

**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, DECEMBER 19,
2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

MOMENT OF REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mrs. Collier moved to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2024, and the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2024, Mrs. Gohmann second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mrs. Murphy who was not present.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mr. Unruh wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated that if there is anyone out there that is still doing Christmas shopping like he is, he recommends visiting our downtown merchants and all other merchants in the City of New Albany.

Mrs. Griffith wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She then stated that there have been a lot of great ribbon cuttings and she appreciates the communications on those. She said that the one at the KCS Foundation was great. She stated that it was a great turn out and they had Santa Claus and it was snowing in the background. She thought they were opening a second location but they are moving their Louisville business to New Albany, so she always enjoys getting that kind of information. She said that Two Maids was another one that opened off Grant Line Road and then Milos opened as well. She stated that is awesome for all of them. She said that redevelopment has put that information out as well as Isi. She wanted to congratulate the Wildflowers Uncommon Gifts. She stated that they won the new to SoIN award and then the Sip, which was the Mainstreet New Albany, won for the collaboration award. She said that there were three awards given at SoIN Tourism this past year, and out of the three, New Albany took home two. She added that always makes us proud of the community. She then stated that last night was the first time she has been able to attend Veteran's Court and the ceremony was really great. She said that it is the third Wednesday of every month.

Mr. Blair wished everyone Happy Holidays. He then stated that he was out west in Phoenix visiting his son, and in his neighborhood, they brought in dumpsters and put them on neighborhood streets and gave people a week or so to put trash and items into the dumpsters. He said that they give them notification and they move the dumpsters around. He stated that his son said that it works really well. He said that there would have to be a lot of communication around that, especially what you can't put into the dumpster, but it may be a way to clean things up. He stated that we could start it as a test and see how it goes. He added that he is assuming that it would be an additional expense on our part so he would have to bring an appropriation before the council. He said that he would work with the administration and Ecotech for the program. He suggested that they could possibly do one per district to see how it goes. He thinks that it would be in Ecotech's best interest to have people through trash into a big dumpster versus having to collect it on the street. He asked if that is something that the council would have an interest in doing?

Mr. Phipps stated that we do that on Beautification Day and there is always one in his neighborhood, and almost the entire dumpster gets filled up just in those three or four hours. He said that if you were going to do this over a week, you would probably have to have dumpsters emptied multiple times. He also said that there is always someone from the neighborhood association watching to make sure that people from out of town don't come and do it, and to keep things such as tires that are not allowed from being put into the dumpster. He stated that you would almost have to have a person there or he guarantees at night they would be filled up with stuff that probably shouldn't be put in there. He said that is his concern but he definitely likes the concept.

Mr. Dickey stated that would be his concern.

Mr. Blair stated that he can see contractor's dumping a lot of stuff or things like that.

Mr. Dickey wonders if it could be a series of Saturdays or something like that. He shares the concern that we would end up taking things that we couldn't accept, so there would have to be some safeguards on this. He knows when they do it for Beautification Day, they were given a list of things that are not allowed. He said that the other thing was to verify that it was a city resident. He wants to stress that because they had to ask and people would say that they live in New Albany, and he would have to ask specifically if they live in the city because it was service for citizens of the city.

Mr. Blair stated that he will contact Bryan Slade and see what he has to say and if we can manage it.

Mrs. Collier stated that when we volunteered for Beautification Day, we were the ones actually putting stuff in the dumpsters so that no one would get injured or anything like that. She said that is something else that we would need to take into account.

Mr. Dickey added that the Grant Line Road site had three or four dumpsters taken away that day.

Mrs. Collier stated that was just the one site that they were at.

Mr. Blair stated that there was something about physically having the dumpster in the neighborhood that caught people's attention. He also stated that they sent out a flier to the neighbors stating when it was going to be placed and what they could and could not put in it.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that in the 4th District they had two locations which were the Boys and Girls Club and the street department. He added that maybe they could do same in the fall or something like that.

Mr. Blair stated that he didn't see anything in his district and thinks that the street department on Grant Line Road was the closest one to him.

Mrs. Gohmann wished everyone Happy Holidays and asked everyone to keep in mind that the holidays are really great but it is also a very difficult time for some people. She stated that we have 13 blessings boxes or little pantries around town and they are all empty right now, so when you are doing your grocery shopping, pick up a few extra things. She added that you can go online and find the lists on her Facebook page. She said let's get those things filled up for folks that could use the extra help.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that he wanted to echo that Elaine and Ryan are in his thoughts and prayers this week as they go through the death in their family. He then said that he did a walk through with Dan Hardesty with District 1 at 845 15th Street. He stated that the concept is sort of like the Logan Street Market so it will be vendors within that area. He also stated that it will include retail, food, coffee, etc. He said that he did a small walk through with some residents on Depauw Avenue to just sort of see what they are doing as

far as possible development, street work and those sorts of things. He added that he has some emails going out soon. He stated that tomorrow there is going to be a ribbon cutting with Ade Food which is an African food restaurant that is on Grant Line Road and he believes that starts at noon. He said that he is excited to take part in that tomorrow.

Mr. Phipps wanted to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Collier stated that she hopes everyone has a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful, safe Christmas and New Year. She said that she would like to expand on what Mrs. Gohmann said about the food pantries. She stated that she is pretty active about keeping what she can in those. She said that a couple of weeks ago when we had the very cold weather, she stocked up on bologna, hot dogs and some of the smaller things such as polish sausage. She stated that she freezes them and then put a sticky note on them with the date and time that she put them in there. She likes to take advantage of the weather and use that as an opportunity to put some protein that's not pinto beans or peanut butter in there.

Mr. Dickey wished everyone Happy Holidays because it is not just Christmas obviously. He said that we have Hannukah, Kwanza and all of these different celebrations including going into a new year, so he wants to extend a warm season's greetings to everyone. He wanted to echo the Veteran's Court because he can't say how proud he is of that program. He said that as a program that's meant to provide restorative justice, it takes individuals who have served this country and often faced some adversity through that service and offers them a second chance from a legal outcome which might be devastating to their lives. He stated that is one of the reasons why he goes whenever he can. He also stated that he wanted to commend Judge Granger and everyone on the team for what they do. He said this past graduation was another example of how impactful they were, and at this time of year, he just thinks how wonderful it is to see the impact of something that we do in government that is making a difference for these graduates. He really appreciates that. He then reminded everyone with the holidays coming up, there will be augmented trash collection schedules so just be aware that they won't be out on those holidays and will be a day delayed. He stated that he wanted to take a moment to pay tribute to Bryan Slade. He said that he has been one of our consultants here that serves us through Ecotech and he has retired. He stated that we have always been able to turn to him both in terms of the service they provide city and also in terms of so many other things. He said that they donated several trees through the tree board to try and impact our urban forest. He stated that Bryan has always been there for other efforts such as employee appreciation and those types of things. He said that even though he is not part of our city government, he has had an impact on our community and city and we owe him a debt of thanks, gratitude and a well-deserved retirement. He then stated that he has made several meetings discussing certain themes about the next General Assembly that starts in January, and particularly, in the transportation arena. He said that based on everything he has read, he believes that we will see the General Assembly have a discussion around transportation. He is bringing this to the council's attention only because he thinks it is important that we pay attention. He stated that in 2017 they approved an increase to help fund transportation projects, including some of that money going back to the local level through Community Crossings and other such things. He said with the new administration and with inflation having largely gobbled a big piece of that up, there is a renewed conversation around how to continue to work on that. He stated that several times now in these presentations he has heard the words "tolls", "user fees", "EV fees" and all of these different things. He is not here to pass any sort of judgement about what we as state should or shouldn't do, but he wants us as a local community to be mindful and watchful of those proceedings. He said that the reason why is because what they do there and how it impacts our local program can make a big difference in what we are able to do with our street improvements, our paving program and he wants us to be diligent about how some of the proposed legislation may impact us. He can't say how blessed we have been to have Community Crossings available to us and he hopes that continues through the next administration, but again, he wants to make sure that we are all watching that and paying close attention.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mrs. Moeller stated that the mayor would like to thank the council for all of their hard work this year and he looks forward to all that we can do to make New Albany greater in 2025. She said that he also sends along his best wishes for Happy Holidays for all of the members and their families and let’s make things great. She stated that she saw a few faces at Reach Across America at our National Cemetery this past Saturday and our Jr. ROTC Units at Floyd Central and New Albany do a great job all year long of fundraising to create this event. She said that a lot of people give locally but also the high school ROTC Units actually do the major part of the fundraising for this project. She stated that it is a really moving ceremony that they do have at the cemetery and she thinks that over 600 wreaths were put out this year, and each year they want to do more and more. She said that there is a national website that you can visit to make a donation; it is not very expensive and it makes a big impact here locally at Christmas time. She added that you would be amazed at how many families are in that cemetery putting wreaths on their grandparent’s stone, etc. She stated that it goes back many generations and there is a lot of history in that cemetery as well. She said that there was a lot to learn and a lot to be grateful for that day, so she would encourage everyone to look for it next year.

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Dickey asked Mrs. Manning if she had all of the paperwork needed from the council members on the nepotism stuff?

Mrs. Manning replied yes.

Mr. Dickey stated that one of the duties for the council tonight was to review and sign related nepotism documents to note that we would not conduct in hiring family members and other such provisions. He said that is an annual thing that the council members do and those were entered and agreed by each member before the meeting.

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:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk