

**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 THURSDAY, JANUARY 19,
2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members: Mr. Dickey, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate and President Collier.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mr. Gibson, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Hall, Police Chief Bailey, Assistant Police Chief Fudge, Major Popp and Mrs. Glotzbach.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Collier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Given by the Pastor of Park Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2023, Mr. Aebersold second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2023, Mr. Aebersold second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Applegate stated that during the holidays you have a lot of people going to adopt pets for Christmas, but at the beginning of the year, adoptions are low. He said that it is a good time to adopt at the New Albany Animal Shelter, so if you are looking to adopt a pet, please go see them first. He also said that in the city of New Albany all animals are to be registered yearly or you can do a lifetime fee, so please make sure you register your dogs or cats. He stated that we do have a wonderful shelter and that is one way to support them by helping these animals find a forever home.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he had something to say about the intersection at E. 4th and Spring streets. He said that he is going to bring up at every meeting the caution light to help people cross there that has not been working too well lately. He stated that he noticed the blinking caution light when coming down Spring Street and there was a gentleman walking his dog across the street. He said that the gentleman was halfway across the street on the other side, and the car in front of him did not see him and went on, so he had to stop halfway out there while the car went by him. He stated that cars are still not seeing the caution light for some reason or another, so he thought that maybe if the caution lights were moved up a foot or so higher, they may be seen more easily. He added that he still thinks that they need to be red.

Mr. Blair stated that he actually attended the last council meeting remotely through zoom and it didn't work that well, and it is not the first time that has happened to him. He said that he thinks the video portion worked fine but the audio portion didn't. He stated that Mr. Applegate used his own microphone to set up, so he was able to hear and Mr. Turner used his cell phone so that he could project his audio. He said that he would ask that we improve our communication capabilities in this room. He stated that he knows that when we voted on this building, one of the selling points was that we would have state-of-the-art communication, and we still have not perfected our ability to do remote conferences and so forth. He said that wasn't the first time that happened to him. He stated that he had a surgery early last year and attended remotely and had the same

problems with the audio piece. He asked Mr. Gibson to communicate to whomever is in charge of that to please look into it and see what can be done there.

Mr. Turner stated that at the last meeting he requested that the city engineer come before the council, but he was unable to make it tonight. He said that he is optimistic that he will come to the next meeting, but if he does not, he will push to hold a vote to get him to come to a meeting. He stated that he knows that the Main Street businesses are suffering greatly and however it comes, money is not the answer. He said that it is just a band aid, and the real answer is getting this construction completed, and until the construction is done, it is going to be a continuous problem with generating revenue for these small businesses. He stated that he just wants to make sure that Mr. Summers can come in, hopefully without them requesting formally for him to come in, and give them an update. He said that he would also like to see the contracts and other documentation from MAC Construction.

Mr. Phipps stated that he concurs with what Mr. Aebersold said and he is going to mention it every meeting as well and we need to do something about those crosswalks. He said that we either need to beef them up or take them down.

Mr. Dickey stated that over the last week we have had two observances for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and he wants to compliment both our school corporation for their program last Thursday, as well as our city parks department, and Ms. Cathy Wilkinson for the excellent program at Griffin Street. He said that he was able to attend both of those and Griffin Street, especially, was an awesome and inspiring program. He said that he wishes that more of the community could have been present to experience what we need to emulate in carrying forward Dr. King's dream. He stated that is to have empathy for one another, to work for equality and to strive to seek justice if at all possible. He added that he thinks it is a fine statement by our community that we do those types of observances.

Mrs. Collier stated that she just wanted to make everyone aware that there are updates regarding the Main Street project on the nacityhall.com website, and that the city is waiting right now for a mockup for a digital billboard to go on I65 that will encourage people to shop downtown New Albany. She said that the city has also paid to produce three different videos on social media. She also said that these things are all in addition to the local signs that states the businesses are open, that have been purchased and placed. She stated that parking signs as well have been posted to let customers know where they can park. She stated that the construction site cleanup, that was requested, is being done along with the sidewalk area being compacted further for better storefront access.

Mr. Blair asked if we are running the ads on the existing digital billboard?

Mrs. Collier replied that is her understanding.

Mr. Blair stated that he just wanted to make sure that we are not erecting a new billboard.

Mrs. Collier said no, we are not.

Mr. Dickey stated that he wanted to it to be clear that it is part of a coordinated marketing campaign with Develop New Albany, the city and SoIN Tourism.

Mrs. Collier stated that is correct and they have all been working together to come up with some solutions to help the businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that Mayor Gahan wanted to thank the State of Indiana, Governor Holcomb, Department of Natural Resources, Radius Indiana and other partners for our growing partnership to bring the largest recreation trail in the state of Indiana to New

Albany. He said that it is something they have been working on since 2017 once CSX announced their intention to abandoned the Monon South rail line. He stated that the new recreational trail will run 68 miles with the trailhead beginning in New Albany and going up to Bedford, Indiana. He said that Mayor Gahan was also invited to Governor Holcomb's state of the state address and they were honored that New Albany was mentioned twice in that address. He stated that the governor mentioned RxLightning on Pearl Street and their investment to bring up to \$50.00 per hour jobs to New Albany and he also announced the approval of the Rails to Trails Conversion Project that is now ongoing. He said that these kinds of successes don't happen without great partners and collaborators at all levels, and that starts with support right here locally. He stated that Mayor Gahan would like to thank the council for their support of our investments in the shoreline, our local businesses, our public safety and our regional partnerships that make exciting projects like Rails to Trails happen. He said that Mayor Gahan wanted to thank everyone for their support and he looks forward to more exciting things in our river city.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

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

Mr. Applegate stated that the committee met regarding the downtown bridge and Main Street construction and they are still pointing towards some type of financial help, which they are close, but they just can't really say too much about at this point. He said that hopefully in a week or two they might be able to release more details and get that information out. He added that they can't put it out there without knowing for sure that it is locked in.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: G-23-01 New Albany Building Corporation Lease

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: G-23-01 New Albany Building Corporation Lease

**G-23-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL Dickey 3
 OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY MAKING A
 PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION TO ENTER
 INTO A LEASE BETWEEN CITY AND NEW
 ALBANY BUILDING CORPORATION, APPROVING
 FORM AND EXECUTION OF LEASE,
 AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION,
 APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF LEASE RENTAL
 REVENUE BONDS BY THE BUILDING CORPORATION,
 AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

Mr. Dickey introduced Bill G-23-01 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Phipps second,

Mr. Phipps withdrew his second.

Mr. Turner moved to table this item, Mr. Blair second, all voted no with the exception of Mr. Turner and Mr. Blair who voted yes.

Mr. Dickey introduced Bill G-23-01 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner and Mr. Blair who voted no. Bill G-23-01 becomes Ordinance G-23-01.

Mr. Blair stated that he definitely does see the need for a new police facility and that he took a tour with the police chief. He said, unfortunately though, the one proposal that

they have is an expensive proposal, and from his standpoint, they really didn't look at all alternatives. He stated that they did not seriously look at any other options or locations such as purchasing an existing building and remodeling it like they did in Sellersburg. He asked if there is any place that we can lease because there are buildings along some of our commercial corridors such as Grant Line Road, State Street and Charlestown Road? He said that we didn't consider any of those alternatives on a serious basis, because you have to look at it from a cost analysis and from a lease analysis, so he would like to take a step back and look at alternatives, and not just jump ahead and look only at the one favored location. He stated that we owe it to the taxpayers because we are the stewards of the taxpayers' money and we were elected to be prudent in our spending, to make sure that we do our due diligence and look at how we are spending taxpayers' money. He said that we have not done that in this project, so we should step back, look at alternatives, and see what else is available to us. He added that if he were on the public safety committee, he would have insisted on doing that. He then stated that he was on the police committee for 10 years and then last year when Mr. Applegate was president, he removed him from that, so if he would have still been on that committee, he would have insisted on alternatives. He said that is what they do here, they look at the best purchase for the taxpayer and they are not doing that here by just bulldozing ahead and looking just at this one location. He stated that is the reason that he wants to table it. He said that he is not saying no, because it could be that this is the best alternative after they have looked at other locations, but they haven't done that yet.

Mr. Dickey stated that he would oppose the motion to table because with all due respect, he thinks that Mr. Blair is being disingenuous to all of the work that has gone into this. He said that they have a summary that he thinks Mr. Applegate was going to reference as part of the police committee's report. Said report is on file in the city clerk's office. He stated that it outlines that since October 2021, this has been an item of discussion and the staff has done an excellent job at looking at alternatives. He said that they have done cost analysis, they have done location analysis and he thinks they have developed a scheme of work, which assures that we do not have a tax increase or a rate increase of any sort, and still is able to finance and provide for a quality facility for our police officers and for public safety in this city. He stated that if they delay, all that will come of that, is that we will not have this facility and we will run out of time to make the decisions that need to be made before the county moves forward with its project, and we don't have a space at all. He said that he would urge his colleagues to vote no to tabling this.

Mr. Turner stated that he thinks there is some disingenuous coming from Mr. Dickey as well. He said that since October 2021, you guys have been meeting, but it was only until November 2022 that they were presented anything from committee reports. He stated that to say that this is not a rate increase, or a tax increase to our constituency, this is coming from sewers and you have an opportunity to potentially reduce rates. He said that if you are not reducing rates then you are increasing rates and nothing in this world is free. He stated that he would like to use some data to explain why this should be tabled. He then said that he is a veteran and is partial to the police officers and he is sympathetic and understands everything. He said that he took the tour of the current police station as well and he thinks that the officers do need something better, because the way that facility is now is no good. He stated that when they started discussing this police station in November, the inflation rate was 7.1% and this previous month it went down to 6.5% and over six months, inflation has been trending down from 9.1% in June. He said that we are trending down in inflation and our economy is recovering. He stated that pre-pandemic it was 1.2% but he is not sure if it will ever get back to that. He said that today he looked at the producer price index in regards to cost of materials and that too has some very hopeful signs. He said that it has decreased four of the last five months which is the first time that has happened since 2015, but that also shows you how high we have gotten. He stated that there are still some things that are really high such as concrete, which is at 9.1% plus year-to-date, diesel is at 9.5 % plus year-to-date and gypsum building materials is at 45.6% since the pandemic. He also stated that there are some things going down such as steel products as well as lumber which has gone down 41.3% since March, so it is not extreme or unreasonable to want to wait because we are purchasing this building. He said that it is set to go through tonight because there is already a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, and it is one of the worst times to purchase new buildings and build new construction. He added that there is nothing wrong with delaying a little longer. He said in regards to the building authority with the county,

when we did have the breakup, he asked the council president at the time if we could have the building authority come in and speak and give their side of the story of what happened and it was not allowed to happen. He added that they couldn't vote them to come before the council because they are not part of the city. He stated that he wants the police station and he wants the officers to have something, but timing is everything. He asked if we should buy it at a premium or wait a little while because the trends are saying that it is going down so let's save some money.

Mr. Blair stated that we are increasing costs \$775,000.00 per year for a new facility versus what our existing facility is paying in rent. He said that is a lot of money to be spending as far as additional costs go and without looking at other alternatives. He asked what else could we spend \$775,000.00 on besides a brick-and-mortar building? He stated that as far as supporting the police, you have equipment, you have training, retention bonuses, police cars, etc. He said that there are other ways versus just a brick-and-mortar facility and that's why we need to look at this and make sure that we are making the right decision. He added that the additional costs of \$775,000.00 is extremely high and those are costs that the community is going to have to bear for the next 15 years. He stated that a lot of things can happen in 15 years, such as the economy going south or we could go into a recession. He said that he is a commercial lender and he works with a lot of companies, and it's not pretty within a company when revenue decreases and they are in financial trouble because the first thing that gets cut is labor, which is a variable cost. He stated that the fixed costs have to continue and that \$775,000.00 is the fixed cost, but the variable costs are what gets cut so the next thing you know, you are cutting personnel and so forth in a downturn. He asked if we should continue to add more debt to this community or can we look at other ways that we can reasonably afford and provide the same type of facility? He said that it may look a little different because it will not be a brand-new building right next to the police station. He stated that they may come back to this alternative, and find that this one makes more sense, but until they look at other alternatives, they can't say that.

Mr. Turner stated that if you want to look at the impact of inflation today, when Jeffersonville built their new facility, it was \$11M and this building right now is going to be \$12.7M and will be just under \$18M after interest is paid. He said for \$11M Jeffersonville got 33,500 sq. ft., plus 1,100 sq. ft. from what was proposed, and that was a little time ago so you can understand that prices were a little higher. He stated that in 2021 Frankfort, Indiana spent \$8.5M on a new facility and they got 28,000 sq. ft. He said that is plus 8,000 sq. ft. compared to what we have proposed now. He stated that they need to be careful what they ask for, because they could maybe have more, and that's something that also needs to be considered.

Mr. Applegate stated that the committee discussed the facility before a needs assessment was done, so it went into redevelopment and they set up the needs assessment. He said that the property itself was discussed through redevelopment after the needs assessment was done to see whether these items were in play to even have this as an option. He stated that planning and zoning meetings were done to even get this approved, and then once they were able to start locking in on costs, and bring something to the council, they had two public meetings as a whole to discuss the packet of information which was full disclosure of all of the financial information. He added that was two months. He said that it then went into the police committee, which was where it originally started, and they requested from the administration an executive summary of the information that was provided to make it a little simpler. He stated that the police committee met on Tuesday afternoon, so the administration had a day to prepare the executive summary as one final step to condense the information. He said that it was studied, it was looked at and they discussed it, because that is what committees are for. He also said that they then brought forth the number one option, which this is, for the council to discuss and vote on. He stated that if this does not pass, it goes back to committee to discuss other options. He then said that he didn't pay attention to, if the national debt ceiling was lifted or not today, but if it is not, then everyone is saying that we are going to default on our debt and that is going to raise interest rates, so he thinks they need to move now and get this going.

Mr. Turner stated that he understands and they did discuss it, but there really was a year where the committee didn't report to them. He said that is why it is important for the committees to report during the process because we can look at drawings and such. He

stated that for example, the second floor of the police station proposal is basically dispatch and training, so they could have had a conversation before it came down to a vote and to look at the council chambers for training or any other room in city hall. He said they could have discussed not moving dispatch, and had more conversations like that so that they would have a better final product, except we haven't seen everything; we've seen what you guys have let us see. He stated that what they have seen is, as Mr. Applegate said, something that was done in one day. He said that this is the final vote.

Mr. Applegate stated that the executive summary was done in one day, but it is based off of the report that was given two months ago that everyone had, and this was just a final note to make sure that these items, that you keep bringing up about not having discussed anything else, are addressed. He said that they have costs of what it would have been to have Ekin Avenue redone which was \$14M, so there were discussions on those items, but this was their number one option and they showed what they based their decision off of. He added that this option was able to be put into play because of our good financial decisions over the past 20 years with the sewer and with the city. He said being able to put \$3M down on this is almost unheard of from just normal funds, and not having to raise any funds to do this project. He stated that it is time to vote and if it doesn't go through then they will go back to the drawing board and look at the next option.

Mr. Turner stated that this has new information in it because the federal parking lot was never brought up.

Mr. Applegate stated that it was based off of all of the information in the packet.

Mr. Turner stated that he had the original packet with him and W. Spring Street has a cost estimate of \$8.3M, and then on the sheet that they just received tonight says that it is \$12.6M. He said that it has changed just like in their initial meeting, the estimate for the police station was \$12M and then it turned into \$12.7M. He stated that these numbers have changed, and since November 2022, the council has just received all of this information and they don't have every option that they need. He said that he and his wife want to remodel their house, but they won't just pick every single thing that they want; they will look at what they can afford and cut back where they want. He said that the council doesn't even have those options on this. He stated that they have option A and there is no option B, C, etc. so this is a perfect time to table so they can get those options. He also stated that if he is looking out for his costs in his own home with his dollars, why would the taxpayers expect him to just go ahead and approve the first thing that has been given to him. He said that they are negotiating with the city with one option and the city is unwilling to listen when they want more options. He stated that he cannot imagine what it is like to negotiate a contract with the city. He said we speak a lot about New Albany owning its own police station and the citizens of New Albany do own a police station, because they live in Floyd County and they do have a police station. He stated that he wants to do everything he can to explain to his constituents why he is going to make them pay for two. He said that he needs to do his due diligence and not take the first option on the table. He stated that we had ARP money in the amount of \$16M and we have nicked and dimed that down to almost nothing. He said if he would have been told that ARP money would pay for this project, or half of it, he would be game-on willing to do it, but that money is gone. He stated that we are going to use \$2M of it and we could have used it for the whole project. He said now we are expected to fund this in a non-traditional way with using sewer, and he is just not for it because it is bad timing and bad for the people. He stated that he appreciates that police officers are present and feels that they deserve everything that they want, but we also have to make sure that we are right by our people here. He said that he believes in the police officers because it is a tough time in our nation when it is not easy to be a cop, and he empathizes with them because there are new fire houses and they don't get anything. He stated that he does get that it is not fair, but he has to do what is right for the people here, and he is okay with a police station, but they have to have some options.

Mr. Blair stated that this project's total cost is \$17.6M when you add in the amount of interest, and we are paying \$4.6M of interest in order to do a \$9M bond payment. He said that is a lot of interest and that is money that we will never get back and if you look at the \$17.6M, the majority of that is coming from our sewer users so that is about \$1,000.00 per user. He stated that if you went out on the street and asked people if they

would give you \$1,000.00 for a new police station, he thinks that they would probably hesitate, or say let's consider this further before they spend that \$1,000.00. He said that this money is coming from the sewer utility so we are taking this out of another bucket than we normally should. He stated that 21% of our sewer users live in the fringe area and we are requiring them to pay for this police station through the sewer, and they are not getting any services rendered. He said that it is tax without representation and that is what we are doing here. He stated that this is increasing the cost of living in New Albany because your sewer is going up, because if sewer is not going down, it is going up. He said that we are in a position where we could actually lower our sewer rates, but instead, we are keeping them the same so we can pay for this, but we are only projecting out five years. He stated that if you look at going out to maybe 15 years, he doesn't think that any of them are comfortable saying that we are not going to have to raise our sewer rates in the next 15 years. He said that things will change, things will happen and there will be additional costs and we will probably look back at this moment and say, if we wouldn't have funded the police station with the sewers, then we wouldn't have this rate increase. He said that they may not be here to take the blame for that, but that is what the perception is going to be. He stated that he doesn't think that it is right to use a department to pay for another department's operations, so let's figure out how to pay for it through our normal operations. He said that we are paying \$4M in cash up front, but \$2M of that is coming from ARP, which is a government subsidy and \$1M is coming from the sewer department, so only \$1M is coming from regular city funds, so it is coming from other sources. He stated that they need to pay for it through our regular operations versus requiring a payment through the sewer utility.

Mr. Applegate stated that Mr. Blair's figure of \$1,000.00 per user is over 15 years so it is \$60.00 per year. He also stated that we didn't own our sewer utility before we got it back, so we wouldn't have this option if we didn't own it, and if we didn't own our sewer, then we would be taxing this. He said when we get to the end of this in 15 years, we will actually have an asset, so if we use \$17.4M which is max, at the end of 15 years we own this building in the heart of our city and property values keep going up, etc. He said that building could be worth \$15M, \$16M, \$20M or maybe \$10M. He stated that is when you have to look at what that is on the gap, and what we would pay if we're down. He said that it is a cost, but we get that back over time because we are building assets for the city. He stated that it is just like our sewer department, that's why we can do this because we own it. He said otherwise, how much have we spent over the course of our lifetime in the City County Building by paying rent, and what do we have to show for it? He stated that fire and police are two important bodies because they are the ones that are running into burning buildings and the ones who are out on the streets. He said that he thinks it is time to look at this and say that we have done well financially and we have done well in our sewer; we are off EPA and our bonds are going to drop off, so we are now being able to put this forward. He then stated that if you want to talk about the fringe areas, he asked how many people here got a vote, or a say so, in the county whenever they added our jail tax to pay for the jail? He added that it didn't fall off because then it was for the employees to run the jail.

Mr. Blair stated those were elected officials that we elected for the county that made that decision.

Mr. Applegate stated that if you look at the fringe area, they may not have elected us but they chose to live in that area where they do have sewer services that we provide. He said overall, we have the ownership of this building at the end of it, it's going to be an asset and we will have less on the end that is being spoken of now because it is going to be ours and we will have something to show for it.

Mr. Blair stated that owning is a very costly alternative, yet he does agree that there is a benefit to that perspective, but buildings don't last forever. He said that there is the tower that was torn down recently that was government owned, and he saw the estimate from the county to remodel the City County Building and it was \$30M. He stated that if you own a building, it's going to need repairs, replacements, new roofs, new parking lots, etc., so there are costs and we didn't look at those. He said that we know for sure that if we vote in favor of this tonight, it is going to cost \$900,000.00 a year versus the \$125,000.00 that we are renting, so that is \$775,000.00 a year more than we are paying now. He stated that they have to look at what is the cost to occupy real estate and get the

best cost for the taxpayer by doing that, and not just saying that we own a building. He added that you don't know what the value of this building is going to be down the road, but the advantage you have with leasing is that you can walk away from it.

Mr. Turner stated that the fringe people pay for sewer but they will now be paying for services that they don't receive. He said that in the last census Floyd County grew at 7.9%, Clark County at 9.9%, the state of Indiana at 4.7% and New Albany grew at only 4%. He stated that if you are not growing, you are dying and these tax dollars are like every other resource, they are limited and there are alternate uses for them. He said that they have got to be careful with how they spend their money and they need to get the most bang for their buck and if they do it now, they are not getting that.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Mrs. Collier made the following two board appointments:

NEW ALBANY BUILDING CORPORATON – Elaine Murphy
ONE SOUTHER INDIANA – Jeremy Spector

Mr. Dickey moved to confirm those appointments, **Mr. Phipps** second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS) :

Mr. Andrew Nicholson, 128 E. Main Street, stated that he doesn't think that anyone on the council is bad or evil, however, he does believe that all groups, parties, organizations and even gangs start to have a hive minded mentality and tonight was proof of that. He said that it is already on the public notice board for a meeting tomorrow and he thinks that is what is currently happening across all of the boards. He stated that the city council is suppose to represent the people that elect them and you care more about your parties, your organizations and your party's power, than the power of the people. He said that your hive minded way of thinking is silencing the voice of the people. He stated that the council has taken the power of the people away in two examples. He said that was when they voted to give their power away to the redevelopment commission so that they can pass through whatever the party or the hive minded want. He stated that on the redevelopment commission sits all democrats, one handpicked, two voted in and other non-elected officials of our community. He said another example is Mr. Applegate's screening committee and we saw it at the last meeting as motions were tabled before the council even voted on them. He stated that the people have to be worthy enough, and luckily Mrs. Collier gave him the privilege, not the right, but the privilege to speak at the last meeting. He said that he wants to ask any council member to write a resolution to disband these screening committees because you are taking the power away from the people and we are seeing it. He stated that he is seeing it more and more and more and he is going to be as loud as he can to show it in every example that he possibly can. He said that he hopes that one council member wants to give the power back to the people and represent we, the people.

Mr. Applegate asked Ms. Stein how long have committees been in our ordinances?

Ms. Stein stated quite a bit longer than she has been here. She said that she could look it up really quickly.

Mr. Turner stated that he thinks that there is a fair point to be made. He said that resolutions are nonbinding in a one vote process, it really does kind of extend out something that is nonbinding if we send everything to committee. He stated that he has always had an issue with sending resolutions to committee. He said that ordinances and amendments that change laws definitely need to be discussed, but not nonbinding resolutions. He stated that it does certainly, he thinks, waste people's time.

Ms. Stein stated that standing committees were passed in 1957.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jennie Collier, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk