

THE NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL HELD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6:45 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 100, NEW ALBANY CITY HALL, 142 E. MAIN STREET.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mrs. Collier, Mr. Phipps, Mr. FitzGerald, Mrs. Gohmann, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Unruh and President Dickey.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Moeller, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Glotzbach

President Dickey called the public hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. He asked if anyone would like to speak on the following:

**A-25-02 An Ordinance to Fix the General Fund and
Other Budgets for the Year 2026**

Ms. Cisa Kubley, 1926 Ekin Avenue, stated that she was present tonight on behalf of Hoosier Action and she wanted to thank those of you who were able to participate in their funds meeting on September 6th. She said it is really encouraging to see that level of engagement from the council. She stated we had a little over 100 residents there to participate and engage with you, so it was really good to get to see that. She said for those of you who were unable to be with us for a variety of reasons, we did have a section of that budget talk where we invited people to submit questions. She stated as you can imagine, we got way more of them than we could answer in that one sitting, so we have one additional ask for the council. She said we have compiled all of those questions together and would like to divvy them up amongst each of you so you only have a couple each. She added we would like to ask if you would commit to answering those questions for us within the next two weeks so we can share those answers with our membership through our newsletter. She stated that about 40% of those questions were specifically about the dam and this is not saying anything new. She said our position is that this is public money that's being spent and it's important for the public to understand how much of our money is being spent that could be going to other things that are really critical like affordable housing. She stated so that's the main reason that we are here tonight, that these are our funds, and we deserve as a community to know what is happening with them. She said we would like to remind the council that the city is not a private corporation; it is a public institution, and the administration has a duty to this community to be ethical stewards of the funds that we pay in taxes. She stated nationally, we are struggling with so much fractured trust and if we're going to rebuild that, it is critical that we have really strong ethical leadership at the local level, so that starts right here with all of you. She said we're asking you to step into that leadership. She knows that you've been stonewalled about the numbers on this budget for the dam and we've had individual people ask for the numbers. She stated the council has asked repeatedly and individual council members have submitted requests, and the media has submitted requests. She said it is time to push past the stonewalling and hold the mayor and the administration accountable to provide those numbers, because it is really unacceptable that those public records requests are being ignored, so it's time to really stand up against that. She stated that the source and the amount of these funds has to be disclosed. She also stated while we know that it is very important for you guys to get these numbers before you can possibly in good conscience pass a budget for how our money is going to continue to be spent, we think it is just as critical that the public knows. She said what we would ask of you is stand up and push through this stonewalling and get these numbers and make them available to the public. She stated we are here and we are always happy to talk with you about this and other issues that are going to affect our community. She added we are going to continue showing up and asking for this information and asking for you to work with us because we're all part of this community together. She thanked the council for their time.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk