

**A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, WAS HELD IN ROOM 100 AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cheryl Cotner-Bailey, member, David Brewer, member and Mickey Thompson, president.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Police Chief Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief Kron, Brad Fair, Phil Aldridge, Sidney Main, Alicia Meredith, Linda Moeller, Bryan Slade, Larry Summers, David Hall, Krystina Jarboe, Councilman Dickey and Vicki Glotzbach

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Mr. Thompson** called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**BIDS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Darrell Thomas, CCE re: Replacing a concrete swale in Wildwood Lane for storm water**

**Mr. Thomas** explained that they are going to be replacing the swale at the end of Wildwood Lane starting tomorrow with the work anticipated to take two days.

**Mr. Thompson** explained that there is a concrete swale that goes over a pipe and the concrete has failed allowing the rock to wash out around the pipe. He added that the pipe is in good shape so all they will need to do is remove the concrete to replace the rock.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if this work will impact any of the residents in that area.

**Mr. Thomas** stated that they will still be able to get in on both sides because the road goes all the way back.

**Mr. Thompson** added that there is a drainage ditch that runs down the center. He stated that the cul-de-sac has a larger portion that will allow vehicles to turn around and go back the other way.

**Mr. Brewer** asked rain would affect their work.

**Mr. Thomas** replied no.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if there needs to be notices sent out to the neighbors.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that he has already talked with Phil Aldridge with storm water and they have been in touch with Michael Hall to get something put out.

**Mr. Brewer** moved to approve, **Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** second, **motion carries.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:**

**Mr. Andrew Nicholson, 128 E. Main Street,** stated that after the subject was discussed at a city council meeting, he wanted to get this board opinion on live-streaming their meetings for the public to see. He stated that we have a \$22.5M new city hall with all of the equipment to do it and some of the council meetings are already being live streamed. He asked if they have any objections, like Mr. Dickey did for the council, to live streaming this meeting since it is during the day. He stated that he live-streams every meeting he comes to and asked their opinion on that, if they are against the live-stream and if so, why are they against it.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that he wasn't at the council meeting and asked if he is inquiring about live streaming Board of Works.

**Mr. Nicholson** stated that it was regarding all public meetings and the first thing that was ask is if they asked the other boards. He added that it was a resolution so more of a suggestion but today he is asking about this meeting specifically.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that he doesn't really have an opinion or hadn't given it any real thought since the meetings are open to the public and he doesn't think live-streaming is going to make much of a difference because it will not change how this board reacts or responds to the business that they handle.

**Mr. Nicholson** stated that he has 12-15 watching so it gives those that can't be down here for any reason the opportunity to join.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that that he does appreciate the point about making it more accessible, but he doesn't have an opinion on live streaming one way or the other as it will not affect how the board conducts their business

**Mr. Darrell Neeley, 1712 E. Oak Street**, explained that a resolution was brought before the council as the last meeting by Mr. Turner to make all public meetings streamed on the transparency portal, and it was shot down for various reasons such as cost, extra work, and keeping a library, sensitivity of material legality and upcoming state legislation. He requested that this board stream their meetings and stated that have transparency in government is a fundamental right of democracy and citizens should be able to view every public meeting. He added that they should also create a video bank for those that aren't able to watch the meetings live and by not streaming these meetings they are hindering citizens from attending meetings and being informed which was a fundamental right stressed by the Founding Fathers. He stated that communication is the key to success and for our city to be successful they must have constant communication between citizens and representatives because the more citizens that are involved the better our city government will be. He stated that millions were spent on an updated city hall and when the plans were finalized, Mayor Gahan stated that "the plans bring new economic development to Main Street and adds more technology and efficiency to city government". He stated that the capacities are already install and city hall has been streaming for a year, but very seldom can a citizen go back and view a meeting if they missed it. He added that it should not be any extra cost to stream these meetings as the citizens are already paying IT \$82,000.00 a year so one would think he can handle the extra load of flipping the switch and downloading the stream, plus it is covered in his job description. He added that the stream can be downloaded and stored on YouTube, these meetings are important and public, and he urged them to not wait for the state to tell them what to do.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**TABLED ITEMS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OFFICIALS:**

**1. Krystina Jarboe re: Special Event Permit**

**Friday, May 12 – Purdue Poly: Commencement Ceremony**

- Request to use the amphitheater (9:00am to 8:00pm)
- Request to use the amphitheater restrooms (9:00am to 8:00pm)
- Request to reserve the east amphitheater parking lot (5:00pm to 8:00pm)
  - Request to have traffic control at amphitheater parking lot at 4:00pm to move any necessary vehicles.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if the reservation of the lot would include barricades for those that are associated with the event to park.

**Ms. Jarboe** stated that they can moved them into place when ready and moved them out when it is over.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if everything is the same as in prior years

**Ms. Jarboe** stated that the day of week is different but everything else is the same.

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

## **2. Larry Summers re: Main Street Project Update**

**Mr. Summers** reported that they are making a lot of progress and added that the electrical sub-contractor will be on site installing the new signal poles this week. He stated that Earth Images is on site and beginning to install the brick pavers in their designated areas, they are placing dirt in the landscaping areas to prepare for the plantings that will going in, Excel is on site pouring sidewalks, particularly down closer to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets. He explained that Duke will potentially be on site this week to install the new light fixture bases and MAC is working on some of the bioretention areas. He added that it looks like they are on pace to flip phases in the middle of April.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if there will be communication with the businesses on the other side of the street before work starts there.

**Mr. Summers** stated that they will need to push something out and he will work with Mike Hall as well as the contractor to make sure something goes out.

## **3. Larry Summers re: Market Street Bridge**

**Mr. Summers** reported that INDOT started prep work to paint the bridge over Market Street last Friday and used flaggers for their operation while they installed scaffolding and other precautions to prevent overspray/droplets. He stated that he doesn't anticipate any issues but wanted to make the board aware of the work.

**Mr. Thompson** reminded the board that this is part of the Sherman Minton Project.

## **4. Mickey Thompson re: Second Baptist Church 156 Anniversary**

**Mr. Thompson** reminded the board that Sunday is 156-year anniversary celebration of the Second Baptist Church. He added that he has spoken with the Main Street Project contractor about making sure they have access Saturday to make preparations for Sunday.

## **5. Mickey Thompson for INAWC re: Encroachment permit for 314 Mosier Avenue and 1612 East Spring Street**

**Mr. Thompson** stated that 314 Mosier Avenue was for a main leak that required a 5X7 street cut and 1612 East Spring Street was new service that required a 7X5 street cut.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey moved to approve, Mr. Brewer second, motion carries.**

## **6. Mickey Thompson for Duke Energy re: New pole and bore service for 3331 St. Joseph Rd.**

**Mr. Thompson** stated that this is a request to install a new pole and underground service to a new construction at the address above. He added that the map shows where the pole is going to be installed and explained that it is going under the road to the transformer pad.

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

## **7. Mickey Thompson for Spectrum re: Encroachment permits for 101 Kenzig Rd. and 320 Pearl St.**

**Mr. Thompson** explained that 320 Pearl Street is all aerial work to install 210 feet of fiber along E. Spring Street and up the alley to feed the back side of the building.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if they are blocking sidewalks or traffic when they do this work.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that the work should be contained to the parking lane to house a piece of equipment that hangs on the line. He explained that as the line is pulled it wraps the wire around it and latches it to the existing wire.

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

**Mr. Thompson** stated that 101 Kenzig Road is for an abandonment of 540 feet of aerial cable to go underground with it. He added that they will be boring along Kenzig Road.

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey** asked if they remove it from overhead when it is abandoned.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that they removed it and explained that Duke redid the pole lines in that area by the substation and because of that they had to take their lines off and go underground.

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

#### **8. Mr. Thompson for Newton Excavating re: Encroachment permit for alley behind 2308 McLean**

**Mr. Thompson** stated that this request didn't make it to the agenda because he was waiting to hear back from the plumber as they thought they might not have to get into the alley. He added that even with the work they have done so far, they are still not sure so they are requesting permission to cut the alley behind this property, if necessary.

**Mr. Brewer** asked if they need to do anything through the sewer department.

**Mr. Thompson** stated that they have already been in contact with the sewer department.

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

#### **9. Park Master Plan Presentation**

**Katherine Puckett, Landscape Architect HWC Engineering**, explained that she is going to go over the process for the plan and give them an update as to where it is headed. She added that it is a requirement that it be presented in the fashion through DNR. She

**Introduction to those involved:** Mayor Gahan, the City of New Albany, New Albany Parks Department Board, Parks Director Alecia Meredith, Kyle Lueken (HWC) and Katherine Puckett (HWC)

**What is a park master plan:** she explained that it is a guide for programming and facility updates/service with the parks program. She added that they have worked on quite a few different master plans all over the state and hear time-and-time again from park directors that they can get bogged down by day-to-day work, so having a future plan is really instrumental in long term planning. He explained that reasons for creating a plan include eligibility for funding such as the IDNR grant that is a 50/50 match through the state and to receive community input/feedback to ensure the public is wanting these facilities

**Brief History:** she stated that the formal plan was initiated in the 1930's when the department was created, in 2013 it was reestablished to oversee park development and offerings within the city, the first five-year parks and recreation plan was developed in 2017.

**Progress since last plan:** she reported that several projects were outlined in the plan five years ago that have been implemented or are underway so that is outstanding progress and shows when you make a list, you start to check items off.

**Silver Creek Trail** is the extension of the Ohio River Greenway Trail connections into the neighborhoods which extends the greenway from Loop Island to the Silver Creek Landing.

**Silver Creek Landing** is a water access point that is nearly complete that will allow access to the river and depending on the water level will allow for kayaking and enjoying nature.

**Ohio River Greenway Trail Extension** is complete and extends the trail from flow park west towards river recreation site.

**New Albany Shoreline River Recreation Site** the boat ramp portion of this project is currently underway with the wall formed up for the overlook so it is moving along

**New Albany Loop Island Wetlands** a project in the past plan was to stabilize some of the trails that were suffering from erosion due to being in a flood area.

**Ms. Puckett** reported that a number of improvements have been happening throughout the parks including resurfacing basketball courts, Griffin Park improvements, new parking, disc golf course at Canon Acers, batting cages and a slew of maintenance/new facility improvement. She stated that another element of parks and recreations is the city's participation in regional trail planning efforts besides just local trails. She referenced the 62.3 regional mile trail from Bedford to New Albany and stated that the city was really a leader in getting that going and received a grant from DNR for \$29.5M.

**Update on inventory, public input and analysis:** she stated that for inventory they will go out to each park and assess how they are today compared to where they were the last time the park plan was done. She added that they take a snapshot totaling the acreage of parks, total miles and all of the different facilities. She explained that the next step is to talk to the public to see what they would like to see in parks and what they think needs to be improved. She added that the different methods they use for this are stakeholder meetings, talking to staff and having public meetings. She reported that stakeholder interviews were held and included local residents, teachers, New Albany High School athletes and park board members and this was done to involve input from teens knowing that they are the next generation that will be using these facilities.

**Feedback from stakeholders:** she explained that they were looking for a good variety of different types of facilities, quality in maintaining existing facilities, Silver Street and Water Run were favorites that are used a lot and they have really enjoyed a lot of the programming events. She stated that New Albany does an excellent job in programming events in parks and recreation. She stated that the opportunities for an desired improvements that they heard about were more indoor fitness, more indoor space to use during the winter, upgrading existing playgrounds and basketball facilities, additional walking/hiking trails, multipurpose fields, multipurpose courts, and just in general the desire for more park space. She added that they also wanted the continuation of the Ohio River Greenway Development, partnering more with New Albany Schools, and more advertising to the word out about facilities and programming.

**Public Survey:** she explained that they offered a public survey which consisted of 19 questions that was distributed online and 514 people responded. She stated that the results showed that Riverfront Park, Silver Street, the trails, Loop Island and the water park were used most often with the least used being Joe Craft, Division Street, Anderson, Ritter and Millerwood, Top five most popular activities included walking, jogging, exercise, playgrounds, bicycling, special events, festivals and picnicking. Top reasons people aren't using the parks included lack of restrooms, using other parks outside of New Albany, perception of safety and outdated amenities. Top requested youth programs and adult programs mentioned hiking and fishing and where it started to differ was adults requesting more fitness, yoga, martial arts and the youth responses requested watersports and summer camps. The post requested facility improvements included restrooms, natural areas for hiking/viewing/ additional greenway and bike trails, internal loop trains within existing parks, tennis and pickleball, trail signage and mile markers. Top desired capital improvement projects included more trails, adding new parks, adding another splash pad, updating playground equipment, expanding disc golf and an inclusive playground.

**Ms. Puckett** stated that a public meeting was held in this room on February 22 with ~13 in attendance that included a brief presentation and an open discussion with those in attendance. She reported that some items that came from that meeting were a request for updated playgrounds, inclusive playground and possibly straying away from the traditional playground

that we are used to seeing to a more nature based playscape. She added that restrooms were on this list as well as maintenance/repair at Loop Island Wetlands, which they heard time and time again because it is a very challenging location to maintain. She stated that people really loved to use the wetlands but it floods every year and is worth the investment. She reported that other items discussed were more advertising, more trash receptacles, more trees, outdoor exercise stations, after school events and social events during school breaks.

**Needs Analysis:** she explained that a part of this process includes looking at standards across the state and nation to see trends in other parks systems. She stated that Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the National Recreation of Parks Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Lands (TPL) are three resources that they look at. She added that they always say each community is unique so just because other parks systems are doing certain things, it doesn't mean that it makes sense for this parks system. She reported that with DNR the top outdoor recreation activity is walking, hiking and jogging, relaxation, spiritual renewal, gardening, wildlife watching and health related activities. She reported that the top outdoor recreation activities for Indiana residents included walking, running, jogging, camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing and boating. She reported that the key takeaway from NRPA were identified as favorite activities and included visiting local parks, playground, dog parks and open spaces, hiking, biking, walking, playing sports, aquatic facilities, and recreation/senior activities. She added that within these standards they suggest so many acres of recreational space/sports fields based on population. She reported that TPL offers percentages for things such as how much of the population is within a walking distance of a public park and provide a different standard for how much should be natural/passive area vs. build out like sports fields.

**Key Takeaways:** she stated that depending on the different standards that were looked at, New Albany does face some deficiency based on its population, and while it ranges drastically between the different percentages, it is safe to say that obtaining more acreage based on the population makes sense. She stated that public feedback from the survey and public meetings reinforce the idea for more natural park space and the different reports that were looked at, based on different standards across the state, does indicate that New Albany's amount is low. She reported that disc golf and pickleball were in the top recreational trends so that is something for New Albany to consider. She reported that trails/greenways were the third most popular facility in the public survey which makes sense because with the facilities that New Albany has, so adding additional connectivity to those resources makes a lot of sense. She added there was a reported desire for more natural spaces as well as outdoor nature based environmental education programming.

**Recommendations:** she explained that with the public input, inventory and analysis they develop recommendations that include continuing to expand the Ohio River Greenway and develop the South Monon Freedom Trail with connectivity between both, increase natural park spaces, expanding the New Albany shoreline and river recreation site, updating existing park amenities, continua improvements, and inclusion/accessibility. She reported that new park amenities recommendations would include disc gold, pickleball, updating playgrounds, neighborhood park features and increasing marketing. She stated that long-range planning recommendations include establishing an inventory of vacant/large industrial or commercial properties that could potentially be turned into parks, conduct a feasibility study for more indoor space, and looking at the idea of RV and camp sites along the shoreline. She reported that top priorities resulted in expanding the shoreline river recreation to include the Ohio River Greenway passed the extension that has already occurred, assist with development of South Monon Freedom Trail, increasing naturalized space such as the New Albany shoreline, goal of replacing and/or updating one playground per year while also considering the nature play options, developing a short-term and long-term replacement plan for park amenities so all items like benches, shelters, trash cans etc. can be prioritized. She stated that additional priorities included expanding disc golf, adding pickleball courts, increasing marketing, expanding programming in that nature-based activity, and potentially relocating park maintenance facilities out of the flood plain.

**Next Steps:** she explained that the master plan will be presented to the Parks Board where they will adopt it and then it will be submitted to IDNR on April 15 which is the deadline for all communities across the state.

**Mr. Thompson** thanked Ms. Puckett and HWC for the presentation and all the work that has been put into the updated master plan, He recognized Alicia Meredith, Parks Department Director for all the work that she has done to oversee this process as well as Mr. Sipes who is one of the board members, and present at today’s meeting, for helping to facilitate this process.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**CLAIMS:**

**Mrs. Moeller** presented the following claims for the period of 03/07/23 to 03/20/23 in the amount of \$2,712,249.43:

General Claims (Bank 1):	74,700.94	
Fire Department:	62,739.61	
Police Department:	14,573.62	
Street Department:	20,142.47	
Parks Department:	33,954.45	
Medical/Drug Fund (Bank L):	10,792.60	
Payroll Claims (Bank 2):	900,765.68	
Sanitation Fund:	-	
Thursday Utility Claims:	1,594,580.06	
Service Charges/Fees:	82.33	
	Grand Total:	2,712,249.43

**Mr. Brewer moved to approve the above claims, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

**Mrs. Moeller** presented the following ARP claims for 03/23/23:

ARP Claims (Bank 6)	\$7,000.00
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**Mr. Brewer moved to approve the above claims, Mrs. Cotner-Bailey second, motion carries.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Mrs. Cotner-Bailey moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes for March 14, 2023, Mr. Brewer second, motion carries.**

**ADJOURN:**

**There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.**

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Mickey Thompson, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk