

**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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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. Hall, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Glotzbach

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. FitzGerald moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024 (1si), the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024 (Blessings) and the Regular Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024, Mrs. Gohmann second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. Collier who abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Collier stated that since she wasn't at the last meeting, she didn't get to give her personal thanks to the New Albany Police Department for their efforts in the Harvest Homecoming investigation, and the wonderful work they did coordinating with all of the different agencies that were involved. She is thankful that we have them here in New Albany and is grateful for their hard work. She then said that she hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that everyone continues to have a wonderful holiday season going forward.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that he hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had safe travels this weekend and going into the holiday season. He wanted to give thanks and excitement for the previous redevelopment commission meeting where they approved funding for a study for long-term planning for the intersection at Grant Line, Beechwood and Daisy. He knows that we also have a company selected for demolition at the old gas station, so he is looking forward to seeing movement on all of this wonderful stuff.

Mrs. Gohmann stated that the White Flag Shelter is open because it is going to be very cold this week and they would appreciate any donations that anyone would like to bring, specifically, paper products as well as pet food. She said that they also welcome people who bring their pets with them, which is very, very generous.

Mr. Blair stated that the county just passed the new public safety tax and asked Mr. Dickey if he has gotten any more information as far as how we are going to have to adapt the budget and bring that in too? He added that he thinks they are going to start collecting the tax on January 1st.

Mr. Dickey stated that it is effective January 1st and before any of those funds can be spent, they will have to be appropriated through this council. He thinks the administration is having a few preliminary conversations. He said that he would expect that sometime after the first of the year, we will start to hear some of those requests as well as formulate the appropriations themselves.

Mr. Blair asked if it will be a workshop like we do for the regular general budget?

Mr. Dickey stated that he doesn't know that they have gotten that far. He guesses by design we would have to have a committee of the whole meeting, so functionally, the answer is yes. He said that there would be some kind of discussion outside of the council's regular meetings. He doesn't want to get too far ahead with regards to the particulars.

Mr. Blair stated that he would obviously like to see a workshop so the council can give their input.

Mr. Dickey stated that some things could be considered collectively and some things might be better considered individually. He said for example, there are certain equipment purchases that we are all sensitive to whether it be fire apparatus, police cars or some of those types of things. He thinks that the council will want to work with the administration to figure out what the best mechanism is to kind of handle that proposal, and make sure that we have a firm understanding of how the money is going to be remitted so we obviously have the funds to be able to purchase those items.

Mr. Blair stated that time is going to be important especially when you are making big purchase items as far as equipment goes. He said there are ways that you can manage through that too.

Mrs. Griffin stated that what a wonderful time she had Holiday Fest. She said that with the snow and Santa on the roof and coming around the corner, it was perfect. She stated that it is a wonderful thing for the city and she just loves to see how far that has come. She thanked everyone that volunteered and helped with putting that on.

Mrs. Murphy gave kudos to Ms. Johnson and her team for holding focus group meetings right before Thanksgiving. She stated that it was the New Albany Comprehensive Plan for Housing and Neighborhood Focus Group. She reminded everyone that you can go to the transparency portal and the whole 88-page study is there if the general public would like to take a look at that. She said there is lots of great information and lots of good conversation there.

Mr. Unruh stated that he wanted to thank Fred Geswein and all of the volunteers for putting on the five-mile Thanksgiving Day run. He said that it is an annual event and over 700 runners participated. He also said that there were a lot of family members along the route and they cheered them on to the finish. He stated that it was a really good crowd for a cold morning.

Mr. Dickey stated that he is always very proud of those runners. He then echoed the White Flag Shelter information. He wanted to note for the public's knowledge that it is the holiday season and we have a lot of people who are out collecting funds for charities, so please just remember to do your due diligence. He said that obviously some organizations have very well-established protocols, but please mindful that if something doesn't seem right, please report that. He said that they want to make sure that the generosity of the season goes to those who need that as opposed to individuals who otherwise may take advantage. He also wanted to echo how great Light Up New Albany was, and he particularly wanted to call out Krystina Jarboe on our city staff for the hard work that she puts into that every year. He stated that Krystina doesn't necessarily get a whole lot of credit and she is not the only one that does the work to make that event fabulous. He added that Mr. Hall and some of the others all have a role in that and that Mr. Hall posted a wonderful video of the event on the city's website, and it just made him want to go out and shop downtown quite frankly. He stated that Light Up is a fabulous event for our community and he really appreciates all of the hard work that goes into that. He wanted to thank all of those staff members who play such a fabulous role.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mr. Hall stated that the mayor just wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and he hopes everyone had a nice time with family and got to enjoy themselves. He said that as many of the council members have mentioned, we had a magical light up celebration this weekend and it was a ton fun. He stated that he has been doing Light Up New Albany for 13 years and he cannot remember a time that it snowed like that. He added that it sure was a cool memory he thinks for a lot of the kids that were down there. He hopes that they really remember that for a long time. He feels like everyone had a blast and he wants to thank all of the volunteers, a lot of downtown organizations and everyone involved. He said that as Mr. Dickey mentioned, we did post a video today kind of recapping that and the goal is absolutely to try to get people thinking about shopping, eating and visiting the City of New Albany during the holiday season. He stated that a lot of people shop online and we definitely want to get people downtown into our stores and restaurants, and help support them at this time. He said that additionally the mayor wanted to thank the council for their appropriations at the previous meeting. He stated that he, of course, supports that funding to 1si and Blessings in a Backpack and he appreciates the council's efforts to help those organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

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

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

G-24-06	An Ordinance Amending 30.01 of Chapter 30 of Title III of the Code of New Albany	Griffith 1
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Action Taken: G-24-06 was referred to the Rules Committee.

G-24-07	An Ordinance Amending 30.19 of Chapter 30 of Title III of the Code of New Albany	Griffith 1
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Action Taken: G-24-07 was referred to the Rules Committee.

Mr. Phipps stated that he plans to convene a meeting regarding these items in early January since this is a very busy time in the next couple of weeks. He added that he informed Mrs. Griffith of that.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-24-08 Appropriation of Funds

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-24-08 Appropriation of Funds

A-24-08	Ordinance for the Appropriation of Funds	Phipps 3
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Mr. Phipps introduced Bill A-24-08 and moved to approve the third reading, Mrs. Collier second, all voted in favor. Bill A-24-08 becomes Ordinance A-24-17.

Mr. Phipps stated that he believes that they thoroughly discussed this at the last meeting. He said that one is to provide the money so that the tree board can get grant money. He stated that the other one is just cleaning up the line item on the salaries for elected officials that the council voted on last December after they had already approved the budget in late September or early October.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: R-24-10 Renew Urban Enterprise Zone

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: Renew Urban Enterprise Zone

R-24-10 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of New Albany Renewing the Urban Enterprise Zone of the City of New Albany For an Additional 5 Years FitzGerald

Mr. FitzGerald introduced R-24-10 and moved to approve, Mr. Phipps second, all voted in favor.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that we are able extend the life of the Urban Enterprise Zone for an additional five years. He added that it was originally supposed to end at the end of this year. He said that it was originally set up in 1999 and we had our first renewal in 2015 for three years, and then we were able to have an additional two times that we could renew for five years. He said that it was ending this year and we discovered that we were able to do another renewal. He stated that the companies within the Urban Enterprise Zone pay an application fee and those funds go into a pot of money that is used for economic and community development within the map. He said that some things that you may have noticed this past year has been an Economic Activity Grant for Nance's Florist, and they completely redid the exterior with that. He stated that you may also notice that there is now a central garbage collection for the Exchange, DKD, Hitching Post and all of that area. He said that the point is to continue to induce more economic development within downtown and also within areas that are in the map that Ms. Johnson provided. He stated that in addition to the economic grant, there are also applications for façade grants. He said that if you know of anyone in the mapped area, right now it is a \$2,500.00 reimbursable grant for any facade improvements they may have. He added that we are fixing up our neighborhoods as well as making sure that economic improvement also occurs there.

Mr. Blair asked how much money is collected annually for this?

Ms. Johnson said that they collect around \$100,000.00 that they use every year.

Mr. Blair asked how much they used this past year?

Ms. Johnson stated that the current balance is about \$86,000.00 but there has been quite a fill up within the account. She said that like Mr. FitzGerald mentioned, there have been several economic development incentives that have been successful this year as well as the improvements to the parking garage. She stated that the windows there were rusted out so they used the funds for those improvements as well as the dumpster enclosures. She added that there is a new mural on the side of the Token Club that was recently completed and there are commercial and residential facades that continue as well.

Mr. Blair said that we are actually looking for projects, right?

Ms. Johnson replied yes and stated that what is exciting about this is that it is set up a little differently than some other funds are within the city. She said that it allows us to do some of those projects that directly impact businesses within our city.

Mr. Blair asked if we can continue to renew or is this our last opportunity to renew?

Ms. Johnson said this is our last opportunity to renew so all of the Urban Enterprise Zones in the state of Indiana will be defunct by 2030.

Mr. Blair stated that there is a section sort along Grant Line Road and asked if that was added at a certain date or has that always been in there?

Mrs. Fischer stated that it has always been in there.

Ms. Johnson stated that what she and Mrs. Fischer have been discussing is that since 1999 or 2000, there has really been a lot of focus in the downtown area with these funds. She said that the goal is that we shift that focus to where the Grant Line corridor is within these bounds. She stated that if you look at the map, it also shows the west side of the city which could use some love too. She said they are looking to distribute some of those funds to some new areas.

Mr. Blair stated there are some areas right along Grant Line Road and Charlestown Road. He said that he is assuming that Colonial Manor is probably in that block too.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that it is not.

Mrs. Murphy asked if a business or an individual was interested in using these funds, what would be the process? She asked if they would contact Ms. Johnson's office?

Mrs. Fischer stated that they could contact her and she will get them an application to fill out and then there is, of course, some more supporting documentation that would need to go with it. She said then it goes to the UEA board for a vote.

Mrs. Murphy asked if we do any type of advertising for this? She asked if people are aware of the funds that are available?

Mrs. Fischer stated that they have never done advertising per say because since it is a restricted area, whoever gets the money must be within the boundaries of that zone.

Mrs. Murphy said that she is just curious as to how people would know that the money is there.

Mr. Dickey stated that he thinks one of the ways that happens is through some of the routine meetings like with the merchants in downtown. He thinks there has also been some discussion with 1si on having them be aware of certain map boundaries, and they can then facilitate conversations with existing businesses or a new business wanting to come in about those things.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that he has gone around to a couple of the areas in the 4th District and have also talked to people about them when he is door knocking. He hasn't talked to many business owners; it has mostly been the residents in the area.

Mrs. Fischer said that the board is pretty good about promoting it well there.

Mr. FitzGerald added that there can't be too much outreach.

Mrs. Murphy asked if a private citizen could use the funds just to update their property?

Mr. FitzGerald replied yes.

Mrs. Griffith asked if it is the same for commercial and residential?

Mrs. Fischer replied yes and stated that it is \$2,500.00 maximum.

Mr. FitzGerald said for a façade, but then you could do an economic development grant as well.

Mrs. Fischer said that the \$2,500.00 is for the outside but it doesn't cover landscaping, signage or anything like that. She stated that anything else done to the outside of the

home, it covers. She then said that they do have a limited number of economic development grants, but they don't promote those because they don't always have the money to do those.

Mrs. Griffith asked if the grant is matching it or not for residential?

Mrs. Fischer stated that they are all matching.

Mrs. Griffith asked if they only need like \$2,000.00 then it would be \$1,000.00 out of pocket and \$1,000.00 they could possibly get matched?

Mrs. Fischer stated that they would have to pay the full \$2,000.00, and then once the project is complete, they would get reimbursed for the match of \$1,000.00.

Mr. Dickey stated that a lot of times what is also true is this overlaps with some of our initiatives from a redevelopment standpoint in general, so there is occasionally collective synergy that goes on to try and help improve a section through multiple programs. He said that this is just one of them and he thinks it is an important tool in the toolbox as we look at all of those different elements to try and revitalize an area, address a blight situation or what have you.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk