

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE
CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Pat McLaughlin at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Baird, Mr. Gonder, Mr. Zurschmiede and Mr. McLaughlin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Lorch, David Hall, Alicia Meredith, Marcus Flynn, Linda Moeller, Shane Gibson, Stan Robison and Vicki Glotzbach

David Hall explained that the shelter is made up of a board called the Animal Authority. He stated that it has two members appointed by the City, two members appointed by the County and one appointed by the non-profit. He explained that he has put together a presentation to give the Council some information to familiarize them with the things that the shelter offers. He stated that that in 2012 they took in 2346 animals, with 12% being reclaimed.

Mr. Blair asked if he had their numbers separated out between the City and the County

Mr. Hall said that they don't right now but he could get that. He explained that public safety is their main function but they also reunite pets with lost owners, provide shelter for lost and displaced animals, animal licensing, animal control, low-cost spayed and neuter programs, and education for the community. He stated that without all of their volunteers they would be lost and they operate Monday-Friday from 9:00-5:00 which is unusual for a shelter to be open those long hours. He explained that the Council has really helped them over the years because they have always supported them budget wise with the programs that they offer.

Mr. Phipps asked what the number is that is euthanized.

Mr. Hall stated that he believes the number is later in the presentation. He explained the process when an animal enters the shelter and explained that micro-chipping and scanning is something they would like to work towards.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the tattoo on the belly of the animal means that they have been chipped.

Mr. Hall stated that more than likely it means that the animal has been spayed or neutered. He explained that all of their animal control officers are nationally certified and that was all paid for by the Recue League or the Humane Society. He showed pictures of some of the animal control situations in the city and went over what the adoption fees are and what they include. He stated that they offer a bi-monthly fix which means the staff comes in early and on their own time to spayed and neuter animals and education and community outreach is a huge part of what they do. He showed the council photos of their new mobile unit that was purchased this past spring and stated that it can house 125 animals and spoke about how they work with the Red Cross to use this type of unit in an emergency situation. He talked about the Youth for PAWS program that they have which allows youth in the community to volunteer and talked about their Operation PEACE program which means that once an animal is put up for adoption it stays until it is adopted. He talked about all the facilities that have been donated to the shelter and their work with other shelters in the area to get their policies and procedures into their shelters so that they can do some of the things that our shelter does. He stated that their biggest concern is public safety and if they can take any situation and turn it into a positive that is what they will do. He commended his staff and talked about their dedication and support

and stated that they couldn't do it without them and he thanked the Council for all of the support that they have give then shelter in the past. He stated that if they ever have any questions or concerns they can call him at any time.

Mrs. Benedetti asked how many part-time workers he has.

Mr. Hall stated that he has eight but it fluctuates up to 12 or 13 in the summer and he feels that he will have to increase it to the 12 or 13 all the time with the new health care initiative that is coming down. He introduced Doctor Michelle Fisher with the Rescue League and Scott Gordon who is their new board member that is elected by the County.

Mr. Gonder asked if there are any part-time employees that he would like to make full-time.

Mr. Hall stated that he would like to bring two to full-time and neither would need healthcare.

Mr. Coffey asked how many hours do the part timers work.

Mr. Hall explained that all part time people are at the limit between 30 and 36 hours per week.

Mr. Coffey asked what the max would be that they could work.

Mr. Hall stated that he thinks it is 30 with the new health care law.

Dr. Fisher stated that she has been on the board for 7 years and Mr. Hall does not give himself the credit he deserves. She explained that the full time workers put in way more hours 40 hours per week so they want to make sure these employees do not get burned out because they are a huge asset. She stated that their shelter has been recognized nationally as well as by the state and they were requested to go to Katrina and the puppy mill bust in Indianapolis to help out because of how hard they work.

The Council thanked Mr. Hall for all that he and his staff do for the shelter.

Mr. Blair asked when they go out into other communities if they are reimbursed in any way.

Mr. Hall explained that they are reimbursed by the Humane Society. He stated that Cabo Wabo is having a benefit on Saturday at the amphitheater and they will have music by the Rumors and 100% Polyester and invited everyone to join them.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have been putting most of the budgets on spreadsheets which seem to be helpful when talking to the Council about budgets but if there is anything else that they would like to see to just let him know and they will get it to them. He explained that the first page is the updated budget calendar and explained the publication process for their budget and stated that their first one is in for September 6th and the second is for September 17th and both of those advertise their October 7th Public Hearing. He stated that the proposed time frame is to have this adopted by October 17th. He explained that the next page details the proposed budget from the administration and it lists the estimated income and the summary of what they are looking at

Mr. Blair asked what the budget was this year.

Mr. Gibson replied that it was just over \$20M so they are asking for the income that they anticipate.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if they are thinking it is going to go up 5%.

Mr. Gibson stated that he doesn't have the exact numbers yet or the assessed values but the growth factor is 2.6% and the miscellaneous income has increased.

Mr. Coffey asked Mr. Gibson if he is comfortable with this number.

Mr. Gibson stated that right now he is but it is a fluid number and could change once they get more information from the State. He explained that the Parks Department budget is now being put into the General Fund which it has been separated in previous years.

Mr. Coffey stated that if they take the Parks budget out of that then they aren't even asking for a 5% increase.

Mr. Caesar asked if this includes 911

Mr. Gibson replied no. He discussed the growth factor in the normal tax levy and the subtraction of the PTRC which leads to an estimate working levy at \$13.9M.

Mr. Caesar stated that these were the numbers that he was always after and they went to talk with someone at the DLGF and information was almost impossible to get out of her.

Mr. Gibson stated that he point blank asked her how she is getting her number and she showed him and that is how it worked out. He stated that he feels comfortable calculating this now and in order for them to do their job properly they need to know how they reach the number that they think they are going to get in property taxes and this shows them how they do that.

Mr. Blair asked if the very top number is the levy at the start of 2013

Mr. Gibson replied yes and explained that a lot of the numbers come from the 1782 notices that they get. He stated that the estimate of the levy available for the General Fund is about \$13.7M which is money they are dedicating into the budget along with other income. He explained that the next page shows the \$13.7M along with some other items that add up to the \$22.36M for the anticipated budget.

Mrs. Benedetti asked about the grant money that was averaged in for 2014 and if they got it in 2013

Mr. Gibson replied yes but it is coming in late so it will be revenue available for next year's budget.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if they are averaging that \$1.1M cut into this.

Mr. Gibson stated fortunately their cash reserves take care of it and they are under budget but that they weren't thrilled when they were told how much it was because in the past years it wasn't much at all.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she would think it will be less next year.

Mr. Blair asked what miscellaneous revenue includes.

Mr. Gibson stated that it includes a lot of things such as aircraft, alcohol, cigarettes, various grants, planning and zoning, cable TV license, motor vehicle, and other such items.

Mrs. Baird asked if new businesses moving in would help with their tax base this coming year.

Mr. Gibson stated that not until 2015 but they are looking into whether or not they will get additional EDIT funds.

Mr. Blair stated that as far as EDIT goes there aren't very many residents in that area.

Mr. Gibson stated that they it isn't based on population.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if the two mile fringe area will go into a TIF area.

Mr. Gibson stated that not all of it will but he can find out what percentage goes where.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding TIF funds and how they are used.

Mr. Caesar asked if he knows where New Albany stands on the 1%, 2% and 3% property taxes. He stated that he was worried about 2013 back in 2008 and thought the circuit breakers would come into play by then.

Mr. Gibson stated that the information they received on the circuit breaker listed what the biggest cause of it was but he doesn't know what it was off hand but they did come into play but it is hard to compare these with previous years because they are in a better place financially. He introduced Alica Meredith the new director of the Parks Department and stated that she has been with them for 4 weeks and is very busy getting things organized.

Ms. Meredith stated that she grew up in Louisville and went to Ohio State and received her Master's Degree at UofL in sports administration. She explained a little about her work history and stated that she came back home a few months ago and applied for the job with the City.

Mr. Coffey stated that they are really please with her background experience.

Mr. Blair asked where her office will be.

Ms. Meredith replied that it will be at the Flynn Center on Market Street and she hopes to move in next Tuesday.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Parks budget is in the handout for them to review and touched on some highlights. He explained that right now they have an estimated \$939,000.00 for the budget but this is one of their fluid departments so it changes all the time. He stated that they have equipment repairs at \$17,000.00 right now to update what they have after the split from the county, \$50,000.00 in contract services which may in the future include grass crews, but they are leaving options open to see what serves them best. He explained that there are some building repairs and electricity and gas that adds up to a large number in the budget as well.

Mrs. Benedetti asked how many employees Ms. Meredith has.

Ms. Meredith stated that there are four maintenance men with a fifth one on worker's comp, two program directors, an administrative assistant, and approximately 15 part-time staff members. She explained that they are looking to hire an athletic director and a supervisor for the maintenance and grounds crew.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked if the \$30,000.00 under part-time is for the 15 people

Mr. Gibson stated yes and they need to keep in mind that they are only going over the fund that hit the General Fund and explained that there is also a Parks Non-Reverting Fund.

Mr. Coffey stated that one thing they need to be careful with is starting off without enough help or money and they may have to help fund it for a couple of years because down the road they will be generating more revenue down the road than what they are now.

Mr. Gibson stated that the original joint Park's budget was about \$1M and they are getting close to that with just their contribution.

Mr. Coffey asked how many parks the city has.

Ms. Meredith stated that they have 13 and many of them could use more than \$50,000.00 of work so they are trying to make do with what they can.

Mrs. Benedetti asked what is in the Parks fund right now.

Mr. Gibson replied that he doesn't know off hand but he will get it to them.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if he knows what Anderson Field generated annually in terms of tournaments.

Mr. Gibson stated that he is going to throw out an estimate of \$40,000-\$50,000

Mr. Coffey stated that they need to make sure that the fees cover the costs. He asked if we own the building on Corydon Pike and what we are going to do with it.

Mr. Gibson stated that they do and their intention right now is to continue to use it as their maintenance shed but cleaning it up. He explained that Ms. Meredith is working on a plan to address all the issues.

Mr. Blair asked if they do have money for capital improvements.

Mr. Gibson stated that they do. He stated that they can come back to whatever they didn't get to tonight at the next meeting but if they have any questions to let them know and they will be happy to help.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk