going to go there and do some door to door on Saturday to see if any other residents are experiencing any problems down there.

Mrs. Collier stated that she has received one message about it and she is sure that it is from the same person that Dr. Knable has been speaking to. She said that is the only one

that she received and she has a pretty large number of residents in her district that would be concerned by the street sweepers.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he had something come up about all of the stops signs being put on Elm Street. He said that there are 13 stop signs from the bridge up to Silver Street and he knows that they are needed and guesses that they are probably dangerous intersections. He said what he has seen and what people have told him is that the more stops you have, it seems that people don't stop very well and when they do, they take off pretty fast especially when there are a lot of them. He said he just hopes that they don't cause anymore issues along the way. He then stated that he has heard a lot about semis coming down Silver Street. He said that they are trying to turn right onto Charlestown Road which is very difficult to do because they have to take up two lanes and it causes people to back up or stop and they don't know what to do so it is just a mess. He also said that trying to turn onto Silver Street from Spring Street causes the same problems. He stated that several years ago they took down the "No Trucks" sign on Silver Street, but that just made them go down to Vincennes Street and they probably had the same issues there. He said trying to make the turn off of Vincennes Street onto Charlestown Road is a real problem too. He stated that people talk to him about it all of the time but he really doesn't know what can be done about it. He said that he just wanted to put that out there to see if board of works can look at it and see if anything can be done.

Mr. Blair stated that he continues to get people contacting him about speeding in their neighborhoods and he knows that the speed limits have been lowered on some of the main roads, but there hasn't really been anything done about neighborhood streets. He also stated that he agrees with Mr. Aebersold that stop signs encourage people to speed because they want to accelerate between stop signs. He said that in a strange way it makes them speed rather than slow down. He then told Mr. Aebersold that he had the same issue at Mt. Tabor Road and Green Valley Road with the semis and they asked Beach Mold & Tool to ask their delivery drivers to use a different intersection and that seemed to help a little bit. He said that it is still an issue though and Mr. Staten is looking into some ways to do signage to encourage people to pull into the industrial park entrance versus going on down to Green Valley Road. He suggested that Mr. Aebersold contact the businesses that are being delivered to and ask them to ask the drivers to take a different route.

Mr. Turner stated that he believes dropping the speed limits is one step to the process. He said that he has researched a little and believes there is still a need for actual traffic calming, not through signage, but through better engineered streets and street improvements. He stated that the reason he says that is because when you slow the speed limit on a road and it is enforced and drivers start driving that speed limit, people start avoiding that road and cut through neighborhood streets. He said that other cities have traffic calmed their neighborhood streets by installing speed tables, chicanes or using different approaches to naturally slow down traffic. He stated that then people will stick to the main arteries and not use the neighborhood streets as much. He said that in his opinion from what he has read, we are actually potentially making our neighborhoods a little more dangerous because people are avoiding the roads where we have changed the speed limits.

Mr. Caesar stated that the Caesars Foundation met the other day and they gave away their spring grants in the amount of \$300,000.00. He said that they are not going to have just one meeting to give them out this year because preplanning for COVID didn't allow for that. He stated that instead they will be going to each organization and presenting the grant awards and there should be an article in the paper about that. He then stated that Family Fest, which is sponsored by Caesars Foundation and is a Kentucky Derby Festival Event, will be at the amphitheater this Thursday from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. He said that it should be a lot of fun for the entire family and encouraged everyone to attend. He

stated that Caesars Foundation is also sponsoring the New Albany fireworks show on July 3rd which will be at the amphitheater as well.

Mrs. Collier stated that Ms. Rachel Miller came before the council back in early 2020 and she has a group that picks up litter throughout the city. She said that they plan to meet on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the old gas station on the corner of Daisy Lane and Grant Line Road to do some cleaning up. She also said that if any of the members could make it, that would be great.

Mr. Phipps stated that those three new stop signs on E. Elm Street were all in his district and he really fought hard to get them for a 2-year period so he wanted to thank the board of works for installing those. He said maybe there is some evidence that people will speed between them but if you take them all out, they certainly are going to speed. He stated that the only thing he didn't get is on Spring Street that will require probably a 4-way stop with a flasher or a full traffic signal and he hopes that is something that the board will still consider at some point in the future. He said that if he had his way, he would have a 4-way stop at every other intersection throughout his district similar to what you have in suburbs. He added that you have to remember that his district is a residential neighborhood just like the 5th District or the 6th District except their streets were platted years ago wide and straight in an urban grid which allows for that faster traffic. He said that those suburban streets have curves and so forth that make it different. He also said that he would agree with what Mr. Turner said as far as we need some of those traffic calming things and nothing would please him more than to see a giant roundabout on Spring Street somewhere to slow that traffic down. He stated that it is a problem citywide that needs to be addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

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

URBAN ENTERPRISE – Mr. Phipps

Mr. Phipps stated that they did meet on Tuesday and that was the first time they had a public meeting since the pandemic started and the minutes were sent out and somebody questioned if they were the correct date. He said they were the correct date and they were 2019 minutes that they approved because their last meeting was in January of 2020. He said that they had been meeting virtually since then and he thinks that was included in those minutes that were sent out.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: Z-21-03 Vacation by Kevin Geron

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: Z-21-03 Vacation by Kevin Geron

Z-21-03	An Ordinance for the Vacation of an Easement Pursuant to a Petition filed by Kevin Geron	Applegate 1&2
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Mr. Applegate introduced Bill Z-21-03 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Applegate explained that the Gerons have owned the property since 1997 and Mr. Geron provided the council with some photos and drawings on what they are doing. He stated that he has talked to the city and the utilities about this easement and as of right now and in the future, there does not seem to be any need for this easement on the back of the property. He said that behind that is a creek and it doesn't look like there will be any further development. He stated that he did talk with Mr. Blair about a side street because he was worried it was the vacated area but it is not. He added that the Gerons have had an above ground pool in this area for about 10 years and now they would like to put in an in-ground pool. He stated that he did speak with Mr. Gibson about this and he saw zero issues with this vacation.

Mr. Caesar asked if all of the utilities have been notified so we know there are no issues there. He also asked if storm water was notified so we know there are no issues there either. He wanted to know if the neighbors have been notified of this as well.

Mr. Applegate stated that the neighbors on the side that is also touching this have been notified and Mr. Geron said that if he needed to, he could talk to the neighbors across the street. He said that from all accounts, there really shouldn't be any issues with anything because it is just putting in an in-ground pool and the natural drainage will still be there and it will not add any more water to this area as far as storm water is concerned.

Mr. Wood stated that all of the public utilities were notified, all of the private utilities were notified and they all came out and checked and they have no facilities there. He said that Mr. Geron has been very diligent in following through on his requirements and from a storm water standpoint, there will be no adverse effect so he recommends approval.

Mr. Blair stated that he had the opportunity to go out and view the property and the Gerons take immaculate care of their property. He said that it is a park-like setting and is really a showplace for the neighborhood so the property is in very good hands with the Gerons. He stated that in talking with Mr. Geron, he learned that he even called in the utility locators to make sure that there was nothing in that area. He said that he understands that there is property behind that so if the city ever needed to expand or run a sewer utility line through there, that property is there. He stated that it is a very good use for the property and he thinks it will enhance the property as well as the neighborhood.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: R-21-07 LGBTQ+ Pride Month

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: R-21-07 LGBTQ+ Pride Month

R-21-07 A Resolution Recognizing the Month of June as Collier
LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of New Albany

Mrs. Collier introduced R-21-07 and moved to approve, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor.

Mrs. Collier stated that she brought this resolution before the council tonight because she thinks it is very important for everyone in the community, especially the LGBTQ+ community, to know that we as a council are very accepting of everyone in the community. She said she also wants everyone to know that the council appreciates all of the contributions that everyone makes in our community as well as the need to be completely inclusive.

