

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 5, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Council Members, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Blair, Ms. Baird, Mr. Gonder, Mr. Zurschmiede and President McLaughlin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Hall, Police Chief Knight, Major Whitlow, Colonel Pennell, Mr. Robison, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Moeller, Mr. Rosenbarger, Mr. Wood and Ms. Glotzbach.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Gonder moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2013, Mrs. Baird second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Phipps and Mr. Zurschmiede who abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:

COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Phipps explained that he wants to talk about exploring two-way traffic or traffic calming on inner city streets. He stated that he thinks that time is of the essence and if we don't act soon the traffic is going to be disastrous. He explained that wants to appropriate \$30,000.00 from the Council for traffic study. He presented an article that John Gilderbloom PhD put together and asked the Council if they wanted to move forward with this study or if they want to move forward without a study. He stated that if this is just something that will never happen he will drop the subject but he feels like it is important to bring it up.

Mrs. Baird asked if the study would be about two-way streets.

Mr. Phipps stated that it will look at all manner of traffic calming options.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she doesn't want to do a study then it sits on a desk or in a file and the Mayor promised her that if the Council comes up with \$30,000.00 then the administration would as well and he gave his word that it wouldn't sit on the table.

Mr. Phipps stated that they are only talking about 5 major streets in New Albany that are one-way, Spring, Elm, Market, Bank and Pearl.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that when they talk about doing any changes to one street they have to look at them all because it will have an effect on the outlying areas.

Mr. Phipps stated that the Main Street improvement project is a great project but it is making it more difficult for the truck traffic and where it will be rerouted to.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that Jeffersonville had a work session with someone to come in and discuss these things and maybe they should do the same thing.

Mr. Phipps stated that he would be supportive of that idea.

Mr. Gonder stated that he went to that meeting and there wasn't a lot of discussion about one-way traffic.

Mr. Gonder stated that he isn't in favor of spending \$60,000.00 to do a study on something that they could just do and spend that money somewhere else. He explained that they could turn the lights around or do away with them and they don't need someone to come in and tell them this.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks that they could just shut the lights down for two trial intersection of Market and Pearl and Market and Bank.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that he and Mr. Wood went to a Southern Indiana session on the bridges project and they introduced their concerns because they feel they haven't been addressed throughout the whole bridge analysis. He explained that through New Albany the limiting factor for traffic will be the Sherman Minton Bridge and they characterized their findings as no impact but they City disagrees. He stated that they have a 2007 study that says this is fairly feasible and two-ways can be a traffic calming method itself but they said that more analysis would be needed before they moved forward to address how it would be done. He explained that it is time to move forward with this because it is becoming a major concern but he does believe that they need to do more analysis.

Mr. Gonder asked if the 2007 study was geared toward one-way changing.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that it was for calming and on-way.

Mr. Coffey asked if they could get a copy of that study.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that he could.

Mr. Wood said that it had three options of traffic calming and two options of two-way streets.

Mr. Coffey stated that they still have to have the flow to Spring Street because that is what is bringing people to the downtown area. He explained that they will have to do something about it though because he witnessed the Fire Department having issues getting out of their station. He stated that he thinks this needs to be brought to the Redevelopment Commission because they could help pay for it too but he doesn't think that they have to have a study on all of the areas, just the ones that are of a major concern.

Mr. Caesar stated that these are all just assumptions and they need to have a study done to get the facts. He explained that he thinks Spring Street will be a parking lot if it is two lanes because it will slow traffic down and then folks will not go through New Albany, they will just go around it.

Mr. McLaughlin asked what the projected toll is going to be.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that he has heard the same thing he has on TV and he doesn't think they have come to a definitive answer.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that no one is going to take the long way around to save a dollar and the local people that go back and forth will have a pass and they will not sit in traffic.

Mr. Gonder stated that the ones that will be most affected would be the casual visitors.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that they can work towards a situation where streets respond to neighborhood needs and still convey traffic and the two do not have to be mutually exclusive

Mr. Coffey stated that he is not comfortable with getting the same people to do these studies that they always get.

Mr. Blair stated that he is concerned about the cost and where it ranks in the community as far as using tax money and the unintended consequences. He explained that they need to understand these concerns before they take any actions.

Mr. Caesar stated that he is definitely worried about the unintended consequences.

Mr. Blair stated that his son lives in Atlanta and they have a mix of one-way and two-way streets and it is very efficient and effective and they made it work so they can find models that they can look at.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that you could do the analysis and then determine if they want to just do traffic calming instead of two-way but there is no down side at looking at this.

Mr. Gonder asked how far along the 2007 study gets them.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that there were some things missing and it had old traffic counts which predate the recession.

Mr. Gonder stated that he feels that \$60,000.00 is wasted when they are doing something that they basically know they need to do.

Mr. Caesar stated that it works the way it is and there is no reason to change it and no benefit to it.

Mr. Blair stated that the study may tell them how they can implement things in a more cost effective way and give them other alternatives to changing streets to a two-way.

Mr. Gonder stated that they have a study in hand so they might need more recent data but they don't need another study.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that if they get to a point where they are going to hire an engineer to design something they will do a study to be able to design it.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that they would.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he thinks a more important issue would be to figure out if they could afford to do it if they decided to move forward because this money could be spent on something more worthwhile than another study.

Mr. Coffey stated that there are a lot of issues of safety on Spring Street that need to be addressed.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that he doesn't doubt that there are things that could be done but he isn't sure they need to spend this money on a survey to address them. He stated that they would get to the point of having a study if they ever really decided to move forward with the project.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that they can move forward in whatever way they choose to but it is something that needs to be addressed especially with the new issues with the bridge.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the safety issues on Spring Street and the increase in traffic from the bridge

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she wanted to form a committee and serve on the committee to study the National Healthcare Law.

Mr. Gonder stated that he would like to be on it.

Ms. Baird stated that she would like to be on it as well

Mr. Caesar stated that Saturday the 14th is the Historic Home Tour and encouraged them to come out for this event and Stories Behind the Stones will be the weekend of the 20th and the 27th this year.

Mr. Gonder stated that he has talked whatever was done on Ekin solved the problems that Mr. Kevin Wood at 15th & Elm was having. He explained that the house on 11th and Elm is being renovated by Cliff Duff and it looks beautiful. He stated that this was done with their money and had been scheduled for demolition so they need to take extra care when approving houses for demolition.

Mr. Blair stated that there are plenty of other houses that could be renovated if they move forward with any demolitions.

Mr. Phipps stated that there is another Bicentennial Event this Saturday which is a progressive pipe organ recital where they play for 15 minutes at each church that starts at St. John's and ends at St. Marks.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Gibson stated that there was an article about mosquitoes and West Nile and they have a machine that will be used to fog and their focus will be on New Albany only and this will begin on September 9th.

Mrs. Benedetti asked where they could report if they see an area.

Mr. Gibson stated that they could just call down to the Mayor's office.

Mr. Caesar stated that they should call the Health Department if there is an area of concern.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked if this is a new piece of equipment or is it something that we have had.

Mr. Gibson explained that the Sewer Department has had it for quite a while. He stated that on September 13th from 11:30-1:30 there will be an employee appreciation lunch in Bicentennial Park and they would love to see them there.

Mr. Caesar stated that there will be a car show on September 21st in the downtown area and it should be a good event.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

Chalfant Industries, Inc. Compliance with
Statement of Benefits referencing R-09-19

Mr. Coffey moved to approve the above CF-1, Mr. Caesar second, all voted in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: READING

R-13-12 Resolution Authorizing Transfer from General Fund to MVH Fund Caesar

Mr. Caesar introduced R-13-12 and moved to approve, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Caesar stated that this was put in the budget last year and this is just a resolution to move the money over.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked how this ties in to the next appropriation that they have.

Mr. Gibson explained that this money along with the appropriation will get the Street Department close to \$1.2M of what it takes to operate. He stated that it will still be tight but it should be able to get them through.

Mrs. Benedetti asked why they couldn't budget more for 2014 so that they don't have to do additional appropriations.

Mr. Gibson stated that he thinks they will be able to.

A-13-04 Additional Appropriation in an amount of \$345,000 from the EDIT/Riverboat/Rainy Day Fund to the Motor Vehicle Fund (MVH) for the Benefit of the Street Department Coffey 1&2

Mr. Coffey introduced A-13-04 for 1st and 2nd readings, Mr. Gonder second, all voted in favor.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if he was going to wait until the 3rd reading to decide what fund to take it out of.

Mr. Coffey stated that Mrs. Moeller will let them know when it is time.

Mrs. Benedetti asked Mrs. Moeller if they could get an exact amount for the appropriated funds remaining on EDIT.

Mr. Gibson stated that they will verify but what is listed there is probably right on or very close to what it actually is.

A-13-03 Ordinance for the Establishing and Appropriation for Demolition of Unsafe Buildings Coffey 3

Mr. Coffey introduced A-13-03 for the 3rd reading, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor. Bill A-13-03 becomes Ordinance A-13-16

Mr. Gonder asked about the house on 11th & Elm.

Mr. Brewer stated that he wasn't aware of it being on a demolition list and it is in the historic district and there are processes to be followed. He stated that they take public safety pretty serious and they will not sacrifice it but they do go through all of the steps before demoing a house and it is a last resort.

Mr. Caesar stated that demolition is an absolute last resort and all the information has been gathered so he can't imagine that this house was scheduled for demolition.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mr. McLaughlin set an Executive Session for Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss litigation and pending lawsuits.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (non-agenda items):

Mr. Baylor thanked Mr. Phipps for bringing up the two-way traffic and thanked Mr. Rosenbarger for his intelligent remarks. He stated that the issue of cost is overblown and the tolls will have a negative effect. He explained that when you come off the bridge and you can't make a turn onto Bank Street that does have an effect on the traffic flow to his business. He stated that he completely disagrees with Mr. Caesar's statement that there are no benefits to the two-way streets and he would even go so far as to say that they go beyond what they have even discussed. He stated that most of the people that have affected change downtown are for this and they know that the benefits go beyond the issues of the bridge and congestion. He explained that walking in this city is very dangerous because of these one-way streets and they create unsafe intersections and unsafe drivers. He stated that the way the urban world works has changed and what they have here isn't working and they need to move towards revitalization and this is a step in the right direction.

IN COMMITTEE:

TABLED ORDINANCES:

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk