

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**The meeting of the New Albany City Council was called to order by Mr. McLaughlin at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Lorch, Police Officer Nelson and Mrs. Glotzbach

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2015, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar, Mrs. Benedetti and Mr. Zurschmiede who were not present.**

**Mrs. Baird moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2015, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar, Mrs. Benedetti and Mr. Zurschmiede who were not present.**

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2015, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar, Mrs. Benedetti and Mr. Zurschmiede who were not present.**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he wanted to revisit abolishing roadblocks because he has since found out that it has cost three organizations over \$40,000.00 per year and those organizations serve the needy. He said that he thinks it should be mandated for non-profits only. He said that he would really like to look at this because it cost the Salvation Army close to \$20,000.00. He added that his organization generally raises somewhere between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00 for the WHAS Crusade for Children and cannot meet that goal without it. He also added that another sports group used to raise about \$10,000.00 and they don't have that ability anymore. He explained that at the time, he thought it was a good thing because it was done for safety issues but feels that it can be worked out so that it can still be done.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that it wasn't done to penalize any groups but for safety reasons.

**Mr. Coffey** said that in doing so we did penalize some groups.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he voted against the ordinance because he felt that it would be detrimental to some fund raising efforts but the council was concerned with safety issues.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that the board of works was really in support of the ordinance so he went forward with it.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he understands that but we have taken the ability for these organizations to raise funds and they cannot replace it.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that people are not paying attention as much as they used to when driving because of texting or talking on cell phones, etc.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he thought about maybe not letting them enter traffic until it stops and get back to the corner before it starts again.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would be in support of it if Mr. Coffey wants to revisit and add safety features and regulations.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked if they had to have a permit to do this.

**Mrs. Glotzbach** stated that they did have to have permits. She said the organizations would appear before the board of works and request permission and if approved, they would receive a permit.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if he was referring to having a 501c3.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that if that is what classifies as non-profit.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that he was in Hamburg when Silver Creek was trying to collect money for football and there were parents and children darting in and out of traffic and it was very unsafe.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he saw a 70 year old Shriner almost get hit on Silver Street and Spring Street and that's why he brought forth the ordinance.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he would like to revisit it with safety parameters in place.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that there has only been one particular denomination that has been represented in giving prayers at the council meetings and he feels that if we are going to continue this practice that he voted against then we need to get some diversity of religion involved so that it doesn't appear that we are supporting only one particular denomination.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he was not aware of that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he talked with the owner of the old Hardee's building, the property manager and a gentleman with CBRE Real Estate and they think that they are getting fairly close to getting a user for that property. He did ask them to trim the landscape, pick up the trash and put notices on cars and vehicles that are parked there for long periods of time and he thinks they are going to try to do some of those measures. He also said that he personally sent the owner a letter asking him to take better care of the property and even consider demolishing it but he doesn't feel that will happen unless we take action and force the issue. He said that Mr. Gibson was going to look into the codes and it may be something that we may ask our council attorney to also look into.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if they own the entire property.

**Mr. Blair** replied yes.

**Mr. Gonder** stated that is where the mistake was made because we had the expansion of Kroger coming and we could've used the opportunity to tie it up because that was beneficial to him. He explained that we could've used that as an opportunity to pry that property loose or put it under a different state of repair. He added that we should not miss that again if a similar situation comes up.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he agrees and said that if they need our help from a city standpoint in redesigning that whole area, we should have had some leverage in our conversations with them.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that he didn't think that one person owned the entire property.

**Mr. Blair** explained that he doesn't own the Kroger piece, he just owns the strip center. He stated that the owner is talking to two different companies and one company wants to demolish the building and build a new structure there and the other one wants to take the existing structure and remodel it because they claim that the inside of the structure is in pretty good shape.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that we could do something about the semi-trucks parking there because he believes there is an ordinance on that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that it is private property so the property owner has to do it.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that it is commercial property so it is between them and the owner.

**Mr. Blair** stated that when the property manager comes over she puts notices on vehicles asking them to move.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked if he said anything to her about people using it as a parking lot.

**Mr. Blair** replied yes and stated that's why she said she would put notices on the vehicles. He added that she does have the right to have them towed.

**Mr. McLaughlin** suggested that she put signs up that say no overnight parking.

**Mr. Phipps** suggested that it say no parking any time.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he was thinking that we should draft a letter from the group asking them to take certain measures. He then asked Mr. Lorch if they could get together and go through the code to see if there is anything we can do.

**Mr. Lorch** stated that they could do that.

**Mr. McLaughlin** said they could possibly form a committee.

**Mr. Coffey** said that ordinance states that you can only park your own RV on your own property for a certain amount of time and if it is not under structure then it is in violation of code and he feels that would apply to those trucks.

**Mr. Blair** stated that Mr. Gibson told him that trucks can be parked in a parking lot and the only one that can enforce towing or removing it is the owner.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that they shouldn't be allowed to board up properties and should have to have the utilities on like in other communities and you'd be surprised how fast the

banks start turning loose of those properties. He added that the plywood looks so bad on that property and it looks bad on other properties in the city.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he would support that.

**Mr. Gonder** stated that he thought it was in the ordinance that it has to be boarded up if it is vacant.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that it has to be secured.

**Mrs. Baird** stated that she had some conversations with some friends because the people next door to them just walked away and left their property and another one was foreclosed on so they are worried about two homes that are very close to them being abandoned. She added that they don't look bad right now but as time goes by they are worried that they will.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that an alley in his precinct had been milled but due to a change in personnel, they forgot to pave it. He said that they did get back pretty quickly to pave it.

**Mr. Gonder** asked if MAC has the entire paving contract.

**Mr. Coffey** said that goes through the board of works.

**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):**

**Dr. Luanne Jensen** passed out a letter inviting the council to come to the New Albany/ Floyd County Animal Control meeting on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the animal shelter at 7:00 p.m. She explained that the meeting is going to be to address the 2016 budget between the city and county and they are inviting all of the members of the city and county councils.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked what the county has thus far come up with as a number for the budget.

**Dr. Jensen** replied that they haven't given them a solid number yet.

**Mr. Coffey** asked if the county is wanting to negotiate with us.

**Dr. Jensen** replied no and stated that this is just to talk to each other because that is what is supposed to happen based on the interlocal agreement.

**Mr. Coffey** stated that we are funding our portion so he doesn't see the point.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Pat McLaughlin, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk