

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, WILL HOLD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION: To be given by ministers of different faiths, if present. If none are present, then a moment of reflection.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2021**

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: G-21-03 Environment & Sustainability Commission**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: G-21-03 Environment & Sustainability Commission**

**G-21-03      ORDINANCE CREATING      Turner/Knable 3  
                 ENVIRONMENT AND  
                 SUSTAINABILTY COMMISSION**

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

**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 332 OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING OR BY CALLING 948.5336**

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,  
INDIANA, HELD A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM.COM ON  
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Members: Mrs. Collier, Mr. Caesar, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate, Dr. Knable and President Phipps.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Amy Stein, Josh Staten, Linda Moeller, Warren Nash, Shane Gibson and Vicki Glotzbach

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION:**

**Dr. Knable** stated that the community lost a good friend and a humble servant today when Mr. Mark Seabrook passed away. He said that he was a former council member and commissioner and he would like for everyone remember him in their thoughts.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Mr. Caesar** moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2021 with corrections, **Mr. Applegate** second, all voted in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCIL:**

**Mr. Applegate** stated that it looks like the statewide mask mandate will be over tomorrow but he just wanted to ask that people respect all businesses in general for whatever they say on their doors. He said that if they want to keep the mask rule then please follow that and don't cause any conflict.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would like to table Bill A-21-01 because we failed to advertise that item in the paper so we didn't have a public hearing which is a requirement. He said that it will be back on the agenda on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He apologized for any inconvenience this caused anyone and said that he did call 1si and let Ms. Lisa Brooking know that the council wasn't going to be voting on that tonight.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he has been very happy with some work that the city staff has done for him. He said that Mr. Mickey Thompson and Mr. Larry Summers have been very responsive lately to some of the questions he has had and it is much appreciated. He stated that many folks on Mt. Tabor Road have asked for the speed limit there to be reduced by 5 mph. He said that he believes the way the ordinance is written and where the speed limit is at right now, it will not require a traffic study at this time and will simply need an approval and he thinks it is something that should be looked at. He stated that he is waiting on a response on that.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked what the speed limit is right now.

**Mr. Turner** said that he believes it is 25 mph and they want to reduce it to 20 mph.

**Mr. Blair** asked if that is the whole length of Mt. Tabor Road or just a certain section.

**Mr. Turner** stated that with his district just being that half, all he has heard from is residents from Charlestown Road to Klerner Lane

**Mr. Blair** asked if he thought it would be worthwhile to extend it all the way to Green Valley Road.

**Mr. Turner** said that would be up to the board of public works but he does think that would be a good decision.

**Mr. Blair** asked if he needs to contact the board of public works.

**Mr. Turner** said he has and when he gets a response back, he will let him know. He added that there has been an increase in police presence there too so he thinks it is something to look into.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that he is pulling R-21-04 since this is no longer a bill but part of the budget. He said that he feels this is not pertinent at this time, but he did want to say that there have been 170 school boards or school systems that presented resolutions to the state regarding their opposition to House Bill 1005 and he is sure that the state heard them loud and clear. He stated that he feels personally that this would have defunded public education and wanted to thank everyone that supported this resolution and to all of the tens of thousands of people who support public education.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that he got his kayak out and checked out Silver Creek and Weir Dam. He said that we do have a lot of wildlife there such as blue herring, king fishers and green back turtles in that area because there is such a level of water that pretty much maintains about 2 ½-3 ft. He also said that they were visiting Nashville, IN recently and though the lift on the mask mandate is coming, shop owners there are very adamant about continuing to wear masks. He stated that we are still not out of this yet so he is concurring with what Mr. Applegate said.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she did receive some good comments about services from our street department as well as Ecotech so she just wanted to let everyone know that. She also stated that she knows that some people may not feel that House Bill 1005 is relevant and she understands why Mr. Caesar pulled it, but she just wants to make it very clear that she thinks it is very relevant because things have gotten creative on a state level. She said that she just wants to make it clear that she does not agree with that bill and it going into the budget.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that he too was in opposition to House Bill 1005 and he is a very strong supporter of public education and felt that this would be detrimental to that. He said that he has no objection to people sending their kids to private schools but if you do that, that is something that you need to pay for out of your pocket and we shouldn't take that money away from the public schools. He then stated that he took a walking tour of Loop Island for the first time and he was very impressed with the ecosystem and everything there. He said that he thinks that any decisions made anywhere near Silver Creek that could have the potential to make an impact on destroying that or in any way endangering that, need to be deliberated and have solid data from research conducted in this area as opposed to just general studies. He also said that the mask mandate ends tomorrow and he thinks there are going to be numerous businesses that are going to continue to require their patrons to wear masks for the protection of their employees so please be courteous and abide by the wishes of the person who owns that store.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:**

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

**Mr. Gibson** stated that Mr. Blair has had some budget questions that he would like to address tonight. He said that Mr. Blair had a spreadsheet in the packet and he will just go down through those items that he set out. He stated that first item was the salaries in the controller's budget being 72% below budget and she has some employees in her staff that are paid from the sewer department because they do their claims. He said the reason line item is under budget is because through the process, they had actually budgeted the entire staff so they didn't need to use all of that expense. He stated that the next item was

electric and he hasn't been able to delve completely into that but he is going to continue to look into it because he hasn't seen anything that jumps out at him. He said that they have looked at this year's budget to date and we are right at 20% right now so as far as this year, it does seem to be in line. He also said that they must have anticipated electric going up because they actually increased that line item \$50,000.00 from last year in this year's budget. He then stated that we unfortunately still have rent expenses even though we are getting close but we will continue to be transparent about that and put that in there. He added that he thinks it is important to point out that even though that wasn't an anticipated expense, Mrs. Moeller takes it extremely serious to make sure that we stay within budget every year.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he agrees that there are going to be some fluctuations but over the years, he really hasn't seen a bunch of variances or he would've raised his hand at that point. He said that he did talk to SBOA and they told him that if an item is going to be significantly over budget, it should be addressed by the city council and put an ordinance there to amend the budget. He stated that the electric and the rent would have been two appropriate examples where we should've made amendments. He said that he would like to see this year going forward if we identify items early on, maybe bring them back to the council by ordinance.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he doesn't know who Mr. Blair spoke to but no one in his 15 years has told him anything exactly like that. He also stated that while he doesn't always agree with SBOA in their determinations, he doesn't mind working with the council on over budgeted items when they do appear. He said that last year was obviously a much different year than we have ever had to deal with from a budgetary standpoint but hopefully we have kind of nailed it. He then stated that the CommLit item is the communications expenses that we tried to move out of EDIT and back into the general fund. He said that they were hoping that was going to happen but COVID threw a wrench into a lot of things and there just wasn't the flexibility to do that last year as they were hoping and planned for. He then moved on to the fire department items and stated that the \$300,000.00 holiday pay was to be moved over into salaries and for some reason that \$300,000.00 was not taken out of the budget and moved to the salaries item. He said that is why you see zero there because everything was paid from the salaries line item. He stated that they did get that adjusted during the budget hearings this year so there is a zero amount in holiday pay. He then moved to overtime and said that is something that has been dealt with for years because it is that magic line of where do you hire new employees versus pay overtime. He stated that if you add the three salary line items together, there is a 1% deviation in what we budgeted and what we actually spent. He then stated that the \$159,000.00 in PERF was for whatever reason a carry over and should not have been just a simple carry over. He said that it does change every year and we get a calculation and formula that we factor that into and for whatever reason 2020 was the exact same as 2019. He added that he didn't know if it was an oversight when they were doing it or what the case was. He stated that he did look at 2021 and it was increased and was adjusted to properly reflect what that PERF expense is and through March it appears to be pretty much in line.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the one thing he understands is that they are required by state law to overall stay within the budget and then also for the different funds and obviously the fire department is a fund in itself. He said that the thing he gets concerned about is if we are significantly over budget on certain line items, that means we are going to have to take from other line items in order to be on budget. He also said that means services that we committed or things that we were going to do are not going to be done.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that while line items do fluctuate, there are two things that they look at. He said one is obviously the line item and try to follow trends and what the department itself did as far as if they came within budget. He added that they also obviously look at the general fund as well. He stated that they look at where each department ultimately falls from a budgetary standpoint and examine where they are going. He also stated that they will do their best to ensure that each department is not overspending allocations of money that would affect another department.

**Mr. Blair** stated that is where he is coming from when he talks about amending the budget with an ordinance to the council.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that is always a process that can be done but unless it is absolutely direly necessary, they don't plan on coming back for an additional appropriation to fund a department going into the year or as we are midway. He added that he had to do that when he first started and that is not ideal. He then moved on to the parks department salaries item and stated that due to COVID the pool was not open and a lot of employees were re-assigned duties because they are full-time people and were not going to be let go. He stated that there was \$240,000.00 for the aquatic center and that was part-time staffing and since the pool was not open, there were no necessary expenses for that line item. He said that the next two were line items that were over budget and he will have to delve into that. He also said that he does know that each of those facilities had extra costs associated with cleaning and various things like that. He stated that he did look at this year's budget and everything is under projections of where it should be right now so it does appear that it has corrected itself or that everything is okay at this point.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the one thing with the parks department is that it is the department where we bring in fees and significant revenues because of the aquatic center. He said that we didn't have any expenses for lifeguards and so forth last year so we need to be a little bit careful in the parks department if we don't have the aquatic center running.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it requires a different analysis and looking at where those line items are used. He then moved onto the street department and stated that it is slightly confusing. He explained that a couple of years ago the state passed where they require half of the MVH funds to be used specifically for roads and road related expenses and projects so 4111 is MVH restricted and 4490 is MVH unrestricted. He stated that you have to combine those two to get the exact amounts and there is not a way to do that in the budget to actuals, but there may be in a spread sheet. He said that half of the money we are collecting from MVH has to be put in the restricted account and used specifically for roads and SBOA is the one who required that. He also said that the actual funds are 02001 and 02003. He stated that the next item is a budget amendment in the communications department to reduce insurance as it was being analyzed through the controller's office. He said that it does still appear that we are \$66,000.00 under that year for that so as we move into 2022, we are going to see what we can identify the expenses are with that and nail that number down a little tighter than what it was.

**Mr. Blair** stated that is one area that he really thinks that it takes an ordinance from the council to make an amendment and it should have been done there. He said that he thinks in the future if we have amendments, they need to run back through the council and get approval.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the mayor also has executive orders and powers that can also be used on that. He said he didn't analyze that and just tried to answer Mr. Blair's question.

**Mr. Blair** said that he was told that only the council could amend the budget.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he doesn't know who told him that but they are wrong.

**Mr. Blair** stated that they could have that discussion but that is the reason he approached SBOA.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the last question was about the payment for city hall. He explained that as they were preparing, there was a calculation error by the loan officer and the bank officer and with credits and everything else, it came out to what that amount was so that is what was ultimately paid. He said that he will verify the amortization schedule that we will be following but this had something to do with the calculation error up front and the timing.

**Mr. Blair** asked if we are spending more on city hall through that installment purchase agreement that we bought.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it is still all the same and was just the way the interest was accrued and the calculation that was ultimately forwarded was slightly off or something, but the amount that was approved by the council is the actual amount. He said that it was just that the initial payment we had last year was slightly higher than what we had anticipated.

**Mr. Blair** asked if he could get them the revised amortization schedule for the 15-year period.

**Mr. Gibson** said he should be able to get that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that there were two other items that he didn't hear him mention. He said that one was in the street department line item 4440 for machinery equipment in the amount of \$88,000.00 which was not used. He stated that he wanted to make sure that if there was equipment that we needed, we will still be able to purchase it.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he does not have that in his notes but will check into it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that the other one was in riverboat at line item 4490. He said that he thinks we didn't use paving of about \$323,000.00 and he just wants to make sure that paving and infrastructure that we didn't use last year was rolled over to this year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the goal is to put it all into use as soon as possible and with last year there were different hurdles that we had to accomplish, but that money doesn't go away.

**Mr. Blair** asked if the council needs to do an appropriation this year for that amount.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he will look because he knows that we already have several million budgeted for this year so maybe after we hear from the Community Crossings grant, we can revisit that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he just knows we have some problems such as flooding on Silver Creek Drive so if there is extra money somewhere, he would like to put it to good use.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they can look at it.

**Mr. Blair** thanked Mr. Gibson and stated that in his 10 years on the council, this is the first time he has ever seen so many things out of budget and he realizes that is probably due to the unusual year we had.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that we just got through March so they will be getting those reports out in the next several weeks. He also stated that we have finished the first quarter so that will give the council a good snapshot on how things are going this year and it looks like everything is still in line.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thinks that our city ordinances say that budget to actuals have to be presented to the council at the second meeting after month end. He said that if they could get back to that schedule, he would appreciate that too.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they will definitely do their best.

**Dr. Knable** stated that they received a lot of good information but he is concerned that he didn't hear a resolution in regards to the budgetary amendment process and the legitimacy of what had been done. He said that he would like to see if Ms. Stein will confer with Mr. Gibson to come to some resolution with whether or not those budgetary amendments have to come back before the council retroactively in this case. He stated that he thinks going forward they certainly need to be on the same page on that.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that there are two processes. He said that there is a formal process through the council where either an appropriation or amendment can be done and that the

mayor, through his executive power, has the ability to reduce budgets. He stated that both bodies have the ability but the difference is that on appropriations, the mayor does not have the authority through statute to increase a budget but does have the ability to amend it and decrease it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he would like for Ms. Stein to look into that and told her that he can let her know who he spoke with at SBOA.

**Ms. Stein** said that she will look into it and confirm with Mr. Gibson as well.

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

Scott Blair re: Request for the City Controller/City Officials to review specific line items in the 2020 Budget to Actual Report at the April 15, 2021 Council Meeting.

**Mr. Phipps** stated that Mr. Gibson’s presentation tonight eliminates the need for a vote for the controller to appear before the council.

**Mr. Blair** stated that is correct and said that he would like to remove this item.

**APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**READING**

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: G-21-03 Environment & Sustainability Commission**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: G-21-03 Environment & Sustainability Commission**

<b>G-21-03</b>	<b>ORDINANCE CREATING ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION</b>	<b>Turner/Knable 1&amp;2</b>
----------------	---	------------------------------

**Mr. Turner introduced Bill G-21-03 and moved to approve the first and second readings, Dr Knable second, Mrs. Collier, Mr. Caesar, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate and Mr. Phipps voted no and Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair and Dr. Knable voted yes.**

**Mr. Turner** stated that this was not written in response to the damn issue because he was working on this before that even came up. He explained that he is very passionate about this and does a lot of work on the side with the Citizen’s Climate Lobby and they lobbied Mr. Trey Hollingsworth, Mr. Todd Young and Senator Braun to try to get them to do environmental changes and climate solutions at the federal level. He stated that he also works with De-trash New Albany and they do many cleanups throughout the year and there is never no trash to be cleaned up. He said this is something that he is very passionate about but there are some really good reasons to develop this commission. He explained that IU is doing an environment resiliency cohort where starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, they are going to be measuring all of our greenhouse gases in New Albany and that is a six-month study that will go until September 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that IU actually will give us an extern and they also will give us an action plan once the study is completed and he thinks that right there lends itself to having an environmental commission to kind of be a liaison between the different boards and city officials. He also stated that we just found out that we are designated as the Tree City USA but beforehand, we did have the Gallagher Station and waste removal which kind of got him inspired to think about this a little more. He asked what we are going to do with all of that waste on the riverfront and what if we had the commission focused on some of that. He stated that we have NA Shoreline that is coming up and all of these things that he is mentioning just lead to the fact that we could have a commission that really is forward thinking and focus on things that our local government doesn’t necessarily think about. He said that Indianapolis has

what they call a Trash Bash which is hosted by the local government and they go around and clean up different parts of the community. He stated that one of the benefits of this is that it gives a dedicated group of people that are not politicians the opportunity to look at things that we may not have the time to see. He said that when he is walking around, he thinks about things like why don't we have more trash cans on the greenway, why don't we have more cleanups or why don't we apply for grants that could help clean our community up. He stated that the commission could work on things like that which could help New Albany grow. He also stated that you could think of things from an educational standpoint because a lot of people don't even know that we have curbside recycling. He said that is one of those issues where our local environment and sustainability commission could send out a mailer to let people know that they can have their recyclables picked up on trash day. He stated that he thinks this is something that is not partisan and would really benefit everyone here. He explained that early in 2020, the Morrison Institute did a study in Indiana which included all registered voters and 8 out of 10 Hoosiers would prioritize protecting the environment. He stated that the environment is the 3<sup>rd</sup> top priority of Hoosiers behind healthcare and education and 7 out of 10 residents think the state and federal government should do more for the environment. He said that he put a lot of thought into this to make it very inclusive so you would bring diverse and qualified people from the public to get people engaged. He stated that it does include an appointment from the mayor, an appointment from the director of planning and zoning, one high school student and one college student. He said that there would be term limits to keep it from getting stagnant and keep fresh ideas coming in. He then said that he tries to be as fiscally responsible as possible so he would like to create a non-reverting fund and basically let them accept donations, grants, etc. to keep them from using tax derived dollars.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that he thinks this is very forward thinking and there are a lot of fresh ideas in it, but he is just a little leery about creating large standing committees because you could possibly get too many chefs in the kitchen or something. He said that he would be more apt to looking at having a position or positions for this.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he had talked to a few people about this and the biggest concern that was kind of raised was adding an extra layer of government depending on how far down the rabbit hole this goes. He said that whenever he looked up the different commissions that are in Indiana, he believes there is one in Richmond which really the terms model this after. He also said they were talking about giving zoning recommendations on certain things. He asked if this is something that every developer that comes with a project or everything that redevelopment does has to go before this board and then you get a favorable or unfavorable recommendation. He stated that the elements of how far of a reach this has is the only concern that some of the people he talked with had. He said that maybe a committee should be put together to really look at this and figure out exactly where these items are going because the city already does a lot of these items. He stated that some of these are a duplication of services and he saw some where even human rights are involved and we already have a human rights commission.

**Mr. Turner** stated that in the ordinance it says that the commission shall have no legal obligations, responsibilities, duties or government authority and commission membership shall not constitute a public office. He said that they will have no authority and he by no means has this set up to where anyone would have to come through for any type of approval. He stated that what he envisions this commission to do is to come up with ways to improve parts of New Albany and there will be a lot of people involved in it and he wants to engage the public as much as possible because that is where you get better ideas. He said that they will not be able to deny any type of planning and zoning and it would simply be recommendations on how to make our city stronger, greener, cleaner, etc. He also said that he believes the less government, the better for him.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that there is a lot of oversight in the government now with IDEM and he worries about just where this commission would go.



**Mr. Blair** stated that he is not real big on adding layers of government and so forth but he does like to encourage people to participate and get involved. He said that there are people out there that are experts in certain areas that have a lot of energy and a lot of drive and he sees this as a way to get people involved who don't necessarily want to put their name on a ballot but want to contribute to city government. He stated that he heard someone mention adding a staff position, but that is a paid staff position so we would have to go through the budget process and allocate funds for that and we wouldn't have any additional expenses with this commission. He said that he knows when he talks to constituents, it is simple things like curbside recycling that residents don't know about. He stated that he ran into that and made sure that he got them recycling bins and told them how it worked and made sure they knew about the offsite recycling that the county does for disposing of things like used paint, batteries, TVs, etc. He added that just having someone advertising and promoting those services would be a huge benefit to the city.

**Mr. Aebersold** stated that he has read the ordinance two or three times and it seems to him that we are just trying to get a commission together to do so many things that we already have going. He said that as far as information goes, we can have things in the newspaper and so forth and the sewer bill has information in it that comes out all of the time about services offered such as collecting leaves. He stated that we have a tree board that is active and he believes that there is a river sweep every year that goes along the river and cleans it up. He also stated that there are probably other groups such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts that do those kinds of things. He said that we recycle all of the time and have for a long time so we are doing all of that kind of stuff and it really just boils down to the people themselves being responsible. He stated that he can't see a commission having meetings and getting involved really accomplishing very much.

**Mr. Caesar** stated that Mr. Aebersold said a lot of what he was going to say. He said that he is completely against any new levels of government at all and he understands the language here, but you really need to look at what we do now and have been doing. He stated that curbside recycle has been mentioned and we have two places that takes solid waste and we have been doing this for a long time. He said we took care of the cleanup at Tommy Lancaster's and we knew to take care of that. He mentioned the conversion to two-way streets and bike lanes. He stated that about three years ago, we did add a number of additional trash cans to the downtown area. He said that the riverfront is a different deal and we do need them down there and that is something that we can get taken care of. He stated that we have purchased all of the riverfront from creek to creek and there has been a massive cleanup from where it used to be. He said that we are way ahead of the game and he would not be in favor of this at all.

**Mrs. Collier** stated that she doesn't want to reiterate everything that everyone has said and pointed out that social media is a great tool that we have to get the message out about some of the programs we have. She said that she does love the idea of having a high school student that we could use on an intern basis that could maybe handle some of that. She stated that the city is very conscientious about environmental issues and pointed out all of the brownfields that we have cleaned up in the last decade on top of the tree board and the greenway. She also stated that she could go on all day about all of the things that we cleaned up as far as sewers go. She said that we are conscientious about the environment and she just thinks adding red tape is not going to benefit anyone. She added that we can accomplish a lot of what this is trying to accomplish in another way.

**Dr. Knable** commended Mr. Turner for the work he put into this over the last 4-6 weeks. He stated that he hopes everyone read it more than once or twice because he really went above and beyond with what he put together and what he tweaked to make this nonpartisan. He said that you will notice in the appointments that there is nothing that says there has to be one Republican and one Democrat. He stated that he loves the idea of the term limits and loves the idea of bringing in nonpolitician experts. He said that it is very interesting that a lot of the arguments he has heard against this commission are the same arguments he heard against the human rights commission because he thinks this is the closest parallel to what we have. He stated that this is nonpartisan citizenry and there is no more red tape; it is not another level of government and is another level of citizen involvement. He said that Mr. Blair hit the nail on the head because there are so many

people that are intimidated by the process of running for office but they want to get involved. He also said that these are experts in their fields and good people who can focus the entirety of their extra time away from work or retirement specifically to these environmental issues. He added that these are huge issues that go beyond some of the mundane but important things that were discussed regarding cleanup. He stated that with all due respect, we don't need another committee from this council because the council is already stretched so far that we don't always get reports back from the committees that we do have in sometimes a timely and meaningful way. He urged the council to give this a chance because the more input we can get by finding the most qualified citizens who want to be involved, the better off we are all going to be. He reiterated that there is no extra level of government here and no extra level of red tape. He said it is an advisory nonbinding body that will weigh in on some of the most important issues of the day. He asked everyone to consider it for what it is and not for what you fear it might be.

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: A-21-01 ONE SOUTHERN INDIANA**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: A-21-01 ONE SOUTHERN INDIANA**

**A-21-01            ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROPRIATION            Blair 3**  
**OF RIVERBOAT FUNDS FOR ONE**  
**SOUTHERN INDIANA**

**Mr. Blair tabled this item until the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.**

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC: R-21-04 HOUSE BILL 1005**

**COMMUNICATIONS PETITIONER: R-21-04 HOUSE BILL 1005**

**R-21-04            RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL            Caesar**  
**OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,**  
**IN OPPOSITION OF INDIANA HOUSE BILL 1005**

**Mr. Caesar withdrew this item.**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

---

Greg Phipps, President

---

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk