

**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, SEPTEMBER 7,  
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:** Ms. Stein, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Wood, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach.

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

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2023, Mr. Applegate second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2023, Mr. Applegate second, all voted in favor.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he wanted to relay condolences for Mr. John Burger, one of our employees, and his family on his recent passing. He stated that Mr. Burger was a remarkable good guy. He said that he got the work done and tried to take care of people. He stated that often when he talked to folks, he would receive compliments about him. He also wanted to mention his community service with the Farmer’s Market and so many other things. He said that he actually thought there was a mistake when the obituary came out because he didn’t think that he was as old as he was. He thinks that only speaks to him living such a rich life and being so energetic. He said, again, he just wanted to relay condolences for Mr. Burger and obviously we will be thinking about his family and friends over the next several days. He added that it is just such a loss for our city. He then stated that one of the things that is going on right now is that there are trees that are being replaced because they have been diseased and impacted from ash and a similar fungus that affects locust. He said that if anyone receives questions about a tree that has been removed, it likely has to do with that or storm damage and they will be working with the arborist to replace those this fall.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he would like to move the Z-23-02 PUD to the beginning of the agenda so that we don’t have to keep those folks here during our discussion of the budget. He asked if they would vote on that now or if they would wait and vote on it once they get through council comments?

**Ms. Stein** stated that they could do it now.

**Mr. Phipps motioned to move Z-23-02 to the top of the agenda, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor.**

**Mrs. McLaughlin** stated that she concurs with what Mr. Dickey said about Mr. Burger and she offers her condolences to his family. She then said that she wanted to bring attention to the issue of cars running stop signs in the Indian Heights area where Cherokee and Schell Lane meet because she has had several of her constituents reach out to her about that. She stated that it is to the point to where there has been a child almost hurt so he jumped off of his bike because he thought he was going to be hit. She said that

they are also having a lot of issues on Vincennes Street in front of the high school with people speeding. She stated that Louisville is implementing rumble strips to calm traffic like we have on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and she doesn't know if that is a possibility that they could look into for these other areas. She said that she just wanted to make people aware and to stop at the stop signs and pay attention to pedestrians.

**Mr. Turner** stated that we have been working on traffic calming for a couple of years and we have had success and failures in the past so it is good that everyone is starting to see it. He said that he would like to get an update on the status of the RFP that was put out for a traffic calming study. He stated that he thinks it is time or probably close that we should have had something back on it. He said that traffic calming is a big deal and he has been doing a lot of canvassing and it is still the same as it was four years ago. He stated that we have to do something about it and he hopes it is taken seriously.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he concurs with the traffic calming because as he is out talking to people, he hears it all of the time. He said not to be a broken record, but he has been talking about it for 12 years now and it doesn't seem like we are getting anything accomplished. He stated that one thing that may have to work is just writing more tickets. He said that we may have to come up with some kind of traffic division in our police force that would just focus on speeding and sign violations and write tickets. He thinks that is how we could get that resolved. He stated that he is hearing from about every door that he knocks on that traffic is dangerous and we need to slow people down and make them obey the signs, lights, etc.

**Mr. Aebersold** stated that he concurs with the traffic calming issues and he doesn't have the solution for it. He said there are too many bad drivers out there.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that Main Street is open and it looks beautiful and he thinks that everyone appreciates that it is open now, but we also still have the bridge shut down a lot. He thinks that they still need to keep cheering for people to shop downtown, spend time downtown and now come see the new Main Street downtown. He said that they need to keep doing that for all of the shops and that they normally do, but when the bridge does shut down, all of the businesses are hit. He has talked to many business owners and it hurts when that bridge gets shut down.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she agrees on the traffic calming and the due date for the RFP was August 29<sup>th</sup> so it will probably be October before they can go through that. She then said that she attended the JRAC Summit on Wednesday and it was very impressive. She stated that all of our local leaders, the judges, the sheriff and multiple people came together for that and it was shocking to hear a lot of the averages. She said that Dr. Harris was there with the Floyd County Health Department and what upset her the most was hearing that we are above the national average in suicides, addiction and ER visits across the board in this area. She stated that to hear that and to see that those leaders are taking a step in the right direction is very heartwarming. She said that it is for people with mental and addiction issues, so they brought together all of our local resources and their goal is to find out how they can help people when they have been in jail and get out, and how to keep people from even attempting something to be put into jail. She stated that she would forward to President Collier or Ms. Stein what they received yesterday so they can see who is on the board and all of the different leaders who are coming together. She said that is just an FYI on that and the main thing is that we need to break the cycle. She added that is what it all came down to and it is getting addressed so that is the first step. She then stated that tourism is also putting together a survey so every few years SoIN Tourism comes together and they ask for public input. She said that it should be on social media but she doesn't think they received the response that they wanted. She stated that she attended a workshop today, and unfortunately, there weren't as many people there but it is a great time for us to say what our big goals are and how to bring all of the regions together, not just New Albany but Jeffersonville, Clarksville and even Starlight. She said that their focus is always New Albany but we have our niche and that is what we need to be promoting. She added that Jeffersonville has a niche and Starlight has a niche so let's just make sure that we are representing the most for our businesses here. She then stated that the home tour is on Saturday and Develop New Albany is putting that on. She said

that you can get tickets discounted in advance for \$20.00 and a lot of local small businesses are selling them or you can buy them online, but if not, they are \$25.00 the day of. She said that she hopes to see everyone on Saturday.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she also wanted to give her condolences to Mr. Burger’s family. She said that he has been around here for quite some time and we will definitely miss him. She stated that she is very pleased that Main Street is finished and it does look great so now we can all enjoy it. She then stated that a while back they talked about the anonymous donation for the baby box, and now that it is finished, she wanted to let everyone know that we have received a portion of what the donor had originally said they would donate. She said that Ms. Stein did get in contact with Dr. Knable, and as previously committed through him, anonymous donors have made a donation of \$7,000.00 to partially reimburse the City of New Albany for the costs of the baby box installed in New Albany. She stated that the donation was made in honor of Eugene and Evelyn Kruer-Lilly.

**COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: Z-23-02 Pickleball Club PUD**

**Mr. Dale Bagshaw, 85 Galt Street,** stated that he just wanted to say that he is generally for redevelopment and that has been an old property out there for decades, so it is kind of exciting to see something new moving in. He said that he is in favor of that project and he just wanted to comment that it will probably be the first time that property has been on the tax rolls in almost 100 years, so that will be good.

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: Z-23-02 Pickleball Club PUD**

<b>Z-23-02</b>	<b>Ordinance Amending the code of Ordinances of New Albany, Indiana Title XV, Chapter 156 (Docket P-01-23: Thomas O’Neill for Mile 99 LLC requests a Preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) to permit a pickleball club and events center in the LDR, Low Density Residential and SS, Steep Slopes districts, at 1902 Corydon Pike.)</b>	<b>Phipps 1&amp;2</b>
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**Mr. Phipps introduced Bill Z-23-02 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Dickey second, all voted in favor.**

**Ms. Katelyn Hines** stated that she was present on behalf of the applicant Mr. Tom O’Neill and it is basically an application to run a pickleball/events center and was already approved and given a favorable recommendation at the plan commission, which is why they are here today. She said that they are obviously asking the council to vote in favor of it. She stated that the ordinance and resolution set out all of the conditions that were suggested by the plan commission, so Mr. O’Neill is present to answer any questions about the actual project.

**Mr. Blair** stated that during our budget hearings, he asked for a pickleball facility and here you all are. He said that he didn’t realize that it was on the horizon and he really appreciates Mr. O’Neill putting it in and feels that it will be a great addition to our community.

**Mrs. McLaughlin** stated that she is very excited as well. She said that she has a friend that plays.

**Mr. Dickey** asked if they had any objections to any of the conditions?

**Ms. Hines** said they have no objections.

**Mr. O'Neill** agreed.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that the staff does a great job of outlining these and we obviously want to make sure that we are kind to the neighbors and take into account a different use than what they are used to. He said that he certainly appreciates that.

**Mr. Turner** asked when it will be complete?

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that their objective is phase 1 to be the pickleball facility and he is hopeful that they can get it done this winter and phase 2 would be focused on the school itself.

**Mr. Turner** asked if it is all privately funded?

**Mr. O'Neill** replied yes.

**Mr. Turner** asked where head start went?

**Mr. Dickey** stated that it went to the Children's Academy/Lillian Emery.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked if the pickleball facility is going to be in the parking lot?

**Mr. O'Neill** replied yes and stated that it will go from the far side of the parking lot, which is furthest from of the existing building, but almost all of it will be in the footprint of the current parking lot.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that they have such cute little playgrounds back there and she didn't know if they were planning on keeping any of that just for outdoor or if they are using that back building because there is a back building and a front building.

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that they closed contingent on getting approval from the city for their intended use. He said that their expectation is that they will use that back building, which was the cafeteria and there is a kitchen there, so it has some potential for a caterer or a food truck operator or something like that. He stated that they are really focused on the pickleball part of it first and then trying to figure out what the best use of the rest of the property is.

**Mrs. Griffith** said that she absolutely loves it and is glad that they are doing it and thanked him.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked how many courts they are looking at putting there?

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that the minimum they expect is six playing courts in the parking lot area and typically you have either two or four people playing on each court. He added that there is potential to have one court in the building in the old gymnasium but that is not definitely the direction they are going to go in.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked if that is enough to make the operation work?

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that he was involved in a pickleball club in Louisville at Resurrection Lutheran Church and that club has only three courts, and it has been operational now for almost two years and has done very well.

**Mr. Aebersold** asked what the hours will be?

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that it is open from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. and you would be really surprised at how many people are getting in there before work. He said that pickleball has got kind of a different demographic of players. He stated that a lot of people think of it as an older person's sport but now you have intermurals in college that play it and high schools play it, so it is kind of all age groups. He said throughout the day, you kind of see that different demographic coming into the club, such as the 10 o'clock hour for retirees is a very popular time. He said that the 6 o'clock hour in the a.m. for people that are working is a very popular time.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that as they move forward if they find that there is anything that we can help with or how you can partner with our schools or even with our local housing authority, etc., and allow some discounted things like that, he knows from a city side it would be very important because exercise and sportsmanship are huge especially for younger generations. He said that the city would greatly appreciate anything they can do like that and if they run into something to where it may need additional help or something else from the city, please let us know. He stated that the city would love to be supportive of anything that gets our entire city involved in that type of an element.

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that he really appreciates that. He also thinks that there is a big community here in southern Indiana of pickleball players. He stated that going to the parks he has seen that they are kind of taking over some of the tennis courts and he thinks that the Facebook group for southern Indiana is somewhere around 1,000 players. He also stated that when you see a tournament in the Kentuckiana area, it is sponsored around some community organizations and they have been involved with a group for the hungry at their current facility that does some amazing things, and he expects that will carry over here also.

**Mrs. McLaughlin** asked what the fees are to play in these tournaments or these leagues?

**Mr. O'Neill** stated that the tournaments vary and depend on how many divisions you are running and that type of thing, but typically their hourly rate to rent a court is \$24.00, so it is \$6.00 per person. He said that with their model right now, they haven't done memberships, it is just an hourly rate so you book the court and you get a code to get you access and you go in and play. He stated that it is open to the public, so with the facility they have now, anyone can book and play.

**Mrs. McLaughlin** said that is nice.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that obviously with that building being a former school, the architecture has a lot of historical significance and asked if they are wanting to preserve that as much as possible?

**Mr. O'Neill** replied yes, they are going to try to find something that fits within the footprint of it.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that it is nice to see life being brought back to that area and asked if there will be sidewalks on the docket along Corydon Pike and some work to help with the additional traffic?

**Mr. Wood** stated that the plan commission did not require sidewalks for this project. He said that there is a parking field right up against Corydon Pike where school visitors used the back end of Corydon Pike to get out. He stated that they asked them to change that around and they happily accommodated us, so now cars will back into their parking field and pull out, so there will be one entrance and one exit. He said that Corydon Pike is kind of low on priority as far as sidewalks because it is low density and a little bit residential and little bit industrial. He stated that until it starts really taking form, and he thinks this is part of helping it get there, they don't really know where they want to go with public improvements on it.



cities, towns and county governments good rates on equipment. He said that resolution will be brought to the council along with the final reading for the budget. He stated that will help fund the first truck that is coming in, which is replacing Quint 4 which is a pumper truck, and is one that definitely needs to be replaced. He added that it is one that is just in bad shape and it is not cost effective to keep it and won't even be used as auxiliary. He said that is the first one coming in and is scheduled to be here in October. He also said that they have already placed an order, and it is a three-year build time on these pumpers right now, and that is for a truck to replace Quint 3, which is a similar truck that was bought at the same time as Quint 4, but it is in a little better shape and that one will be used as an auxiliary. He stated that when we take one offline, we replace one. He said that these auxiliaries are used if something happens to another truck such as a transmission going out or something. He stated that we will have two brand new pumper trucks coming into the city within the next six years. He said that the way it is designed and the way they are going to present it is that the first pumper truck is about \$900,000.00 with equipment and that will be paid off by the time the next pumper truck comes in, so that way there will be no overlap in payments. He said that after that he thinks that a discussion needs to be had on what the next step is. He stated that these are two immediate needs that need to be done so they are addressing those and getting those taken care of. He said that the next question is how are these trucks used and he thinks that is a bigger discussion than what it is. He stated that they have a lot of uses and those trucks go out on first responder runs and maybe some things need to be looked at on whether that is the best practice and policy.

**Mr. Blair** asked how much we are going to finance from the Indiana Bond Bank?

**Mr. Gibson** replied the entire \$900,000.00.

**Mr. Blair** asked what kind of interest rate we are getting?

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he thinks it was 5%. He said that he will have to look at the numbers.

**Mr. Blair** asked if he knows what the insurance expense was and the other fees?

**Mr. Gibson** stated that their fees are really minimal and are less than \$500.00 for their paperwork and everything else. He added that they have indicated that they want to pay it off in three years. He said that he will get that information for them.

**Mr. Blair** stated that because we have an ongoing need for up to seven fire vehicles over three-year increments, it just seems like we could put together a plan to pay for them in cash. He said that this plan is for us to finance one and then try to finance another, whereas if you pay for the first one upfront in cash, you build up cash to pay for the second one and the third one three years later.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the only problem with that is that we are not addressing other needs. He said that we have police car needs, street department needs, etc. He stated that if they want to have that conversation, it is a next year discussion and he doesn't think that one department should be here or there versus everyone else because there are needs throughout them all. He said that he doesn't disagree if there is a way to do that but there are other needs that have to be met so he doesn't disagree that Mr. Blair wants to pay cash, but he is a banker and people borrow money.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there are lots of banks that will lend to governments because all the government has to do is increase taxes to pay them back. He said that is a very secure loan. He stated that we are going to get ourselves into a cycle where we are financing everything; we are going to be financing police cars, 911 communications, etc. He said that we really need to look at ways to maybe take money out of other areas of this budget in order to start to build the cash to pay for these items.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the budget in front of them accounts for funding two vehicles. He said that they can disagree a little on how to do it, but it is being funded there to address the immediate needs of the fire department with respect to those two pumpers.

**Mr. Turner** asked if there is \$1M in the pilot from not using the police station and if there is any way they could use that?

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he thinks that is the discussion for next year and if they want to look at that then they can talk about fire, police and street department vehicles, not just one. He added that we still have needs as an administration for other areas and he thinks that is a bigger discussion than just one department.

**Mr. Turner** stated that we will be losing money to finance them.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that if you do the math, it is not that much to finance it and pay this off. He said that if you have \$3M, then yes, who doesn't want to pay cash for stuff and not finance it, but the reality is that is what municipalities do and county governments do, and that's why there is an Indiana Bond Bank.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that there is nothing that prevents us from paying it off early.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that is correct and they ensure that is an option.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he knows we have paid off bonds and other things early before in the past to save costs, so he thinks that is always an option.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the interest is high but the term is short and that is what saves you the financing costs. He said that even if we paid cash for some of it, we will have that much savings, and regardless of what department we are in, if we can pay cash for any piece of equipment that is going to save the city money. He stated that the problem is that we have gotten ourselves in so much fixed expenses, we just don't have enough discretionary cash flow to do the kinds of things that we need to be doing from a public safety standpoint. He said that we have backed ourselves into a position where we are having to finance equipment.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he disagrees because we have built two fire stations, we have brand new fire trucks coming and we purchased one not too long ago, so those needs are being met in some fashion.

**Mr. Blair** stated that we also have a city hall and a police station that are very expensive.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they are not that expensive and are 70%-75% of the general fund.

**Mr. Turner** stated that we did get a lot of American Rescue Plan money to help.

**Mr. Gibson** stated yes, and it has been used for those things.

**Mr. Turner** said right, so that is in addition to what we normally do have. He then asked if our fire department has been in conversations with the county about potentially taking over New Chapel in the event there is a need?

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he believes there have been discussions but they haven't come to their office yet on those things, so he has heard rumblings, but he just doesn't know where that is at. He said that no one has contacted the administration about that concept but it was discussed numerous years ago but nothing as of right now is being presented to them to evaluate. He added that it makes sense financially.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he thinks there would be some things that we could get maybe.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it works if it financially makes sense. He said that our professional firefighters are extremely good at what they do and he would suspect that the

people that live in the fringe area that have that coverage would appreciate how good our fire department is.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he agrees.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they are willing to look at it for sure but there are some other entities. He knows there is a fire district township.

**Mr. Turner** stated that no one would be able to take over like our firefighters would be able to take over.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that no one in the city would disagree with him on that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that they did have a very long discussion about the animal shelter in the budget work session and there were several questions that were asked that they didn't have answers for and he wanted to know if there were answers to any of those now? He said that one of questions they had was what level of service should we be at for a city our size and what are comparable animal shelters running at?

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he talked with Jeffersonville and looked at their JB Ogle Animal Shelter and this year their budget was \$860,000.00 and last year it was almost \$1M because they had \$100,000.00 in it for vehicles and things like that.

**Mr. Blair** asked if that included non-reverting too or is that just from their general budget?

**Mr. Applegate** stated that was just from the general budget because that was what he had asked for. He said that he thinks that we are in line with where everything should be from a budget standpoint. He added that he always thought that we were just barely funding it to really do the city and the county. He stated that if this budget stays as is for at least next year to get a feel of where we are at, we will be able to keep the level of service where it is and then we can really evaluate where we can be. He said that we do a great job in running a pretty basic and minimum shelter and we have great people who care a lot about these services. He stated that he does believe that if we have a year then we will be able to see where we are and continue services at a good level and maybe even increase the level.

**Mr. Blair** asked if there were any studies done on a per capita basis on how much a community should be spending for animal services?

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he didn't personally do that because he has worked with organizations that take the worst cases of animals and their vet bills are probably almost \$500,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00 a month. He said that is fully funded from donors and we are one piece of that pie. He stated that we are a strong piece because it gives our people the ability to drop off animals from the city, but if you want to add in all of the other groups around the area, then we are talking about a much larger budget because all animal groups around are helping us. He added that Southern Indiana Animal Rescue and some others are around. He stated that he thinks we are at a fair number especially after Covid and things like dog food going up so much. He thinks they should look at this in a year and then adjust it plus look at where our services are.

**Mr. Blair** asked if there was anything from the animal administration or board trying to look at a reduced budget? He said obviously some services went away and if you look at the funding for those, it was 53%. He asked if they came up with a reduced budget? He stated that there were two positions that were open and they were \$100,000.00 under budget on salaries. He said, to him, it seems if they were able to operate at a reduced staffing now, why are we adding those two staff positions back? He stated especially because we are reducing our service level and the amount of work that we have to do. He said that something just doesn't match up and the other thing that you can look at is that if the city was 47% of the budget, then let's reduce our budget to 47% and we can see as we go along and add money to it if need be. He added that we have already shown a need

for other safety equipment because we are financing fire equipment and it sounds like we are going to be financing police cars and communications systems. He said that those are safety issues and these are human beings that rely on the fire department or police department to get to their place and help them in situations as well as communications response. He stated that we know the animal shelter was a joint shelter and we were providing service to the county, so there should be a reduction of some sort because we are not providing all of the service that we were previously. He feels that when we broke the contract, what budget we can operate on should have been the first thing that they thought of. He said that Jeffersonville was one example but he doesn't see any other examples and he doesn't see what service levels should be or a business plan. He added that we are saying that we are going to keep funding it at the same amount but do less work and that doesn't make sense to him. He stated that he loves animals and he thinks that the animal shelter has done a great job but he is always going to choose people over animals when it comes to public safety and health.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he understands Mr. Blair's point but he disagrees on some things of course. He said that he doesn't think that they are not providing a wonderful service in these other departments as well. He stated that he doesn't feel like those areas in those other services are lacking. He said that we may be talking about the fire trucks, equipment and things like that, but there is nothing that we can pull away from this budget to make a huge dent on some of these other items and then also not lose this service. He stated that the biggest thing that he would say is, he thinks Mr. Blair's comment earlier is exactly what happened with the county. He said that they didn't have it in their budget so they didn't fund for it, and at the end of the year, they just didn't pay it. He stated that next year, we could have a whole new council so if we don't budget for it now and protect our animal shelter, we may not have one next year because a different council may say that they are not going to add more money to it and get rid of it. He said that from this standpoint, he thinks that it is proven that not budgeting for an important service can be bad. He also said that people are important but you've got over 66% of people that have pets and that now we see how beneficial animals and pets are to service members and to people from a mental health standpoint. He looks at there are a lot of things that get people through their daily lives with animals, and he also sees that if you don't have a caring society that cares about animals from childhood, there are a lot of people that go back to what they did as children and harm or hurt animals. He stated that what we could do as an animal shelter is go out and help with children and do things with schools and make it a bigger part of our society. He said that we just always get by barely and that's where he thinks we are still going to be scratching that surface of where we need to be. He added that he thinks we are just now funding it to where it should be funded for a city and they need to figure out in the next year what that really looks like.

**Mr. Blair** stated that very simply, if you have a whole and all of sudden half of it goes away, half of your budget should go away. He said that is the level that you should be at.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that is a banker.

**Mr. Blair** said no, it is someone that is concerned about people. He stated that he personally wants fire protection, police protection and 911 communications. He said that they have animals that they love and they have never used the animal shelter, but the fact is that if you have less work to do, you spend less money for it. He stated that is what private businesses do and we need to run this thing financially sound. He said that he is going to make a motion to reduce the animal shelter budget by 53% because that is what the county was contributing to the animal shelter. He stated that he wants to reduce the animal shelter department 107 by \$394,500.00 and then the new budget would be approximately \$350,000.00. He said then we would move that \$394,500.00 to a line item in the fire department budget under capital outlay fire trucks, and we would use that towards the purchase of that first new fire truck and reduce our debt, and help us with our cashflow and fire equipment.

**Mr. Turner** stated that this is tough because he has a rescue dog and she has been awesome for his family. He said that he is looking at the JB Ogle site and they service all of Clark County and Clark County has a population of 122,738. He said that New

Albany's population is 37,411 so their budget at JB Ogle is \$860,000.00 and our budget is at \$744,000.00. He stated that they also operate four offices in Clark County, so you have almost 100,000 more people and four offices instead of one and our budget is \$120,000.00 shy of theirs. He said that he looked at Gateway last night to see what their salaries were last year in 2022 and they spent \$357,000.00 total for part-time and full-time employees at the shelter. He stated that the budget currently calls for a total \$416,000.00 in salaries, so there has to be some kind of reduction if we have lost part of our service area. He said what that reduction is, he doesn't know but he knows that there was a mention of how many runs were done in the county, and he would like to see the breakdown of that. He stated that he would like to see revenues too from grants, and he noticed in Mr. Burger's obituary he has gifts going to the animal shelter, so things like that is what he would like to see. He said that he is having difficulty with fully funding the budget this time because with these numbers, he can't logically think that it should stay the same. He stated that is a huge difference between Clark County and New Albany. He added that he is trying to see it logically and not emotionally because emotionally you would just say yes to it because it is animals, but it is tax dollars and there are other needs such as firefighters and he thanked Mr. Blair for bringing that up because that is his thing for this budget. He said that if the firefighters aren't squared away then he is not going to be for the budget. He then stated those are his thoughts right now and he is still thinking it over because those numbers are pretty massive. He said they have 122,000 people and we only have 37,000 and our budget is \$120,000.00 less so it just doesn't add up, but he is willing to hear how it does though.

**Mr. Dickey** wanted to reiterate a couple of things that had previously been reported to the council in part by the administration. He said that one of them is the number of runs that were in the city and 75% of the runs were in the city. He stated while there are transportation costs and time costs to run out to the county, they reported that 75% of the runs are in the city. He thinks they are also making a mistake in the way they are talking about this. He said animal shelter/animal control is a human issue. He stated that in the last two weeks alone, he has had a constituent call him because they were petrified to go out on a public trail because of an issue with a Pitbull. He said that luckily that situation was able to be handled because we had the ability to go out, find the dog and ultimately take care of that situation. He added that Mr. David Hall and his staff did a great job with that. He said that Mr. Blair has made a blanket proposal to cut the budget and he wants to know where that money is going to come out of because as he looks at this budget, the single biggest line item is for salaries. He asked which employees are we wanting to let go?

**Mr. Blair** stated that is not for us to manage. He said that we manage the entire budget and they have to manage the operations and they will have to decide what is essential and what is not.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that the question he is asking is which employees are we wanting to do without? He asked if he wants to do without the animal control officer or if he wants to get rid of the receptionist?

**Mr. Blair** stated again, management needs to manage the operations. He said that he can't go in there and point at names and say you're gone or you're here, but management has to decide how they are going to manage that budget.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that they have to be fair to management as well and be realistic with where we are expecting them to make cuts at. He said again, the single biggest part of this budget is salaries for those people who care for the animals, who go out on runs and he doesn't want to have the inability to get a dangerous dog because we got rid of the animal control officer. He stated that he does not want to belittle the staff into thinking that they are not valued by this city because they do an invaluable service. He said that when you have to deal with a dangerous dog or a dangerous animal, that is a people problem not just an animal problem. He stated that we have to be realistic about what we are handing someone when we cast a vote to make a lump sum cut. He thinks that another part of this is we have already heard from Mr. David Hall talking about the vacancies that he already has and the strain that has put on the existing staff. He said that he needs the

other positions filled to ease up on the staff level to be able to provide the type of service that they need to provide. He stated that he is looking at this as an opportunity because every time that we have had a situation where we've done a breakup with the county, we have been able to improve the service of whatever department it was in the city. He said that our parks are a great example of that because we have much better parks than we had before. He stated that he doesn't mean that with any discouragement to the people who worked in the joint operation, but he thinks that we can focus and tool our services to better fit the needs of our city and our citizens. He said by looking at it holistically, taking into account the needs of the fire department, the police department and the street department, we are making sure that we are providing a holistic package for our constituents and not just singularly prioritizing one particular element. He stated that he thinks that is pretty darn important because when he talks to folks, they are not just looking at one single element of the city, they are looking at whole package that they get from our government.

**Mr. Turner** stated that the animal shelter would be nice because they have doubled the budget that they would need. He then asked if the county paid some kind of money every year like \$250,000.00 or \$300,000.00?

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he doesn't think that they have paid anything this year.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he thinks that the last two years it was \$250,000.00 and maybe \$300,000.00 or something like that the year before. He added that at one point in time, they did pay their share.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he has to almost agree with them for balking at the cost if we are only doing 25% of the runs in the county because they are paying 53% whether the service is used or not.

**Mr. Dickey** asked Mr. Turner to remember that the city is part of the county too.

**Mr. Turner** said that is correct.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that it is not as simple as saying well this is your part of the territory and this is our part of the territory because we overlap territory.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he knows and is really considering the citizens of the city because we are in the county. He said that we are about to pay full budget for the animal shelter, and Floyd County has to figure out something as well, which is going to be additional costs to the people in the city because we live in the county, so this is going to cost us more money doing it this way. He stated that it is emotional to think about the employees because they do matter, but we probably should've done a better job in communicating with this interlocal agreement and trying to find something that worked. He said with 25% of the runs, of course these guys in the county are going to say what are we paying for. He stated that he is a city councilman here in the city that does the budget and he hasn't seen runs since 2019. He then said to Mr. Blair's point, we don't run the animal shelter, we approve budgets and with how everything has worked out, they were very joyous about having this thing split but they didn't think about the repercussions of the split. He stated that he is not saying cut it 53% but something has to be reduced and there are some management decisions that have to be made when you lose this amount of service. He added that he is confident that he cannot support this budget at the full rate. He said that the numbers don't add up to him and he needs to see data.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that the hardest thing for her is that they didn't have anything brought to them today from what they had asked. She thanked Mr. Applegate for comparing Jeffersonville, but as was brought up, the population is different. She said for a council, this is very emotional but we can't react on our emotions all of the time though when it is due to the animals, because Mr. Turner brought up when the split came up that there were going to be some employees that lose their jobs. She stated that was just factual because you can't downsize something and expect to keep the same people, so these are questions that should have been brought up well before it was ever decided to



**Mr. Dickey introduced Bill A-23-05 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Dickey** stated that these are essentially the non-reverting budgets including parking, parks, abandoned vehicles, etc. He said again that this is a conservative budget that reflects what was discussed in our work sessions and reflects expected outlays from these various funds.

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-23-06 Salaries for Non-Bargaining**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-23-06 Salaries for Non-Bargaining**

**A-23-06            An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2024            Applegate 1&2  
for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees**

**Mr. Applegate introduced Bill A-23-06 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Dickey second, all voted in favor.**

**Mr. Applegate** stated that this is as proposed in the budget with a 2% increase for these non-bargaining employees.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked if these positions are salary or hourly?

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it is both and it depends on the position.

**Mrs. Griffith** said okay, she just noticed that some of them showed what they paid hourly and she was just curious.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it just depends on the position.

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-23-07 Salaries for Elected Officials**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-23-07 Salaries for Elected Officials**

**A-23-07            An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2024            Applegate 1&2  
for Elected Officials**

**Mr. Applegate introduced A-23-07 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair and Mrs. Griffith who voted no.**

**Mr. Applegate** stated that these are set at a 2% increase, but he does think that if there is ever a year that we need to really look at and get to where we need to be at, this would be the year. He said from the council side, that salary compared to the other areas around here is low. He thinks that the clerk is the lowest percentage wise of any of the elected officials. He also thinks that the mayor's salary is low compared to other areas around. He said that he is not going to put an amendment out on that, but if we kick this can down the road, we are looking at another four years until it hits again. He stated that he thinks that the time is now to fix it and that they should really look at it before the next reading, but as of now it is set at the 2%.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

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

**Mr. Dale Bagshaw, 85 Galt Street,** stated that he has generally been against doing anything to Main Street from where it started at Vincennes Street to where it is completed now, but he will have to admit that it is pretty nice. He said that the only thing that he

doesn't understand is why we have to train people to back in to angled parking across the street over here. He stated that he made the comment to someone that you have to pull across two lanes of traffic to park and back out across two lanes of traffic to park. He said that they said no you don't, you are supposed to back into those spots. He stated that he has been all over the country travelling and he has never seen that. He said that maybe it is like the roundabouts because up until about 10 years ago, no one had heard of a roundabout, but they sure do move traffic. He then stated that he as well attended the JRAC meeting that Mrs. Griffith attended and he told someone afterwards that his head hurt because there was so much information. He said that it was like four hours of non-stop study but mental health really is an issue that we really need look at as a society. He stated that there are a lot of good people trying to do things in the sheriff's department like trying to interject at juncture points like maybe when they are arrested or before they are arrested, and get them help because we need to try to alleviate the problem of mental illness and addiction, which are major problems in our society. He said that he appreciates Judge Stiller really taking that on and they had a really good panel of a lot of good people and hopefully there will be some good news on that. He added that it was funded through the opioid settlement to the county and JRAC is a judicial thing from the state, so they combined the two incomes to start some of the seed money on that.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Jennie Collier, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk