

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, DECEMBER 19, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Stein, Police Officer Korte, Mr. Staten, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Blair 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 December 2, 2019, Mr. McLaughlin second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. Collier and Mr. Nash who abstained.

Mr. Barksdale moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2019 with corrections, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. Collier and Mr. Nash who abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Phipps stated that he was eating at Aladdin’s Café tonight and the owner brought up a very valid point to him. He said that he told him that he has difficulty getting a sign located somewhere so that people from out of town know where his restaurant is located in the Underground Station. He said that he told him that he would see what he could do with the city. He also said that he told him that the historic preservation has given him some problems about a sign out front on Main Street somewhere. He stated that he had the idea to put a sign for the Underground Station with an arrow pointing down on one of the poles where we have the new stop light and asked Mr. Thompson if that has ever been done.

Mr. Thompson replied not usually but those poles are city property.

Mr. Phipps said that it wouldn’t be advertising his business per say but it would be for the entire center. He then asked Mr. Thompson to bring that up at the board of works meeting.

Mr. Blair stated that he would approach the owner of the Underground Station to pay for the sign and not the city.

Mr. Phipps stated that the guy that owns the restaurant said that he would be willing to help pay for one but was probably implying if it had the name of his business on it. He said with a generic sign, he thinks that the landlord or the businesses collectively could pay for that.

Mr. Barksdale stated that there are several signs on the side of the top building. He also stated that he has been going to the preservation meetings for the last four years and he doesn't recall him ever bringing up a sign.

Mr. Phipps said that maybe he called the office or something or was told that by someone else.

Mr. Aebersold stated that his business has been there for quite a while.

Mr. Phipps stated that is correct but the owner told him that visibility has been a problem since they moved there. He added that he thinks the sign that Mr. Barksdale is referring to is visible if you are westbound on Main Street but not eastbound.

Dr. Knable stated that they may want to wait until the new city hall opens because there may be a lot of different signage going on down there and sometimes you can get too much visual pollution.

Mr. Caesar stated that he personally thinks it would be a good idea to post a generic sign.

Mr. Phipps stated that he wouldn't have a problem with the city paying for the sign if it is a generic sign and doesn't mention specific businesses.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if we have any wayfinding signs for personal businesses.

Mr. Barksdale said that they are basically for the library, the Culbertson Mansion, Farmer's Market and things like that.

Dr. Knable stated that the owner and a couple of people that utilize Cherry Valley Golf Course have called him for an update. He said that he spoke with Mr. Gibson about that and they are supposed to meet at the end of this year or early next year to discuss options for that. He then stated that he spoke with a gentleman near Elm Street and Jay Street regarding traffic and a couple of recent accidents there. He said that he also knocked on several doors in that area on Sunday and spoke with several different people. He explained that Oak Street and Jay Street ended up with a stop sign but Elm Street and Jay Street hasn't and if you're going from east to west down that way, there is about a 3-4 ft. wall that obscures the view coming from north to south. He stated that the neighbors told him that there is an industrial type van that parks there too that doesn't help. He said that he spoke with Mr. Thompson about this but doesn't know if he has had a chance to check into it. He also said that the majority of people he spoke with feel that what is good for Oak Street might be good for Elm Street as well.

Mr. Phipps stated that he approached the board of works with that about a year ago but didn't get anywhere with it. He said that he was told that because the cross traffic is not sufficient, it doesn't warrant a stop sign there.

Dr. Knable stated that he suggests that the board of works take a look at driving from east to west because just a quick survey of it, it does look like traffic coming from north to south would have a difficult time seeing because of that wall.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he has the same situation at Logan and Vance.

Mr. Phipps stated that if he had it his way, he would have four way stops at every other intersection through uptown and midtown.

Dr. Knable stated that the group “We the People of New Albany” fed roughly 70 meals to the homeless and underprivileged folks down at Bicknell Park on Sunday and they have seemed to come to a compromise with the county health department.

Mr. Nash stated that this is his last meeting and wanted to say goodbye to everyone. He said that he has met a lot of nice people doing this and especially made a lot of good friends at this table. He said that one thing he would have done if he was still going to be here was come up with a solution to get rid of some of the paper reports. He added that a simple solution would be to use thumb drives. He then stated that next year is the census so the council will be responsible for redistricting and he thinks that is something that needs to be taken very seriously because these districts are way out of whack.

Mr. Barksdale stated that it has truly been an honor to work with everyone seated at the council chamber. He said that a lot of good friendships were made and those friendships will continue. He stated that he won’t go away and will continue to be involved in as much as people want him to be involved in. He wished the incumbents the best of luck as well as the newly elected members. He then thanked the council for a great four years.

Mr. McLaughlin wished everyone happy holidays and stated that he has appreciated working with everyone and has gotten to know everyone a lot better. He said that he looks forward to moving forward with those that will remain and hopes to stay in touch with those who will be moving on.

Mr. Phipps stated that he wanted concur everything that Mr. McLaughlin said.

Mr. Aebersold stated that it has been good working with everyone and it has been a good four years.

Dr. Knable stated that he wanted to paraphrase George Washington and say that those who won’t be here may have the better of it.

Mr. Blair stated that we did not do a storm water update this year so he suggested that Mr. Gardner come to the second meeting in January or the first meeting in February.

Mr. Caesar stated that he spoke with Mr. Gardner today and he is aware and does want to come back before the council for a presentation. He also stated that he told him that the generators have just been installed and are in working order and he wants to get a few things lined out there so maybe by February he will be ready.

Mr. Blair stated that he didn’t see it as urgent but felt like it needs to be done since it is required. He then stated that he appreciated everyone turning in their top three concerns from constituents and appreciates Mrs. Glotzbach putting the report together. He said that there were a few people that only had a couple of items so if they wanted to add a third item they can do so.

Mr. Caesar stated that code enforcement could be added to his items.

Mr. Blair stated that he would like to present the list to the mayor but it will also give the council a sense of priorities as far as what needs to be worked on next year and it may determine how we need to put together committees. He said that driving dangerously is the most important one and he personally heard that speed and ignoring stop signs is a big problem in neighborhoods. He also said that we do have a street and road committee so that may be something that we want to gear up at the first of the year to find ways to improve the safety situations in the neighborhoods. He stated that code enforcement and street/sidewalk repairs were tied for the number two position. He also stated that the fourth most important piece that he heard was drainage.

Dr. Knable stated that this verifies what he has heard over the last five years and commended Mr. Blair for doing this because it is nice to have data on paper. He said that driving dangerously is as much a law enforcement issue as a design issue so maybe the two need to go together.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if District 1 information was submitted by Mr. Coffey or Mrs. Collier.

Mrs. Collier stated that she submitted those.

Mr. Blair stated that Josh Turner turned in the items for District 5.

Mr. Aebersold asked if any of the five items in the other category were the same.

Mrs. Glotzbach replied no.

Mr. Blair stated that it was kind of surprising that in the other category only one person put down that reconstruction of the Sherman Minton Bridge.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that there have been some editorials on the news regarding that and the traffic coming into Louisville so we will have to be cognizant of the traffic going the other way.

Mr. Aebersold asked if this list is going to go to the board of works.

Mr. Caesar stated that it may not be a bad idea to submit this to the board of works.

Mr. Blair stated that he will take it to the next board of works meeting and asked Mr. Thompson when the next meeting will take place.

Mr. Thompson replied Friday, December 27th.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Staten stated that they are excited to announce the completion of the flow park downtown and they put out the release today but there will not be an official dedication until the spring when it warms up. He also stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Barksdale stated that Mrs. Moeller presented the council with the financials for October 2019.

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

PLAN COMMISSION – Mr. Phipps

Mr. Phipps reported that they approved a secondary plat approval for a 94 lot subdivision on Payne Koehler Road.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

