

**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 MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Police Officer Watson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Sartell, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Moeller, and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Knable 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. Phipps moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2018, Mr. McLaughlin second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Caesar who was not able to attend the public hearing.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2018, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Dr. Knable reminded everyone of the meeting at Scribner Middle School tomorrow evening at 5:30 p.m. with a presentation at 6:00 p.m. on the forthcoming bridge closure in 2021. He then said he received some communications about some mayhem on Mt. Tabor Road because someone hit one of the larger brick signs at Oakwood Drive. He said that he was asked to discuss this and Police Chief Bailey was on the email thread and he thought he responded in a very professional and efficient manner. He stated that the street department cleared the wreckage and the board of works is going to look into whether or not anything needs to be done with regards to signage because there have been some reports of people going the wrong way there. He added that it was a job very well done by the people who were communicated with on that email thread.

Mr. Nash stated that as the specific incident went, it doesn't seem that the driver was with it to begin with because he drove into a wall and then drove around a little bit with a brick under his car so signage or not, there is no telling if it would have deterred that driver.

Mr. Blair stated that those brick subdivision signs were just rebuilt.

Mr. Barksdale stated that he had contacted Mr. Thompson and he said that he would get in touch with the contractor that had recently rebuilt those.

Mr. Thompson stated that he did contact him and he is going to look at.

Mr. Blair asked if we can get the driver who caused the damage to pay for it.

Mr. Thompson stated that they did get the person but he is not sure about that.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that they can do that because that happened a couple of times at the Veteran's Memorial on Market Street and they charged the drivers for the damage.

Mr. Blair stated that he doesn't know what the process is but he would definitely encourage seeing if we can charge the driver.

Mr. Thompson stated that there is a process with it being city property.

Ms. Stein stated that she would also say that there is criminal restitution so if this person gets charged criminally, the prosecutor's office could be asked to make it a condition of their probation to pay the city back.

Dr. Knable stated that he spoke with the mayor as well as Mr. Gibson and they are both in favor of expanding the human rights commission board to seven members in an effort to create greater diversity. He said that Mr. Phipps has agreed to sponsor that ordinance and he feels it would be beneficial to have a co-sponsor if someone would like to help Mr. Phipps out with it. He also said that Mr. Warren Nash is going to be writing that in conjunction with Mr. Gibson.

Mr. McLaughlin volunteered to co-sponsor that with Mr. Phipps.

Dr. Knable stated that Mayor Gahan asked for two members of the council to help him with discussions on a Rails to Trails initiative from the State of Indiana. He said that the mayor specifically asked for Mr. Matt Nash and he volunteered himself because he has had ongoing communications with the state for about a month and a half with regards to the release of those funds. He also said that he wasn't going to release too many specifics because he thinks the mayor deserves to make a larger announcement on this. He explained that the state is releasing up to \$90M with regards to Rails to Trails initiatives and the city does have property that would qualify for that. He added that it is not really an official ad hoc committee at this time but the mayor would like some input back and forth so that we can make a good case for the state. He also added that maybe after the initial meeting, an official ad hoc committee can be put together.

Mr. Caesar stated that this could be a pretty big deal for New Albany with the beginning of the trail being here and with the audience that we have with it being in the metropolitan area. He explained that it is a 63 mile long trail with no motorized vehicles and will be for bikers and walkers. He said that if everyone buys into it, you would be able to get on the trail at any point from here to Mitchell. He also said that events could come out of this as well as walking fundraisers and our community would be the beginning of it which would be a real shot in the arm for us.

Mr. Blair asked if it would start at Pillsbury.

Mr. Caesar stated that it would start north of Mt. Tabor Road.

Mr. Phipps asked if it would not include the downtown area at 15th Street.

Mr. Caesar stated that it would not because that railroad is not abandoned yet but the downtown portion would become more feasible.

Mr. Blair stated that it will be a long-term commitment for whoever is going to be on the committee because it will span past this council's term.

Dr. Knable stated that it is just kind of forming up at this moment to try to flesh things out.

Mr. Blair stated that it is kind of nice for that person to have the continuity of being there at the start and carrying it out to the end.

Mr. Coffey stated that he is comfortable with Dr. Knable being the appointment because this is his type of deal.

Dr. Knable stated that he hesitates to volunteer himself from the president's post but he knows some people from the state that have been involved with this for a while. He said that he would like to flesh this out with at least one more person and will probably make himself very temporary on it.

Mr. Blair stated that Dr. Knable shouldn't limit himself just because he is president right now and if he has an interest in doing it, he should pursue it. He added that he thinks he would be a good member for that committee.

Dr. Knable stated that without getting too political in a political body, he thinks anytime someone in this body takes on a challenge it is worth noting. He then announced that Mr. Coffey is running for mayor as an Independent and congratulated him for taking on such a challenge. He said that it is a personal commitment for the individual and their family to decide to run a campaign for office.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that the final Bicentennial Park Concert for the year is on Friday, October 5th and the next day will be the Harvest Homecoming Parade. He also stated that the mayor wanted to ask the council to appoint a small committee to begin discussions on the new opportunity for the Rails to Trails route from New Albany going northward. He explained that it is 63 miles long and the traverse is along the recently abandoned CSX route through some of Indiana's most scenic and natural landscapes. He said that the mayor also wanted him to mention that he is very excited about Governor Holcomb's initiative to dedicate \$90M for the trail funding throughout the state. He added that they released a video about it on the city's website today and sent out a press release.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Rob Sartell stated that they have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with AFSCME who is looking to represent the utility workers and that meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Coffey stated that he heard that two utility workers were hurt and wanted to know how badly they were hurt.

Mr. Sartell stated that he can't go into detail.

Mr. Coffey asked why not.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that it is under investigation with OSHA.

Dr. Knable stated that at this point, he just wants to wish them a speedy recovery.

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

HORSESHOE BOARD – Mr. Aebersold and Mr. Caesar

Mr. Aebersold stated that they are very much concerned about the bridge being closed because it hurt their business the last time. He said that even if it is just closing down one lane, the traffic will be horrendous in this area and they are very concerned. He said that he hopes that the mayor will be at the meeting tomorrow night and feels that the council should be there also to voice concerns. He stated that since they have been working with engineers on this project for the last several years, they probably have their minds made up but he is going to the meeting anyway to voice his opinion.

Dr. Knable asked if he knows if Mr. Striegel is going to be there.

Mr. Caesar stated that the only thing he has spoken with him about is that he felt that he should write a letter specifically to the state.

Mr. Aebersold said that he thinks he has been in touch with the state. He also said that the council should help the city out on this if they can.

Dr. Knable stated that he plans to be there.

Mr. Coffey asked if Horseshoe had any ideas on how to minimize the impact of it.

Mr. Aebersold stated that it is not going to be good for them or any of the businesses in New Albany. He then reported that the board did have a list of 30 or more fall grants and they reviewed them so they will be coming up in the next month or so.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – Mr. Barksdale

Mr. Barksdale stated that they did have two meeting last month and reported on the following items:

- Approved a project agreement with Millennium Builders for two infill dwellings at 523 Elm Street and 2003 Culbertson Avenue, contingent upon adjustments to the grade elevation and pending BZA approval for the Culbertson Avenue site.
- Awarded the contract for the Griffin Recreation Center Improvements Project. (mechanicals – HVAC, gym floor replacement, etc.)
- The director was given approval by the commission to negotiate the purchase of seven properties located in blighted areas on Vincennes Street.
- Our second meeting was mostly dedicated to an informational session giving updates on NARC projects, TIF information and brainstorming for the future.

Mr. Caesar asked if they have gotten word on when the old Tommy Lancaster's property will be breaking ground.

Mr. Barksdale stated that it is a go and he thinks the city has paid all of the bills as far as the cleanup that had to be done because it was contaminated.

Mr. Coffey asked if they said where the TIFs are financially.

Mr. Barksdale stated that they provided the reports.

Mr. Coffey asked if they stated where they were financially.

Mr. Barksdale replied yes, they did but he doesn't have that information in front of him.

Mr. Coffey asked what kind of shape they said they were in.

Mr. Barksdale stated that there weren't any red flags or anything like that and they seemed to be in good shape.

Dr. Knable asked when they got their most recent updates on those.

Mr. Blair stated that they received those back in January. He then asked Mr. Barksdale if he knew what any of the ending cash balances or spend rates are on those.

Mr. Barksdale replied no but stated that he is sure that Mr. Staten would be happy to share those.

Mr. Blair stated that he would like to ask him to share those with everyone. He then stated that he assumes that a lot of the projects Mr. Barksdale spoke of are coming out of the CDBG funds.

Mr. Barksdale replied yes and stated that Griffin Street was definitely CDBG.

Mr. Blair asked if they usually have around \$150,000.00 for CDBG.

Mr. Barksdale stated that is correct. He then said that he would ask Mr. Staten to get the TIF reports to Mrs. Glotzbach and then she can send them out to everyone.

Mr. Coffey stated that it would actually be nice if he could come in if that would be okay with the council because there are some questions there.

Dr. Knable stated that would probably have to be in November. He then asked Mr. Barksdale if he had any further information on the Moser Tannery.

Mr. Barksdale stated that the RFP is out and the due date on it is October 22nd or 23rd.

Dr. Knable asked if they are looking to stabilize it.

Mr. Barksdale stated that it is very general and just shows what we have down there and asked for proposals and ideas of what can be done but he doesn't think that anything has been turned in yet. He said that there does seem to be some interest because Mr. Staten has received numerous calls on it.

Dr. Knable asked if there has been any further deterioration of the property.

Mr. Barksdale said he thinks there has been a little more.

Mr. Blair said that the feedback he has received is that it is going to be very hard to save that building.

TREE BOARD – Mr. Streips

Mr. Barksdale stated that Mr. Streips postponed his presentation.

Mr. Coffey asked if anyone has ever contacted the Purdue Center about looking at our tree situation.

Mr. Barksdale stated that they do keep Purdue in the mix but the tree inventory and such was not something that Purdue could do because they had to have a professional company come in and do the tree analysis.

Mr. Coffey stated that when he read the report, it said that some of these trees could be saved but he feels that the Ash trees are gone and we are real close to losing our Pine trees.

Dr. Knable pointed out that there was a 2-3 page section on the Ash tree situation in the report.

Mr. Barksdale explained that the trees have been prioritized as far as what needs to be taken out immediately, etc.

Mr. Coffey stated that this should have been done three or four years ago because we are past the tipping point now. He then asked if it wouldn't be better to take all of them out and start over again as opposed to try to save trees that more than likely are not going to be able to be saved.

Dr. Knable said he thought that was one of the options listed within the report.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: A-18-04 (One Southern Indiana)

COMMUNICATIONS-PETITIONER: A-18-04 (One Southern Indiana)

A-18-04 Ordinance for the Appropriation of Riverboat Funds for One Southern Indiana Blair/Coffey 3

Mr. Blair introduced A-18-04 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor. Bill A-18-04 becomes Ordinance A-18-16.

Mr. Blair stated that he appreciates everyone's support on this and just feels that this will be a big asset because they will actually get a return on their investment.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Al Knable, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk