

**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, APRIL 20, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Stein, Mrs. Moeller, Deputy Fire Chief Baylor, Mr. Duggins, Ms. Johnson, 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. Applegate moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2023, **Mr. Aebersold** second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Griffith thanked the council for allowing her to join the meeting via Zoom. She stated that they had a wonderful day and turn out for the Wine Walk. She stated that herself and Mr. Dickey were able to attend the 1Si for elected officials on Tuesday, and they had a redevelopment panel that was very interesting. She added that she was proud to be a part of that and learned a few things.

Mr. Applegate stated that at the last meeting he mentioned the Nashville tragedy and not too long after we had our own in Louisville, which every one of them should be our own. He added that his heart goes out to everyone involved, the families of the victims, the police/first responders that charged ahead to save a lot of lives and the remaining family of the shooter. He reminded everyone how important it is to check on those around you because while everything may appear okay on the front end, you may be the only one checking in on someone that really needs it. He added that mental health is a real issue and a lot of people are going through it, so we need to keep an eye on one another.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he was at the firehouse grand opening yesterday. He explained that he doesn't know much about firehouses and while he never got to tour the old locations, he was told it was in horrible condition. He stated that the new firehouse he toured is fantastic and the amenities they have for the firefighters and first responders are well built and organized. He thanked everyone that was involved in the project.

Mr. Blair stated that he has a couple of requests from residents regarding code enforcement, and while this time of year brings a lot of talk around grass cutting, he is getting lot of complaints about debris left in yards. He stated that he's heard reports about excess equipment and inoperable cars, and he has noticed that people are expanding their driveways which makes it harder for the code enforcement staff to deal with those situations. He explained that if you gravel over a surface, you have a year to pave it, and there is a lot of uncertainty in the code enforcement around this. He stated that this might be a good time to go back and review the ordinance and codes to make sure everything is applicable. He added that he would like to get with the code enforcement staff to go through the ordinance to make sure they have what they need to be able to do their jobs.

He stated that as a council, they should be regularly looking at their ordinances to review and update because ordinances are not static, but a living document that should be periodically review. He added that code enforcement and rental inspections are on his list to be reviewed and asked to have a committee or someone look through to make sure they are updated.

Mrs. Collier stated that she will look into it and have an appropriate committee by the next meeting.

Mr. Turner welcomed Amy Stein back. He stated that at the end of last year they made an amendment to the traffic calming resolution for the board of works to provide a plan to the council within two months, and he is hoping they will get an answer soon. He added that he would like to know if the traffic calming is going to be looked at city wide or not and if so, what are the next steps. He stated that the constituents on Silver Creek Drive are concerned about the status of the storm water and drainage there. He added that there is a project that is supposed to happen and they are curious as to when this is going to start because in his opinion, they are one of the neighborhoods most prone to flooding. He reported that he attended the firehouse grand opening and it was a nice event. He added that it is good that they are getting new items like a new fire apparatus, but they still need one that is the sister of that apparatus. He stated that they are approaching 25 years and they are on back order for 3 years, so it is time to start thinking about it. He added that Quint 2 at Community Park is approaching 15 years so it is time to start thinking about this one as well, especially with the delay. He reported that the paper shredding event is coming up this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the Floyd County Library which is a good event for people to get rid of some of their important documents. He stated that a few months back he asked if anyone would like to go to Catalyst Rescue Mission with him because they are doing some good things in regards to getting the homeless permanent housing. He reported that he did visit and Pastor Moon has done a good job considering what he inherited and has paid off a lot of debt. He stated that if they ever get an opportunity to go take a look, they should. He added that it is difficult to see because it is high-barrier, but they have to do so because women and children are at the location. He reported that Pollinator Day is at Purdue Poly Tech on April 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. McLaughlin stated that she went to the ribbon cutting for the Silver Creek Landing last week and it is a great location with a kayak launch. She added that she believes there will be some training for those that aren't as experienced and would recommend that they visit if they get a chance. She reported that there was a great turnout for the Derby Sip & Shop and she is sure that all the businesses were happy to see everyone out.

Mr. Dickey stated that Mrs. Griffith brought up the 1st Economic Panel that was held at Ivy Tech and he found it to be a very productive session and it was great to connect with other regional leaders. He added that New Albany received a bit of a shoutout as part of the panel discussion, specifically forward looking on what is going on with the Elsby Building. He echoed Mr. Applegate's comments and stated that the shooting that happened in Louisville affects this community very much and their hearts go out to all that were impacted. He stated that we all need to be better about finding solutions to address this problem and he doesn't think it is just at a federal or state level, but everyone needs to be involved in looking after their neighbors and to create a society that they want to live in. He noted that April 18 was Holocaust Remembrance Day and he didn't want that to go by without some mention. He stated that in Israel the country pauses while sirens blow, and for those that have family members that were touched by the Holocaust, they certainly don't want that history to be forgotten. He reported that he was attendance at the new firehouse opening and he was happy to be part of it and see the project come to fruition. He added that it was a much-needed project with the previous house going through 60 years of constant use, and it indicates that the city is moving forward. He stated that the kayak launch is another example of this and he thinks they want to continue to see that forward progress.

Mrs. Collier echoed what her colleagues said about the tragedy in Louisville. She stated that she was thankful to be able to attend the ribbon cuttings at the new firehouse and the kayak launch at Silver Creek Landing. She added that they are both wonderful additions to the community and she was honored to be there. She stated that she did check with the board of works regarding the issue of traffic calming and they are waiting on a quote, so once that is received it will be submitted to this council.

Mr. Tuner asked if it is multiple quotes or just one.

Mrs. Collier stated that she isn't sure, she just knows that once the quote/quotes are received they will be submitted to this body. She informed the rest of the council that she spoke with Mr. Aldridge and he had an emergency which is why he is not present at the meeting tonight. She added that because he doesn't know what the constraints of this emergency will be, he is asking to be on the agenda for the second meeting in May. She stated that there are a few things that she has noticed throughout her time on council that she would like to address. She stated that this body does have some issues moving away from points of order and being able to maintain decorum, so in the interest of that, she wants to remind them that when they would like to have the floor to request that opportunity from the presiding officer. She added that this body has been very generous as far as allowing each individual to say what they want and for as long as they need to say it, but they should try to keep their discussion to five minutes per member and no more than two times per debate topic. She reminded the council that at the end of the meetings during the public comment section, that is the time for the public to give their comments to the council, not a discussion between the council and the public.

Mr. Blair stated that he didn't see anything in the city ordinance as far as limiting the amount of discussion time for council members and asked if this is a new rule she is implementing.

Ms. Stein stated that it is in the ordinance under Section 30.23 h2 which states that "All speeches and discussions by Council members will be limited to five minutes, unless extended at the discretion of the Presiding Officer." She added that her interpretation of that is five minutes per each main motion on the table.

Mr. Turner asked if beyond that is just discussion.

Ms. Stein exemplified that if there is an ordinance on the table and one member wants to talk about that ordinance and they talk for three minutes, which is followed by comments from someone else, they can then talk for two more minutes about that same topic. She stated that this is how it construed in the ordinance and Robert's Rules of Order basically says the same thing although it allows for ten minutes of speaking with two separate "bites of the apple" rule.

Mr. Blair asked if they are going to use a stop watch.

Ms. Stein stated that is up to the presiding officer.

Mrs. Collier state that she doesn't plan to have a stop watch. She explained that they often have people in audience waiting and this is solely for the purpose of not rehashing the same point over and over to be mindful of their time as well as this body's time.

Mr. Blair stated that he has been on the council for eleven years and this is the first time he has heard of this rule being implemented. He added that a lot of times they are asking questions which goes back and forth and eats at the time. He stated that he also sees it as transparency because sometimes information gets brought out that hasn't been brought out when the ordinance has been introduced, and sometimes it takes longer than five minutes to do this.

Mrs. Collier stated that she doesn't intend to constrict the conversation and cut off any conversation that may take longer than five minutes, she is bringing this up so that the

members are mindful about hitting the same point over and over because it isn't necessary. She added that as long as everyone is making valid new points, she doesn't intend to limit it.

Mr. Blair asked about council members reiterating what was previously said because that was a waste of time.

Mrs. Collier stated that may be true, but she views comments from the council as a different item and maybe Mrs. Stein can elaborate on it.

Ms. Stein stated that this rule falls under how they debate an ordinance, resolution or other ordinance on the table. She added that comments from the council are meant for them to comment on whatever they want and it is not a debate.

Mr. Turner stated that his biggest concern is elaborating when new details come out. He stated that that when new information comes about and they need to discuss it, he would hate to be gavelled down if the president is not willing to hear what he has to say. He added that they have to do what is best for the people if they are having a productive conversation no matter how long the public waits, because sometimes they are dealing with millions of dollars and five minutes quite frankly isn't enough time. He stated that if he has an opposing viewpoint, depending on who is presiding, he could be turned down to do due-diligence for his district and he hopes she handles this the right way.

Mrs. Collier explained that as she just told Mr. Blair, she has no intention of limiting anyone, especially with a new valid point. She stated that this is to keep them from repeating the same points over and over. She added that as long as there are new points being discussed, she will not limit that at all, she simply wants to eliminate the habit of saying the same thing multiple times throughout the discussion.

Mr. Aebersold stated that he understands both ideas about this. He explained that they should be able to express concerns and considerations on a topic that is being discussed and if he wants to list every reason he thinks something should go through, he should be afforded the time to do so regardless of how long that takes. He added that he does understand Mrs. Collier's point as well because sometimes they have people that will talk about a topic and they will tell this body the same thing 3-6 times. He stated that if they express their opinion on something, one time is enough. He added that he would hate to be gavelled down if they are going back and forth answering questions that may bring in new topics.

Mrs. Collier stated that she agrees and has no problem with discussion and valid points, it is the process of repeating the same points that she is trying to eliminate.

Mr. Turner stated that maybe they should appropriate funding to hire someone to time keep for them. He added that he thinks they should have a natural conversation without restrictions.

Ms. Stein stated that as a point of order this is not a time for debate. She explained that the president is trying to inform them of the rules of the council that they are bound by and there is a rules committee in place. She said that if someone is unhappy with this rule or the way it is being implemented, they can draft an ordinance to change the rules and it can go to committee.

Mrs. Griffith asked if it is appropriate to raise their hands when they go to address the floor or if there is a certain motion she would like them to use.

Mrs. Collier stated that she wants them to be mindful when others are speaking and asks for their time when they aren't. She stated that sometimes these meetings get disrespectful and all she is asking is for respect.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

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

Storm Water Update – Mr. Phil Aldridge

Mrs. Collier stated that Mr. Aldridge was scheduled to attend the meeting but due to a personal emergency, he is unable to and they will get that back on the agenda for the May 18 meeting.

Mr. Phipps reported that the rules committee met on April 6 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss three items. He stated that they discussed the policy statement on travel reimbursement and they will have a specific policy statement to vote on at the May 11 meeting at 1:00 p.m. He stated that the second item they discussed was regarding broadcasting board and committee meetings from the city and they decided that they will continue to broadcast council meetings as they have been doing. He said that they will wait to see what the guidance is that comes back from Indianapolis on terms of what they want and how it has to be done and archived. He added that they are hoping to have that information by the May 11 meeting as well and they will proceed forward. He stated that the third issue was regarding a question about the procedures for calling a special meeting. He explained that they looked at the ordinance and it does allow for five council members to request a meeting and it can also be requested by email, which is in the ordinance. He stated that they decided that moving forward they will continue to follow that policy, but in the meeting it will be read into the minutes the five council persons that requested the meeting.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: G-23-02 Tax-Exempt Status for Affordable Housing Project

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: G-23-02 Tax-Exempt Status for Affordable Housing Project

G-23-02	An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana Approving Tax-Exempt Status for Affordable Housing Project	Applegate 1&2
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Mr. Applegate introduced Bill G-23-02 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Dickey moved to forgo the traditional committee hearing to discuss this as part of their regular business during the next regular council meeting, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Applegate explained that this process between the City of New Albany and the New Albany Housing Authority (NAHA) has been in place for some time under the situation with the property that it was currently. He stated that with the updates in the property that have already shown with the removal of the buildings, leveling of the ground and infrastructure projects, this will reinvent that area. He added that ~ \$24M will be invested in this property from a cash standpoint and of course the valuation of that is going to be strong because of how the look of that area will change and what it is doing for the community. He explained that this ordinance serves to codify the agreement with the name change of the property owner, which is all still under NAHA control. He added that

this locks in the payment so after all the updates have happened the tax value doesn't have to be passed down to the residents.

Mr. David Duggins, Executive Director, New Albany Housing Authority, explained that this property is tax exempt now because it is property that is owned by HUD through NAHA, and they will be using a tax credit entity called Southern Indiana Housing Corporation which is solely owned subsidiary of NAHA. He stated that this is going to be the exact same thing with a different entity that owns it and explained that currently all of the properties that have not been converted through low-income housing tax credits are owned by HUD and managed by NAHA. He explained that they, like most housing authorities across the country, will be transferring to a tax credit model which allows them to remodel, tear down, or build new and still keep their tax-exempt status. He added that this will codify the entity of Southern Indiana Housing Corporation Beechwood LLC as the new entity of ownership. He stated that the difference between public housing and affordable housing is that they have the ability to serve outside of the HUD guidelines on income, but it will fall under the low-income tax credit that they were awarded from the state through a competitive deal with a bond issuance.

Mr. Blair asked if what they are seeing is just a parcel of the project and not the entire area that they see at Beechwood.

Mr. Duggins stated that is correct. He explained that there are two phases at Beechwood and this is dealing with the first phase, which is the bulk of it. He stated that they have held the back portion closure to the park for private homeownership. He added that he looks to start building those in the next couple of years because right now rates and construction costs are very high. He reported that they were forced to keep one of the duplexes that will be their office and this will allow someone who has not grown up around it to come out and see the barracks style building from 1939.

Mr. Blair stated that in essence they are picking up more property tax than they had before.

Mr. Duggins stated that is correct. He explained that once the new homeownership pieces are built, they will pay taxes and are not part of this. He stated that the only piece that is tax exempt is the part that NAHA will continue to own and manage. He explained that HUD doesn't want to be in the property ownership business, and they would prefer to give the property to NAHA and allow them to apply for tax credits, which is a much better operating system for both NAHA and the public. He added that banks are normally the purchaser of those tax credits and they don't get them all up front, and with this system the properties will be better maintained, they can recertify income, and when the bonds are paid off, they can reapply and do the same thing over so they don't have to have 50-year-old facilities. He stated that items they take for granted like closet space and appliances will now be provided and this is a much better model for quality affordable housing. He added that they will close on the bond in mid-May.

Mr. Blair stated that he didn't see any transfer for availability of ownership and asked if NAHA is required to hold it for thirty years.

Mr. Duggins replied yes and explained that they aren't getting out of the business, but the tax credit model is required to hold. He added that the equity partner can sell out but not the management partner, which is NAHA.

Mr. Blair stated that he realizes that they weren't collecting taxes on the property previously but they are rendering services, which means they are subsidizing services to the development. He asked if there is an opportunity to collect additional taxes to help pay for some of the services including police, fire and school that will be needed for the area.

Mr. Duggins stated that HUD sets the standards and it is based on the usage.

Mr. Blair asked if it was anything that we negotiated.

Mr. Duggins replied no and stated that he gets information each year from Indianapolis letting him know where they are at.

Mr. Blair stated that on the third page of the ordinance in section five, it gives the city the ability to negotiate and asked if it is pertinent because prepare or execute has a different connotation.

Ms. Stein stated that negotiate can mean just signing a check in legal terms.

Mr. Duggins stated that the city has to sign off on the annual plan and this is saying that they will continue to do so.

Mr. Blair stated that negotiating to him means the chance to make changes.

Ms. Stein explained that it is not what it means here.

Mr. Duggins stated that in the past the city would just sign off but the legislator changed it the last time because it is on the books.

Mr. Blair asked if the language was given to them.

Mr. Duggins stated that it was given to them by Frost Brown Todd.

Mr. Tuner stated that he has a few questions about some of the codes that he will reach out to Mr. Duggins to ask.

Mrs. Griffith asked if the two sections for future growth will be subsidized for individuals to purchase.

Mr. Duggins stated that will be available for purchase.

Mrs. Griffith asked if they would be paying taxes on that portion.

Mr. Duggins replied yes.

Mrs. Collier stated that this should go to the budget and finance committee for review and if everyone is in agreement, she would like to cover it during their regular meeting.

Mr. Turner asked if they would be subject to time frames.

Mrs. Collier stated that they can make exceptions for this item.

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: Z-23-01 Vacation by New Albany Housing Authority

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: Z-23-01 Vacation by New Albany Housing Authority

Z-23-01	An Ordinance for the Vacation Pursuant to a Petition Filed by New Albany Housing Authority and Dedication and/or Reservation of Permanent Utility Easements	Dickey 1&2
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Mr. Dickey introduced Bill Z-23-01 and moved to approve the first and second readings, **Mr. Phipps** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Blair moved to discuss this item at the regular council meeting, **Mr. Turner** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Dickey explained that with this project they are essentially remaking the public ways in this development which will require a cleanup of the public rights-of-ways.

Mr. Duggins explained that NAHA has been maintaining these roads for the entire life of the facility but they have to be re-plated. He explained that it came out in the old title work that they needed to clean this up before they could close, so they are asking to vacate these roads in order to replat. He added that their legal counsel did say that this wasn't something they had to do but it might be better for future title work. Mr. Duggins referenced a map that he presented before the council and pointed out the section that would be used for private ownership. He stated that the facility will be a mix of single-family homes and duplexes along with a senior facility that will focus on residents 62 years of age and older. He added that they are striving to blend this location into the surrounding community so that when you drive down Beechwood, it will not look like subsidized housing. He stated that they will use similar materials to their other projects and they will have a clean line of sight from Beechwood to Silver Street Park. He explained that the folks that were relocated from this location will have the opportunity to come back but they did reduce the number of units to 81 total. He stated that the new spaces will give the feel of a clean line of sight and the single-family homes will mix right in. He added that they are very proud of this project and they are finally at the finish line after working on it for six years. He reported that they haven't had any issues moving individuals to held vacancies during this project while they wait for the project to be complete, or they were issued a tenant protection voucher, which allowed them to move anywhere in the county. He added that most folks stay in the NAHA properties and if they take into account all the properties that have been rehabbed, they have probably moved over 400 people without incident. He reiterated how proud they are of this project and stated that with this body's blessing, they will be able to come out of the ground in July. He added that a couple of the main points they worked on were reducing the density, reducing the number and increasing the mix of facilities,

Mr. Aebersold asked what the lot sizes will be around the edge of the development.

Mr. Duggins stated that that they will have to go through planning and zoning so they will have to be the lot size of a subdivision. He added that they could likely put 20 houses there if they wanted but they do not plan to do that many.

Mr. Phipps asked if they are going to keep any of the street names that were named after the generals for World War II

Mr. Duggins replied yes. He added that he was surprised about how much this has come up in conversation.

Mr. Phipps asked if the street will line up with the street that intersects on Beechwood on the other side.

Mr. Duggins replied yes.

Mr. Phipps stated that the one small block that runs from Beechwood to Vance is called West Street, which the city already has. He added that whatever they name the street going into the development they may want to petition the board of works to name that small block the same name.

Mr. Duggins stated that he will have to look at it but he doesn't have any issue with that.

Mr. Applegate stated that they are seeing this model across the country and it works really well. He added that Mr. Duggins and his team have done a lot of research on this but these types of mixed-use spaces work well and it will make a difference.

Mrs. Griffith asked about the minimum or maximum number of vouchers that we have in the City of New Albany and if the goal is to increase the number of units that they currently have.

Mr. Duggins replied no. He stated that there is a distinct difference between public housing and affordable housing. He explained that affordable housing and tax credit affordable housing is not public housing. He stated that public housing serves mostly what is called 30% AMI (average median income) which is the lower of the lowest of income residents which results in a concentration of poverty. He explained that affordable housing, like public housing is based on your income, but the income levels are able to be higher and there is a better mix in each community. He stated that when they build a tax credit deal, they can only put up to 30% of what is called place-based vouchers there, but they are allowed to go above that because they displaced residents. He added that every one person displaced in this property has the ability to come back, not the right, and in order to be able to host those that were displaced, they have to go above this 30%. He stated that affordable housing is needed all over the country but what New Albany has is a glut of old public housing built on top of each other. He added that they are just now fixing problems that were started 60 years ago and the goal is to deconcentrate poverty and move away from identifiable public housing. He explained that most communities in the area moved to a Section 8 model in the 60's/70's but the director at that time did not, and continued to build. He stated that there are rebalances to what is a more appropriate number. He added that they still have a wait list but the wait list scoring prioritizes Floyd County residents with the goal of quality affordable housing.

Mrs. Griffith stated that the plans are wonderful and they did a great job on it.

Mrs. Collier stated that she is going to send this to the public works committee comprised of Mr. Dickey, Mr. Blair and herself.

Mr. Blair asked Mr. Duggins for photos of the project.

Mr. Duggins stated that he will email them to him.

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-23-03 Fire Department Equipment

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-23-03 Fire Department Equipment

**A-23-03 Ordinance for the Additional Appropriation of Phipps 3
EDIT Fund for Fire Department Equipment**

Mr. Phipps Introduced Bill A-23-03 and moved to approve the third reading, Mr. Applegate second, all voted in favor. Bill A-23-03 becomes Ordinance A-23-04.

Mr. Phipps stated that he thinks they thoroughly discussed this at the last meeting and they had the presentation from the fire department.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

Mr. Andrew Nicholson read the following statement to the council:

“I had the honor of attending the most recent meeting of the rules committee comprising of Adam Dickey, Greg Phipps, and Stefanie Griffith, alongside Shane Gibson as “counsel”. As an attendee of my first rules committee meeting, I commend Mrs. Griffith for being the most prepared and raising the voice of the people concerning the streaming of all public meetings. Her willingness to work hard towards this is commendable.

Among the four members of the public present was the City Council President, Jennie Collier. It was apparent that the rules committee members were oblivious to how the city currently streamed videos. I attempted to enlighten the rules committee, initially by raising my hand, and then by blurting out that they utilize a system known as Vimeo, similar to YouTube. However, Greg Phipps instructed me harshly no to speak and that the public comment was not available.

Eventually, the city council president was allowed to speak on two separate occasions. I sought clarification from the rules committee on how she could, and they explained that she had special privileges as the city council president at these meetings. However, I was curious if there was a written rule or ordinance that permits the city council president to enjoy these privileges while acting as a member of the public at committee meetings in which she does not participate.

The people of New Albany have been demanding transparency from their local government since the start of the year. They desire to see, be part of, and feel welcome at public meetings, to have their voices heard and to be led into a more transparent local government that propels its people forward. When the city council voted on this, most members chose to abstain from transparency rather than leading the way towards it. They preferred to sit idly by and wait for instructions from the state of Indiana rather than stepping up.

During the last council meeting, Mr. Dickey asked if anyone had approached other boards and committees to gauge their opposition to live streaming their meetings. Why has the rules committee failed to exercise due diligence, as Mr. Dickey has suggested, by visiting each board and inquiring about it? It became glaringly apparent during the rules committee meeting that the task had not been completed. After Shane Gibson's inquiry, "Why are you asking me these questions? I am not trying to be a smart aleck, but this is your all's rules committee".

I took it upon myself to help lead this city council to transparency by asking these questions. So far, no board or committee has voiced their opposition to this idea. To quote Mickey Thompson of the board of works, "He doesn't have an opinion on it because nothing will change during his board of works meetings". When I asked him his thoughts later, he claimed it was not his decision. So, whose decision is it? Throughout the entire year, I have been attending public gatherings and broadcasting them live to Facebook in 20 distinct live streams, and the viewership count has surpassed the 21,000 mark. On average, each video received a viewership of over 1,050 views per video, which was calculated yesterday and those numbers could have gone up since then. The individuals who have viewed these live streams were unable to attend these events due to the constraints of their daily lives, be it their occupational commitments or the responsibilities of parenthood. Some people may have encountered psychological barriers such as social anxiety or physical impediments, which makes their attendance at the public meetings a rather challenging task.

Why do you fail to spearhead these people's efforts? Why do you refuse to commit to the bare minimum by broadcasting and archiving these gatherings for the benefit of those who want to get involved? Why are you unwilling to educate yourselves on the issue before passing it on to the rules committee? When will we have transparency from our local government?"

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jennie Collier, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk