

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 21, 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, Shane Gibson, Linda Moeller 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:

Dr. Knable moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2021, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor.

Dr. Knable moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2021, Mr. Applegate second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Applegate moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2021, Dr. Knable second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Blair moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2021, Mr. Aebersold second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Phipps stated that the next meeting will be our first meeting in the new city hall and we will meet there at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 1st. He said that it will be a very joyous occasion indeed. He then stated that he would like to have the safety committee meet sometime during the week of November 1st. He said that the committee consists of himself, Mr. Applegate and Mr. Aebersold. He stated that in the meantime, the mayor is going to meet with the CEO of Baptist Floyd to find out more about the hospital delays for ambulances and we are going to get some data from the fire chief. He said that since he is president, he probably shouldn't be chairing the committee so he asked Mr. Applegate if he would. He also asked him to contact the mayor's office and see what's convenient for them for the week of November 1st and see if we can agree on a date to meet, so we can get some data and move forward on this ambulance situation.

Mr. Applegate said that he will do so.

Dr. Knable asked if anyone else received the packet regarding Eagle Lane and Eagle Court from Mr. Mark Schaefer.

Mr. Turner said that he did not.

Mr. Applegate stated that he did.

Dr. Knable stated that it is in Mrs. Collier’s district and suggested that maybe this week they should get together to go there. He said that he has driven down there and Mr. Gibson has been trying to help with regards to answering questions with regards to that as well. He stated that they have some legitimate concerns and he thinks that the administration is trying to help allay some of those concerns so maybe before the next meeting the three of them can get down there together and try to look that over. He said that they can bring information back to the council on it.

Mr. Applegate stated that would work for him.

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

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-21-03 Non-Reverting Budgets

No one signed up to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-21-03 Non-Reverting Budgets

**A-21-03 An Ordinance to Fix the Non-Reverting Budgets Caesar 3
for the Year 2022**

Mr. Caesar introduced A-21-03 and moved to approve the third reading, **Dr. Knable** second, all voted in favor with the exception of **Mr. Turner** who voted no. **Bill A-21-03** becomes Ordinance A-21-11.

Mr. Caesar stated that there really isn’t a whole lot to discuss on this. He said that it is basically the same as it was last year. He stated that the total amount for the non-reverting budgets is \$1,905,375.

Mr. Turner stated that due to him not receiving budget items of contract services and contract legal amongst all the departments from Mrs. Moeller and being forced to do a public records request, he will be voting no to this budget.

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-21-04 General Fund and Other Budgets

No one signed up to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-21-04 General Fund and Other Budgets

**A-21-04 An Ordinance to Fix the General Fund and Applegate 3
Other Budgets for the Year 2022**

Mr. Applegate introduced A-21-04 as amended and moved to approve the third reading, **Mr. Caesar** second, all voted in favor with the exception of **Mr. Turner** and **Dr. Knable** who voted no. **Bill A-21-04** becomes Ordinance A-21-12.

Mr. Blair moved to amend the budget to add an increase of an additional \$500,000.00 for paving with \$250,000.00 coming from LRS and \$250,000.00 coming from EDIT, Mr. Turner second, all voted in favor.

Dr. Knable asked if we have some updates since the last meeting in regards to paving and EMS funding.

Mr. Blair stated that he was going to make an amendment to increase the paving budget and asked if they wanted him to do that now or if Mr. Applegate wanted to continue on with his presentation.

Mr. Applegate stated that he was just going to say that it is the same as was discussed in the previous meetings and that Mr. Gibson is on the meeting to address any discussions that took place at the last meeting.

Dr. Knable stated that he was hoping that they would find some real additional funding to put towards EMS so he is hoping to hear something concrete about that.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have had discussions and the mayor is agreeable to Mr. Blair's recommendation of another \$500,000.00 for paving which will come out of LRS and EDIT.

Mr. Blair stated that he thinks he has to make a motion to increase the budget by \$500,000.00. He asked Mr. Gibson if he wanted him to make the motion now or if he wanted to talk about EMS.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are obviously agreeable to the paving adjustment but with respect to EMS, he thinks that Mr. Phipps mentioned that they are more than willing to meet with the public safety committee to determine what, if any step, is necessary do that. He said that throwing potential extra money at AMR and/or another ambulance service without a little more data seems a little premature at this point. He added that if it is the consensus from a public safety standpoint then an additional appropriation is appropriate at that time. He said that he doesn't believe there is a consensus yet nor has there really been a full blown discussion on it. He also said that he knows that the mayor has a meeting with the president of Baptist Floyd on Wednesday and he is sure that this will be discussed and that information can obviously be conveyed to the public safety committee.

Dr. Knable stated that he is going to repeat something that Ross Perot said which is "sometimes when you see a snake you need to just kill it and not form a committee about snakes". He said that he thinks there needs to be a sense of urgency on this. He also said that we have been collecting data on it for over a year with regards to calling in and with regards to delays and things like that. He stated that he knows there were some discrepancies that he looks forward to seeing worked out with regards to when the mayor meets with the hospital administrator. He then asked where this money is going to be pulled from in next year's budget cycle if it is found out that we need it. He said that there is a committee of the whole here tonight and he would like to get into this a little further and see if we can get some sort of consensus on it. He stated that if we are willing to bump paving up \$500,000.00, why not set \$150,000.00 of that in reserve until next summer in case this COVID crisis isn't over and we have more transportation needs.

Mr. Blair stated that with his proposal, estimated ending balances would be about \$600,000.00 left in Riverboat and about \$1M left in EDIT. He said that those are our discretionary funds so that is \$1.6M that would be available for situations like funding for ambulances if necessary. He stated that Mr. Gibson does a great job in doing projections and estimates and that gives us the information to make decisions like increasing the budget for paving and will still have adequate funds if we need emergency funds for

ambulances. He said that he agrees with putting it in committee because he feels it is a little premature to just fund ambulances. He wants to make sure that the appropriate conversations are had and just let the committee meet and decide how to proceed with the ambulance issue. He said that it could just be the matter of a back log at the hospital and just like Mr. Gibson said, there are a lot of things that could come out of the discussion with the hospital.

Dr. Knable stated that he agrees there is money in the budget but he doesn't believe that a state of urgency has been appropriately created about this particular issue. He said that he thinks these meetings could have taken place much sooner than next week.

Mr. Blair stated that he would like to go ahead with his amendment to add \$500,000.00 for paving.

Mr. Gibson stated that as far as the statutory requirement, the mayor's office and administration is acceptable to the addition of the additional line items for paving being added to the budget.

Mr. Blair stated that he appreciates all of Mr. Gibson's work on this and by increasing the paving budget by \$500,000.00, it gives us \$3.4M for paving and he thinks that they can really expect to receive another \$1M from Community Crossings, so that would give us \$4.4M. He said that he has had conversations with INDOT in Seymour and they said that we should be using somewhere between \$4M-\$5M on a yearly basis on paving in order to just maintain our roads. He also said that he would like to see some work done on sidewalks. He stated that he thinks it is important to have good infrastructure with our superior housing and he thinks that is what sets New Albany apart from our surrounding communities. He said that he just wants to keep the paving effort going and said that Kaywood Drive is in his neighborhood and before he was on council and before the current administration, they came in and put down just another layer of asphalt to save cost. He stated that the asphalt actually went into the drains and it made the drainage look bad and messed up the curb cuts on the driveway aprons. He also stated that a couple of years ago Oxford Drive was milled and repaved correctly and it is astonishing to look at how it changed the neighborhood. He said that those are the kind of things that he wants to see with the paving effort. He also said that he thinks Clark Dietz does a nice job of keeping an inventory and deciding what roads need to be paved.

Dr. Knable stated that he wanted to make an amendment to set aside \$150,000.00 until July 1, 2022 in reserve for extra ambulance funds to be used at council's discretion upon recommendation of the safety committee if they find that is required or necessary for public safety. He said that he knows there are other funds that they supposedly can get in and out of, but he would like to create a sense of urgency around this tonight and have this question answered rather than kicked down the road.

Mr. Turner stated that he would second the amendment. He then asked Mr. Gibson if the public safety committee was involved in 2020 when the ambulance contract was signed.

Mr. Gibson replied no and stated as far as going back, he needs to understand what Dr. Knable's amendment is because as he indicated earlier, the only amendment to increasing line items that the administration is acceptable to right now is paving. He said that this would require the approval and acceptance or recommendation from the mayor's office to increase a line item, so he is trying to figure out what Dr. Knable's amendment is reserving from such as a balance, another fund or what?

Dr. Knable stated that he would like to get such approval to increase the budget by that amount. He said that he realizes that it is the midnight hour on this but he feels as strong

about this as he has about anything since he has been on the council, so that issue needs to be addressed. He also said that he thinks that they can agree that political committees are not the most adroit or speediest mechanisms for handling such things. He stated that if the mayor's office is not available at this hour, he understands such and they will just proceed with the budget as proposed.

Mr. Turner asked if he is going to withdraw from proposing the amendment.

Dr. Knable replied that if the mayor is not here tonight in order to do that then yes, he is withdrawing that.

Mr. Turner stated that the public safety committee was not involved in 2020 when we wrote this contract and asked if that is correct.

Mr. Gibson stated that contract negotiations are between the administration and the vendor so that is correct.

Mr. Turner stated that on May 25th after multiple concerns from people, he sent Mr. Gibson an email and asked about the AMR contract so he knows at least five months ago he started bringing this up. He added that he didn't bring it up until after he heard some complaints and over the last few months he has brought up concerns over ambulance services in several council meetings. He stated that last week he asked about a mutual aid agreement and asked Mr. Gibson if we have an agreement with EMS or does AMR have an agreement.

Mr. Gibson stated that AMR has services in Louisville that they call upon when necessary and needed and also our dispatch will call New Chapel, which unfortunately is the only other ambulance service in this area. He added that New Chapel is often called when necessary if additional ambulances are needed.

Mr. Turner asked if that is a mutual aid agreement.

Mr. Gibson stated that is an agreement or a call from dispatch to New Chapel to assist when necessary.

Mr. Turner stated that he was wondering because he saw in the paper or maybe on the press release that someone from the city said that we have a mutual agreement and it doesn't sound like we do. He said that he also asked for drop-off data and it seems that there is drop-off data but he did not receive that.

Mr. Gibson stated that Mr. Turner requested that a day and a half ago as they were preparing for budgets.

Mr. Turner stated that budgets are done.

Mr. Gibson stated that information will be made available to Mr. Turner when they get to it.

Mr. Turner stated that the reason he brought that up is because it sounds like in the News and Tribune that the five hour timeframe mentioned in the press release was more of a statistical outlier like an anomaly than it is the normal day-to-day. He added that it is disappointing because it seems that we use that five hour timeframe to point our fingers at our emergency room frontline nurses and hospital.

Mr. Gibson stated that is completely inaccurate and not correct at all. He said that wait times are over an hour and the president of Baptist Health even agreed that the average

wait time for an ambulance is over an hour. He said that is an average so that means there are outliers there and underliers also in that.

Mr. Turner asked if averages were brought up in the press release.

Mr. Gibson stated that Baptist brought up that information but they did not supply them with that information.

Mr. Turner stated that the city press release said five hours typically and 290 minutes was the average that was brought up in the press release.

Mr. Gibson stated that was one of the timeframes that AMR indicated that they did experience.

Mr. Turner stated that there are some other reasons why he knows we need more ambulances. He said that when the fire department had the ambulance service, we had two ambulances and were also supported by two Yellow ambulances for transport and other ambulance needs. He stated that now we have by contract one and a half ambulances and he doesn't know how after a decade and a half we could go from four to one and a half. He said that he knows we have grown so that's a concern.

Mr. Gibson stated that the fire department actually had only one ambulance. He said that they had two at one time, but before they were finished and no longer did it, they only had one. He said that AMR or Rural Metro was another service that provided ambulance services to the communities of Floyd County and Clark County and assisted when necessary. He stated that it was not four dedicated to the City of New Albany back then but one with the fire department before they finished their tour of duty with ambulance service.

Mr. Turner asked what it was like before they finished.

Mr. Gibson stated that they had two at some point and the fire department personnel ultimately became burned out and no longer wished to do it so it did go to one, but we never experienced any type of timeframe issues like we are unfortunately experiencing now. He said that's why he thinks there are numerous factors that could go into that including whether it is AMR, whether it is a need for a new ambulance, whether it is ER wait times, whether it is staffing issues, which have all been agreed upon and stated by the hospital. He stated that is why he thinks it is prudent to have the committee look at it.

Mr. Turner stated that he does agree with a committee. He then said that his last concern, which should be a concern for most people, is that the public safety here in the city is a big red flag for him. He stated that we are low on cops (down about 10), we have aging fire trucks and one and a half ambulances. He said that we have to take public safety seriously and he agrees with Dr. Knable that this committee should have happened months ago when we started getting complaints and he brought it up in council meetings. He stated that we are five months behind on this and probably even longer.

Mr. Blair stated that he is concerned about the urgency but wanted to remind everyone that they have the ability to call a council session with 48 hours' notice. He thinks that the majority of them would be willing to attend a session if the council needs to take action based on something that comes out of the committee.

Mr. Turner stated that if Dr. Knable could go ahead and do that amendment and the council approves it and the mayor doesn't want to do it, then let him veto the budget. He asked if that was possible.

Ms. Stein replied no and stated that is not how it works. She said that in order to make the amendment, it has to be upon the recommendation of the executive.

Dr. Knable asked if it is recommendation of, or approval of, because he couldn't remember how that statute is worded.

Ms. Stein stated that it is recommendation.

Mr. Turner said that recommendation means they can do that.

Ms. Stein said no, it has to be recommended by the executive.

Dr. Knable asked Ms. Stein to quote that statute because he got a message from someone who is watching tonight and they wanted to know what that statute is.

Ms. Stein stated that it is IC 36-4-7-7.

Mr. Turner stated that all good ideas die in committee and this committee should have happened a long time ago before this budget even came up. He said that he will vote no on the budget.

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-21-05 Salaries for Non-Bargaining

No one signed up to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-21-05 Salaries for Non-Bargaining

**A-21-05 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2022 Applegate 3
 for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees**

Mr. Applegate introduced A-21-05 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor. Bill A-21-05 becomes Ordinance A-21-13.

Mr. Applegate stated that this is as they had discussed in the work session and also the same as the first and second readings with the 2% increase added to the salaries for non-bargaining unit employees.

Mr. Turner stated that he believes this is well deserved.

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-21-06 Salaries for Elected Officials

No one signed up to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-21-06 Salaries for Elected Officials

**A-21-06 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2022 Caesar 3
 for Elected Officials**

Mr. Caesar introduced A-21-06 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner who voted no. Bill A-21-06 becomes Ordinance A-21-14.

Mr. Turner stated that the last time they spoke, he was confused as to who was getting raises in this. He asked which elected officials are.

Mr. Caesar stated that there is a 2% raise in this for elected officials.

Mr. Blair stated that he read it as there is no raise for elected city council members.

Mr. Caesar stated that it works out to be about the same money but it has to do with how the pay periods fall. He said that last year there were 27 pays and this year there are 26.

Dr. Knable stated that there is a 2% cost of living adjustment but there are fewer pay periods so it is the same.

Mr. Blair stated that the bi-weekly pay is the same this year versus last year.

Mr. Caesar said yes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC:

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Mrs. Glotzbach stated that Mr. Andrew Nicholson signed up but he doesn't appear to be present.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Greg Phipps, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk