

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,  
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON MONDAY,  
AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Amy Stein, Linda Moeller, 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. Caesar moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2021, Mrs. Collier second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Caesar moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2021, Mr. Applegate second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Caesar moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2021, Mrs. Collier second, all voted in favor with the exception of Dr. Knable and Mr. Blair who abstained.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Phipps** stated that the dates for the budget workshops have been finalized and they are all on Wednesdays with the first one being on September 1<sup>st</sup>, the second one is on September 8<sup>th</sup> and the last one is on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He said that they will be from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. He then asked the clerk to send those dates out officially in an email to the council members in the coming week.

**Mrs. Glotzbach** said she would do so.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that if you are following the media, the COVID Delta rates are pretty high in Floyd County as well as our surrounding counties so he encouraged everyone to please get vaccinated and wear a mask. He said that we want to get through this pandemic and get back to normal.

**Mrs. McLaughlin** stated that she just wanted to touch on the Delta variant because with the numbers rising, we are looking at about 57% of our state still not fully vaccinated so we definitely need to get out and make sure people are getting vaccinated.

**Mr. Turner** stated that Community Foundation of Southern Indiana mailed all of the council members a Priorities for Progress booklet and he read through it and highlighted some things in it. He said that there is some really good information in it about where our city has been and where we should be focused on for growth so if you haven't looked at it, it is awesome to see. He then stated that he doesn't know if it has been discussed in redevelopment but a lot of communities around us are using the American Rescue Plan

funds for bonuses for first responders. He believes that may be something that should be looked into. He said that he hopes there would be some stipulations on it and doesn't feel that elected officials, department heads or anyone that is on a paid commission should have it. He stated that if we are going to look into that, we would want to make sure that those people that were "boots on the ground" during the pandemic such as police, fire, street and storm water would get something. He said that they kept the city going and couldn't do everything by Zoom. He then stated that he looked at the contract with AMR and it says that we have 1 and ½ ambulances in the city which means one ambulance for 24 hours and an ambulance for 12 hours during peak times. He said that he is hearing from various people that they do still call out to New Chapel pretty regularly for more support and feels that is something that we need to address before the contract is up in 2023. He added that out of all of the services that people pay taxes for, this is a big one and he would hate to be in a car wreck and have to wait 30 minutes for ambulance service. He then stated that he sees no reason that these public meetings shouldn't be broadcast on social media because we should really embrace public input on this money that we are spending. He said that the public has more needs than we can realize and probably better ways to spend the money than we can think of.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he agrees with Mr. Turner as far as some of the spending of the American Rescue Plan funds be on first responders. He said that these people had to show up for their jobs and be there every day and couldn't work from home. He added that sometimes even if they didn't want to, they had to interact with other people. He said that he knows the county had a bonus plan for the health department workers and he thinks that we should do something very similar for the people who made the city work during that period. He then stated that he has had some concerns from citizens in the Farmgate neighborhood that specifically live along Slate Run Creek. He explained that back on July 12<sup>th</sup> we had a fairly large rainfall event and water actually got into the basement of one house. He said that a couple of houses had backflow preventers on their sewer lines so water was kept out of their houses, but there were numerous residences where the creek came up fairly close to their houses. He stated that they do live along the flood plain but there was a lot of water along the houses. He said that the person that had water in his house is filing a tort claim with the city to try to recover the cost for drying out the basement and items lost, etc. He stated that he is probably going to take a group of citizens and go in front of the storm water board and talk about Slate Run Creek because it is something that he has talked about before and he thinks there are some measures that the city may be able to do. He said that they are hoping for answers because it is a tough problem.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he is a big Olympics fan and the reason he is bringing that up is because mental health has been a big issue in the Olympics this year and he thinks it is going to transpire to our children when they get back to school. He said that he just wants to throw it out there for people to give some grace to those issues because he knows there was a lot of hate and stuff that went on with the gymnastics. He stated that he believes it would be tough to be in those positions. He also said that kids, parents and people in general go through a lot these days and there are a lot of tough times out there, so he thinks that it is good to give people grace and not cast a lot on people without knowing their true circumstances. He then stated that he was talking to a local a business and they brought up the variant that is coming back strong and asked him about a mask ordinance or mandates and things like that. He said that they were really in favor of wanting to do that for their business, but then again, if they had put that mask mandate out there because of their personal health reasons, it could cost them business. He stated that is a tough position to be in and that kind of goes hand in hand with his first part, because maybe the business owner has a health problem and they need to have a mandate or maybe they just want to. He said that he knows everyone has rights and he doesn't want to infringe on those rights, but in that case, it could hurt that business if you don't go in and that business could possibly not be around any longer if they want to have a

mask mandate or something. He stated that he just wanted to bring these things up because he believes there are times where we don't always look at things from other's points of view so if we can just give a little grace, he thinks it could work out well for everyone.

**Dr. Knable** asked if the budget meetings are going to be in-person or on Zoom. He said that Mr. Phipps is probably going to say if we are still under emergency in September they will be on Zoom and asked if that is correct.

**Mr. Phipps** replied yes and stated that as long as we are under the governor's emergency, we will continue to have Zoom meetings.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he wondered if at the next meeting the council could get an update on paving. He then stated that he wanted to comment on what Mr. Applegate said because we don't know where this pandemic is going at this point in time, so he would like to request that we all respect and support our local businesses and workers. He said that there is increasing pressure from an uncertain environment with COVID and finding employees is continuing to be difficult. He added that now we have the partial bridge closing starting, which is another underlying pressure, so shop local and eat local and be patient with folks because often times they are not staffed as fully as they would like to be.

**COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

**COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:**

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

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):**

**Mr. Andrew Nicholson** stated that he watches these meetings through Mr. Turner's Facebook page and he is correct that the city does have a great social media page. He said that he would benefit from watching them there rather than on a party member's because he could see that as being biased and not being fully transparent through the city. He then said that it is funny that everyone talked about COVID and mental health because last Wednesday there was a council member who went out and berated and abused a server at a local business.

**Mr. Phipps** asked Mr. Nicholson if he actually witnessed this.

**Mr. Nicholson** replied yes. He stated that he was actually pulled into it because his company represents their company on social media. He said that when these situations do arise, he does get called to maybe defuse the situation. He stated that upon getting down there, it was taken care of and the party member left after being asked to. He said that the council stresses mental health, tipping big, etc. and this council member scratched out a tip. He stated that this employee went through some mental health issues because of this. He said that he doesn't feel that it is right for the voice of people to be

lost to our city council members and then go ahead and give the responsibilities to another committee to assign money to be used by the state. He said that there is never any communications from the mayor or the city at these meetings. He then stated that the council cannot talk COVID and mental health as there are members on your leadership that were only elected by the party who just went last week and abused a locally owned business.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he did want to respond to Mr. Nicholson's comment about how the council member was appointed. He read Indiana Code, Title 3, Elections 3-13-5-1. It reads as follows : A vacancy in a legislative office shall be filled by a caucus comprised by the precinct councilmen from the district where the vacancy exists to represent the same political party that elected or selected the person who held the vacant seat. He explained that is what happened with the replacement of Councilman Pat McLaughlin and when he died, there was a caucus which consisted of the five precincts that represent the 4th District and they determined the candidate. He stated that a similar process occurred for the replacement of Prosecutor Henderson who died last year and then a similar process will occur for County Councilman Tom Pickett so a caucus is the only way a deceased Councilmember's seat is filled. He said that Indiana does not allow for special elections in these situations.

**Mr. Nicholson** asked if any of those replacements were a spouse of the person deceased.

**Mr. Phipps** replied no.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Greg Phipps, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk