

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, HELD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 AT 6:45 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mrs. Moeller and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Knable called the public hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. and asked if anyone was there to speak on the following:

A-18-03 Ordinance for Appropriation of Riverboat Money for Blessings in a Backpack

Ms. Stephanie Watson, 9301 Clyde Court, Floyds Knobs, stated that she was present tonight to hear the final reading on the appropriation. She explained that they currently have 1,027 students that receive blessings in a backpack for this school year but have had six additional children added since that last total. She added that the number usually grows throughout the school year. She said that they provide for children in Floyd County that qualify for free and reduced lunch in the public schools and that they get the bag of food on Fridays so they have enough to eat over the weekend. She then shared a story about one child that has a mother that is dying of cancer and can't prepare his food for him so he can prepare his own food that he receives from the program. She said that is another example of why this program is so important.

Mr. Caesar thanked Ms. Watson for all of her hard work.

Dr. Knable stated that at lunch today, Ms. Watson gave a long litany of ways that she has reached out via the organization and encouraged her to continue to create dialogue with the county and not give up on that.

Mr. McLaughlin suggested that Ms. Watson look into the Community Foundation as well.

Mr. Coffey stated that as much money as this council and this city puts out on projects that have and haven't worked in the past, we should be able to fund this project every year without question because it is for the children.

Ms. Watson stated that 100% of that \$35,000.00 goes to providing food for our children in our community and she is very proud of that.

Mr. Mark Cassidy stated that it is a wonderful program and it's not that much money in comparison to a lot of things as Mr. Coffey pointed out but we have NAFC Schools and this money should be coming from the county. He said that as a taxpayer, he pays for all of the miles that the buses run in Floyds Knobs and everywhere else so this money should be coming from the county because we all pay into taxes. He stated that this council may have to eventually say no to make the county step up to the plate.

Mr. Aebersold asked Ms. Watson if she ever thought about going to the county.

Ms. Watson stated that they were denied. She said they told her that they are not talking with any non-profits right now.

Mr. Coffey stated that at the moment, the county's budget is \$4.5M in the red. He added that he doesn't see how but it is.

ADJOURN:

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

Al Knable, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk