

**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, JULY 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 and President Collier.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Moeller 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 July 5, 2023, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Griffith stated that she wanted to thank Mrs. Fischer and Ms. Johnson because a lot of the links are fixed on the website, so the tax abatement information is up there as well as the maps, and she really appreciates that. She then said that there is a public meeting tomorrow with INDOT on the electric car outlets. She stated that it is at New Albany Education on Grant Line Road from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. She said that it is open to the public and they are going to be deciding where to put the plugins for the electric cars. She added that apparently there was a grant given to New Albany, which is great, and if anyone has suggestions on where they should be located, this meeting would be great to attend. She then stated that the Carnegie Center on Tuesday, August 1st at 2:00 p.m. is going to be doing a ribbon cutting for their new Makers Space. She said that this is going to be really cool because it will be free and open to the public. She stated that you can go there and do podcasts and they have some other little machines such as green screens so that you can do some photographs and different things like that.

Mr. Turner stated that on Saturday, August 5th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge there is a Helping Hands event where they are trying to get many different nonprofits and groups from the community to attend, and be available to show people what they can give back to the community. He said that if anyone needs resources, they will be there for them to support them and it is just going to be a community event, so the Masons are not going to try to get you to be a Mason or ask for donations, they just want to have a community event to focus on doing good in the community. He stated we had a pretty bad storm and there has been a lot of flooding that happened this week. He said that it was a very brief rain but it was very heavy and he just wants to reiterate the need for a new storm water masterplan, which he knows they are working on. He stated that he is concerned that the storm water director didn't know about the Army Corp of Engineers Study when he was before the council, and hopes that he takes that into consideration, because we paid for that study and it states that our storm water infrastructure is not up to date with how much we have developed. He said that the study also shows different ways that to mitigate some of these problems that we have; he said there are nine different ways to do it and it shows how each one can be done. He added that some ways probably aren't viable but they do have that available to us. He stated that we learned about this study in 2021 and our comprehensive plan was done before that, so he thinks this a major new piece of information that we have. He added that he thinks there is potential there that maybe our comprehensive plan and some of the things that we do need to be looked at. He said that he is not saying a full-on comprehensive plan redo needs to be done but maybe some amendments need to be made. He stated that one thing

off of the top of his head is the 150% retention that we go by may be causing more flooding. He asked where does the rain go when you make all of these new concrete pads? He said that the study said that even a minor rain event can cause significant flooding with the way our storm water infrastructure has been maintained, so he hopes that the city looks at that. He stated that he does have the entire study if anyone else would like to look at it because he knows that some of the council members weren't on this council when the study was released to us, but he has everything if anyone would like to review it.

Mr. Dickey stated that he wanted to take a moment to thank the fire department because this week we had a mild kitchen fire at Mark Elrod Tower and they handled that very expeditiously, and kept the disturbance and damage to the building at the very minimum. He said that he just wanted to thank everyone who was connected to that incident as well as the staff at the housing authority who worked to keep everyone in place while they dealt with the situation there. He then stated that he would just add as an addition to Mr. Turner's comments about drainage that he always tells people that making the city a better place starts with us. He said that he has reminded several people that as part of that, checking our catch basins and clearing debris is absolutely essential. He stated that we have a great crew that goes out and takes care of that, but all too often it just takes a little bit of a rain event to suddenly clog some of those up, so that's when we get backups in some places and some of those problems. He stated that Mr. Aldridge has been working with him on a few areas that we have needed to make some improvements and he knows that Mrs. Collier has talked to him about a couple of more. He said that he just wants to thank those guys for all they do to keep that water out of our properties, homes and off of our streets. He said that they just need to remind citizens that they can help with that by doing just a little bit of extra work to clear a catch basin in front of their house or business. He also said that he has a report from redevelopment when they get to the reports portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Collier stated that she did look over a draft of the letter regarding the animal shelter yesterday and there were a couple of minor changes, so that went back to Ms. Stein and will most likely go out tomorrow, but if it doesn't, it will be early next week. She added that Ms. Stein will make sure that the council members get a copy of that too.

Mr. Blair stated that he appreciates that because he just wanted to make sure that the county has been notified because he doesn't want any surprises at the end of the year. He added that the county has obligations to provide animal control services to their constituents and he doesn't want any surprises when we stop providing service to them.

Mrs. Collier passed out the RFP for the traffic calming study and said that it has gone out and the deadline is August 18th. She stated that after they get them back, she will report what they received.

Mr. Turner asked what they did beforehand?

Mrs. Collier stated that they were coming up with a plan of what they wanted to include to make sure that the study included everything that they thought was necessary for it.

Mr. Turner stated that a few months ago Mrs. Collier said that they shopped for a contract or something like that.

Mrs. Collier stated that they didn't do it officially. She said that this is the official route so this is what went out. She said that she could get Mr. Turner a better answer on that but she has been checking on this pretty regularly and reporting back on it.

Mr. Turner stated that he loves this and he appreciates it but he is wondering why they would tell her that they are looking for contracts and then the RFP is on July 18th. He said that he doesn't want Mrs. Collier to be misled.

Mrs. Collier stated that she doesn't think that she was being misled but she thinks that they were going about it a different way and that wasn't working out so they are going

this route now. She said that hopefully they will be more successful with this route. She added again that she doesn't think that she was being misled.

Mr. Applegate stated that he thinks that he recalls that they were talking to a few people to find out what needed to be done, and Mr. Turner had mentioned if they had sent out an RFP or not and if they were working on it.

Mr. Turner stated that may be what it was. He said that he just wanted to see some movement because we gave them three months at the end of the year, but it is good to see something being done.

Mrs. Griffith asked if that will include anything like public transportation?

Mrs. Collier stated that she just received it immediately before the meeting and hasn't had a chance to review it very well. She said that they can look it over and if Mrs. Griffith has any questions, she will get those addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mrs. Moeller passed out the budget calendar for 2024 and stated that they tried to make it to where it will work for everyone and to keep them on the timeline with DLGF and SBOA. She said that she usually sends the budget information out by email prior to the meeting, but if anyone prefers a hard copy, just let her know and she can print one out for them and bring it to the meeting. She added that the work sessions will all be here in the council chambers.

Mr. Blair stated that personally, he would prefer a hard copy of the budget because it is harder to flip back and forth to things on his phone.

Mr. Phipps stated that he would as well.

Mrs. Griffith stated that she would as well.

Mrs. Moeller stated that there are several others that want hard copies so she will send it out by email and make copies to bring to the meeting.

Mr. Applegate asked the clerk if she could send the meetings out as a calendar invite so that they can accept them and they will be on their calendars?

Mrs. Glotzbach stated that she could.

Mrs. Moeller said that she will do that.

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

Rules Committee – Request for Approval on Policy for Professional Development and Training

Mr. Applegate moved to approve the policy as amended, **Mr. Blair** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Dickey moved to add the extra bullet point that says council members should notify the council of the training and the expected cost upon registration and documentation of completion should be submitted to the clerk if possible, and to add the language however the council will strive to use the funds amongst the council members equitably, **Mr. Turner** second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Phipps stated that everyone should have received a copy of the policy in their packet. He said that they had several different meetings on this and some revisions back and forth and this is primarily what they came up with.

Mr. Dickey stated that it was the committee's intent that the council would make a formal ratification of the policy.

Mr. Applegate stated that he is assuming that it received a favorable vote from the committee.

Mr. Dickey stated yes, it was unanimous.

Mr. Turner asked if we are voting beforehand or are we just saying that we can spend first come, first serve within reason? He said, for instance, when he took that training this year, the council had to vote on it and asked if that is how we want to do that? He stated that he can't remember exactly how much they get for training but he thinks it is around \$2,000.00, and he thinks they can all get like \$200.00 a piece for training. He asked if they should assume that \$200.00 would require no vote or should they say that all things come before the council? He added that maybe if it is over a certain amount, it should come for a vote.

Mrs. Griffith stated that because no one has really taken advantage of it for the last couple of years, it was going to be first come, first serve unless they start getting more and more requests. She said that it was just to encourage training because they didn't want to stop one person if it was like a \$500.00 training that they wanted to do. She added that they didn't want to discourage anyone one from doing something like that by putting a \$200.00 cap per person on it. She said that there are some people that won't want to take advantage of the education, which is fine, but they want to encourage it too. She asked if she explained that right?

Mr. Dickey stated that is right and he thinks the idea would be that we would report on that. He said, for example, if he intends to go to the AIM conference in August which is roughly \$345.00, he would make that point known that he is registering for it and seeking reimbursement or pay or however they are handling that. He said that they want to make sure that everyone is communicating on this because if we get into a situation where we all say we want to go to the same conference, we may go over what is actually in the fund and need to make an additional appropriation. He stated that the reporting is more of a courtesy and a budgetary review. He added that if he has racked up \$2,000.00 in training by the middle of the year, they might want to make note of that because maybe he would need to cool down on the training trips.

Mr. Turner stated that he has one thing that he thinks would be beneficial to this which is that when his training was over and he passed, he sent the pass in. He would like to see if there is training provided and there is a pass or certification, he thinks that should be emailed to show that it has been completed, because he could have as easily just not done the course after he got reimbursed and not show anything for it. He said he would like to add that amendment to it.

Mr. Dickey stated that he thinks they could just add a bullet point that says "prior to registration, a council member will notify his fellow council members of an attempt to attend the training and after that training has been attended, they will produce some sort of certification or verification that they attended and participated in that training".

Mrs. Griffith stated that they spoke about that and she is trying to remember why they left that out. She asked Mr. Phipps and Mr. Dickey if they remember? She said that she did bring that up because not everyone has the certificate at the end.

Mr. Turner agreed and said some of them don't.

Mr. Dickey said generally speaking, he thinks they can come up with a way to indicate that a person attended and certify that. He said that if they phrase it like that, in his mind,

it doesn't put it on the training to come up with a fancy certificate or something. He added that it is just verification that the person attended the training. He stated that if he signed up for a training and didn't go to it because he had a car wreck on the way there or something, he thinks most of the time they will say that person needs to be accountable for that and they owe that back to the citizens.

Mr. Turner stated that maybe it should say "if applicable, anything that shows course completion should be submitted to the city".

Ms. Stein said so it should say "council members should notify the council of the training and the expected cost upon registration and documentation of completion should be submitted to the clerk if possible".

Mr. Phipps asked if it should say upon registration or prior to registration?

Mr. Dickey said prior to registration to just make it cleaner so that they all know that they have to come to the council first or share the information.

Mr. Applegate stated that he is thinking that if they see that all of them sign up for the same thing then they would know that they would be overbudget.

Mr. Dickey asked Mrs. Moeller what is in that line item?

Mr. Turner said that he thinks it is \$2,000.00.

Mr. Applegate said that the thinks it is \$2,000.00 also.

Mrs. Moeller stated that she thinks that sounds right and that the only person that ever used it that she can think of is David Barksdale to go to historic things. She said that some conferences or training will have you pay in advance at the time of registration. She stated that what is also a possibility is that you would pay for a training and bring back the certificate and then file a claim to get reimbursed.

Mr. Dickey stated that AIM sometimes gives you option to invoice as opposed to paying up front and asked Mrs. Moeller what she prefers?

Mrs. Moeller stated that she thinks as long as she knows that the council has approved the member going to that in advance then an invoice would be okay.

Mr. Aebersold asked if you have someone who wants to go to something that is \$400.00 and two months later you have three people that want to go to something else, rather than saying that anybody that wants to go to anything can, say there is always a \$100.00 fee that you can use?

Mr. Dickey stated that the concern that they talked about is that some of these conferences have wildly different costs. He said that some conferences are small costs but when you get to some of the other conferences, depending on where it is and what it is, and when you take into account if you are going to ask for mileage and things like that, those things can get more costly. He stated that their perspective was if we divide that \$2,000.00 up, we are basically setting everyone up to have to come back with the exception of maybe a small item like a roundtable. He said that in their minds, it is better to keep track of it throughout the year and let people bring requests that they have freely, and then when we see that we have hit a certain point with the budget, then take measures to either add to it or deny any further training. He stated that it is a first come, first serve basis but he thinks it is a fair way to track the dollars without necessarily getting hung up on whether Dave is getting \$100.00 or is Jason getting \$100.00, etc.

Mrs. Griffith stated that it is just to encourage because it hasn't been taken advantage of. She thinks that is where they started and at least they have a starting point to encourage council members to get training of some sort. She added that if it becomes a problem, that is a good thing she thinks because that means that we are all getting more training.

Mr. Blair stated that he reads it as first come, first serve but then it says that it must be equitable among all members.

Mr. Dickey stated that what they are trying to do there is to place in there that as much as possible, they want this to be an equal opportunity for all. He said that if he is going to a bunch of training, he doesn't want Mr. Blair to feel like he can go to a training.

Mr. Blair asked if there is a better way to phrase that maybe because it says "shall ensure" and that is almost like that is a stipulation. He asked if there is a way to soften that or somehow make it a little more lenient?

Mr. Phipps stated that he can give an example of what they had in mind with that. He said let's just say that one council person decides they want to go to three different events before the middle of March, that is not equitable because they are using up a whole bunch of the money in a small portion of time, which isn't going to allow equitable use for someone else. He stated that he doesn't know that it is something rigid, it is just something that we look at just to make sure that one person isn't abusing it.

Mr. Blair stated that he agrees with him.

Mr. Phipps said that maybe the wording could be better.

Mr. Blair stated that is just how he reads it and he becomes very technical and detailed at times. He said that he reads that it "shall be equitable" instead of "try to make it equitable" or "attempt to make it equitable" or something to that effect.

Mr. Dickey said that he gets what Mr. Blair is saying because in legalese "shall" has a lot different meaning than other words like "may".

Ms. Stein asked them if they want to change it to should instead of shall?

Mr. Aebersold asked if it is okay with everyone if the same person uses all of the money throughout the year?

Mr. Applegate said yes, if no one else is using it.

Mr. Dickey stated that he thinks it is there to be utilized as long as we are willing to utilize it. He said that in his mind, if it just doesn't work out or he is disinterested in training, he doesn't want to penalize anyone else on the council from being able to partake of opportunities. He stated that there may be legitimate reasons why, for example, he knows of one council member in another community that was undergoing some cancer treatment, and as a result, they did not travel very far from home while undergoing treatments. He said that in that scenario, they probably wouldn't care if someone else wanted to utilize some of the money that they might have otherwise utilized. He stated that this policy is a framework to guide us on how to do this and we are going to have to do a little bit of work to manage it. He also stated that, for example, Mrs. Griffith came on the council at the beginning of this year so she may legitimately have a case for getting more training this year than someone who has been a member for several terms. He said that she thinks they need to take that type of stuff into consideration as well.

Mr. Applegate stated that if someone has gone to a couple of trainings and they have spent \$300.00-\$400.00 and it is June, they can send out an email to everyone that says no one else is going to anything and used any money, so they would like to go to another training if no one else is going to use it. He said that they just all need to work together.

Mr. Blair stated that the bottom line is that someone can make a motion and bring it up to a vote and we can work it out. He said that if it is more than \$2,000.00, we can figure out how to transfer money around. He stated that he thinks it needs to be flexible and not rigid.

Mrs. McLaughlin stated that everyone just needs to talk to one another when they want to do something and that way, they can contain the budget.

Mr. Dickey stated that it could say “however the council shall strive to use the funds amongst council members equitably”.

Mrs. Collier said maybe it should be “should strive”.

Mr. Dickey stated that it should say “however the council will strive to use the funds amongst the council members equitably”.

Mr. Turner said that he likes that because these words will last a lot longer than them so they need to get it right. He stated that a “shall” could mean something completely different to another group.

Redevelopment Report – Mr. Dickey

Mr. Dickey stated that this past meeting the redevelopment commission approved what he thinks is a very beneficial partnership with the University of Louisville and their Urban Studies Institute to do a little bit of a deep dive into particular homeownership in our community. He said they are looking at such factors as our demographics or land/parcel use as it relates to that. He stated that the goal of this is to ultimately further incentivize homeownership and look at the challenges that may be out there with the idea that we can, as a city, make some additional adjustments as needed to our policies and programs. He said that he loves this, because as a partnership with the University of Louisville, we are working with the academic community to not only produce a benefit for us in the terms of this study, but we are also looking at helping those in the urban settings institutes because those students gain valuable information and get exposed to our side of the river. He added that we too have folks that go to the University of Louisville from our side of the river. He stated that he thinks it is a great coupling of government and education, it saves us a little bit from what we may otherwise find if we put it out for consultants to work on, and the latter part is that it fits that goal of looking to incentivize homeownership in our community. He said that he just wanted to mention that and the turnaround time has this study being completed sometime in September, so we should be able to hear and learn a little more after that point. He stated that he just wanted to share that and make sure that everyone on the council is aware of that. He thinks it is going to be a really impactful project.

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

READING

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Jennie Collier, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk