

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,  
INDIANA, HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025  
AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Members: Mrs. Collier, Mr. Phipps, Mr. FitzGerald, Mrs. Gohmann, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Murphy and President Dickey. Mr. Unruh was not present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs. Manning, Mr. Hall, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Moeller and Mrs. Glotzbach

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

**INVOCATION: Given by Reverend Kristin Dollar**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Mrs. Murphy moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2025, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. FitzGerald who abstained and Mr. Unruh who was not present.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that she wanted to keep Mr. Unruh and his wife, Denise, in our thoughts and prayers. She said that she did have surgery yesterday and things went well but she hasn't heard anything else today. She then stated that today is National Senior Citizen's Day and she appreciates that. She said that in 1988, President Ronald Reagan declared August 21<sup>st</sup> as National Senior Citizen's Day and it is a day to recognize and appreciate seniors and their contributions to society. She then said kudos to the city with the groundbreaking of the South Monon Trail. She stated that was an exciting event and she has seen the surveyors out so things are happening.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she wanted to echo that the groundbreaking for the Rails to Trails was awesome and it is just exciting to see something that the mayor has worked hard on. She knows when she was appointed to the Tourism Board back in 2017 is when he started this process, so it is funny to see how long something takes to happen. She was fortunate that she was able to attend the groundbreaking but she did have a little bit of an issue with that. She thinks we have some communication issues going on because she did not receive information about it until Wednesday at the Caesars board meeting where Mr. Bliss forwarded the invitation to them. She was fortunate to be able to rearrange her schedule and attend it. Her concern is that we clearly have communication issues going on with the events. She said that when she looked back to the email invitation that he forwarded, it was dated July 31<sup>st</sup>. She stated that at the last council meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hall apparently is not on that email trail either because he did not have a date for the groundbreaking. She said in our minutes it reflects that he would let us know once they get a schedule and a finalized date. She stated that somewhere there are issues going on and she would like to fix that and be part of the solution. She said it bothers her because it is not fair to everyone sitting up here because we all worked hard to get elected and we love our city. She stated that when we don't know about certain items, we can't do those and that is not our fault. She then stated that on the third Tuesday of this month, she went to the merchant meeting which is Main Street New Albany. She added that those meetings are attended by owners of businesses in the city and are held every third Tuesday every month at 9:00 a.m. She said that Mrs. Tonya Fischer attends those and represents the city and is always very information. She stated that Ms. Johnson has attended those too and they appreciate that. She said that Mrs. Fischer went over the ribbon cuttings and when she did that it may her realize that she knows when the ribbon

cuttings are but didn't think that her fellow council members know. She stated that there are three coming up. She said one is The Fair on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. which is a restaurant that just opened where the old Toast restaurant used to be. She stated that owners are great supporters of New Albany and have a couple of restaurants throughout the city and it is great for us to go and show our support for them. She said the Holiday Inn is having a groundbreaking on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and then Revive Salon & Spa on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. is having their ribbon cutting. She said that the owner of Revive took this old dilapidated building on Silver Street and completely revived it, so it is a perfect name for her. She is so passionate about ribbon cuttings because it matters to the business person that they are being welcomed. She stated that 31 years ago, she had a ribbon cutting. She was young and with her two sisters, they opened up a business and the mayor came. She couldn't tell you what political affiliation he was, nor the city officials that came. She said what she cared about as a business owner is that they took time out of their day to come see her and welcome her to the city, and 31 years later, we are still here. She added that impacted her a huge deal that day. She stated that is one reason that she is still a 1si Ambassador because she strongly believes in the importance of going to these businesses during their events to support them. She said with these broken communications, that is not allowing us to do that, which goes on to her next point. She stated with the Rails to Trails that everyone is excited about, there is going to be new construction going on in the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Street where the main trail is going. She said it will be the same as it was for Main Street. She also said let's be proactive this time so that we don't have another Main Street debacle. She wants to receive a presentation to let the council know what is going on so when those business owners call and asked why we are taking away their street parking, etc., we can answer them and help stop that so we don't have negative publicity. She does have to say kudos to the city because they do have a website up and it already has on there what is going on, but she asked how many business owners are going to take the time to look at that. She then stated that we have budgets coming up and thanked Mrs. Moeller for the calendar with dates and times of all meetings. She is concerned about confidentiality because there are some things that can't be discussed publicly. She was hoping that there would be an executive session posted on the budget calendar but she did not see that on there. She is talking about litigations and it was stated that a lot of the information we can't have on the about the Silver Creek Dam and that we can't have on a possible new lawsuit on the animal shelter because they are in litigation. She asked how the council is supposed to know what those numbers are and how can we make good decisions without knowing those numbers.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he also did not get an invitation to the South Monon Trail. He found out about it less than 24 hours before the groundbreaking and already had a commitment, so he wasn't able to attend. He would have loved to attend because he loves community celebrations and those events, and they help him with his constituents as far as explaining support and so forth. He said that he is not going to be so nice because this is a pattern and happened with the police station and he thought that President Dickey was going to help with that communication after that. He also said that it happened with the new boat ramp and the overlook park. He stated that we got excluded so it's a bad look for our city because we are excluding people and he doesn't care which party you are for; we are all here for the best for the city and we want to be involved and celebrate the special events. He is sort of embarrassed that it continues to happen and hopes that it stops. He then stated with the budget sessions coming up, it is going to be hard for him to vote for funding for the dam unless he has information. He said that the fiscal body is passing the budget and he doesn't know how you can appropriate funding if you don't know what's going on. He stated he is calling for the mayor and administration to have an executive session with the council. He said due to the confidentiality with the lawsuit against the city, he understands where it needs to be confidential. He stated we can have a confidentiality agreement and keep it among ourselves, but we are the ones making the decision whether to appropriate the budget so we need to have that information. He said the other thing is that we are trying to keep the dam in place and he would like to know what our plans are there and how far we are going with that, and what our expenditures are going to be. He hopes we can schedule an executive session during this budget session to talk specifically about the dam. He added that it is hard for him to vote on something that he doesn't have information on.

**Mrs. Gohmann** stated that she is going to reiterate a lot of what both of these fine people have said. She too is in favor of an executive session because she understands that there are things that cannot be brought out into the public at this point because of litigation. She knows that everyone is willing to sign a confidentiality agreement and she thinks that is important to do. She appreciates how much work goes into putting the budget together, but we know there is going to be a budget meeting in September, so there should be a reasonable expectation that all of that work be done ahead of time so that we can get hard copies before we have our work sessions. She said that it is very difficult to digest all of the information and make good decisions based on that if we don't get that information ahead of time so we have time to examine it.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** stated that he is looking forward to the budget process and asking questions about how we are spending our money. He then said that the District Vintage Market opened up on August 9<sup>th</sup> for soft opening and there are about 10 vendors, but they are still looking for more vendors. He stated that as it develops, he knows that it is going to be a nice gem for the neighborhood. He is still working with Marcie of Legacy Pizza and the administration regarding a solution for their street cleaning issues with the hours being at noon, which is not optimal for a lunchtime crowd. He is hearing some news about trees which he thinks the council will talk about a little later in this meeting. He also wanted to reiterate the news of The Fair opening because Mrs. Griffith and he had a hand in helping with some of that being on the Caesars Small Business Loans Committee. He gave a shout out to all of the people moving into IUS today. He then gave a shout out to Councilmember Murphy because as he drives down Grant Line Road, he saw yesterday that there are people from the Hellenic Senior Center that are utilizing the benches between the senior center and Walmart. He knows that Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Griffith went to bat for that and he is glad that they are being used.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that first of all, he will agree that there is a communication problem. He said that he doesn't know the number of times that he has sent emails to people in the city and then weeks later, wondering why they haven't responded, he would find out that they were no longer the department head. He thinks that whenever there is a change in a department head, the city council should be immediately notified of that and provided the new department head's contact information including email and phone number. He said piggybacking with that, instantly the webpage should be updated as well so the general public has that information. He doesn't know currently, but there's been numerous times in the past he has looked on there and there's been outdated information in terms of some of the board members, department heads and so forth. He said that's something that we probably need a committee or we need to refer to a committee how can we improve communication. He stated secondly Mrs. Griffith mentioned the importance of the ribbon cuttings and so forth and he was in Jeffersonville just a couple of weekends ago and went into a store that a neighbor of his opened up, and she was just raving about how wonderful it was to be in Jeffersonville. He said she wouldn't even consider opening a store in New Albany and he asked her why. He stated she said she just feels the city supports its businesses. He asked in what way and if she could elaborate. He stated she said, well, she doesn't think that they would have tolerated a debacle like the Main Street situation. He thinks that Mrs. Griffith is absolutely right and when this trail is being constructed, we've got to keep the businesses in the loop and keep access open as best as we can. He said thirdly, he concurs and supports an executive session. He thinks it's absolutely imperative that we know more about where the money has come from, roughly how much has been spent, before we can make a decision about certain portions of the budget, specifically the legal department and the legal budget. He said again, it has to be in confidentiality, but he thinks we, as the fiscal body, have every right to know that. He added we shouldn't have had to wait this long to get that information. He also said he agrees with what Mrs. Gohmann said. He said we can't expect that budget sheet to be ready months in advance, but he thinks five to seven days is not unreasonable so that we can see that. He added it wouldn't have to be the whole thing, just what we're going to need for the first session, and then five to seven days before the second session so that we do have time to go over it. He added then if we want to jot down some specific questions, we can ask them rather than the past practices of well, if you've got a question, email it to us afterwards. He stated it's better to have it where everybody can listen collectively to what those answers are. He said along with the budget session, this was the one thing he

was going to bring up tonight, the scheduling of the budget sessions. He added this is not directed to any single person and is certainly not directed at Mrs. Moeller because she's a great employee. He thinks it should be the city council that determines the dates and the times of those budget sessions and they should not be handed to us by the administration. He added specifically the one that we have two weeks from tonight, September the 4<sup>th</sup>. He said it is a budget meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and then a council meeting that, who knows, could last a couple of hours. He asked when are we supposed to eat supper. He stated it's just a basic human need so he won't be here on time for that budget session because, quite frankly, for medical reasons, he has to have food. He can't prolong that so he thinks in the future, they can provide us with the timeline that they're operating on, like when the budget has to be submitted and so forth, but then we should be the ones to determine, okay, are we going to do it on a separate night. He'd be happy to come in on a separate night, two hours, rather than have maybe a four- or five-hour meeting back-to-back with the council. He said another issue is benches. He stated back in about 2004 or 2005, the East Spring Street Neighborhood Association applied for a Caesars grant, and we purchased benches that we had the city install along Spring Street, Market Street, and Elm Street, the three thoroughfares of our community. He said back right before Thanksgiving last year, he received a phone call from St. Mary's Church, and they told him that the bench at 8th and Spring Street had been removed. He said he didn't know anything about it and it was gone, so he went out drove around and virtually all of our benches on Spring Street were removed. He immediately called the mayor's office and they halted and haven't touched the ones on Market or on Elm, but he was promised then that within a few weeks he would be contacted about new benches. He said we're here 10 months later and no new benches have been replaced. He stated again, those were paid for by a grant from the Caesars Foundation. He is glad they got the benches on Grant Line Road, but we would like to see our benches back as well. He said one last thing is that he didn't know today was Senior Citizen Day and didn't know Ronald Reagan was the one who implemented it. He has to say, it shows that even someone like Ronald Reagan can do one or two good things in their presidency.

**Mrs. Collier** stated she just would like to say that she, too, can understand the necessity of having an executive session for some of the things that we have concerning some items that may come before us for the budget sessions. She also would like to acknowledge that in the past, there have been some breaches in confidentiality, so she thoroughly supports it if everybody is signing some type of confidentiality agreement, whatever might ensure that that doesn't happen in the future. She would like to see some of the information that we might be able to get during an executive session too. She said other than that, she just would like to say to everybody, we all know that school is back in session, so be mindful of the extra time it takes, especially during the school route times. She also said to be mindful of the school buses and children crossing and especially those stop signs on the school buses.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that Mrs. Moeller did send out a copy of the budget calendar and if there is a concern, we can amend it to hold additional items. He said one of the reasons that the schedule was put together, as it is, was to ensure that the department heads and our financial management staff, which includes the city attorney and the controller, were able to be present. He added we have to coordinate those schedules and those requests. He stated so, again, if we would like to ask for accommodation or additional meetings, all those can be requested. He wanted to give that information as to why the schedule was what it was.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if that need to be a formal request in writing, or can he request now that we reschedule the one for September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that if there's a concern about the scheduling for September 4th, what he thinks we could simply allow him some leeway to address that with the administration. He added that may necessitate another meeting at a later time, so we'll just have to have a conversation about that. He said obviously, he won't be able to report until September 4th, but we could maybe have that as a discussion item in connection with August 27<sup>th</sup> work session.

**Mr. Blair** stated he already made plans based on the schedule that was distributed and he would like to keep it those days if possible since he is going to be gone September 5th and for another week or so there, so it would be very tough for him to do something at a later date.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he is not saying that we should or we shouldn't. He is just advising that if there's a concern, we can approach the administration, which is, he thinks, what is appropriate in this situation. He said again, if we as members of the council have concerns, we need to have dialogue with the administration, whether that be the mayor, whether that be other department heads; that's how government works.

**Mrs. Murphy** asked if it would be possible during the work session for a light dinner to be provided that we work and eat at the same time. She said she has done that in her past life.

**Mr. Dickey** stated he can check on that. He has some questions that would have to be addressed, such as coordination of budget expense and all those things, but we may be able to figure out a way to accommodate some of that, at least have some refreshments and take a pause or a break at some point.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

**Mr. Hall** stated Mayor Gahan provided a memo to you guys on your desk just regarding some recent animal shelter developments. He wanted everyone to have all that information so you could get all the information and context regarding that. He also sent a copy in everyone's email a little bit earlier this evening just so you had a digital copy as well for your records. Said memo is on file in the city clerk's office. He said additionally, we had a groundbreaking for the Monon South Freedom Trail and he wanted to thank everyone for their support of that development. He stated when completed and connected into the greater Monon Trail, it will be the longest continuous trail in Indiana at just about 63 miles, starting right here in New Albany, Indiana. He said we also want to give a special shout out to John Rosenbarger who was a longtime city employee. He stated he's retired now, living in New Albany, and urban trails were definitely a passion of his. He also stated this was something that when CSX abandoned that trail, he came in the office and he was like, we got to take a shot at this; it's a long shot, but we got to take a shot at it. He said thankfully, we did so he just wanted to give a big shout out to John for his work and passion, and without him, this dream probably wouldn't be a reality.

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

##### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

- **Request to give Public Notice for substance abuse services to attend upcoming Public Health and Welfare Committee meeting – Collier**

**Mrs. Collier moved to give public notice for substance abuse services to attend upcoming Public Health and Welfare Committee meeting, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Unruh who was not present.**

- **Request for Presentation by Mr. Ed Wilkinson, Board Member of the New Albany Sewer Board, as part of the annual update on the utility to the Council – Dickey**

**Mr. Fitzgerald moved to approve the request for presentation of the annual sewer update given by Mr. Ed Wilkinson, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Unruh who was not present.**

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

- **Public Health & Welfare Committee Report – Collier**

**Mrs. Collier** presented the following report:

**Date:** **August 08, 2025, 1:00 PM**  
**City Hall**  
**142 E. Main Street**  
**New Albany, Indiana 47150**

**Attendees:** **Jennie E. Collier, Committee Chair**  
**Louise Gohmann, Council Member**  
**Stephanie Griffith, Council Member**  
**Corrie Manning, Council Attorney**  
**Quetzal Velasco, New Albany Resident**  
**Tony Hostetler, Recovery Community**

The Public Health and Welfare Committee met to further discuss 2025 allocations for the Opioid funding the city has earmarked to combat the negative effects opioid abuse has had in our community. Mrs. Manning was in attendance to offer her legal opinion on any potential allocation vehicle.

Initially, the committee focused on the possibility of offering a grant opportunity to organizations doing work related to opioid abuse and recovery programs via grant applications. After some discussion, the committee veered away from the idea of soliciting grant applications. Instead, the committee decided that a process similar to the one used in 2024 would be more appropriate. However, one change to the process was suggested. In 2024 the committee invited several organizations in our community that were known to offer programs addressing opioid abuse and recovery support to attend a committee meeting to present information about their organization, the programs that they offer to our community, the need to receive a small allocation from the opioid funds that the city has available and the amount they anticipate would amply cover their expected shortfall. The committee decided that for 2025 it would be best to give a public invitation by public notice asking any organization in the City of New Albany, Indiana that has programming addressing opioid abuse and / or recovery support to attend an upcoming Public Health and Welfare Committee Meeting to give a brief oral presentation with printed materials (to be used by the committee during a later committee meeting by the committee members as a resource when determining their 2025 recipient suggestions to the council as a whole).

In an effort to give ample time for organizations to prepare a presentation, the committee suggests holding the committee meeting to receive these presentations on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM in Council Chambers. If there are some interested organizations that are not available to attend a meeting at that time, the committee will schedule another committee meeting to accommodate those organizations if necessary.

The committee voted unanimously to ask the council as a whole to approve issuing a public notice of invitation for organizations offering programming relating to opioid abuse and recovery to attend a Public Health and Welfare Committee meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM at City Hall to give presentations to the committee as referenced above.

**Mrs. Collier moved to approve the committee report, Mr. Blair second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Unruh who was not present.**

**- Public Works Committee Report – Dickey**

**Mr. Dickey** presented the following report:

To: New Albany City Council  
From: Public Works Committee  
Date: 8/14/25  
Re: Committee Report – 7.30.25

The following report is respectfully submitted following the Public Works Committee meeting on July 30, 2025 with Committee members Dickey, Blair & Collier present. City Attorney Shane Gibson and City Council Attorney Corrie Manning were also present.

The Committee was called to order for the purpose of discussing the City's hazardous tree policy. After a brief opening by Chair Dickey, City Attorney Shane Gibson outlined administration concern as it related to privately owned trees as nuisances or hazards. He discussed existing city ordinances dating back to the 1950s that provide for certain remedies but also create difficulty for legal enforcement in certain scenarios. Mr. Gibson provided further commentary on some practices utilized by other cities to address hazardous trees, including potential programs to provide financial assistance.

Committee members entered a general discussion on the subject, highlighting concerns for involvement on private property, and discussing code enforcement of hazardous tree instances. After further discussion, the committee agreed that a code update may in order and requested City Council Attorney Manning to work with City Attorney Gibson to develop draft legislation for further review. Members agreed to meet again in approximately one month once the draft legislation was prepared.

**Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Public Works Committee Report, Mrs. Gohmann second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Unruh who was not present.**

- **Presentation by Our Place Drug & Alcohol Services**

**Ms. MeriBeth Adams-Wolf, Our Place Drug & Alcohol Services**, gave a presentation to the council on their organization. Said presentation is on file in the city clerk's office. She asked if anyone had any questions for her.

**Mrs. Gohmann** asked if the programs are offered at public and private schools.

**Ms. Adams-Wolf** stated that they are offered to every school in the county but it is up to each school on whether they take it or not.

**Mr. Phipps** asked about the data regarding marijuana use for seniors that is at 16% and stated that he believes the peak use at his high school his senior year in 1979 was at 50% so that is a big drop.

**Ms. Adams-Wolf** stated that they say significant drops over a period of time and different developmental points that were happening in our history. She added that as we have seen the legalization movement push through, it is starting to tick back up, and the biggest concern locally is Delta products. She stated that they were never supposed to be on the market and was a loop hole in the farm bill supporting hemp. She added that they are not trying to fight the farm bill as there is a huge market for hemp, but to make it psycho active and available to kids is disturbing for them.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she appreciates that they are showing who is not doing it, so basically 83% of senior are not smoking marijuana.

**Ms. Adams-Wolf** stated that perception of usage is huge and that is why they reflect the data right back to the students, to show that not everybody's using. She explained that the Indiana Youth Service data that they use it is self-report, and she has had to have conversations in the past with the Assistant Superintendent about that fact who questioned if they could be lying. She added that she told him that if they were lying, they were doing it consistently across this data and the state data as well. She assured the council that it is good reliable data and it is helping to guide programs as well as show the efficacy of them. She thanked them for their support and hopes that they have been good stewards of the resources that the council has provided.

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:**

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:**

## **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

## COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: R-25-12 Tourism Projects

## COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: R-25-12 Tourism Projects

**R-25-12 Resolution Requesting Funds from the Clark-Floyd  
Counties Convention & Tourism Bureau for  
Projects Designed to Promote Tourism in the  
City of New Albany, Indiana Murphy**

**Mrs. Murphy introduced R-25-12 and moved to approve, Mrs. Collier second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Unruh who was not present, Mr. Phipps who recused himself and Mrs. Gohmann who voted no.**

**Mr. Blair moved to amend the resolution to strike the RV park, Mr. Phipps second,**

**Mr. Phipps rescinded his second on the grounds that he has to recuse himself from the vote.**

**Mrs. Griffith second the motion to strike the RV park, Mrs. Collier, Mr. FitzGerald, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Dickey voted no, Mrs. Gohmann, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Griffith voted yes, Mr. Phipps recused himself and Mr. Unruh was not present. Without a majority vote the motion does not pass.**

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that they have in their packet a copy of the Resolution 25-12 and brought their attention to the fourth, whereas, and whereas “under Indiana Code 6935 and other laws related or supplemental there too, the Clark Floyd County’s Convention and Tourism Bureau is authorized to use money in the Capital Development Tourism Fund only for the purposes of paying the principal and interest due on bonds issued by Park County, Floyd County, or a political subdivision located in either of such counties in order to finance a project to promote tourism or to refund bonds previously issued for such purpose.” She explained that they are requesting \$1M of total bond commitment resolution, \$250,000 for four different projects which include the RV park, the mountain bike park, Silver Street turf fields, and they will be sponsoring the IUS Monon South Freedom Trail Gateway. She stated that this uses hotel tax revenue, not the general funds and it doesn’t count against the debt capacity. She added that they do have Joe Glover from IUS and Claire Johnson here tonight to answer any questions.

**Ms. Johnson** stated Joe Glover and Chancellor Ford, have always been wonderful partners and advocates for the trail project, and they are just beyond excited about the trail moving through the IUS campus as it is. She added that they want to help support and sponsor their project the best that we can. She explained that right now they are going through the scoping period for the other projects that are listed within this resolution so this would help us to add some additional amenities and to continue to improve those projects. She stated that it is a requirement of the application that there is a resolution from this body that shows that they are in support of these projects.

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that funds are very specific that they go toward tourism projects.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that is correct. She explained that they have six priority goals and the city has to meet one of those in order to apply for these funds so it is at no cost to the city as the principal and the interest is paid through the bond issuance by the Tourism Bureau.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if it is going to be used for the projects she specifically listed.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that is correct.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if any money from the dam could come back later on and say that is tourism.

**Ms. Johnson** explained that they had a conversation with Jim Epperson, Executive Director, to have an understanding of what those draws look like, and they look at every single draw or reimbursement request to make sure it's within the scope of work and the agreement that they would have with them.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** asked if this is basically backing up and providing foundation for the money that tourism is going to be giving to the projects or are they refinancing.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that they are not doing a refinance, this is supplemental to the bond issuance process that they went through earlier this year.

**Ms. Griffith** stated that earlier in the year the bonded three of those projects and asked what happens if they receive this funding, because most of these are more than what the original budgeted amount was. She added that for example the mountain bike was originally \$150,000.00 and asked if they are going to make it a little longer.

**Ms. Johnson** reported that \$500,000.00 was the original estimate, \$1.5M for the RV park, and \$2M for the turf field. She stated that these are all above and beyond those amounts and would allow to make these facilities really unique and as nice as possible.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked they do get awarded this; do they pay that bond back to pay it off earlier.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that this is separate from the bond issuance.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he thinks they want to make it clear that this is separating apples and oranges here. He explained that the funds that they did through the bonding mechanism earlier this year would still be covered and paid through the mechanism that was set forth. He stated that the funding through this mechanism, if approved by tourism, would then be funded through the tourism's funds and paid in full, meaning no additional taxpayer money outside of that and funding would be used. He added that essentially, we would be receiving an additional supplemental grant of funds from tourism and their dollars that they have available.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that is correct.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that part makes sense it is just a question of what happens to the money already budgeted.

**Mr. Dickey** explained that the money that is budgeted has to fall within the bounds of the bond agreement, which means it can only be used for those projects. He stated that it cannot be subverted to put up banners on Main Street.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked about when they approve those fundings to be bonded and if they could they be used for other items.

**Mr. Dickey** replied no. He stated that the bond relates to the specific project and if you are approved through tourism, the tourism dollars can only be used for these projects that are in the application. He explained that with regards to the bond, the funding there can only be used for the projects that were approved in the bond issuance.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** stated that in his head, they are sort of the fiscal agent of this money coming from tourism

**Ms. Johnson** replied potentially. She stated that this is saying that they are willing to sponsor these projects. She explained that they have done this in the past, and when they couple all of these together, there are savings within the cost issuance, but it still comes out of the hotel tax so it's at no additional cost to any of the municipalities that would be carrying the bond. She stated that they are asking to see within this application that they are in full support of these projects and would be willing to be the bond holder for these projects.

**Ms. Collier** stated that it is her understanding that if they apply for these and are approved through tourism, it is at no additional cost to the city, but if they are awarded these funds, they would additionally enhance the projects as they were originally proposed with the original funding mechanism.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that is exactly what she was trying to say earlier.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** added that along with the trailhead.

**Ms. Johnson** replied yes, and supporting IUS's trailhead project.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that it is a way to make them better than what was originally planned for them to be at no additional cost to the taxpayer, if they are awarded the money through tourism.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he was aware that this was being worked on and he had a conversation with Joe Glover about their interest in the same program, and through discussions they were able to incorporate these two pieces together in to one document.

**Mr. Blair** stated that it is his understanding is that these are four separate applications, and the city be awarded one, two, three, or all four, and there are 12 applications in Floyd County and Clark County. He added that there is there is only a million dollars to be awarded so they would be asking for the full allotment, but there are going to be competing projects, He reiterated that these are separate applications and not bundled together.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that the funding of these by tourism could come in in total or in part, but the point would be they would be individual awards if they're awarded.

**Mr. Glover** stated that they appreciate work that has been done through this process. He explained that they were going to bring theirs forward to hopefully have their support it, but it made more sense to combine them together. He stated that they have worked closely with Ms. Johnson, Mr. Dickey, and the city so he is very excited about the project. He explained that the project trying to secure funds for is ~\$1M overall and they have a couple different asks out there, but it would put a major trailhead right behind the softball field right on the Monon with parking and restroom facilities. He added that there were renderings that were presented back during the RDA process and Ms. Johnson has copies of those if they would like to see them. He stated that it would be the main trailhead and two nodes that would connect on the backside of campus to provide safe access to the trail and to be a place where the community can access right off of the interstate with a GPS location to be used for tourism. He explained that they have talked about how they can utilize the IUS police and facility maintenance staff who are there 24/7 already and this would make sense to take responsibility for that section to be able to help with security needs.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that it goes without saying that the city projects are very valuable to them but he would like to advocate for the IUS project. He explained that this is a critical component in connection to the Monon Trail because it creates a crossroads section that ties into the campus with residential housing and commuter students. He stated that it connects into the Jake Elder development as well as a potential nature preserve that would link back to the trail, and would serve as the entry point into the bigger part of the city in many ways which serves as a focal point for the northern section. He added that

anything they can do to make that point as it relates to IUS and the potential for recreational tourism would be a benefit to the city.

**Mr. Glover** stated that they have underutilized parking spaces with the baseball and softball fields as they only play two months a year, and this is a lot of additional capacity for parking with the designed trailhead linkage to those parking lots. He added that they think this project will be transformational for the city and they are excited about how it will continue to allow them to serve their mission. He explained that they had 400 new residents move in today, and their rate right now is 85% of our students that stay in this region after they come to IUS, so there is going to be a lot of new New Albany residents that are going to be here because of housing on campus. He added that they are proud to be in New Albany and are looking forward to continuing to be good partners.

**Mrs. Gohmann** stated that she is delighted this and hopes to be able to utilize it as a senior citizen someday. She explained that allocated \$1.5M for an RV park, that in her opinion, is not needed and she is not sure why they would need another \$250,000.00 for enhancements for something that would have ongoing maintenance costs and other headaches. She stated that the mountain bike trail is great, but what would they do with another \$250,000.00 because they can't make it longer. She added that she would like to see these two parts removed while keeping the IUS trail section.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that the \$250,000.00 for the mount bike trail would allow them to build a pump track that children/adults can learn new skills on. She explained that both of those projects are located on our shoreline at the former QRS site where serious environmental issues require earthwork and cleanup there, so anything additional that can help to enhance and use landscaping and take advantage of that topography is helpful. She explained that the additional money for the RV park could help with sewer hookups, electricity hookups, making more luxurious finishes to the park, and allow them to provide different types of camping sites (luxury and primitive) She stated that all of that is being worked out through a scoping period, but what they have found is that this isn't just for out of town visitors, but can be utilized by residents for a weekend during events such as Harvest Homecoming. She explained that for the mountain bike park they would bring in expert trail builders that are finding ways to incorporate New Albany's history and tell the story of what that site was before, using it as an educational opportunity for folks about recycling. She added that the continue to look at all of the different opportunities that are available to them and additional monies allow them to investigate that even further to make something that's really unique to this city.

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that if New Albany doesn't apply for these grants, someone else will and she sees it as being rather negligent to not apply if there are funds available to promote tourism in our city.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** asked if the animal shelter and the street department still in the scoping phase as well.

**Ms. Johnson** replied yes. She added that they expect to wrap on scoping in mid-October.

**Mr. Phipps** asked if they hypothetically eliminated what Ms. Goldman was saying could they apply more of that money to the other projects.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that it is a \$250,000.00 max per project.

**Mrs. Griffith** asked if they could come back and award a partial amount.

**Ms. Johnson** replies yes,

**Mr. Dickey** stated that it is just like any granting entity that decides what they give.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she understands that it will be silly not to ask for the money and we should put their trust into tourism to figure out what is best, even though she is not in favor of the RV park.

**Mr. Blair** asked if it would help the application to rank the ones that are more of a priority instead of asking for it all. He added that he doesn't see how the city is going to get the full \$1M with 12 projects out there between Floyd and Clark counties, so he wonders if they would be helping their case by paring it down to what is most important.

**Ms. Johnson** recommends going for the maximum amount. She explained that she has had conversations with them and they have been very open about the application and scoring project and encouraged the city to apply.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thinks the RV park is going to be a huge failure and he doesn't know why they are pursing it, and he wants to send a message that we don't want it. He added that he thinks the current administration will do a great job of taking care of it, but what will happen in the future because they need to leave the place better than they found it and he thinks the RV park will be a detriment. He stated that he hasn't seen an inner-city RV park that has performed well and they can see that all around, so he doesn't see how New Albany will fare any better.

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that as a council they have already approved all of these projects and she doesn't know why they wouldn't supplement what they have already approved.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that he doesn't play soccer but his son did, he rides bikes but his wife doesn't, some people walk or run on the greenway and the track at Silver Street Park, and ultimately, they are trying to build a parks system that this community can be proud of and regardless of who you are can use. He acknowledges that some of them might not be RV users, but they all as elected officials have a responsibility to make sure the facilities are upkeep. He reminded them that he wasn't a member of this council when they decided that they wanted to improve the parks because they were not being upkeep under the joint agreement and they made a commitment to have the best quality parks. He stated that they did that. He added that they have an aquatics center that is fabulously attended that could likely be expanded, if that was a want, because of the crowd size desiring to come in. He stated that when soccer is in season they can go to any of the facilities and see people from the city and likely those from outside of the city who want to use these facilities. He added that he understands that some on this council may not appreciate all of the projects, but we can say that about any one of the parks and the activities on those parks, and that doesn't mean it doesn't have value. He stated that individuals enjoy different aspects of city parks and they want to have nice facilities to enjoy all those different aspects and it is his opinion that this body would be silly not to request the funds that would maximize the funds that would maximize their offerings at no cost to the taxpayers, other than the fact that it would be paid for through tourism dollars. He explained that they have an obligation to make sure these projects are well done and it is their responsibility to make sure who ever occupies these elected seats takes responsibility for places in the city that aren't being maintained and if they need to make changes, they take the steps to do so. He added that maybe in 20 years they realize they don't need an RV park or maybe it is so successful they talk about expanding, but what they need to do right now is to commit themselves to having the best parks system and that starts with making sure they have the funding available.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he wants the best park facilities and wants to maintain them but they have to prioritize. He added that they can't do a shotgun approach that tries to be everything to everyone, and instead they have to prioritize and do their due diligence. He stated that when they were presented this package he had four days to make a decision and he didn't have time to do his due diligence, he didn't see a feasibility study, or justification for an RV park, so he voted no. He added that he is trying to keep them from making a big mistake and he can bet that if he listed the 12 projects the RV park would be last on that list, so he thinks they should give favor to the other projects by withdrawing the application for this and not waste government money.

**Mrs. Murphy** stated that it sounds like they are in a catch 22 where they don't want an RV park because they think it is going to get run down, but then they have potential money to make sure that it is a quality park and they are saying, but we don't want that.

She explained that if they have the additional money to make a high-quality park with extra security and facilities, why would they not. She added that they are predetermining that it is going to be a rotten facility, instead of looking at it as an opportunity to build something that would insure it is a quality place.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that as they have already started the process with these projects and approved the funding mechanism to get them going, she agrees with Mrs. Murphy that they would be negligent if they did not apply for any funds available to enhance these projects. She added that it is up to the tourism board to approve them, so let them go before that board on their own merit, as the tourism board is much more knowledgeable about what they think is appropriate for our area and which of the project should receive funding.

**Mr. Dickey** stated that they need to differentiate what they as individuals think is a priority and what tourism thinks is a priority because tourism might think and RV park is an underutilized element and that is what is most attractive to them. He clarified that he is not speaking for them but that is something to keep in mind.

**Mrs. Gohmann** stated that Ms. Johnson mentioned expanding the park to include tent camping and if that is the case she might be in favor of it because it would be nice to have a safe campground that allows tent camping. She explained that there are a lot of unhoused people that could maybe afford the cost of pitching a tent and would have access to clean restrooms and showers, and this could solve an additional problem.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that the scoping period looks at every possibility but those items are not determined until they come to an agreement in October on what that looks like.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that as a sociologist he is concerned about the good of the common society. He explained that he doesn't use any of the sports facilities but he supported them for the community so it isn't about not supporting something that you don't use, he just doesn't think the RV park is the best use of funds. He asked Mrs. Manning if he needs to recuse himself since he is an employee of IUS.

**Mrs. Manning** stated that she thinks it would be prudent.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he would proudly support this and would love to but he doesn't want to cross a line.

**Mrs. Manning** stated that she is trying to think if there is a way to limit the recusal to just that component.

**Mr. Blair** asked if they could vote on this separately.

**Mrs. Manning** stated that there is only one resolution so without an opportunity to look into it further, she would recommend recusal.

**Mr. Fitzgerald** asked if Mr. Phipps would need to rescind his second on the current motion.

**Mrs. Manning** suggested that he do so if he is going to recuse himself.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the wisdom of the Tourism Bureau was mentioned and wanting them to weigh in on this, but in the four days he had to review it he did talk to their director and he stated that he was not even aware of the RV park nor were they approached about it. He stated that if they are doing something regarding tourism they should be contacted to ask for their opinion and apparently that wasn't done. He added that he thinks that the tourism board is asking them if they think it is a viable project, is it worthy of funding and he is saying that he thinks it is a waste. He stated that they need to support the good projects and leave that money for other communities to be successful with their good projects as well.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that there have been several members of the tourism bureau that have been involved with the comprehensive plan so she finds it difficult to believe that anyone that worked there would not be aware of the project as they have talked about it extensively in those meetings.

**Mrs. Gohmann** stated that this is a difficult vote for her because she is in favor of the IUS trail but she is not in favor of applying for money just because it is available, particularly when it is something she doesn't agree with.

**Mrs. Griffith** stated that she has similar feelings as Mrs. Gohmann but she does trust in their tourism and she believes they will grade it properly.

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

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

**Kate Hess Pace, Hoosier Action**, stated that she lives in New Albany, her family has been in New Albany for over 150 years and have dedicated themselves to this community, and she proudly stands alongside their set members tonight. She acknowledged their job and how hard public service is and that she deeply respects what they do. She explained that she is here because the mayor has said false thing about herself and her organization to members and to the public more broadly, who while she is usually in the background she wanted to come before them to formally introduce herself and the organization. She stated that the mayor has said that their organization was founded by an “extreme right-wing man”, and that they “endorsed his opponent” and she would like to set the records straight on both accounts. She explained that she founded the organization in 2017 after 20 years of nonprofit and community organizing service, they have membership in 18 counties, and they have seven chapters all the way up to Morgan County. She stated that their membership is, Republican, Democrats, Independents, people that have never voted, people in long-term recovery, clergy, people that are deeply struggling and people that are quite comfortable. She added that they believe in a politics that commits to our place and not to a party. She stated that they have successfully defended Medicaid multiple times at the state level, have won statewide rent relief during COVID, their moms chapter works with moms with kids with disabilities and IEPs, their clergy chapter partnered with our resilience chapter, and we got our first cooling centers opened and they've been running for the past two years. She explained that their primary concern and work is about getting people off the sidelines and in direct relationship with the decision makers and the decisions that impact their lives, and they believe that this is fundamental in a moment when our country is divided and broken. She stated that as local public officials they will be the ones that carry the community forward and move them out of the multifaceted crisis that we are in. She added that in a moment where we are staring down AI, deep fakes, fake news and miscommunication, it is trusted relationships on the ground that are going to keep us together and carry us forward. She explained that they have never endorsed or worked for a candidate locally and they are fervently committed to independence and accountable only to our membership. She stated that they do town halls, create voter guides, try to inform people about the process, but they cannot endorse a candidate, without violating their tax status, without running a fully public and transparent process, which we never have. She explained that they will always work across the aisle, and their members, when they meet with them, they prepare, they work hard, and they are trained to always be respectful. She added that if they encounter anything different, she encourages them to contact her directly. She stated that they believe that democracy cannot be built by two feuding parties and you need organizations like theirs that are bringing people into the game. She explained that Mayor Gahan is breaking trust in this community, they don't know how much money is being spent on the dam or where that money is going, but transparency really matters and openness matters. She added that they are not a private corporation, but a city and they represent the residents of the city. She added that when trust is so broken it is incredibly hard to rebuild, meanwhile, our community is facing so many crises. She stated that across the river, they see Governor Beshear showing up and being present with people during hard times and here in New Albany, while small business is deeply

important, the only time we see the mayor is at groundbreakings for luxury apartments and ribbon cuttings. She stated that they want to see leadership that is showing up and standing with the many in the community that are struggling and having hard times. She reiterated that she truly respects the work that they do and reminded them that they are an independent body, the mayor is not their boss, and they are not his communication arm. She stated that they have a role to hold this administration accountable for their lack of transparency and they need this body's leadership to take on the real problems the communities face, whether or not that's the overdose crisis, the lack of affordable housing, more storms, more heat, or to make sure young people stay in this town and have opportunity. She stated that their organization was not started and founded by an extreme right-wing man, they do not and have not endorsed candidates at the local level, and if they ever did there would be a very public and transparent process. She stated that she wanted to personally invite this body to their meeting September 6, where they are going to bring together over 200 people that want to hear from them about what's in the budget, and they want this body to hear from them about the priorities that they see. She added that they want to imagine a new politics for New Albany that is rooted in trust, transparency and real partnership because she believes that they can work together to rebuild this, and they are calling on the council's leadership to partner with us. Thank you for your time and service. She thanked them for their time and service.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no other business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Adam T. Dickey, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk