

**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 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12,  
2015 AT 6:00 P.M.**

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

**PRESENT:** Council Members, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Baird, Mr. Gonder and President McLaughlin. Mr. Zurschmiede was not present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Lorch, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gardner and Mrs. Glotzbach

**Mrs. Moeller** stated that the budgets are the first pages and behind them are the budget to actuals.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they brought some of the smaller ones as far as going through tonight and he is still finalizing what he thinks will be the total number and should have it by the next meeting. He said that he expects a similar amount plus the growth factor of 2.6% of what was passed last year. He also said that the six month budget to actual is the starting area where the DLGF starts the 18 month period. He explained that the mayor's budget is \$183,965.00 this year and the only real change is the 2% growth in salaries and the PERF amount is increased slightly and is 11.2% which is the employer's contribution and we budgeted 10.2% last year so that calculation was slightly off.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that the salary line of \$123,235.00 includes the 2% raise and asked if all employees are going to get that.

**Mr. Gibson** replied yes and stated that the 2% also has a small ripple into social security and those kind of things.

**Mr. Caesar** then asked about health insurance.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he would discuss that at the next meeting and would do a breakdown of who uses HSA and who uses PPO.

**Mr. Gonder** asked who the \$123,235.00 covers.

**Mr. Gibson** replied the mayor and his administrative assistant. He then moved on to the controller's budget and said that the numbers in here for health insurance are the same as last year. He said she has an increase in contractual services for audit purposes because SBOA has increased their charges.

**Mr. Coffey** asked what they charge.

**Mr. Gibson** said he thought it was about \$180.00 per day.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that it used to be significantly lower.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that we could actually hire someone other than SBOA to do the audit.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that is correct.

**Mr. Coffey** asked if that is something that we could look at.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that we may be able to in the future. He then stated that there is a salary increase from \$171,998.00 to \$192,798.00 in the controller's budget which includes a salary for a new clerk in her office to assist with the new accounting revenues from the parks and those kinds of things.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked what that salary will be.

**Mrs. Moeller** replied that it will be between \$21,000.00 and \$22,000.00.

**Mr. Coffey** asked if we could get the parks to help pay another clerk's salary because the work is being generated from them.

**Mrs. Moeller** replied that it is something to look at but this has been our first season and we just want to budget a little extra just in case.

**Mr. Gibson** explained that the majority of the parks budget falls under the general fund so maybe looking at non-reverting aspects that may be able to fund a little bit of that if necessary.

**Mrs. Moeller** stated that SBOA went from \$45.00 per day to \$175.00 per day.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the two increases total around \$50,000.00.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked how many employees are paid out of controller department salaries.

**Mrs. Moeller** replied four. She then stated that putting some of the insurance money into her budget really helped in paying the claims and keeping the bills straight.

**Mr. Gibson** stated the next budget is for the city clerk and it includes the increase in salaries and PERF and that's all. He added that last year the council used part of their line item to start the scanning of the record books and that only took care of part of it. He explained that it was about \$20,000.00 total and last year the council authorized her to go ahead and get the new stuff scanned which was about \$10,000.00 so we probably need to address the other \$10,000.00 somewhere.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she didn't know what that came out of last year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it came out of the city council budget last year under the line item that was \$10,800.00 for contractual services and could be used out of that again this year.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thinks it should just be transferred over.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that if the money is setting there then he would like to see it done.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that if the council is okay with that then he will have the resolution at the next meeting to allow the clerk to continue the scanning project.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked if this is something that is going to have to be maintained to keep current every year.

**Mr. Gibson** replied that it probably would be so she can get a quote from her vendor and plug that number into the budget so that everything can stay up to date.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he would be happy to sponsor resolution.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the next budget is city council and 2% was figured into the salaries.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that this would be the year to vote on raises since no one is guaranteed to be here next year. He added that if the council wanted to decide what to do for the next four years then another council wouldn't have to worry about voting on their own salaries.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that that the council could think about it and get back with him on it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there is a reduction in contractual services and it went from \$20,765.00 to \$10,800.00 and asked if the money has already been moved over for the scanning project.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it was encumbered because the invoice probably wasn't paid until January so that's why it was \$20,765.00 instead of \$10,800.00.

**Mr. Blair** asked if asked if the council needed to hire an attorney would the \$10,800.00 be enough to hire legal counsel.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that if it is not, you could move money around.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it would be more up to what you anticipate. He added that it is probably not enough for a full blown lawsuit but it is probably enough for a legal outside opinion two or three times.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he is talking about a situation like contract negotiations.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that you can move it but why not budget for it.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if it is necessary for every department to have an item for a contingency of legal costs rather than having a pool.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they have one that they try to use all of the legal representation out of but there wouldn't be a need to do that with every other department because they fall under the umbrella of the city attorney department.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if there should be a general pool within the city attorney's budget as a contingency fund so that we know if we run into some kind of problem where we needed to hire outside legal assistance we could do so.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that we do kind of have that there already in the city attorney's budget.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that the council is a body unto itself and it is possible to put the council and the administration in a conflict of interest there.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding the contractual services line item in the city council's budget.**

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would like to see \$30,000.00 in that line item.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he would look at.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if the travel and pub/legal line items could be combined with contractual services because they haven't been touched this year.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that those line items are still needed.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there will be some new council members next year and they will want to attend some training.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that if the council wants to see that line item at \$30,000.00, he feels confident that he can make that happen. He then moved on to the city attorney's budget and stated that he didn't think there were any changes outside of the recalculation of the PERF which is about \$500.00.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked about the salary line item and if it was for his secretary only.

**Mr. Gibson** replied that is for his administration assistant and a part-time summer intern.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if his and Mr. Robison's salaries are paid out of contractual services.

**Mr. Gibson** replied yes.

**Mr. Gonder** asked why it is done that way.

**Mr. Gibson** replied because they are contractual and not formal employees.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if they are contractual employees what is the relationship between that and PERF and social security.

**Mr. Gibson** replied that there isn't one.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there are other contractual services being paid out of that besides yourself and Mr. Robison.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that when he hires an attorney to assist him in a certain matter, he has to pay them from that line item.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if the most that can go into reserve is \$400,000.00.

**Mr. Gibson** replied yes.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if there was any way to get a break down of what each department puts into reserve liability.

**Mr. Gibson** replied that he would see what he could do on that.

**Mr. Caesar** asked how many employees are in flood control.

**Mr. Gardner** replied six.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she thought some of his budget would come down.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it did.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that there was a 22% reduction from last year.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she sees where special projects are still \$1.3M and she thought that we were finishing out the flood control projects.

**Mr. Gardner** explained that pump project is coming to a close but there is another project in the works for concrete portions of the floodwall restoration.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if he thought that would be \$1.3M.

**Mr. Gardner** replied that he was hoping that it wouldn't be more than that. He said that really the only change in his budget is special projects and it went from \$2M to \$1.3M. He added that he did make minor increases in repair products and maintenance supplies. He said that he reduced equipment replacement by \$50,000.00.

**Mr. Caesar** asked if they have a budget to actual on this one.

**Mrs. Moeller** stated that the flood control funds do not go through the controller's office.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he could get a report.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if most of the pumps are done.

**Mr. Gardner** explained that he had to split the project in half due to time constraints and flood seasons and starting this season he has four pumps to be rebuilt. He said that as of yesterday, the largest motor of the four was reinstalled in the Falling Run pumping plant and today they were working on the pump at E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and should be finished by tomorrow. He stated that they would then put the one in at the E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street facility and the Chamber Street facility following that. He said that next week they will start going through punch list items and making sure all works were done and they will do any touch up work that needs it and then they will be done on schedule.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if they would all be done then.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that every pump will have been redone or replaced.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they have any responsibility in storm water or is it all flood control.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that there is a lot of overlap but flash flooding would be storm water.

**Mr. Blair** asked if he would have any responsibility if the Ohio River flooded and backed up in Silver Creek.

**Mr. Gardner** replied absolutely.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if there were to be a new collection basin built with a pump in it would that fall under your area as well.

**Mr. Gardner** stated the he didn't think so and that it would be more of a storm water issue. He explained that he visualizes it as it is storm water's responsibility to get the water to the creeks and flood control makes sure wherever it enters those creeks that it makes it all the way to the Ohio River.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that there is \$20,000.00 in reserve and asked if it was for reserve liability.

**Mr. Gardner** replied yes.

**Mr. Blair** asked if funding through flood control is through property taxes.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that flood control is its own taxing district. He added that it has a property tax component to it.

**Mr. Caesar** asked what the levee flood protection is.

**Mr. Gardner** explained that is what they use for smaller projects.

**Mr. Caesar** asked if that money is typically used every year.

**Mr. Gardner** replied yes.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked who the board advisor is.

**Mr. Gardner** replied the fire chief.

**Mrs. Baird** asked if professional services was for when you have to call in an engineer.

**Mr. Gardner** replied yes. He stated that the corp requires them to have an engineer on every project.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she likes that the budget came down but she would like for it to come down even more because this one has been a big budget for the past couple of years.

**Mr. Gibson** agreed that it is but it had unfortunately neglected for quit a long time. He added that we are getting to the point where things are being checked and maintained more routinely and doing the large projects like pumps should help with that in the future.

**Mr. Gonder** asked what the amount is that comes in since it is independently funded with the levy.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that it is rate driven and is .1053 off of the assessed value every year.

**Mr. Gonder** asked what that is in dollars.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he would get that for him. He added that he thinks it is kind of like the parks cum cap where it is just rate driven.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that we had to raise the levy when he needed more money.

**Mr. Gardner** replied no and stated that the levy is fixed. He added that he doesn't believe that the council has the ability to raise that because it is fixed by state statute.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked how you justify the budget going up so much last year.

**Mr. Gardner** stated it was cash on hand.

**Mr. Gibson** explained that there had been cash accumulated in there that had not been spent on previous budgets.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if he sees any cash being available at the end of this year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he thinks they are already factoring that into the proposed budget.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding flood control being its own taxing district.**

**Mr. Gonder** asked if this budget is cut does it help anyone else.

**Mr. Gardner** replied no.

**Mr. Gibson** then moved on to the building commission budget and stated that there was a reduction in salaries in and increase in contractual services because they really don't have room for another employee right now but he can use contractors to help with things like cleanups, board ups, grass cutting, exterminations, etc.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if that was a position that was eliminated or if it was a position that was approved and never filled.

**Mr. Gibson** replied that it was a position that was budgeted for but we could never fill due to lack of space.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if Mr. Brewer has an employee that is still being paid out of EDIT.

**Mr. Gibson** said he doesn't believe so but he will check.

**Mr. Caesar** asked how many salaries are being paid out of the salaries line item.

**Mr. Brewer** stated that it is five employees and one part-time.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that the contractual services deal has been working out very well and if there is any way possible, he would like to see that line item expanded. He added that it is unbelievable what they are getting done in the alleys.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he will take a look at it once he gets the numbers tighter.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked about the increase in other capital outlays.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that Mr. Brewer has a truck and they've added a little more in there to potentially get a couple of smaller vehicles to allow them do their jobs.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if they would be purchasing.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it would be a lease or a purchase.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if they were going to get one truck.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they would probably try to get two. He added that he thinks it is something that can be worked in the budget and doesn't hurt it. He said that last year's budget \$522,706.00 and this year's is \$534,560.00.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding buying or leasing trucks.**

**Mrs. Baird** stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Brewer for all of his hard work.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked how often the building commission meets.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he thinks it is as needed.

**Mr. Brewer** stated that it is as needed and he is trying to switch everything to the second half of the season.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked who the board's secretary is.

**Mr. Brewer** replied Ms. Mary Dodge.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that the council has not been receiving their minutes.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they will check on them. He then asked the council what information they wanted from Mr. Brewer for the next council meeting.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that they want a list of the demos for all of 2015 that have been done.

**Mr. Blair** stated that they also want to discuss how to clean up some of the commercial properties that have been vacated for a while. He added there is one in New Albany Plaza and some on Charlestown Road. He then stated that Mr. Brewer is doing a fantastic job and making the city look nice and asked if there is anything that he needs at this time.

**Mr. Brewer** stated that the council is helping a lot right now and increasing the contractual services line will help a lot.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that he is glad to hear that the contractual services is working well for Mr. Brewer because we can get some things done faster and less expensive by using contractors. He then asked Mr. Gibson if we have received any money from the county for animal control.

**Mr. Gibson** replied no.

**Mr. Caesar** asked how concerned should we be over this with raising the budget here again.

**Mr. Gibson** said that he needs to go back and look at the revenues to see how much they have truly given.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she has run into several county council members that would like to sit down with the council because the interlocal agreement says that the two bodies will come to terms on the budget. She asked if something could be set up.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that goes through the administration.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that the agreement says that the two bodies will come to terms on the budget because we are the financial bodies. She said that she was then told that letters have been sent to the president and he has not responded. She also said that she has never seen a letter sent to the council and would like a copy of the letter sent to the president. She explained that the council formed a committee on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for animal control and feels that at least the committee could sit down with them.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he would wait to see what they appropriate in their budget.

**Mr. Gibson** explained that Mr. David Hall presented the budget to the county council last week and they mentioned nothing about funding for this year. He said that the city has received around \$66,000.00 and it is supposed to be somewhere around \$250,000.00.

**Mrs. Benedetti** asked if the council could at least sit down with them.

**Mr. Gibson** said that he can't dictate what this body does but the problem is he doesn't see them trying to fix it and may want to renegotiate.



**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that she would like to see in detail what the animal shelter's revenue and expenses. She added that she wants to see the whole pool of money because she knows that people and other entities donate to it also.

**Mr. Gonder** stated that donations don't have anything to do with it.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that it subsidizes some of their budgets.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that some of those entities are to the point where they are ready to walk away and if we push them, they will walk away.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that it would be nice to know who those entities are.

**Mr. Coffey** asked if we pay the money upfront and then the county reimburses us their share.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that we operate it through our general fund.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that if the county wants to catch up to date then he doesn't have a problem negotiating but he doesn't feel we should renegotiate until they do something.

**Mrs. Benedetti** stated that maybe they will tell us something but she still feels like both bodies should sit down together because the agreement says that both financial bodies will set the budget.

**There was a lengthy discussion regarding exactly how much money the county is behind on the animal shelter.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Pat McLaughlin, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk