

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA, HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022 AT
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members: Mrs. Collier, Mr. Dickey, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Dr. Knable and Mr. Applegate, President. Mr. Turner was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mr. Hall, Fire Chief Juliot, Deputy Fire Chief Baylor, Mr. Summers and Mrs. Glotzbach.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Applegate 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 Regular Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2022, Mrs. Collier second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner who was not present.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Collier stated that they had the ribbon cutting for the new playground at the Griffin Street Center today and it is just a phenomenal playground and she is so glad that redevelopment was able to put that together. She said that she is just really happy to be a part of it and the kids really, really enjoyed it so she just wanted to thank everyone for their efforts on that.

Mr. Dickey stated that he wanted to echo what Mrs. Collier said about the Griffin Center playground and that he shares her exuberance with that. He said that he also wanted to comment on the renovations that they have done over the last couple of years at Griffin Street Center. He stated that the inside of the center looks wonderful with new flooring and some new aesthetics and he thinks that it has renewed the facility to a quality facility for our youth and for our families. He said that is what a park facility like that should be about so he wanted to thank everyone that had a hand in that. He then stated that he wanted to recognize something that has come to the national attention. He said that over the last couple of weeks, since their last meeting, they have seen a number of incidents of gun violence particularly the Robb Elementary School shooting in Texas. He stated that obviously everyone's hearts go out to those victims and those families that have been affected. He said that it is time to get something done and it is time to come together on this issue and bring something really meaningful forward. He stated that he knows that is not something that we can tackle alone here in New Albany, but it is something that we have to do across this nation. He said that he hopes that we can come together and find common ground on this issue before it is too late.

Mr. Phipps stated that he wanted to concur with Mr. Dickey on the tragic violence that we are experiencing in our country. He said that we do need to stop the thoughts and prayers and get busy and take some action if we really want to change that situation. He then reminded everyone that June is LGBTQ Pride Month so make sure that you support your LGBTQ family members and friends. He stated that thirdly he has received several calls from several businesses about the construction on Main Street and many of them

have expressed a need to try to keep the cross streets open or at least allow people to do U-turns at the end of those streets so they can get to their businesses. He said that he has referred them to the board of works so hopefully they will figure out some way to handle that because it is going to be torn up for nearly a year. He stated that is going to be hard, not only on the Main Street businesses, but the ones on Pearl Street and Bank Street in that block that is closed off between Market Street and Main Street. He said that he doesn't expect the council to have an answer, but feels it is something that the board of works needs to follow up on and do what they can do to minimize it.

Mrs. McLaughlin stated that she would like to honor her husband, Pat McLaughlin. She said that it has been a year since he passed and she requested that the council take a moment of silence to honor him.

Mr. Blair stated that he wanted to comment on the incident that happened recently in the section of Charlestown Road between Vincennes Street and E. Eighth Street. He said that they have heard several times from these residents about this problem. He stated that they had a traffic calming resolution and they essentially ignored it and pretty much ignored the situation and we need to do something. He said that when residents come to them and say they have a problem which is a reasonable problem and a reasonable request, the council needs to react. He stated that they don't need to wait until property gets destroyed and they definitely don't need to wait until someone gets hurt. He said that they have problem areas on other roads and the biggest complaint he gets is reckless driving and it seems that we are doing nothing and ignoring the problem. He stated that even if traffic accidents overall are going down, we can still improve the situation. He said that we need to do something more than just putting a traffic sign up or having periodic police controls on that section of Charlestown Road. He stated that we need to do something like put barriers up, a guardrail, maybe redesign the road or turn it back to a one-way street. He said that we could even do something like purchase the property so that property is not in danger anymore of getting hit by cars. He stated that Mr. Turner and he have been talking about this for years and the situation that happened is the reason they have been talking about it. He said that he is sure that they will hear more about this and hopefully hear some resolutions tonight about how to make the situation better.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he agrees with everything that has been said so far on this, and regarding the wreck last night, he definitely thinks that we need to step up even if it means we have to put it back to a one-way street the way it was five or six years ago. He said that he doesn't remember any accidents back then like what has been going on in the last two or three years. He stated that is a very simple thing to do and we could do it in a heartbeat and he thinks that we need to move on it. He then said regarding the drug issues, he thinks the public health and welfare committee needs to move on that because we can't just let it sit here and not do anything. He stated that if it takes adding some more people to the committee to do it, that's fine. He said that they just need to get going on it now and not any later.

Dr. Knable stated that we spend a lot of time sometimes talking about cultural and national issues here and those things are important to speak to, but we need to focus more of our energy on what this council can do here locally. He said that two issues have been brought up, one by Mr. Blair and the other by Mr. Aebersold. He stated that on the first one we had a traffic calming resolution that was voted down by a majority of the council and we stated that would all go back to our traffic committee and he doesn't know whether it did or not. He said that if there is information on that, it would be great to know. He also said that he doesn't know if this specific issue was discussed at any point in the time between Ms. Lewis's last appearance before the body and this morning at roughly 3:43 a.m. this morning when he talked with Ms. Lewis. He stated that she was obviously upset and still is now and that is understandable because he has seen the photos and he can't imagine being in there. He said that we had an opportunity to address that and he doesn't know whether that was acted upon or not and he looks forward to hearing tonight whether that was or not. He stated that secondly, most recently, they had the discussion about a committee to address the opioid issue and they were told there would

be a meeting and if there is a scheduled meeting, he would like to know what that is so they can publicly broadcast it tonight. He added that he is looking for action on that. He said that is the direction that the majority of the council wanted to take, so where is the action?

Mr. Applegate stated that there has been some talk with the city engineer on this particular section of Charlestown Road and traffic calming throughout the city. He said that they put out the police hotline for the regular issues. He stated that Mr. Summers is present tonight to make comments so when he comes up, he will let everyone know what has been going on with that section of road. He also stated that he did speak with Dr. Harris from the health department and they are going to schedule to meet but they haven't set that date yet. He said that will be up and coming and he also talked with Reverend Jacobson about meeting as well, but she is out of town right now. He stated that when he schedules the specific times for the committee to meet with them, he will send them out so that everyone is aware of those dates and times. He then stated that sympathies are going out across the country with regards to the mass shootings. He said that he thinks overall we can do better even on many items discussed here. He stated that he was at that section of Charlestown Road this morning and he thinks that they just have to do whatever needs to be done there to take care of the problem. He added that when it involves the engineering of the road, it does take some time to look at all aspects. He said that he is grateful that no one was harmed physically in the wreck, but he is not saying that no other harm has been created by it. He stated that he thinks we can all do better as a society, as council members and as a whole to just be good to our neighbors and people in general. He said that we all went through some tough times during Covid and he doesn't know if we have ever seen the repercussions of that and he would like to give society a little grace, but also urge society to do better.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to pass on two items. He said that one was this past Friday we had a children's pediatric center that opened downtown in the former Schad & Schad Building. He stated that it was an American Rescue Plan project and will bring about 60 new jobs and serve hundreds of young children and families in pediatric health in our community and that is very exciting. He said that the second thing was the summer kickoff at the Griffin Center. He stated that there have been a ton of improvements going on there that they are very proud of and today they cut the ribbon at the new playground, which is very exciting. He said that there were probably hundreds of kids playing there today for the summer kickoff, but unfortunately, they had to move inside due to the rain. He stated that it was a great event and thanked the council for their support.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Summers stated that he wanted to address a couple of the items that the council brought up. He told Mr. Phipps that after having some communication with him, he contacted the water company that is currently doing the work on Main Street and he had them modify their maintenance of traffic to keep the side streets open, except for the location that they are currently working at. He said to further improve the travel along the corridor and the side streets, he has also contacted our signal contractor and requested that they make changes to the signals. He stated that he is currently leaning toward a flashing red so that all lanes must stop so that folks that are on the side streets like Bank Street and Pearl Street are able to get access. He said that on the south side of the street, they were going to look at a yellow flash on Main Street but they went forward with a red flash because there are sight distance issues for the folks that are coming up the hill.

Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Summers.

Mr. Summers then stated that at the previous meeting where the Charlestown Road problem was discussed, there was no real funding source that was allocated to fix the

issue, so he moved forward with including it in the 2022 paving package that was recently awarded to Libs Paving. He said that they had their pre-construction meeting last week and he asked the contractor to expedite the order for the guardrail and to get the striping modified on Charlestown Road. He stated that after finding out about the incident this morning, he contacted the contractor and our engineer and requested that they broaden their search for the guardrail material so now, instead of just looking at their normal supplier, they are looking at suppliers around the state to see if they can get the guardrail sooner.

Mr. Blair asked the estimated cost of the guardrail?

Mr. Summers stated that he is looking at expanding but the current cost right now is approximately \$20,000.00.

Mr. Blair stated that if they wanted to make an appropriation for that, they could essentially reimburse what is being taken out of the paving budget.

Mr. Summers stated that anything of that nature would definitely help with the paving program. He added that there is a cost associated with the guardrail and a cost associated with redoing the striping. He said that when you have a guardrail, you have to have at least a two feet clearance from the face of the guardrail to the edge of travel, so they will be putting a white stripe two feet in front of the guardrail face. He added that they will be moving the center line over to accommodate that.

Mr. Blair asked Mr. Summers to give him the budget on that once he gets it together because he may do an appropriation.

Mr. Summers stated that there may be a change on that because supplies have been harder to get and the costs have gone up. He said with them pushing to get it sooner, there may be a slight change in the number but he will get that to Mr. Blair as soon as he has it.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he would like to have information from 2000-2015 for how many wrecks were on that section of Charlestown Road and then how many wrecks were there after it was changed to two-way. He said that it would be \$20,000.00 to put a guardrail in and it may be less to change it back to one-way and eliminate a lot of problems really quick.

Mr. Summers stated that you will spend significantly more to take it back to one-way. He also stated that the when you have two-way traffic, it tends to slow down traffic because you have that friction with a car coming head-on. He said that the other portion of that is that there is connectivity that is associated there and he thinks that it has been a valuable connection for the city. He stated that is a connection from one of our major arterials to downtown and he would hate to see it go back, but the primary focus is the safety of the residents and the traveling public there. He said that he was trying to improve the safety for the residents and for the folks traveling through there with this plan.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks most of the accidents have been southbound which is the direction that it used to be one-way.

Mr. Summers stated that hasn't changed and those folks would still be going in that same direction.

Dr. Knable asked how long of a stretch of guardrail is he speaking of?

Mr. Summers stated that he didn't have the number of linear feet and can't recall it off of the top of his head.

Dr. Knable asked if anyone on the traffic committee was aware of or advised that there were no funds available until 2022 or that there was a delay in material?

Mr. Applegate stated that they talked about what needed to be done for the area and they came up with multiple options on what to do. He said that the quickest real fix was to have it restriped and the guardrail added and they just went into the next mode to get that going.

Dr. Knable stated that hindsight is 20/20 but he doesn't feel there is a member on this board that would not have found a way to make that happen. He asked if there is a temporary fix that could be done until this happens? He asked if we have some concrete balustrade or something that could be put up there?

Mr. Summers stated that he has pressed their contractor to mobilize as quickly as possible to modify the striping to soften the curve. He said that in terms of a barrier that is a temporary type solution, anything other than a concrete jersey barrier placed there wouldn't suffice and if we were to put in barrels, they wouldn't do anything. He stated that they had looked at potentially other options, but ultimately the only option that would be safe for both the property owners and the travelling public was the guardrail.

Dr. Knable stated that he understands that is the best option but there is the old saying that "the perfect is the enemy of the good" and if you wait too long, the perfect never comes. He said that it would be nice to give them some assurance because such a wall would have stopped the car from landing on their porch. He stated that if they could look at a temporary solution while they are getting this other worked out, he thinks that would be good.

Mr. Summers stated that he is game for looking at what options are available so they will look into it.

Dr. Knable stated that he is unfamiliar with the term "jersey wall".

Mr. Summers stated that it is the classification of a concrete barrier and is typically those sections that contractors use in road construction.

Dr. Knable stated that he thinks that would be something realistic that would slow things down.

Mr. Summers stated that the issue with those is that you have to be really careful with placement because if a car would hit one head-on, it would kill the driver, so that's part of the consideration as well as the travelling public and their safety.

Mr. Dickey stated that the curve makes that prohibitive.

Mr. Summers stated that it makes it very difficult because of the way you would have to stack the barriers there.

Mr. Dickey stated that the striping changes are going to change the parking on the street as well and asked if that is correct?

Mr. Summers replied yes and stated that if he recalls correctly, there was a prohibition about parking in the curve before the conversion anyway so the safety factor well outweighs the net loss of parking.

Mr. Dickey stated that he would agree wholeheartedly that the parking can be sacrificed for safety in this case.

Mr. Phipps asked if they could install one of those solar powered flashing lights that you could put on a sign that says “Curve Ahead”? He said that it is a minimal thing but it may draw people’s attention to it from out of town or something.

Mr. Summers stated that Police Chief Bailey did reach out to him to let him know that he did put out a sign that said “Sharp Curve Slow Down” and it will be monitoring speed and the number of vehicles going through there, so they will be able to collect data there as well. He said that for the interim, he thought that was a good solution to bring attention to the curve so that folks would be aware of it until they are ready to get those measures in place.

Mr. Phipps asked how long the solar lights last?

Mr. Summers stated that he would have to defer to the street department because they are the ones who maintain those.

Mr. Dickey stated that they have to replace stop signs because they no longer meet reflectivity standards so that is just part of our maintenance program at that point.

Mr. Blair asked if there isn’t some sort of temporary barrier that would absorb shock? He said that he has seen in mountain areas where they put the big barriers out and fill them with sand or something to give a little cushion. He stated that he is not really concerned about someone leaving road because that is their fault, not the resident’s fault.

Mr. Summers stated that ultimately if you put in the barriers that are filled with sand or water, they slow down the impact before you hit a larger object that is going to fully stop you. He said that you often see those areas where there is a concrete beam or column that is there and they slow you down before you would hit it and you would more likely survive. He stated that if you put those out in this instance, they would slow the vehicle down but it would still be able to go through them.

Mr. Blair stated yes, but the likelihood of them continuing on into a house would be less and it would improve their odds.

Mr. Summers stated that ultimately the idea is that they will find a supplier that will get them the guardrail that they need as quickly as possible and they will get that taken care of. He said hopefully, temporary measures would then be moot.

Mr. Applegate stated that this doesn’t mean that everything else is off the table. He said that the guardrail is one item but there is still opportunity to do more.

Mr. Summers stated that they are always looking to improve their practices and everything that they do here so he is always game to evaluate a situation, but for this situation, he feels they have come up with the solution that fits best.

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-22-01 APPROPRIATION FOR FIRE DEPT.

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-22-01 APPROPRIATION FOR FIRE DEPT.

A-22-01 Ordinance for Appropriation of EDIT Money for Fire Department Equipment Collier 3

Mrs. Collier introduced Bill A-22-01 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner who was not present. Bill A-22-01 becomes Ordinance A-22-03.

Mrs. Collier stated that Fire Chief Juliot is present if there are any other question. She said that he brought in the uniform equipment at the last meeting so that the council could see exactly what they would be purchasing.

Mr. Blair stated that he doesn't have any questions but he would like to thank Mrs. Moeller for putting together that projection on the EDIT funds. He said that it is very important to project down and see where our spending is and how much we are going to have and so forth. He stated that was very good work and he appreciates her doing that.

Mr. Applegate stated that he agrees.

Dr. Knable asked if the old equipment is destroyed or donated to volunteer departments?

Fire Chief Juliot stated that they bought the older set 15 years ago and it reached its 10-year lifespan so they use it for training. He said that they can't use it in fires. He stated that it is still currently being used by a lot of the firefighters when they are at the training tower and doing repelling and that sort of thing because they don't want their newer gear getting ripped or anything like that. He said that after it gets to a point that it can't be repaired, it is pretty much discarded at that point. He also said that some manufacturers have programs where they can give it to them and they will take it to third world countries, but they haven't gotten to that point yet.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Ms. Ann McNally stated that the council has heard her story multiple times and she is present tonight to reiterate what she has said before and to remind them that is still an issue. She said now they have the issue that happened this morning and she hears the proposed solutions and understands that there are a lot of things that have to be taken into consideration. She stated that she still thinks that they firmly agree that the best solution for everyone is to turn the road to one-way from E. 8th Street to Vincennes Street and asked the council to consider that. She said that she understands the money aspect of it and how much it may cost, but you need to keep in mind while considering costs how many times that railroad bridge gets hit by trucks that are too big to go under it. She stated that if you eliminate the ability for those vehicles to go down that road and hit that trestle, you are going to save money there too. She said that needs to be factored into the decision on what the best solution is for this matter. She added that should make up for some of the extra expense to turn it to a one-way street. She stated that her concern is that a guardrail is just going to become a pinball flapper and they are going to glance off of it and hit the car across the street and then Derrick and Tracy would have problems. She said that she hopes that they will take the time and look at that as well and hopefully she will not receive anymore 4:00 a.m. calls. She stated that they have to get this taken care of and she appreciates the council for the work that they are doing to get it done. She said that she just thinks time is of the essence and they can't keep waiting because this could have been worse.

Ms. Crystal Lewis stated that the last two times that she has stood at this podium she asked Mr. Applegate specifically if he got the specifics on how many wrecks have happened since it became a two-way street as opposed to when it was a one-way street. She asked Mr. Applegate if he got any information on that at all?

Mr. Applegate replied that he did not.

Ms. Lewis asked if she can get that now because the problem is that it is a two-way street. She said that people are coming towards their houses because they are coming south. She stated that heading north, there are telephone poles and while there have been fatalities when it was a one-way because they hit telephone poles, they didn't crash into anyone's house with their kids sleeping in bed. She asked how they would feel if their kids were in a deep sleep and the whole house shook because you just had a car run through it? She said that they didn't actually run through her house but they hit it. She added had it been just a little more catty-cornered, it could have been a lot more devastating. She stated that she literally stood at her steps naked trying to get them to stop while they accelerated towards her. She said that this has got to stop. She stated that she has begged every one of the council members for a resolution and three have tried to help her. She said that she can't do this anymore and asked which council member is her actual district person?

Mrs. McLaughlin stated that she is.

Ms. Lewis told Mrs. McLaughlin that she was really sorry to hear about her husband because she did not know and her thoughts go out to her.

Mrs. McLaughlin thanked her.

Ms. Lewis asked the council to please not make her bury her kids. She said she is begging them. She also said that she can't afford to sell in this housing market and she can't afford to buy in this housing market. She stated that she owns her house so she is stuck in New Albany with nowhere to look for help except for this council. She said that she has reached out by email, she has been before this council crying her eyes out and she doesn't know what else to do. She stated that she needs real help and real action. She said that the car jumped her neighbor's stairs so how does she know that they won't jump a guardrail. She also said that they were going so fast and didn't get breathalyzed or anything. She stated that they jumped the stairs and hit her house where her son was sleeping for the first time since the last accident because she had just gotten a new couch and he was so excited to get up in the middle of the night and go sleep on the new couch. She said that she is begging for them to please help her.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Jason Applegate, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk