

**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, APRIL 3, 2023 AT  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ms. Wheatley, Mrs. Moeller, Fire Chief Juliot, Deputy Fire Chief Baylor, Mr. Hall, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION:** Given by VFW District 8 Chaplain Darrell Neeley

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2023, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. McLaughlin who was not present.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he wanted to take a moment to remember those who were impacted throughout our state by the storms, particularly those over at Sullivan, Indiana. He said that he is friends with Mayor Lamb and the devastation that community has seen from the storm is quite remarkable. He stated that anytime we have a disaster like that anywhere in our country, it is obviously hard but it certainly makes it hard knowing that it was so close. He said that thoughts and prayers obviously go to those people. He stated that he believes they are working on some recovery efforts, donations and the like and he hopes to have more information on that in the near future. He then stated that our parks department held their annual Easter egg hunt at Silver Street Park this past Saturday and he can tell everyone that the eggs were rather plentiful as they were scatter on the lawn there in the building. He said that the kids certainly had a good time chasing after them and trying to beat one another. He wanted to commend the parks department again on a great program, really targeted towards families, and particularly children under 10 years old. He stated that it was a really good event and he appreciates all that helped out with it and the hard work they put into it. He then reminded everyone that it is grass cutting season and we all need to be mindful of where we blow that grass. He said that it is a potential danger if you blow it into the road, because to motorcycles, etc., that is like ice. He stated that it is also a potential danger to our drainage system, because it can easily clog up our storm drains, and with the weather that we have been having with the high volume of rain, we want to make sure that we don't have any backups or any other related storm drainage problems. He said please keep the gutters and storm drains clean and blow your grass to the inside, and be mindful how spring can cause those types of things when we start to work in our yards.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he wanted to remind everyone that street sweeping started on April 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through October 31<sup>st</sup>. He said that he knows that they were giving some warnings notes on cars last week so he is sure that they will start ticketing soon. He stated that Passover begins Wednesday night and Easter Triduum begins on Thursday, so he wanted to wish everyone a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter.

**Mr. Turner** stated that Pollinator Day is coming up at the Purdue Research Park on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., which is a good event to go to. He said that because he is on the library committee, he has stayed pretty connected to the library because the library committee doesn't meet that often. He stated that paper shredding day and a food drive is on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Floyd County Library. He said that there is also a series of events called "The More Perfect Union" happening at the library and the second session actually happens this Wednesday. He stated that it happens every other Wednesday from this point forward from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. He said that there are seven different events or seven series and he thinks that would be a great event for all of them to attend. He stated that because he is on the public health and welfare committee, he did have the pleasure of speaking with some people from IU and IUS regarding community needs. He said that you think about homelessness and all of these things that seem common to us, but one thing that he was shocked to find out is that there is a lack of affordable childcare, which prevents people from going to work. He stated that he doesn't think in terms of how the government can help with that or how can we fund something, but he is going to start looking into our zoning code to see if it is a little too restrictive to allow competition, and maybe lower some of the costs for potential affordable care in our city. He said that he thinks that is the only way that you can correct a problem like that is to see what the code is. He stated that another thing that he would like to point out that he thinks would be a huge benefit to the council, as well as the people of the City of New Albany, pertains to redevelopment. He said that everyone that gets an email with the redevelopment agenda can sign up at the clerk's office to get that packet. He stated that the packet that you receive is the agenda and he thinks that everyone has probably seen that. He said that there is another packet that goes out on the same day, which he held up and it happen to be 40 pages and included exhibits, drawings and things that the people don't get to see. He stated that he thinks that should be put out there in the public and when the minutes come out to be put out on the website, these exhibits don't exist on there either.

**Mrs. Glotzbach** told Mr. Turner that she believes he said that you can sign up for that at the clerk's office and that doesn't come from the clerk's office; it comes from redevelopment.

**Mr. Turner** stated that you sign up in redevelopment and you get the one page which is the agenda. He said that the council doesn't get the larger packets, and the only reason that he knows about those 40 pages is because they were accidentally sent to him when he was trying to write a resolution to get these agendas posted on the city's social media. He stated that when it was inadvertently sent to him, he realized it was different than what he has received the whole time that he has been on council. He said that he has brought this up in the past and was told that it includes minutes that haven't been approved yet. He pointed out that the council packets that go out to everyone has minutes included that have not been approved either. He stated that he thinks it is a great opportunity for the city, going forward, to have all of these exhibits sent out on the email from redevelopment, with all of the drawings of how the TIF is going to get cut up for the Elsbey Building, and everything else that does not go into the minutes on the website. He said those things are missing and these are little things that have a great impact and are simple things to fix.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that back when he was on the board of zoning appeals, which was over 10 years ago now, the state basically loosened up requirements on in-home daycare. He said that basically as a city, we can't put any limitations on it other than he thinks they have to have a business permit. He stated that they would come before the BZA just to get that approval saying that they have the business permit, but the state purposely loosened up those laws because of the shortage of affordable in-home daycare. He added that is for in-home daycare only so if you built a center or something, that may be different.

**Mr. Turner** stated that is something that he wants to look into because statute is one thing, but he wants to see if they can add to that. He said that he wants to see if there is

anything restrictive that we put in because he knows the zoning code was changed in 2019.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that the state law overrode that on the daycare thing.

**Mr. Turner** stated that they can add in addition to state law so like if we follow state law, we can add additional restrictions to that.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that we couldn't. He said that we could loosen the restrictions, he guesses, but there virtually aren't any restrictions on in-house daycare, other than that they have to demonstrate that they have a business permit. He stated that was all defined by Indiana State Law.

**Mr. Turner** stated that the zoning code could be perfect. He said that when someone says "affordable housing", he doesn't think of subsidizing it with money from the government, he thinks of how can we make the competition better to lower costs.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he was friends with the lady that managed the daycare center at IUS and her biggest challenge was getting workers for the facility, the licensing requirement, how hard it was to get workers licensed and how hard it was to provide competitive pay. He said that they ended up shutting that center down because of that, so it is a real challenge. He then stated that he has been following the announcement on the Elsby Building and the Convention Center, and obviously, we have taken the first step in separating out the TIF and starting to look at economic development incentives. He said that if you have the City of New Albany committing funds, providing incentives and providing equity, a project like this is a much higher level than other projects that we have looked at in the past. He stated that it becomes more of a credit risk type analysis where you have to really understand the project itself and whether there is a market or a feasibility study and what kind of tax credits there are. He said that you have to understand the project cash flow and the return investment so it becomes a very in-depth, thorough part and detailed type of analysis. He stated that because of his background as a commercial lender, he has done several of these projects and has been involved in these types of projects, so he would like to offer his services to meet with whoever is doing the project in order to help look at the risks and look at the incentive from the city's standpoint. He said that he actually got involved in the Breakwater Apartments project and drove up to Indianapolis and met with the Flaherty & Collins Group and went through their financial projections as well as toured some of their facilities and got very comfortable with the incentive that we provided. He stated that a project like this, if it fails, we've automatically lost tax dollars, it's not like we're not receiving something we never received. He said that it's tax dollars so it is a much riskier project and a much riskier analysis and he happens to have background and experience in doing that. He stated that he would like to get involved as soon as he can and help with the project.

**Mr. Aebersold** stated that he has noticed at several intersections that when the lights change from green to caution, somewhere in between it going from caution to red, it turns green for the opposite side. He said that as soon as that green light goes, you're going to take off pretty fast and so often someone races through the caution light. He stated that he has contacted some people in the city and they are looking into it, but he just wanted to say that you have to be careful on something like that. He then said that the light at the Spring Street and State Street intersection is operated by INDOT and we have trouble trying to do anything with it. He stated that he can see how an accident can happen very quickly when the light is turning to caution, and if you are coming up on an intersection at that time, you are supposed to stop and not just go through, because that light will change to green awfully quickly on the other side.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he wanted to send his thoughts out to the victims and families of Nashville regarding the shooting. He said that as the police have always said, "if you see something, say something" so always be aware of your surroundings and if you see something, report it. He stated that we need to look out for each other and if you feel someone is going through some tough times, maybe reach out to them because maybe no

one else is reaching out and you could be the only one. He then said that the weather is getting nicer and he noticed tonight coming in that there are more people on the sidewalks and streets than he has seen for a long time. He stated that it is staying light longer and more people will be out as well as more children out playing. He said that motorcycles will be out more now and he knows that Mr. Dickey mentioned motorcycles and yard debris, but also make sure that you are paying attention just to the streets.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that Prosser is coming up a daycare program so this year is their first year and next year they are actually opening a daycare when they are rearranging that.

**Mr. Turner** stated that is great.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that it is and it is much needed for the community so she loves that they are stepping up to that. She said that she also wanted to mention the Purdue Pollinator Day that is on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Develop New Albany is doing their wine walk and tickets are still available if any members can attend that. She then wished everyone a Happy Easter.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that they will not have Mr. Aldridge to give the storm water update tonight because she was not able to confirm with him before the agenda deadline, but she has talked with him since the agenda went out and he will be at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

**Mr. Hall** stated that they had a great Easter egg hunt at Silver Street Park this past weekend and it was a great family-friendly event, and the mayor wanted to thank the council for their continued support of parks events. He then said that they did have a partnership with the Arts Council of Southern Indiana and Theater Works to do Shakespeare in the Park this past weekend, but unfortunately, the weather kind of turned and got a little windy so they made the call to reschedule at a later date. He stated that their team is analyzing a couple of dates and will get back to us with a date in the future for Bicentennial Park. He said that the Kentucky Derby Festival is hosting their annual FamFest this Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. right here at the YMCA and some of it will be in the parking lot as well. He stated that it is a family-friendly event and they will have inflatables, food trucks, games, a local singer and a couple of other surprises, so it should be a fun time and he hopes that some members can make it. He added that it is sponsored by the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Mr. Turner** stated that at the end of last year, the council wrote a resolution to where we would give board of works three months to give us something on traffic calming for the city. He said that it is now April and it has been four months and he has not heard anything back from board of works on if there is a plan going forward to look at traffic calming citywide or not. He stated that if not, can we get someone to tell us exactly what their plan is because our council did approve that amendment.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she will check with board of works and ask for an update or see if someone can give us one.

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

**Mrs. Collier** stated that the public health and safety committee (Mr. Turner, Mr. Applegate and herself) met last week to talk more about the program that they want to use the opioid funding for. She said that nothing is confirmed so she doesn't want to go over all of the details of what they are hoping to do, but they will be meeting again soon and hope to be able to have it all ready to roll out at the next meeting or the first meeting in May at the latest.

**Mr. Turner** stated that this grant money is from Purdue Pharma and is settlement money, so it is not tax derived dollars. He said that part of this money is going to go to grants to impact local people on the streets doing the work. He stated that they are going to try to set something up long-term with the rest of the money and if it fails, it will fail fast and then they can figure it out and reroute some money. He said that we get this money for 18 years or something like that so they are going to try some things and they will have more details hopefully at the next council meeting. He then asked if the rules committee met regarding transparency? He stated that Ms. Wheatley brought up a good point about separation of powers when he wrote that resolution and if we can we make the mayor do this. He said that maybe the rules committee doesn't have to meet and maybe if the mayor has control of these boards, he can just make it happen. He stated that he thinks that would be great and he would like to see him pull through and do that.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she does not think that they have met yet and part of that is because she did ask to sit in on that. She said that when they sent that to committee, Mr. Phipps was on vacation and the following week she was on vacation. She also said that is something that Mr. Gibson needs to be involved in and he was also on vacation.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

**Mr. Turner** stated that if the mayor can do it, that's easy.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that they are also going to look at that policy about travel and educational funds and how to divide that up fairly and actually have a policy on that as well.

**Mr. Turner** stated that at the end of last year when Dr. Knable was still here, a special meeting was called by the council and Mr. Blair and he really argued the point that we can't call a special meeting after the regular meeting agenda has been posted and there are not enough folks going forward to have the meeting. He said the majority basically voted the night that we all came to assemble and to him, it is in black and white that they couldn't have that meeting, so he thinks that is something that the rules committee needs to meet on. He told Mrs. Griffith if she wants to meet since she is new to the council, he can give her an update on that. He stated that basically they shouldn't have met on the dam issue.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thinks it is worthwhile to look at the requirements to hold a special meeting and if the requirements don't make sense, change the requirements.

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-23-03 Fire Department Equipment**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-23-03 Fire Department Equipment**

<b>A-23-03</b>	<b>Ordinance for the Additional Appropriation of EDIT/Riverboat Fund for Fire Department Equipment</b>	<b>Phipps 1&amp;2</b>
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**Mr. Phipps introduced A-23-03 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Turner second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. McLaughlin who was not present.**

**Mr. Phipps** stated that this is basically for the fire boat and Fire Chief Juliot and Deputy Fire Chief Baylor are present to talk about the boat and the need for it.

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that back in 2021, we applied for a Port Security Grant which is a FEMA Federal Grant through the Coast Guard Port Authority of Louisville, and we

were awarded the grant in the amount of \$164,554.00 for the federal portion and our match would be \$83,767.00. He said that they were awarded the grant in November of last year. He stated that as you know, we are a river town and we had a boat in the past but they had mechanical failure with that one. He said that he believes that he spoke in the past about how they were going to apply for a grant and it came through for them finally so that is what they are here for.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he has been talking about the fire department's equipment since he was voted into office and this is music to his ears. He said to hear about our Zodiacs having motor issues, being deflated and their current condition being rough, this is what we need and hopefully the plug stays in there and we don't sink it.

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that he believes this one is sink proof. He said that the Brazilian Navy developed this boat and it is a Palmer boat filled with foam and it can be easily repaired if you do puncture a hole. He stated that they have done a lot of research and after talking to a lot of agencies that have these boats, he feels it is a good boat. He said that the river fluctuates and there is debris so you can't see under the water, so there are a lot of hazards in that river and they have completed training with all of the personnel so they are all swift water techs. He stated that when they get this boat, they will do more extensive training with the Coast Guard and they are going to bring their boats over, so all of the personnel will go through that with safety being the number one priority. He added that when you are in the business of water rescue, it is a dangerous business.

**Mr. Turner** stated that one of his biggest concerns going forward with the kayak launch that we have is that we are putting people in the water and we don't really have a takeout yet. He said that he thinks that Origin Park is doing a takeout on their side in Clarksville, but he thinks this is great so that we can get out there and help out. He stated that this is an easy one for the council because this is what people pay for, which is protection. He thanked Fire Chief Juliot for applying for the grant because he knows that it was a long process and a struggle.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked if the boat is big enough?

**Fire Chief Juliot** replied yes and stated that it is 26 ft. long.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked if that is a good size boat?

**Deputy Fire Chief** stated that the problem with going with a boat much bigger than that is launching the boat, and because the water fluctuates so much, it makes it harder to get a bigger boat. He said that if we had a dock where we could leave it in the water then we might get a bigger boat, but this is for safety reasons as well as speed and mobility.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked where they are going to keep it?

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that it will be kept at headquarters located at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Spring Street.

**Mr. Turner** asked how fast they can deploy it?

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that that they can be to the water in less than three minutes.

**Mr. Blair** thanked Fire Chief Juliot for his time and effort in doing the grant because he knows sometimes that grant writing is tough and it is definitely no fun so he appreciates their effort in that. He asked if there are any other additional costs that the department may need for training or equipment that the council needs to appropriate for? He said that he doesn't think they talked about this for the budget for this year and he just wants to make sure that they have enough funding to cover anything additional that may be needed with this boat.

**Deputy Fire Chief Baylor** replied not with the Coast Guard coming over to do what they are going to do.

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that they are doing that for free.

**Mr. Blair** asked about overtime or anything for the firemen to do the training?

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that they do it all on duty.

**Mr. Blair** asked if there is no other life saving equipment that they may need.

**Fire Chief Juliot** replied no and stated that almost everything we expect we will need we have. He said that Deputy Fire Chief Baylor will explain some of the technology that this boat has because it is pretty cool.

**Deputy Fire Chief Baylor** stated that this boat has thermal imaging so they will be able to see at night if someone is in the water or objects in the water that you can't see with the eye. He said that it has sonar and there are a lot of things on the boat just for safety reasons. He added that they will be able to map the river and where the dangerous spots are and the boat will stay away from those areas.

**Mrs. Griffith** thanked Fire Chief Juliot and Deputy Fire Chief Baylor and asked if there is going to be a special place to keep the boat with the new boat ramp going in?

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that he doesn't know if there are any plans because you would have to have a dock, and the problem with the river is, it fluctuates so much and you would have to be down there watching it or the ropes would snap and the boat would be gone. He said that he doesn't know if they have plans for that and would have to get with redevelopment on that or whoever is in charge of that.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked if there was a kayak in distress at Silver Creek, how long would it take for them to get there? She also asked if it would make it up there?

**Deputy Fire Chief Baylor** stated that it would make it to the low head dam, but they have other equipment and all of their swift water technics are done with ropes, life jackets and basically rubber rafts.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that like Mr. Blair said, that is something that we will have to account for because we will have more kayakers than we have had in the past.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that from McAlpine Locks down, we would be pretty much the principal responder, outside of the Coast Guard, in that capacity and asked Fire Chief Juliot if that is correct.

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that everyone else has to lock through which takes a lot of time, so we are the only boat on the lower pool.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he thinks that it pretty critical. He said that absent this, we have a protection hole for the community on both sides of the river really. He stated that he thinks a pretty important aspect of this request is filling that hole.

**Fire Chief Juliot** stated that Louisville Fire does rescue diving but in a half hour they stop and then Louisville Police, DNR or the state police will come and will do the recovery, which they spend so many days looking for a victim. He said that they support them in that but they are not in the dive business. He stated that it is very expensive and their resources are local, but when Louisville Police respond, they have to come across the Sherman Minton Bridge with small boats, and we are usually already in the water and on the scene.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he thinks it makes complete sense. He said that it's about who has the access and obviously, you have features like the lock and dam that cause some delay. He stated that anything we can do to get to people faster he thinks is important.

**Mr. Turner** stated that the new fire house is coming and he congratulated Fire Chief Juliot on that. He said that he worked very hard with the union to get the Safe Haven Baby Box put in there and it is our first in New Albany. He asked if he is going to get an invite to that opening?

**Fire Chief Juliot** replied absolutely. He stated that everyone is invited and they are narrowing down the date on the ribbon cutting. He said that they just finished up testing of the baby box last week and they did seven days of testing, so now they are coming to train all of the personnel. He added that after the firehouse ribbon cutting and ceremony are done, the baby box ceremony will be after that.

**Mr. Turner** stated that the new firehouse is welcomed in his district which is the 5<sup>th</sup> District. He said that they love it and really appreciate the fire department.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he assumes this will go to committee now.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that is correct.

**Mr. Dickey** asked if they want to make a recommendation to the committee about which fund to use or do they want to defer to them for that?

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she was going to ask the committee to give their recommendation to the council after they have reviewed the funds that are available. She said that she is sending it to the fire committee which is Mr. Phipps, Mr. Applegate and Mr. Aebersold.

**Mr. Turner** stated that public safety is what people pay for in taxes and this is what we should be paying for so he doesn't really care.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she doesn't anticipate any problem, she just wants them to make sure which fund is the best one to come out of.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):**

**Mr. Jeffery Mayott, 110 Glenmill Road**, stated that Mr. Turner already asked the question that he was going to ask which is if there are any updates from the rules committee for live streaming all public meetings. He said that his new question is if that committee meeting is something that the public can attend.

**Mr. Turner** stated that technically it is not a quorum so it wouldn't be public but he assumes that would be up to the committee. He then apologized because he really wasn't supposed to speak back to the constituent.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she shouldn't either, but the committee consists of Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Dickey and if they want to make the meeting public, she doesn't have a problem with that. She also stated that we have already passed the threshold of when that would have to be advertised since it is set for Thursday. She then asked Mrs. Glotzbach what the deadline is to advertise for a public meeting.

**Mrs. Glotzbach** stated that it is 48 hours before the meeting.

**Mr. Turner** asked if that would only apply to an actual public meeting with a quorum?



**Mrs. Glotzbach** stated that she doesn't know if this applies to Open Door Law.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it would have to be a meeting with a quorum.

**Mr. Turner** stated that they could open it up to the public then so it is up to the committee.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she doesn't have an issue with it.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that is fine. He said that they really haven't done that in the past so maybe that is something that the rules committee could look as well.

**Mr. Turner** asked where they are meeting and what time?

**Mr. Phipps** stated that they are meeting somewhere in this building but he doesn't think that the room has been determined yet. He said that it is usually in the media room or a conference room upstairs. He added that it is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. this Thursday.

**Mr. Mayott** stated that he appreciates it.

**Mr. Andrew Nicholson, 128 E. Main Street**, passed out information on transparency in government: live stream and archive all public meetings. He then stated that it is really hard to hear the council and that they need to lean into their microphones. He also stated that when members are talking to one another, you can't hear what they are saying going back and forth. He said that people that do have hearing impairments that have to sit in this room, will still have problems hearing the meeting. He then told Mr. Blair that Mr. Joshua from the redevelopment commission had his last meeting at this past meeting, so there is an open chair on that commission and he wanted to push that for Mr. Blair.

**Mr. Blair** thanked him.

**Mr. Nicholson** stated to piggyback off of what Mr. Applegate said, when you see something, say something, and there are a few things that he has actually seen with one being transparency here in local government. He said that Mr. Turner brought up that two different packets are being brought up and the public is getting one and others are getting a different one. He added that now we have two different city websites. He said that we have City of New Albany Government and newalbanycityhall.com., so when you ask why we are confused or don't see transparency, it is because of things like this. He read the following into the minutes:

The lack of live streaming and archiving of public meetings affects every citizen who wants to stay informed about their local government's decision-making processes. Without access to these meetings, people are left in the dark about the issues that affect their daily lives, such as changes to local policies, budget decisions, and community planning.

Without access to live streaming and archived recordings of public meetings, there is a risk of a lack of transparency and accountability in local government. This lack of transparency can lead to decisions being made that don't represent the best interests of the community, as well as lack of trust between citizens and their elected officials. In contrast, ensuring that public meetings are accessible to all citizens can promote transparency and accountability, leading to better decision-making and a more engaged and informed public.

Given the importance of transparency and accountability in local government, now is the time to act. Many citizens are unable to attend public meetings in person due to work or family obligations, school obligations, transportation limitations, or mobility issues. Additionally, during the pandemic, many citizens may feel uncomfortable attending public gatherings in person. By providing access to live streaming and archived recordings of public meetings, citizens can stay informed and engaged in the decision-

making processes that affect their daily lives, regardless of their physical location or personal circumstances. Furthermore, providing online access to public meetings can promote a more diverse and inclusive community, ensuring that everyone has a voice in local government.

The availability of live streaming and archived recordings of public meetings can also help reduce the spread of misinformation. With access to accurate and unedited information, citizens can form their own opinions and interpretations of what is happening in their local government. This can help dispel rumors and conspiracy theories that can arise when information is limited or distorted. By promoting transparency and accountability, the local government can also build trust with its citizens and foster a sense of community engagement. This is an important step towards promoting a healthy and vibrant democracy, where citizens are informed and actively participate in their local government.

This issue has already been presented to the city council twice. Over a year ago, a city council member proposed live streaming and archiving public meetings, but that proposal was voted down. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the issue was brought up again and while three council members voted in favor of the proposal, five council members voted to abstain from the vote. This lack of decisive action by the council highlights the urgent need for citizens to demand transparency and accountability from their elected officials by signing and supporting this petition. It's time for the council to listen to their constituents and make their decision-making processes more accessible to the public.

The public has reached a critical point where they are no longer simply asking for live streaming and archiving of public meetings, but they are demanding it. The lack of transparency and accountability in local government has left citizens feeling excluded and unrepresented in decisions that affect their daily lives. This petition represents the collective voices of concerned citizens who want to hold their elected officials accountable and ensure that they are making decisions that are in the best interest of the community. The city council must recognize the importance of this issue and take immediate action to provide access to public meetings for all citizens.

**Mr. Nicholson** stated that this is a petition that he put together to help people like Mr. Dickey who says he may have misunderstood or may have miscommunicated how he felt in this last vote. He said that you can sign this petition and tell the public exactly how each of you vote. He stated that he wants to ask, not just our city council, but anyone attending or watching this live off of his live stream to check this out and sign it yourself. He then thanked the council.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Jennie Collier, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk