

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA, WILL HOLD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15,
2026 AT 7:00 P.M.**

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER, CENTERING OR REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2026

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2026

Regular Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2026

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

**MEETINGS OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AS OTHERWISE
PERMITTED AND APPROPRIATE:**

**REPORTS – COMMITTEES, EXCLUDING ORDINANCES ON 2ND READING
(WHICH SHALL BE MADE DURING CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES
ON 2ND READING) 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 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-26-04 General Fund Budget for 2027

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-26-04 General Fund Budget for 2027

A-26-04	An Ordinance to Fix the General Fund and Other Budgets for the Year 2027	Unruh 3
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COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-26-05 Non-Reverting Budgets for 2027

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-26-05 Non-Reverting Budgets for 2027

A-26-05	An Ordinance to Fix the Non-Reverting Budgets for the Year 2027	Unruh 3
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New Albany City Council Members

Jennie Collier; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Adam Dickey; President; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Greg Phipps; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Chris FitzGerald; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Louise Gohmann; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Scott Blair; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Stefanie Griffith; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Elaine Murphy; Vice President; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
Don Unruh; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-26-06 Employee Salaries 2027

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-26-06 Employee Salaries 2027

A-26-06 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Murphy 3
Year 2027 for Employees

COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-26-07 Elected Officials Salaries 2027

COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-26-07 Elected Official Salaries 2027

A-26-07 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Murphy 3
Year 2027 for Elected Officials

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- **NA Historic Preservation Commission Re-appointment – Kate Berliner**

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO ATTEND THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEETINGS MAY MAKE THEIR REQUEST KNOWN BY CONTACTING THE CITY CLERK IN ROOM 114 OF THE NEW ALBANY CITY HALL OR BY CALLING 948.5336

New Albany City Council Members

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 Jennie Collier; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
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 Louise Gohmann; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
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 Stefanie Griffith; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
 Elaine Murphy; Vice President; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
 Don Unruh; Member; Appointing Authority: Elected; Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A WORK SESSION AT NEW ALBANY CITY HALL IN ROOM 100 ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Manning, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Moeller, Police Chief Bailey, Fire Chief Juliot, David Heeke, Brad Fair, Wendy Byrn, Dave Kalbough, Alicia Meredith, Scott Wood and Mrs. Glotzbach

CALL TO ORDER: President Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Gibson stated this is preliminary, it's written on there just so everyone knows because we're still dealing with numbers and waiting for some numbers to make sure all the income and everything is correct. He then stated the big stack of papers is for June of this year and we obviously use it because it's a good estimator to see where we're at. He added it's not completely predictive of how the year will end at all, but it does give you at least a snapshot halfway through the year so you can say, okay, it looks like we're okay or whatever else. He said we're changing it up a little bit from in the past and we're doing one workshop, and then we'll have to do the introductions with the committee as a whole doing a committee meeting. He then stated he has some department heads here, so if it's okay, he'd like to go ahead and just start with them, and then he'll go through the revenue really quick at the end.

POLICE

Mr. Gibson stated that Police Chief Bailey is here and one thing you'll notice when you start going through these is we have switched software, and it's still a learning curve for us, so be patient with us because it's going to take us a bit to hopefully get it presented to you in the way we want and in the way we're kind of used to. He said one of the newer things that is added that we didn't have in the past is the interconnectivity of the payroll with the actual budget, and where we see that is in the health benefits, dental benefits, those extra benefits. He'll go through that a little bit with the council once we get there. He stated you will see also, just as the learning curve, when Linda's office was doing the merge and the transfer over from the old system to the new system, we did consolidate a lot of line items because we just had too many. He added when you get the reports as you look at a past year, those are consolidated, so you're kind of looking at apples to apples.

Police Chief Bailey stated that they don't have any remarkable changes from last year to this year. He said their current staffing is 71 police officers, and they are shooting for 74 police officers, so he is always in the process of recruiting and hiring as most police departments are right now. He stated that you'll see salaries, wages and benefits associated with those police officers as well as non-sworn staff, who supports our police officers, parking enforcement officers and administrative staff. He said as Mr. Gibson stated, there are some things that were consolidated so your numbers may appear larger, but that is because of line items being merged together.

Mr. Dickey asked in regards to the leases, is that number reflective of just the consolidation?

Mr. Gibson stated that was for Motorola.

Mrs. Griffith stated last year you also had a camera line item and asked if that has just gone away?

Mr. Gibson stated he has a feeling we have merged that into one of those, but we still do have that yearly payment for the body cameras and the tasers. He added that was a lease kind of deal, but we'll verify that.

Mrs. Griffith stated that regarding tire and tubes, she felt like we were hitting that early.

Police Chief Bailey stated we had a separate line out for tires and it just didn't make sense so we combined everything.

Mrs. Griffith stated regarding cars, she asked if they have some side-by-sides for the riverfront?

Police Chief Bailey stated we have a side-by-side that we purchased three years ago, two years ago, something like that, and it's for parks enforcement, places that cars can't get. He said that's a growing trend in law enforcement and he suspects that at some point in time, we'll be looking to appropriate one, maybe two more of those just for miscellaneous reasons.

Mrs. Murphy said yes, as we finish the Monon Trail, we'll need more.

Mrs. Murphy stated she is just assuming that for dental insurance and life insurance, those are blank for 2026 just because the year's not over.

Mr. Gibson stated those are part of the new system that he was mentioning earlier. He said now the system does communicate with itself with the budget and then also with the expenses, where the other one wasn't antiquated. He stated now when we do payroll, it's able to pull benefits as well and put that into our budget, so now as we're doing it, we can project it. He added it makes it more specific and it also helps us meet some federal requirements. He also added if you have health insurance benefits and various things, they're supposed to go on your W-2, it's not taxed necessarily, but it's supposed to go on there, so this will now allow us to do that too.

Mrs. Griffith said that's why the controller's office went down so much.

Mr. Gibson replied yes. He then stated next is the Merit Commission and it's kind of its own body that does the hiring and the major discipline of our police officers. He said not much changed there, and it's pretty standard. He added it's a five-member board and they have an attorney that assists them as well as a secretary that assists them, but it's been pretty constant, pretty stable. He said that Chief Bailey was asking about communications, but this doesn't cover everything obviously, this covers mostly our departments and Communications is in our local income tax fund, so that is one we're still kind of working on, trying to get all the final numbers on, so that'll be part of it and we'll get that information to you, but not tonight.

Mrs. Griffith asked how that is coming along?

Police Chief Bailey said 911 is up and running and stated it's a big undertaking, building a new facility like that and a lot of tech goes into that, and we're talking about old systems versus new systems. He said this is state of the art and it puts us exactly where we need to be in conversation; it's a great city center.

MVH/LRS/MVH RESTRICTED - STREET DEPARTMENT

Mr. Gibson stated that the Street Department is doing their best in this transition and temporary move, and he thinks they've settled in their temporary place for now. He said as we have the groundbreaking or dirt moving today, that will now kick it into high gear, and hopefully they will have their new home here by late summer, early fall next year.

Mrs. Griffith stated as she was looking over the other financial reports, it seemed like you were hitting over-time early in the year. She asked how that has leveled out?

Mr. Heeke stated it depends on the weather. He said we come in every Monday and Friday, in the spring and fall to clean downtown and that's all over time.

Mrs. Griffith asked if that is enough of an increase for next year?

Mr. Gibson stated we were over because we did have a big snow storm, and if he remembers right, we'll be evaluating that and see whether we need to come back to you for an additional if we need to or whatever else. He said a lot of times we do our best just to absorb it into the budget, and usually, no matter what, even over-time in all our departments, once we get their budgets set, we pretty much always stay within them.

Mrs. Murphy asked with the salaries and wages, are we short-staffed and need more help?

Mr. Heeke stated he is short one person and is in the process of getting that filled.

Mr. Dickey asked why there is no entry in the line item for Salt?

Mr. Gibson stated we have that in the budget elsewhere in the local income tax that we did previously in the past year.

Mr. Dickey stated that's perfect, he just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Gibson said FYI, keep in mind, MVH is Street Department, so MVH's budget when he started was substantially larger than what it is now, and MVH was funded through our gas tax and various things, which obviously were reduced for a period of time. He said if you remember, last year we sent some money over from the general fund. He stated we budgeted in Board of Works to transfer \$300,000.00, which we'll probably be doing again in some fashion this year, to support their budget, because the true MVH funding that we get from the state is not usually enough to cover our current budget or staff for them anymore. He added those extra items like salt, those things, we have to take or budget somewhere else.

Mrs. Griffith asked what utilities were in those old buildings, because she thinks we're going to save quite a bit on utilities going forward because you all are going to be so much more efficient.

Mr. Gibson stated at the public works, there will be one of the large buildings with the offices, the garage, and that will be climate controlled. He said the other is more of a storage for the big trucks and everything else will not be, per se, climate controlled. He added we'll have large fans and those various things, but it won't be heated and cooled because, to be honest, it's large storage for our vehicles.

Mrs. Griffith stated that makes sense but she just wanted to make sure that was enough, too, because that seems like that's low for electric and gas, just off the top of her head.

Mr. Gibson stated LRS, Local Roads and Streets, is another one that is funded through the state, and it's got some requirements on it. He said the only thing we use that for specifically is paving, things directly related to the road. He stated we get audited every year and that's one of the things they look at, they look to make sure all of those funds used there were used specifically and directly related to local roads and streets and those kinds of things, so it's kind of a restricted account fund.

Mr. Dickey stated we're probably not anticipating any major revenue increases there, right?

Mr. Gibson replied no, we're not. He said gave a projection about that part of the revenue, and we're usually conservative with that, but we think it's going to be in that ballpark so that's what we budget, and then make sure that we stay within because it's its own separate fund.

Mrs. Griffith asked if he is talking about the 2203 public works department?

Mr. Dickey stated 2202 is LRS and 2203 is MVH restricted.

Mr. Gibson said for some reason, the state has started this process over the last few years where they take these things and then they tell you you've got to put in your fund, and to be honest, it's an accounting nightmare. He stated it doesn't change the processes or how things are done that much, but the restricted is one that we use for the transfer. He added remember, we do the transfer from EDIT, usually, directly into this or before these connect, so we can meet that. He also added usually on average, MVH gets about \$1.6-\$1.65 million a year and half of that, by statute, is supposed to go directly to roads and/or maintenance and/or those things for roads. He said we have to budget and account for approximately \$800,000.00 of that \$1.6 million and we still keep \$1.6 in million in MVH, because that's what he needs to even just support the 20 guys, which we could use another 10 or 15 probably at times. He stated then we use the restricted for paving because it's an easy audit, and we already do paving every year anyways, and it doesn't cause a flag or an issue with the auditors. He added we did finally get it cleaned up because we know we're going to do several million of paving, so we just transfer \$800,000.00 of that to the

restricted fund and then spend that. He said that's half of the MVH money that we get so we can show the auditors, yep, that's half the money and that's good enough to go.

CEMETERY

Mr. Gibson stated a couple years ago, if you recall, we went ahead and kind of merged the budgeting process for the cemeteries. He said it used to be West Haven and Fair View and we had two different budgets, again, more line items, but we went ahead and merged that several years ago during the budget process. He stated this budget is pretty consistent and insurance benefit is the one you'll see here. He also stated like he said, the new payroll system allows us to help budget ourselves better, so now we're able to actually budget their employees' actual costs or insurance expected estimate costs into that budget. He said as Mrs. Griffith mentioned, that's why Mrs. Moeller's went dramatically down because now it's being spread out to all departments. He also said they're a little higher so that's why you see that increase in the budget. He stated everything else is pretty solid, pretty much the same.

Mrs. Griffith said so going forward, like with over time, she feels like they were high on that one too for the year and asked if this new software will be able to kind of calculate that? She added she knows it's weather related.

Mr. Gibson said yes, it should allow us to do a full report so we can do better projections on it in some fashion.

Mrs. Murphy asked when someone passes away, is your crew responsible for digging at the site?

Mr. Heeke replied yes.

Mrs. Murphy said when you're doing overtime, that's a bad thing and that means more people have passed away, so we want to keep that down.

Mrs. Gohmann asked how the new columbarium working out?

Mr. Heeke stated it is working out well and they have Mr. Nash's place ready.

Mr. Gibson said we're looking at the pricing to see how we compare to other cities and communities to make sure we're in line and we're not, we're a little low. He added it's quite possible we'll be talking about those charges or those fees for that in the future. He also added yes, that took a while to get it in finally, but we do have it in and it looks good.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Gibson stated in this you do see an increase, but again, that's because of the insurance mainly, so the major increase you see from her department is pretty much that. He thinks everything else is pretty consistent. He said when you get a chance to look at that big stack, he thinks she's actually under budget right now and she, like Mr. Heeke, are double working because they've got facilities that we're working on, trying to get those done, and also just their full-time jobs.

Mr. FitzGerald joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Mrs. Griffith asked her how she is doing on everything?

Ms. Byrn replied that they are good.

Mrs. Murphy said hopefully we'll have a groundbreaking for you soon, too.

Mr. Gibson stated we will. He then stated we have talked about in the past, there's a couple of non-revertings that we have on those. He thinks we're slowly starting to weed those down to what was a leftover from the other joint venture.

Mr. Dickey said obviously we go through periods where it seems like we're talking to her all the time because of dog or other issues, and then there's some periods of time where it just seems

like everyone's keeping their animals under control and there's not as much. He then asked Ms. Byrn what she is seeing?

Ms. Byrn said right now we have so many pets and it's the season, for lack of a better term. She added we're also getting a lot of stray dogs, but some of them are able to get home again very quickly, and then sometimes they just sit with us. She stated we haven't had as many repeat calls for the same thing here lately and she thinks we're kind of at a stalemate on that right now, but it doesn't take a whole lot for there to be an issue with people getting annoyed with their neighbors for animals getting out and running the neighborhood. She said we try to address that the best that we can and get in touch with the owners with those dogs.

Mr. Dickey said he knows that situation a little while back on Fenwick Drive was a bit scary, because the dog would get out and would scare the neighbor to the point where they could not get in and out of their house, because they thought the dog was going to essentially attack them. He stated he appreciates the work everybody did to take care of that problem and he doesn't think we've had any more concerns from the neighborhood. He then asked how often are we getting kind of non-cat and non-dog animals?

Ms. Byrn said not as often as the dog and cat, obviously, and usually when we get those, they're an owner surrender type situation, and they want to do the right thing with them instead of just letting them sit. She stated when we get animals that we're not particularly knowledgeable on, we reach out to rescues to get them into specialized care as quickly as possible. She added we get chickens once in a while and we get roosters when people have roosters that they're not supposed to have, and those usually go to a park sanctuary. She added we've had a run of birds here lately.

Mr. Dickey stated he knows we kind of made some accommodations with the new facility designs and there were some growing pains around these because we didn't have an aviary, right? He asked if she thinks we're still good with what we've got set up or what we're planning on building?

Ms. Byrn replied that she does because we are going to have a small animal room that we will be able to use for rabbits, Guney pigs, reptiles, etc., and we're going to have a place outside for the farm animals that we sometimes receive.

Mr. Dickey said she is often amazed by what, of all places, you see on tick tock with people and their different pets. He added people have very eclectic pet habits out there in terms of what people have. He added it just makes it a little bit more challenging because no one ever taught her how to take care of a python. He then asked what was the one that was recently found? He said it's like the large rodent and he thinks that was out in county, but it left.

Ms. Byrn stated it was the capybara but it was in the county and it got loose from someone and left.

Mr. Dickey stated with the separation, he has had at least one or two calls where someone from out in the county or whatever called in frustration that they couldn't leave or surrender an animal or what have you at our shelter. He asked if she runs into that very often?

Ms. Byrn said more often than not, people are understanding and just want to know the proper channel and where to go, basically.

Mr. Dickey asked if she is seeing like someone called about, say, a dog, and then suddenly there's a dog that ends up on the front doorstep?

Ms. Byrn stated sometimes we have people show up with a box of puppies and can never give you a good explanation of where the puppies were found, but they were found in New Albany and they bring them in. She said we kind of keep track of those. She added a lot of the time, they do sneak one in past us, but if we scan them to get their microchip, we can return them.

Mr. Dickey stated he knows every jurisdiction to some degree deals with this because our system may be slightly different than Jeffersonville and Clarksville and so on with the counties and different things. He has heard of people driving in from, say, Crawford County or whatever to surrender animals or something like that, and while he appreciates that we want to be humane

and make sure that we provide opportunities for people, he still wants to make sure that we're not taking on more than our fair share. He said obviously, we need the other jurisdictions to kind of pull their weight too, so he is asking those questions to get a gauge if this is happening or not, and it sounds like it's manageable and not happening very frequently so that's a good thing.

Mr. FitzGerald asked how many full-time employees do we have right now, and how many part-time employees?

Ms. Byrn said she has seven full-time and five part-time. She does have a posting for a full-time animal control officer as well as a part-time animal control officer and a part-time kennel help position.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if that what's budgeted for next year as well?

Mr. Gibson stated that he wants to verify all of these numbers because he wasn't aware of the posted jobs.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if she is needing additional staff at this time and potentially next year?

Ms. Byrn stated when we get these positions filled, we should be good.

Mr. FitzGerald said we're dealing with wildlife as well and he thanks her very much for her guidance a few months ago when he had a family of raccoons hanging out in his soffit. He stated we ended up rescuing two and providing them to a rescue over in Jeffersonville, so thank you for the guidance there. He then said we have a lot of deer and asked what sort of happens if they're injured?

Ms. Byrn said we refer to DNR because you have to have a special license for wildlife and we are not licensed for that.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if that has that been a good relationship?

Ms. Byrn said usually we just give them the phone number.

Mrs. Griffith said like your cages and all, where's that budgeted at or is that coming out of a separate area that's for the new place?

Mr. Gibson said that's going to be part of the package of the new place.

Mrs. Griffith said so you don't need like equipment or anything as a line item in here for your supplies?

Mr. Gibson stated not in here, not for that. He stated it'll be brand new cages, it'll be brand new lockers, so that'll all be taken care of as part of that whole project.

Mrs. Griffith said well, this one's going to be another shot in the dark of what actual costs are going to be once you get in the building.

Mr. Gibson said fingers crossed, it will stay similar to this because those things are taken care of.

PLAN COMMISSION

Mr. Gibson said there are two major things on this one, as he mentioned earlier, the new software program and the polling of the insurance. He said everything else is pretty constant. He stated as he mentioned, we're still working on the income numbers and what the raises potentially will be. He thinks the only other thing we have is an increase in training and seminars because he has players that are trying to improve their credentials for the benefit of the city to allow them to be certified.

Mr. Wood stated the American Planner Association is the umbrella organization for planners around the country and they have a certification program in which planners become certified. He said some of you might know that Mr. Carl Malysz was AICP, American Institute of Certified Planners. He explained there's a training component that goes with it, a testing component and the test is pretty rigorous, and is about a four-to-five-hour exam and about 80% don't pass on the

first try. He said once you're certified, you have continuing education credits to go along with it, and the test itself has expensive training for it as well as the test preparation. He stated he is trying to work that into our budget, trying to inspect our employees who pay for that out-of-pocket, which is always been the case previously, which is why we're not certified. He said our new planner is outstanding and we want to keep her around and keep an incentive for her, because he thinks she's going to be a star along the way. He also said that Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana planners have an annual conference that we have attended, but the national conferences are very outstanding and we would like to be able to participate in those as well.

Mrs. Murphy asked if we're investing in them, are we asking for some type of commitment from them to stay with the city of New Albany so that they don't get improved credentials and then say, oh, I think I want to go work in Jeffersonville?

Mr. Wood said he can tell you that a planner in her position is not going to get the experience that she's gotten within her year here and leave. He stated she's been involved already in writing a comprehensive plan, writing amendments to the zone where it does draft up a new subdivision controller. He added it seems like a planner role doesn't typically get an opportunity to do that, so he thinks there's a good chance there's going to be loyalty. He also added he came up and thought he was going to be in New Albany for two or three years and he's now in his 38th year.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if he could rephrase that question a little bit? He knows other organizations and other entities do sort of, if we pay for this, if you leave within two years, you'll have to repay that money type stuff. He said that's not holding them down; they can leave whenever they want, but there might be a consequence for that.

Mr. Gibson said we're not talking \$20,000.00; we're talking \$2,000.00 to help this person pay for a class and go to a seminar. He also added we have people who have been here 38 years, 24 years, 12 years, etc.

Mrs. Murphy stated she knows we're a great city and we're a great place to work, but she just didn't know if there was something like that.

Mr. Gibson stated there is nothing in there now, but we can visit it if we think it's necessary.

Mr. FitzGerald said this is not to say anything about the character and work ethic or anyone in the department or planning; it's just in general and overarching.

Mr. Gibson said he is not envisioning it in this kind of situation because it's not quite to that level. He added the job market is small for this, at least around here. He stated you have Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and Louisville, because those are the only other places around here that truly have a planning department.

Mrs. Griffith asked what contract services consists of?

Mr. Wood stated Indiana Landmarks provides our historic preservation staff person and that is the contract they have.

Mrs. Griffith stated that one seemed like you were early this year close to hitting budget, and she didn't know because it didn't go up any? She asked if that's just because you paid up front or something?

Mr. Dickey stated it's a flat fee.

Mr. Wood stated the Historic Preservation initially also does preservation activities, and really, it's a bargain.

Mr. Dickey said since you're asking the question, what's the contract cycle?

Mr. Wood stated it's a calendar year, so it's annual.

BUILDING COMMISSION

Mr. FitzGerald asked if weights and measures was just stagnate? He added Steve does good work.

Mr. Gibson stated weights and measures is a contract between the city and county. He then stated the bigger line items outside of his salaries are the contract services, which would be the demo, the historic preservation components, and then also remember last year we added the alley clean-up and contractual services component, which is he thinks in the bottom one and the other services and charges. He said to be honest, we ought to probably move that up to contractual services to be consistent, so he'll look at that and see.

Mr. Dickey asked if we feel like we have what we need for the demos? He said he realizes when we're doing those, they're not just \$10,000.00 anymore.

Mr. Gibson stated he knows a demo that used to be \$7,800.00 for a single-family house is now \$15,000.00. He added if you do a building, it can be \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00 depending on the building.

Mr. Kalbough agreed.

Mr. FitzGerald asked how many demos we did in the past year?

Mr. Kalbough said we're up to six right now.

Mr. Gibson stated fortunately, they've been consistent over the years, which is why he remembers numerous years ago, they are used to a lot more than we dealt with, but they've been consistent in their enforcement. He added like he said, it's usually something that pops up, let's say, from a structural standpoint or endangering someone else's property or something.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if the liens get put on the property?

Mr. Kalbough replied yes.

Mr. FitzGerald asked how much usually?

Mr. Gibson said it will come back whenever we get a property tax.

Mr. Kalbough stated we usually try and place a lien on any type of one we can do.

Mrs. Murphy asked if we just forget a couple of zeros on deferred comp or is that part of the new software?

Mr. Gibson stated he thinks that's the new software doing the estimating of what is currently being used but that does seem a little low. He said that is like \$5.00 a paycheck or something but we will make sure that's right. He added all of those benefit things that are related like deferred comps, health insurance or dental insurance are pouring in payroll.

Mr. FitzGerald asked how many employees are there in the department?

Mr. Kalbough replied eight full-time employees.

Mr. Gibson stated another component and part of it is rental inspections. He said we are kind of revamping the way we're doing that, and moving inspections components more to building commission/code enforcement. He stated also we're moving some housing duties towards redevelopment and some various things. He said we went ahead and took the salary out of this in here, but he suspects by the time we get the final ordinance done, that will probably merge into one of the other departments, and this will either be a completely different component or not there.

Mr. FitzGerald said so of the eight full-time employees, that is one of them, correct?

Mr. Gibson replied yes and stated it is being absorbed by the current staff person and will stay that way.

Mr. Dickey stated thinking about trend lines and year over year, are we about on pace for where we've been the last couple years, or are we seeing any areas that people aren't mowing the grass or something like that?

Mr. Kalbough stated we are not seeing any true spikes but we do have repeat offenders.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if they are usually owner-occupied or rental?

Mr. Kalbough stated on rentals and stated usually he can call a landlord or a company because they don't want to pay for it.

Mr. Dickey stated he thinks they have discovered or dealt with a few mental health-related issues along the way.

Mr. Kalbough replied a few.

Mr. Dickey said he appreciates the work that goes into it because he knows when he usually calls down, he feels like he is often giving someone a month's project, but he knows that those guys do a good job trying to mitigate through those situations and he appreciates that.

Mrs. Griffith asked if it is his department that takes care of the rental lists for the rental homes and the Airbnbs?

Mr. Kalbough stated that they have absorbed that and they are trying to work out what was handed to them.

Mr. Gibson said that's part of what led to us reevaluating how we were doing this, and to be honest, most of the problem are usually on rentals. He stated they seem to cause a lot of our headaches, so as we evaluate it all, it just seemed to flow and make sense that it's back in. He added we're also using a newer system there, too, that allows us to identify these properties, so a code enforcement or somebody that goes out can know, hopefully, as we're working it whether it's a rental or property owner or something else that will allow us to identify it.

Mrs. Griffith asked if people are still registering on a yearly basis?

Mr. Kalbough stated we're bringing those back into the fold and the new software sends an alert across our system right now, so we know they're addressing coding issues, rental issues, and they're building it so we know every issue goes along that route. He added we still have hiccups on it, but it seems to be tagging everything, which is definitely a good thing, and it's allowing us to take it all and merge it together.

Mrs. Griffith said that is good to hear. She then asked with Airbnbs, do they have to register yearly?

Mr. Kalbough stated they have to register and a lot of that is taken care of through planning and zoning. He said that some people do slip on registering though and part of that is in Redevelopment.

Mrs. Griffith stated she thinks some people just don't know because when you all first came out with that, she called a couple people that she knew had Airbnbs, and they weren't registered because they didn't know it was a thing, so she is getting that word out.

Mr. Gibson stated we try to keep track of it and part of the reason it's over in Redevelopment is because that's where our housing program is, and part of our push is single family homes and that kind of thing.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Gibson stated no bigger changes in this one, but there are some slight changes due to inflation, some contractual services, which means little bumps here and there. He said again, the biggest change is obviously that insurance component and the benefits component issues.

Ms. Meredith stated she had 17 full-time employees.

Mr. Dickey asked how many part-time employees?

Ms. Meredith said about 140.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if she has any overlap between the people, like if you want to be a lifeguard and then do something in the fall or something like that?

Ms. Meredith said on occasion she does have some.

Mrs. Murphy stated she just wanted to say she appreciates that you're always trying to put things out there, new different things for the kids in New Albany, like the lacrosse, and of course, she's excited about the soccer fields. She added that she loves River Run and when her granddaughters come visit, that's all they want to do is make sure we go to River Run. She also loves walking the lazy river with folks in the morning is wonderful, and everyone is always so friendly out there, so good job.

Mr. Gibson asked how the numbers have been this year?

Ms. Meredith stated it has been weather-wise a little bit of a difficult season and she is just trying to keep up with that, so our numbers aren't quite as high as maybe some of our past years where we've had some pretty incredible years. She added they're not too far off, but again, we've had, she thinks, the seventh wettest season in history, but we are still doing well.

Mr. Dickey mentioned the monument that is in the overflow parking lot and said that somebody brought up to him that we might need to do a better job of safeguarding that. He asked if she has seen or heard anybody having any problems or almost hitting that?

Ms. Meredith replied no. She explained that there is a gravestone there and she is not sure if there is anything buried under it, but we did not want to take the risk so they put a small ornamental fence around it to kind of protect it.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if everything is going okay with repair and maintenance for things such as filter and pumps?

Ms. Meredith replied yes.

Mr. FitzGerald asked regarding Silver Street Park, the spray park, is everything's going well there? He then stated she really has not received any questions or complaints saying things aren't working.

Mr. Dickey stated he was just out there at a birthday party, and judging by the number of kids, he thinks it could be expanded, and they'd be quite happy. He added everything seemed to be working very well and there were lots of compliments.

Ms. Meredith stated they do try to stay on top of it, but sometimes after they winterize them, the next season something may not work that has to be repaired. She added some of that equipment comes from Canada and it may take a little time to get it.

Mr. FitzGerald stated we've got tariffs now, too.

Mr. Dickey stated you might want to order those real quick.

Ms. Meredith said we do, but again, it's one of those things that until it happens, we don't necessarily know right away. She added every sprinkler out there is independent, so we can just turn it off and, and then all the other ones still work. She also added we started the season with two, but only for like two weeks.

Mr. Dickey stated he knows that you're also getting ready for the project there with the soccer fields and whatnot. He asked if there are impacts that you think are going to have to be taken into account with that work going on or anything like that?

Ms. Meredith stated that the only thing is that we schedule that usually through November, so when we break ground and the project starts, there will be a month and a half or so that we won't be able to have anything scheduled there, but we can absorb those by moving them to the indoor field. She said it shouldn't be too terribly impactful.

Mr. Unruh asked when is the start time as far as the construction on the turf field?

Mr. Gibson stated probably around the first week of October, somewhere in there.

Mr. Unruh asked if they know what kind of turf they're using or are they using Sprint turf?

Ms. Meredith stated it will be similar to what is indoors at the Silver Street Park.

Mr. Unruh also asked if they are doing repairs on that or replacing that indoor?

Ms. Meredith replied not right now. She said we currently get it tested every six months just to make sure it is okay, and we also have filler in it, and the impact test, and the condition of it is still in good condition right now, so it's not until it starts to get too close or fail, will they do any repairs or replacement.

Mr. Dickey stated at some point, he would like to program maybe or look at seeing if we could do some sidewalks at Binford Park, because of the conflict that happens when people are coming in for soccer games, and you've obviously got spectators and participants who are coming and going from the parking fields. He added it seems like we've never had an incident as far as he knows, but he also doesn't want there to be the first one. He added that's maybe something that we can have some future conversations about again.

Ms. Meredith said they have wish list but that is a really, really big wish.

Mr. Unruh stated that he thinks some of the games that were at Binford have been moved to Clarksville, so maybe that could help a little bit to cut down on traffic.

Ms. Meredith stated it did help to offset a little bit.

Mrs. Griffith stated pickleball is now at Bicknell Park, correct?

Mrs. Meredith replied yes.

Mrs. Griffith asked how many other parks do we have pickleball in, just out of curiosity?

Ms. Meredith stated in terms of a permanent, like, pickleball-only court, it's just at Bicknell Park, but they do play some pickleball at Griffin Street on Fridays and maybe one day a week, but that is seasonal. She added that we do have pickleball lines on the basketball courts at Silver Street Park outside and then portable courts inside.

asked when you're talking about your wish list, is the flood wall, like on the other side, will there eventually be a playground that goes back there? She has had people ask that again.

Mr. Dickey stated that's flood control.

Mr. Gibson stated that we learned due to the increase in flooding, there's not always nice things in the water, so it's not going to come back at that location. He added we're a good steward of the Ohio River now from a sewer utility standpoint, but not everybody north of us is. He added we have learned that's what gets into that mulch and that's what gets into that turf, and that impacts the kids that fall on it and stuff. He said his kids are adults now, so he doesn't have to worry about that, but he wouldn't want them bouncing off of that knowing what he knows now. He then said the only element she does have in here is a park cum cap and that's one of the tax rate caps. He stated that is used for capital improvements and stuff.

Mr. Dickey stated because he knows this from redevelopment, and he wants to make sure that beyond he and Jennie, the rest of the council realize, the playground equipment, when we do a nice playground, give them a little bit of education on the average cost of those.

Ms. Meredith stated that for just the very, very basic playground with no special features is no less than \$350,000.00.

Mr. Dickey said the reason he asked that is because we often get some requests on doing a new playground, and just wants to make sure that everybody understands, yes, we can, but there does need to be a significant investment, and those things will wear out 10, 15, 20 years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dickey asked what is your current count staff count?

Fire Chief Juliot stated they are at 78.

Mr. Griffith stated on your last budget item, the other services and charges dropped drastically.

Mr. Gibson stated it was merged into the leases and the repairs and maintenance.

Mrs. Griffith stated you were close on overtime, too, and asked if he doing okay on that?

Mr. Dickey said that's always a struggle.

Fire Chief Juliot stated it's better but the hardest for them is usually the injuries or illnesses.

Mr. Gibson stated the hardest for them is usually injuries, to be honest. He then stated he was talking to Deputy Chief Baylor that our additional fire trucks should be arriving later this year, he believes, right?

Fire Chief Juliot replied yes, but there's been a delay with all manufacturers across America.

Mr. Gibson said if you recall, we replaced one, had to order it because there's about a two-to-three-year lease build time, so we went ahead and ordered this one and have already just budgeted for that component, that additional cost in that fashion. He added it sounds like it's just getting it here within the next couple months maybe.

Mr. FitzGerald asked if we have started thinking about what is next and budgeting for that?

Mr. Gibson stated the next one is going to be a three-year deal and we're trying to get on more of a consistent schedule. He added it's easier to do it this way and go ahead, and budget that \$300,000.00 lease payment instead of having to come here and ask for \$1.10 million for a ladder truck or something, although we did do that for the one we bought from the township.

Mr. Dickey asked about the truck we got from the township and said that turned out pretty good, as he understands? He asked if it integrated in just fine with no problems?

Fire Chief Juliot stated that it did.

Mrs. Griffith asked what's in that space where 911 used to be?

Mr. Gibson said that is an older facility now, so we going to be budgeting about \$750,000.00 for some extra remodeling expenses for several of the houses and various other ones. He added it won't all go to fire, he has a police department who also is begging for various things as well, but he suspects some of that will be seen in a \$750,000.00 budget line item to help use for some renovations, which he is assuming will include some of that.

FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. Gibson stated we chose not to replace the park facility at the flood wall because of sanitary hazards.

Mrs. Griffith said with the skate park, since it's concrete, you don't have to worry about that or basketball courts either.

Mr. Fair stated that is correct.

Mr. Gibson added on top of the sanitary hazards with the playground area, one of the interesting things we found out was that FEMA was going to require us to insure it in order to get some money, but we can't get insurance.

Mr. FitzGerald said we have that for the bathrooms, correct?

Mr. Gibson stated anything on the other side of the flood wall is excluded from every insurance policy we've ever been able to get.

Mr. Fair stated we just pay it when it gets damaged.

Mrs. Murphy asked if the stairwells going up to the top of the lookout will be replaced?

Mr. Gibson replied no. He said they were structurally unsound, so they needed to be come down, and to be honest, they blocked off the flow from the top of the Greenway and weren't compliant. He added we're evaluating various options for that structure. He said that structure is over 50 years old and probably has lived its useful life, to be honest, and we just need to evaluate what else might work or if some modification in some different manner makes sense there. He added you're limited on what you can and can't do, and if you reopen it to a degree, then you have to make it ADA accessible and that will require either an elevator or something, and your costs unfortunately skyrocket to do it. He also added even when removing structurally unsound things down there, Mr. Fair had to get the Army Corps approval to do that.

Mrs. Griffith asked Mr. Fair if he will be in charge of the RV park and the mountain bike area?

Mr. Fair replied yes.

Mrs. Griffith asked how that is coming along too?

Mr. Fair said that he is looking forward to it and it's very exciting.

Mrs. Griffith asked about the flooding in that area?

Mr. Gibson stated obviously our designers are aware of the flooding and everything else that they've got and they can design it around, so it'll be designed to be able to handle those various components of the floods that hopefully don't happen every year, but they do happen at least once usually.

Mrs. Griffith stated that he doesn't really have anything to increase in his budget, so she didn't know if there was going to be additional costs to maintaining either one of those, or where that line item goes?

Mr. Gibson said so right now, most of it will be going through the process that we're doing, similar to what the question was earlier about the animal shelter. He stated obviously, we don't know what the maintenance and/or ongoing costs are. He said that is part of one of the designers' components that they are doing for us is kind of giving us an idea of what those will be. He added we won't have it by budget time, unfortunately, but we will have it hopefully for next year to be able to evaluate and plug it in where we need to in that fashion. He added it's going to be a phased process too, so you'll have Earthworks starting down here soon and then mountain bikes and then RVs, so it's going to be a phased-in process.

Mr. FitzGerald stated he knows that we have to contend with the railroads and the Army Corps and probably a whole host of other things, but has there been any sort of forecasting or manifesting dreaming, what have you, about improving the access to the riverfront from downtown? He said because obviously, like, 3rd and 4th of July, you're seeing a backup when a train comes, or you're seeing three or four people lifting a stroller up the hill because it's not accessible with the steps or with bikes.

Mr. Dickey said years ago, some administrations looked at what you would call Belvedere-style extensions, and one of the big problems was they became very cost prohibitive and took a large sum of the parking space.

Mr. FitzGerald stated his idea is of tunnel underpass.

Mr. Dickey stated we don't have that much money.

Mr. Gibson stated ten years ago it was \$10 million to do that, and again, he doesn't even think the Corp would agree to that. He then said to answer your question, yes, we understand, and with the simple bike things like a ramp would mean digging into the floodwall, which requires us to get Army Corp approval and that is really difficult. He added that he sees what some parents have to do with strollers and he just doesn't have a real good solution yet.

Mrs. Griffith asked since yours is separate, is that the reason why you really have no change?

Mr. Gibson said there's really not in his; his is pretty consistent. He sated it is its own set rate, so we just sort of budget based upon that. He added we've not been as scientific with it as we probably should be and nail it down, but it has always worked and has been able to handle what he needs to get done for us, and then handle the floods and everything else that are associated with it. He said maybe with the whole new process, we'll tweak it a little bit better as we keep moving forward.

Mr. FitzGerald stated that the work they did after the flooding in April that year was really good.

Mrs. Griffith thanked them and said people enjoy it, that's for sure.

Mr. Gibson asked everyone if they remember part of that budgeting process we did several years ago when we redid every one of the pumps? He said they were all old and they were redone, and they all have backup generators. He stated with the help of the budget process, we were able to at least secure those things that we know we can control to prevent flooding from getting back into here.

Mr. Dickey added if you visited some of the other flood control facilities at other points along the river, you would really feel blessed to live here with what we've got. He stated he's not joking that there are some locations that really haven't done much investment since they were constructed in the 1940s and 50s.

MAYOR, CONTROLLER, CITY CLERK, CITY COUNCIL and CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Gibson stated the Mayor's budget is no different, except for, again, the calculation of insurance and benefits. He said the Controller's budget has a dramatic drop and that is because of the way we are budgeting the insurance and the benefits. He stated the City Clerk's budget is pretty consistent, but we are adjusting a salary in that budget for the Deputy because it is not where it should be, so we're going to adjust that appropriately. He said the City Council's budget is consistent and there are no changes in the City Attorney's budget except the benefits insurance component for the staff and everything else is pretty much the same.

BOARD OF WORKS

Mr. Gibson stated Board of Works looks like it's about the same; the only change would be maybe the wages as we mentioned.

Mr. FitzGerald asked what are quality of life initiatives?

Mr. Gibson stated that is a lot of the concert series stuff, decorations for various events that are happening downtown, etc. He said you will see a transfer of that we're still working on, but he thinks that will be close to the \$300,000.00 or \$200,000.00. He added he has \$200,000.00 right now, but if you remember, that was to shore up their staffing because that \$1.6 million that they get from the MVH really doesn't cover all of their true staffing expenses, so we started last year kind of budgeting for that. He is still trying to figure out the best way to do that whether it's through here or just do it when we set the levy rates. He said it just gets a little different but this works so that's why we still have it in here as it is now. He added we know we're going to get a property tax amount and that kind of stuff, so the property tax levy can be divided between your various different funds that you want. He stated like last year, we did some allocation to the police pension and the fire pension to help support their balance and fund balance. He then said in the other packet you'll see DLGF actual calculation of our maximum levy and that's what we use to start our process. He said it also gives you the circuit breaker and a circuit breaker is not required to be calculated into your budgeting process, but we do it now just so we don't get hit in the face at the end of the year if we're not calculating correctly. He will usually use anywhere from 80% to 90% of what they tell us that potential impact is. He said again, these are all estimates and that's why he kind of modified it a little bit to adjust it, but that sheet is in there to show you. He thinks 3.4 is what they're estimating next year, and he thinks in his initial calculation so far right now, he's going to account for about \$3 million of that. He stated he's going to pull over what we expected at \$22 or \$23 million and pull that back down to \$3 million just so we don't mess up our budget and go over or under anything else, if that makes sense. He

said there's also another sheet that gives you kind of the estimated miscellaneous revenues, and that'll show you the MVH amount that he was talking about earlier. He also said that'll show you some of the other things related to that, and then one other one that you have in there is the Local Income Tax revenue estimates for next year. He stated that kind of gives you the county, city, all the subdivisions' estimates of what those would be, and that's what we would use as we're doing our revenue. He added that gives you most of the pieces of the revenue. He also added he has one more to finish up which is the miscellaneous internal ones, and that would be one of the things that we generate and various things that the city would do such as parks, concessions, revenue from River Run, fines, fees, all those various kinds of things. He doesn't think he has that one in here yet, but that's the one he is trying to finish up on this but it'll be similar. He then stated he kind of mentioned it earlier when he was complaining about what they did with the MVH and how you have to take at least half of that money you're supposed to get. He said if you look at the revenue, it says \$1.6 million and half of that, which is \$800,000.00 has to be spent on roads and pavement, so that's why we have to also fund MVH now, too. He added they've done the same things with billing fees and permits, those kinds of things and those used to go into our general fund, now they're required to go into this separate fund and then you've got to pay expenses directly related to generating those fees from that fund, so now we have to move expenses to that fund. He said the logic was that they wanted a better, cleaner stream process and they wanted funds that are generated to be directly related to what they're doing.

POLICE PENSION and FIRE PENSION

Mr. Gibson stated those are the ones that he has talked about in the past that we get reimbursed for most of it anyway. He said they are our firefighters or our police officers who are retired and/or their spouses, and we pay them city-wise first on a monthly basis, and then twice a year we get reimbursed by the state for the vast majority of the expenses, not quite all of it, but the majority of the expenses. He added we try and keep those budgets or funds with a couple hundred thousand bucks in there just to ensure that gives us that little bit of cushion here and there.

Mr. Dickey stated he wanted to go back to the income for a second, and he's probably thinking more long-term, but he is trying to remember impacts from Senate Bill 1 in this year. He thinks, unlike some other communities, because of the circumstances where we were when the county did some things, we were able to absorb some of the first hits, but he is trying to think about when certain things get implemented.

Mr. Gibson said there was no cumulative effect, it was a one-time hit and a pop yearly and he thinks they've already done some property tax stuff, but that's already been calculated supposedly in the numbers of the DLGF that they're giving us. He also said we were able to start accounting for and budgeting for that circuit breaker before other communities started to, for whatever reason, so we didn't have that full-blown force of that impact. He stated the next big one is the LIT and it's going to change, so he doesn't think there's anything we can do right now other than just keep moving forward.

Mr. Dickey stated we've got another legislative session next year where AIM and others are talking about lobbying for changes to what it was originally, so we've got multiple sessions where this could change again. He also stated there's been some discussion again about merging townships and there was a discussion even in the MUST about merging a township with either the county or he's not sure who else they were proposing. He said when they do that merger, obviously they're going to have a revised tax rate for that new unit, right?

Mr. Gibson stated they will combine the two probably.

Mr. Dickey stated he is just thinking through the process of how some of those decisions can potentially impact us.

Mr. Gibson stated it would either go up for one or down for the other, but it's a little bit outside of our realm for us, obviously, we don't have that. He said you have an election and then you have two legislative sessions between when actual decisions are supposed to be made, so he anticipates several different changes to happen. He stated to be honest, it's really hard to predict

what that will look like down the road from an income tax standpoint on how they're redoing. He added to call and complain.

Mr. Dickey stated he just wants to continue to make sure that we're being diligent about those things, so that we anticipate things before they actually bite us in the butt and we're forced to cut a service or whatever. He added Charlestown is a great example of this because Mayor Hodges had to cut 1.2 million dollars out of her budget this last year, and to tell you how close to the bone that went, she actually cut out, among other things, a fund that dealt with providing meals and whatnot. He said it was a \$5,000.00 fund to cover that when they had snow removal and emergency situations like that, so there wasn't much spared. He just wants to make sure we're doing everything that we can.

Mr. Gibson stated there's no impact on us right now with what you have with the income numbers that we're being told that we're going to get. He said there's no further impact other than we did have that \$900,000.00 we talked about last year, which was a one-time hit on the property tax.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk

THE NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL HELD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026 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, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Murphy and President Dickey. Mr. Blair and Mr. Unruh were not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Moeller 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-26-04 An Ordinance to Fix the General Fund and Other Budgets for the Year 2027**
- A-26-05 An Ordinance to Fix the Non-Reverting Budgets for the Year 2027**
- A-26-06 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2027 for Employees**
- A-26-07 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2027 for Elected Officials**

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk

**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, OCTOBER 5, 2026
AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

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

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER, CENTERING OR REFLECTION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2026, Mrs. Murphy second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. FitzGerald and Mrs. Gohmann who abstained, and Mr. Blair and Mr. Unruh who were not present.

Mr. Phipps moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2026, Mrs. Murphy second, all voted in favor with the exception of Mr. FitzGerald and Mrs. Gohmann who abstained, and Mr. Blair and Mr. Unruh who were not present.

COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:

Mrs. Collier just wanted to just say she hopes everybody has a good harvest with the festival coming up and stay safe. She said thank you to all the police and fire that seem to work overtime and make sure everybody stays safe down there.

Mr. Phipps stated he would say ditto to what Mrs. Collier just said. He added watch out for pedestrians because, you know, we don't have a real good track record of people yielding to pedestrians in this town. He said the second item he wanted to bring to your attention was a letter that both Mrs. Gohmann and he received, or actually it was forwarded to us from the minister at Central Christian Church, Pastor Paul Snyder. He is going to highlight a couple of things in the first paragraph, and then he is going to read the two last paragraphs. He stated the letter from the zoning office alleges that an individual has been residing on the property, apparently under one of the building awnings on site for some time. He said this individual, and again the city is alleging that they are intimidating neighbors and they are also allegedly including drug use, fights, and loud altercations. He said that Pastor Snyder assured him that when he talked to the police department, they had no record of any type of issues coming from the place. He then read the last two paragraphs of the letter. He read the zoning office says, by permitting this individual to continuously occupy the property rather than to assist them with housing at the New Albany Housing Authority or other qualified housing provider, you are de facto operating a transitional housing land use, which requires prior zoning authorization through a special exception, which you do not have. This occupancy must end immediately. Please note that this letter does not constitute a finding of violation. It is intended rather to give the church the opportunity to address this matter directly through assisting this individual to secure appropriate housing and services. He stated Pastor Paul assured him that the guy was only there for a short period of time and that by Tuesday this week, which he guesses will be tomorrow, the guy is going to have permanent housing. He said basically they're sort of, he would say, picking on them for a code violation that they say later on really isn't a finding of violation, and as somebody that lives in that neighborhood, he could point out probably a half a dozen of code violations. He stated one is in the building that we've had to live next to for 25 years that the city

refuses to do anything about. He added there's a nearby business that he is not going to name, but it is in strict violation of the restrictions that were placed on them by the BZA when that business was allowed to be there. He said we have speeding constantly on Spring Street. He added there are numerous issues that pose a safety violation to that community as opposed to a single person occupying the private property of a church who is exercising their right to ministry, which the state of Indiana has basically affirmed on the religious freedom thing. He stated he just had to blow off a little steam here and bring this to the attention and he thinks Mrs. Gohmann is going to comment on it in a minute or two.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he also did receive a call from the pastor concerning the issue. He said he hasn't read the letter, but he does share the concerns that if there are communications like that, there should have been a personal outreach before a letter, he believes. He added if there aren't any infractions, if there aren't any violations, then making sure that any sort of situation, if it's a miscommunication, is dealt with beforehand. He stated apart from that, he does look forward to following up with Pastor and with Mr. Wood as well with that. He said in addition to that, he wanted to give a shout out to our street department, fire department, as well as police people for the amazing work that they did for the parade on Saturday. He stated it was beautiful weather, great attendance, and he thinks it was the best from the past five years that he was part of, and we're going to have an amazing week ahead with booth days. He then said that today we also had a groundbreaking for the Silver Street Park for the soccer field renovations and there was a great turnout for that. He is excited for that work to be completed and it was something that we approved funding for, and he thinks it's going to be a great community asset for people who are coming to play from out of the city, and then also our residents and specifically for him for the district for residents, so thank you.

Mrs. Gohmann stated she spoke with the pastor as well, and it's interesting to her that one of the things it says is they should seek to assist them with housing. She said we don't have adequate housing for homeless people in New Albany. She also said the miscommunication with the new neighbor that moved in that started all this said to the pastor, we were told there were no homeless people in New Albany, that's why we bought the house here. She doesn't know where that misconception came from, but maybe this will start a conversation that we can find permanent housing for people like the man who was forced to sleep outdoors for a week until he could get into his apartment. She stated other than that, again, she wishes a happy harvest to everybody, and we're going into a time of need, so you're going to see a lot of outreach from different people asking for donations. She asked everyone to please be mindful that we're going into the cold weather, and there'll be a lot of requests for donations for hats, clothes, outdoor gear, food, other supplies, so please be as generous as you can.

Mrs. Griffith stated this kind of goes with that because she was going to ask a couple questions tonight about the cooling stations, because we're kind of ending on that, and she just wanted to see if we can get some numbers on how that helped. She then said she is sure most of you saw that the Community Foundation is releasing their transportation program. She asked if that is that something that we can kind of integrate together with the cooling stations or even in the wintertime versus TARC? She knows we're so limited on TARC, but she just hasn't looked too much into it and didn't know if any of her fellow council people knew more about it.

Mrs. Gohmann stated there was a meeting of pastors after the cooling station time and they're looking to do something different next year, because while it was wonderful to have the location at Culbertson, it was too difficult for people to get out there, and it took too long to get the bus passes. She added the bus passes were limited and you had to have a bus pass to go and then another pass to come back. She said we had a few regulars, but those were people who either could get a ride or had transportation, so we're hoping maybe by next year we can have a downtown location or something even better. She added we've got a lot of good ideas in the works.

Mrs. Griffith stated that is good to hear and she was wondering if there's a way to tie it, because she does feel like we have so many useful resources within our community, but

sometimes they get overlooked because we're not using them to properly help people, just like the gentlemen in the letter, how do we help that? She thinks that's what we all want to do, so how do we get all these resources talking and knowing about a situation like that? She said just again, throwing that out because that looks like that's going to be a great program, she knows TARC tried to do that on demand, and she hopes that works for our community, so going forward, we can take care of that when we have cold weather and different things.

Mrs. Murphy stated just a side note, she did have a conversation with Mr. Wood, with Pastor Snyder and with the constituent, and there are some different dynamics at play, and she'd be happy to share that with you all at another time. She said the other thing is tomorrow, early voting starts and it's October 6th through the 30th, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 4-H and at Nova Park. She stated one of your greatest responsibilities, most patriotic thing to do is to use your right to vote, so make sure you get out and vote. She added take a friend, take a family member, and go vote.

Mr. Dickey stated just a couple of footnotes here. He said first and foremost, yes, with Harvest Homecoming being booth days this week, we do want to thank the organizers, the public safety officials, our city staff, anyone who's affiliated with helping in making sure that the festival is safe. He added we had a very good parade on Saturday and he knows that folks are looking forward, and there's a number of measures put in place to make sure we have safe booth days. He stated with that, he would just remind everyone there will be restrictions of streets for public safety, so please understand that there will be additional patrols and respond accordingly as you navigate the downtown and surrounding regions. He said additionally, he did want to just for a quick second kind of have a bit of a somber note. He stated we did this past week lose a local personality who has been a very influential in a part of his district and our city at large and that was Mr. Rick Manning. He said Rick of course worked for the Courier Journal for a number of years, helped found the Silver Hills Historical Society, just an all-around good guy. He loved his family, loved the outdoors, loved music, and that's probably going to be one of his legacies as the number of reviews that the Courier Journal has. He added he was also the tech guy for the Courier, and Mrs. Manning is his daughter-in-law. He said sympathies go out to the family, but just wanted to give that a moment of tribute since he was kind of a personality among our fellow citizens, so he will be missed.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS OR CITY OFFICIALS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

MEETINGS OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED AND APPROPRIATE:

REPORTS – COMMITTEES, EXCLUDING ORDINANCES ON 2ND READING (WHICH SHALL BE MADE DURING CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES ON 2ND READING) 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 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

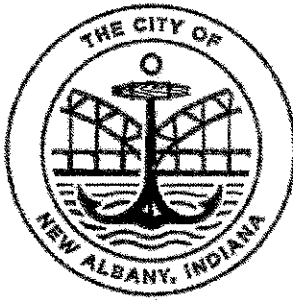
COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

ADJOURN:

There being no other business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Adam T. Dickey, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk



City of New Albany, Indiana

Jeff M. Gahan
Mayor

October 6, 2026

Common Council of New Albany
c/o Mr. Adam Dickey, President

Re: Historic Preservation Commission Re-appointment – Kate Berliner

I am writing to recommend that Kate Berliner be reappointed to the New Albany Historic Preservation Commission. Members of this commission are appointed by the Mayor with approval of the City Council. This reappointment is a three-year term, which will expire in October 2029. Kate has served since February 2023 and is a great asset to this commission.

Sincerely,



Jeff M. Gahan
Mayor