

**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, JULY 21, 2016 AT  
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by Mr. McLaughlin at 6:00 p.m.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Lorch, Mr. Ham, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Gibson, Officer Davidson and Mrs. Glotzbach

**Mr. McLaughlin** clarified after reading a Facebook post and explained that this is a city council work session to update the council on storm water projects not a plan commission meeting. He stated that if they are looking to address that board their next meeting is August 16.

**Mr. Ham** stated that he would like to bring the council up to speed on what the storm water department does and what they are working on. He explained the services provided by their department are the maintenance of the system, response to citizen concerns and the master plan projects identified to reduce flooding. He stated that the master plan was completed in 2010 to identified a number of areas that had flooding issues and explained that the city has a permit through the state, which is required, and they have to remain in compliance for that permits. He stated that the system is spread out with over 3,000 catch basins, \$1.7M linear feet of conveyance that they maintain, and 250 storm water outfalls. He explained that the department has 10 hourly employees and 3 salaried employees who responsible for cleaning debris from catch basins, ditches, creeks, streets and streams. He stated that the data he is showing them is from 2010-2016 and to give them an idea of what a cubic yards is he explained that one cubic yard would fill two large green cans that residents use for weekly garbage. He explained that have cleaned out 7,793 (X2) worth of garbage from the catch basins in the last five years, the street sweeper has collected 10,512 cubic yards and the storm water vacuums cleans up 1,700 cubic yards of leaves every year. He explained that the repair and replacement of the system in that period included installation of 147 catch basins, 3,750 feet of pipe, and replacing a concrete swale at Greenbriar and Edgemont. He stated that additional duties require cutting back vegetation along the ditches and they average about 50,000 linear feet a year doing that. He explained that the JetVac is a piece of equipment that has really helped them be more productive and they were lucky to get it from waste treatment when that departmnet purchased a new one, and since 2014, they have cleaned over 13,000 feet of line. He explained the process for work orders coming in on the GIS system and pointed out on the map that there isn't a clear area of the city that is immune to problems with the storm system, so they try to update it on a regular basis so they have a handle on what they still have left to do. He stated that one of the ways they get their work orders is through call-ins and explained that they have been able to significantly reduce the number of calls during high rains since 2009, when there were over 500 calls during a large rain event. He gave a brief summary of the bond expenses and discussed the master plan. He explained that based on a scoring benefit placed on it there were 10 areas that rose to the top of the list and those were based on the amount of flooding in each area. He stated that as they started looking at each location they found that some of those projects that were called out were not doable because of one issue or another. He exampled the detention basin that they wanted to install at Pillsbury but when it went to the corporate level they decided not to commit to it at the time.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they acquired some land on the west side of Christian Academy that they were going to use for a retention basin instead of the one at Pillsbury.

**Mr. Ham** replied that he isn't aware of anything that they have purchased and explained that there are only a few areas that are large enough to sit a detention basin on. He stated that design wise they have looked at a couple of alternative locations that they hope work out. He clarified that Beach, Mold & Tool has their own detention basin and they discharge downstream of the detention basin on North Miede Drive. He explained that they looked at the Grantline Road culvert years ago and the cost was just over \$500,000.00 and today it is \$1.3M, but they came in pretty close on the Reno Avenue project and it has worked out very well. He stated that the most difficult project has been at 13<sup>th</sup> & Vincennes/ North Y. He explained that they had hoped to get started sooner but the railroad is holding them up. He stated that they had a failure last year where they lost a section of the road, they had to do an emergency repair, and now they are looking at about \$2.5 M to finish it.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they have used all the funding from the bonds.

**Mr. Ham** replied yes.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they should be looking at another bond issue.

**Mr. Ham** stated that he is sure it is worth discussing.

**Mr. Barksdale** asked where they are on the East 15<sup>th</sup> Street Project.

**Mr. Ham** stated that they are putting in 2,000 linear feet of pipe and they have already completed a portion of that when the roadway collapsed.

**Mr. Barksdale** stated that he has noticed the flooding at the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and Elm on several occasions.

**Mr. Ham** stated that it is definitely a hot spot and the project is going all the way from 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm Street to Beeler Street so that location will be addressed.

**Mr. Phipps** asked where that drains when it leaves the area.

**Mr. Ham** explained that there is a 6' stone channel that runs along Chartres or Clark and into an open ditch, he added that 15<sup>th</sup> and Elm has been a major problem for a long time. He presented photos of work that was done on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno Avenue & Market Street, the Grantline Road Culvert and north of Miede Basin.

**Mr. Caesar** asked if storm water is all gravity and no pumping.

**Mr. Ham** replied yes. He explained that creeks are the biggest mover in taking water off developments and neighborhoods. He stated that Falling Run is the largest creek in New Albany but there is also Middle Creek, Silver Creek and Jacob Creek. He explained that they have been working with the Corp of Engineers to study flooding along Falling Run and by partnering with them there is a 65/35 split in funding, but they are also very slow to respond to any request. He stated that New Albany is a Phase II municipality, which means that the population is less than 100,000 and the USEPA and IDEM regulate them through a NPDES permit. He explained that IDEM conducted audits of their permits and New Albany is in compliance. He stated that the USEPA will be making changes to the

permit process in late 2016, after a lawsuit, and one of the changes will require them to operate by rule.

**6:25 p.m. Mr. Coffey entered the meeting.**

**Mr. Blair** thanked Mr. Ham for his help on different projects and his response to citizens. He asked Mr. Gibson if there was some property acquired by Christian Academy.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that there were discussions but he doesn't think that it came to fruition.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the biggest issues is how to pay for these large projects. He explained that that over the years the erosion is getting worse along Mt. Tabor and the surrounding area and he would like to be pro-active before it gets to the point that there is major damage done to the houses. He brought up the Castlewood and Mellwood projects and asked for a status update on the engineering study and possible solutions.

**Mr. Ham** stated that they put in the detention basin that was funded by the council behind the church and it has done a good job, but there are rain events where they still see flooding. He explained that they asked Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz look at the area and give them some options. He stated that they found that the line between Ashwood and Dearwood is too flat because of the water coming down the hill and in order to relieve that issue they are looking at installing a relief line.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they gave a cost estimate.

**Mr. Ham** replied \$685,000.00 without a detention basin and with a detention basin it would be close to \$1M

**Mr. Barksdale** asked where they are on Martin Drive.

**Mr. Ham** stated that and Mr. Summers has asked JTL and Redwing Environmental to work together to try to come up with an acceptable solution. He explained that they have a couple of options that they are looking into at this point but he doesn't have a dollar amount for those.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he has heard plans for this for over 6 years and while they are always putting money in certain areas, they leave other areas with nothing but lip service. He explained that he wants to know what projects they are doing and if there are changes to that list, it needs to be brought back to the council.

**Mr. Ham** explained that he spoke with someone at the state level three years ago and was told they would get back with him. He stated that in the meantime, in order to clarify whose property it is, he had the county surveyor pull it up and he felt very confident in saying that it was a state issue, not a city issue.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that it was a safety issue and if it was the state's responsibility they should have stayed on them until something was done.

**Dr. Knable** asked if they had identified a list of 10 projects that they had to narrow to five or six.

**Mr. Ham** explained that there were more projects called out in the master plan but it was during the scoring that a top 10 list was identified, and some of those were eliminated due to various reasons

**Dr. Knable** asked what is next on the priority list if money weren't a question and if the list is still relevant or needs to be revamped.

**Mr. Ham** stated that Martin Drive is on their radar and they do have a detention basin designed to put behind the Salvation Army, but the cost is \$650,000.00 to have that done.

**Mr. Blair** asked if that would replace the one that was scheduled to go out at the fair ground location.

**Mr. Ham** replied no. He explained that on the one located south of Daisy they found that the people that owned the property are very sensitive to anyone messing with the ground grid. He added that the location across the creek is a much better option

**Dr. Knable** stated that he has received calls on Cherry Street and many others that they have discussed tonight but he has also received calls regarding the area behind Community Park. He explained that he walked the creek from Bentbrook to the park and saw quite a bit of erosion as well as some photos that were taken in the area with 12'-18' of water. He asked if this area was on the list or part of the comprehensive plan and if it isn't he thinks it needs to be looked at.

**Mr. Ham** stated that the project for Pillsbury would pick up quite a bit of water on that side.

**Dr. Knable** stated that this is coming from the south side where the tennis courts are.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that once the tennis courts were paved with asphalt they became impermeable and now everything runs off down north park towards those houses.

**Mr. Ham** stated that at one time there was discussion about trying to raise the level of the lake by using a detention basin to slowly catch the water going through the area.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he thinks that would alleviate some flooding on Grantline but not the area he is referencing. He asked Mr. Ham to put that location on his radar.

**Mr. Ham** stated that part of the Salvation Army project would give some relief from the water that is coming down that intersection and trying to go under the parking lot by the hospital. He explained that it would potentially scalp off some of the water from Summit, Home Depot and Wesley Commons.

**Dr. Knable** asked if he is correct in assuming that Summit Springs in its current state is going to dump more water than it will after construction.

**Mr. Ham** stated that they will have to control their runoff.

**Mr. Nash** asked if there is any money left in the bonds.

**Mr. Ham** stated that there is about \$2.5M

**Mr. Nash** asked what term was for that.

**Mr. Ham** replied 25 years.

**Mr. Nash** asked if he is 100% in charge of the street sweeping throughout the city.

**Mr. Ham** stated that the street department maintains the sweepers and they supply the operators to run it.

**Mr. Nash** presented some pictures of Larkwood that shows debris from trees, pollen and seedlings.

**Mr. Ham** stated that one of their goals this year was that whenever weather permitted to run the street sweeper, even during the winter.

**Mr. Nash** asked if it was possible to cut back the rest of the city once a month and do other areas in that time.

**Mr. Ham** explained that they have added a third route to addresses areas that aren't covered in the ordinance. He stated that this type of debris is a huge problem when fall or spring rains hit.

**Mr. Barksdale** asked where the state is on the completion of Cherry Street.

**Mr. Ham** explained that the last update they received stated that they have expended about \$1M to uncover the portion that had failed and they were able to open up the pipe. He explained that they have sheet piling driven on each side and had a firm come in to look at the interior of the pipe but he doesn't have the results from that. He suggested that if the state ever recommends that the city take over that area that they only agree after something new is installed because the pipe is in bad shape.

**Mr. Blair** asked if there is anything with more detail on the storm water and sanitation financials showing expenses.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the billing is done through municipal billing and it all come in one and then it is broken down with an adjustment each month for each department.

**Mr. Blair** asked for a code on the fund balances so they know which funds go to each department.

**Mr. Gibson** stated they should be getting a fund balance for each department that shows expenses and incomes and then they have the budget to actual.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would like to see it broke down between wages, operational expenses, repairs and maintenance.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they do not have a report that generates that data.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that a few years ago there was heavy flooding in the Brent Heights area that became continuous. He explained that they put that part of the subdivision in a flood plain and their insurance went through the roof. He stated that a lot of that could have been alleviated through maintenance of the creek and he doesn't want that to happen to other areas. He asked if those people are still in the flood plain where they have to pay high-risk insurance.

**Mr. Blair** stated that FEMA redraws those maps every ten years and if someone wants to get out of a flood zone they have to hire their own surveyor to do an elevation survey.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that Mr. Wood was supposed to be working on that but they didn't hear anything more about it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he feels like FEMA wanted to put more people in the flood plain so they got more flood insurance.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that the real problem is when they want to sell their house.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he maintains that they have to control storm water if they want to have a desirable community.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that they have been working on the same issues for 8-10 years and there are some areas where nothing has been done.

**Mr. Nash** asked if Mr. Ham could send a copy of the power point to them.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Pat McLaughlin, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk