

MINUTES
MUNCIE COMMON COUNCIL
300 NORTH HIGH STREET
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305



NOVEMBER 7, 2022

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 P.M., 1st Floor City Hall Auditorium.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Larry Robinson.

INVOCATION: A Moment of Silence in memory and appreciation of Mark Kinman. He passed away on October 26th and was a multiple decade attendee of City Council meetings.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilman Ingram thanks everyone for being here. He begins mentioning there is a noticeable emptiness in the room this evening and for many years, there's been a constant at every City Council meeting. A champion in the community, a true public servant, someone who was always willing to do anything in his power to help his neighbors and his community. Muncie is filled with true public servants, those willing to give their time and talents to making our community a better place to live and play. Then, there are people like Mark Kinman. On Wednesday, October 26th, just one day after helping organize a kickball and basketball event for the kids in the Muncie Southside neighborhood, Mark passed away and Muncie lost one of its most dedicated public servants. Mark's commitments to bettering our community is detailed in his many acts of service. Mark didn't do the good things he did for credit or recognition. He did them because it was the right thing to do and he just loved helping others. The impact he had on our community is immeasurable, but just a few examples of his acts of service consist of serving on the Southside Neighborhood Association (one of the newest and fastest growing neighborhood associations in Muncie), the previous President of the Forest Park Neighborhood Association and being very active in the Forest Park Senior Center. He also served on the Board and volunteered for HomeSavers of Delaware County. These are just a few examples of the many acts of service from everyone's friend, Mark Kinman and why Councilman Ingram is honored to present him posthumously with this month's Citizen of the Month award. The Muncie Southside Neighborhood Association is here this evening to receive his award. Representatives of the Association say that one of the best pieces of Mr. Kinman was how he had the ability to encourage and engage others to help participate. He was a warrior of Muncie, someone that not only was involved but someone that truly loved his City. The Southside Neighborhood Association will come together and celebrate Mark at a later time and they hope that so many others can come out and join them, in true Mark fashion. Until then, they want to thank Councilman Ingram and all of the City Council for an amazing opportunity to honor Mark tonight. The Southside Neighborhood Association happily accepts the Citizen of the Month award on behalf of their dear friend. May he continue to watch over us and root us on from heaven.

President Robinson acknowledges anyone that has been to a City Council meeting in the last couple of decades came across Mark. He was just a hell of a guy. He will be missed. His absence is felt tonight but his memory will live forever. He thanks the Southside Neighborhood Association for being here this evening to accept the award for Mark and thanks Councilman Ingram for giving it.

This is probably one of the most well deserved they've had. Next month, Councilwoman Selvey will be presenting the Citizen of the Month award.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Jeff Green	X	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Brandon Garrett	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Roger Overbey	X	

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion was made by Overbey and seconded by Ingram to Approve the Minutes from the October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting. A roll call vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Green). MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Overbey to Approve the Minutes from the September 28, 2022 Special Meeting (Budget Hearing 1/3). A roll call voter showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Green). MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Green and seconded by Ingram to Approve the Minutes from the October 5, 2022 Special Meeting (Budget Hearing 2/3). A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Overbey to Approve the Minutes from the October 19, 2022 Special Meeting (Budget Hearing 3/3). A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MOTION CARRIED.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: President Robinson informs there are no appointments to be made this month but they will have one in December, the Riverfront District Committee and its vacancy with the expiration of the term of Councilwoman Selvey. That Riverfront District Committee was established about a year ago and its task is to oversee the permits applied for three-way licenses within the Riverfront District that was established by the Council last year. As a reminder to the Council and those in the audience or watching the livestream (especially near January were many board appointments are made), citizens can go online and express interest to serve on any municipal board by going to www.goservemuncie.com. It is a place where citizens can express interest in serving on these boards in addition to being a resource for the Council (as well as Administration) to find suitable members to appoint. Robinson would encourage anyone who has an interest in serving on a municipal board to go to goservemuncie.com and register that interest. Every year in January, they have a lot of appointments to make and like putting on people who want to serve.

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 34-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES (REDISTRICTING).

A motion was made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Adopt. Questions called.

A roll call vote showed 6 yeas (Polk, Ingram, Green, Garrett, Dishman, and Robinson) and 3 nays (Clark, Overbey, and Selvey). **ADOPTED**.

ORD. 35-22 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TARGET AREA FOR GREATER MUNCIE INDIANA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC. (1704 E. Hines St.)

A motion was made by Garrett and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Eileen Moulter, Resource Development Director with Muncie Habitat for Humanity, is here along with the mother and aunt of the house recipient. She states this is really exciting because it is a generational property and is the first house being done in the Whitely neighborhood in a long time.

Kathy Patton explains she got the house (which was her grandmothers) out of a tax sale and gave it to her sister. It then was given to their brother and they have had quite a time trying to figure out what they were going to do with it. Her brother ultimately wanted to tear it down. The decision was then made to give it to Cathy's niece, her sister's daughter, because Habitat then got involved. Her niece is on disability and going through a lot of health issues but they were so excited that Habitat offered to help build her a house. They have all been working hard to do what they need to do to keep it in their family. The Council expresses that is a great story and thanks them all. These are always for a great cause and the Council is always happy to have these ordinances come across their desk. Congratulations and they wish them nothing but the best. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **ADOPTED**.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 40-22 AN ORDINANCE OF APPROVAL TO AMEND THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING MINOR CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

A motion was made by Green and seconded by Garrett to Introduce.

Lorey Stinton, on behalf of Marta Moody (Executive Director of the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission), is here to answer any questions concerning the proposed items within this amendment. President Robinson assures this is just an ordinance that is amending the zoning code relating to several issues. This is for Introduction so they have a little time to forward questions (if they have them) between now and the December meeting or at the December meeting. Stinton relays she will be present then as well. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **INTRODUCED**.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Joann McKinney explains some people may be familiar with the Muncie Afghan Resettlement Committee (MARC) that was implemented last year. As part of that group, she was the Chair for the Employment Committee and MARC is now wrapping up (and she thinks Bibi Bahrami may have expressed that to some of the Council). It became apparent to many of them on the MARC Board when they were in meetings last April that six months of assistance for our new neighbors from Afghanistan wasn't really going to be sufficient. Therefore, they got together and decided to start

their own not-for-profit that would start after the ending of MARC. She explains they are now the Refugee Alliance of Delaware County (RADC) and have been incorporated since August now beginning their fundraising efforts and already brought in 130 new people to Muncie, Indiana (through MARC and now this). McKinney works very closely with the Economic Development Team here. She has sat in meetings with the Manufacturers Alliance referencing the 500 to 600 job openings here in Muncie, taking it very seriously. She understands that bringing new people to our community can help address some of our workforce issues as well. She has employed a few at the Horizon Center as they first came to the U.S. and as they're getting established, trying to make some money and getting their benefits settled. As many people are aware, most of these folks were soldiers in Afghanistan who worked very closely with our American troops. One of them has a shirt that states "home of the free because of the brave," and he wears it very proudly almost every time he goes out in public. These guys have worked very hard to try to support our troops and now they're here. They don't like the circumstances under which they came to the United States as it was very quick and very traumatic so this effort is trying to address that and help them feel welcome in our wonderful Hoosier hospitality home city of Muncie, Indiana. RADC is very excited that these folks are here and have already had some great success stories from some of the employers. Beckett Bronze has told them that they might have went out of business if they hadn't had about nine the new Afghan neighbors join their team. There are fourteen (14) working at Newell Brands and then three more families were just welcomed in these last few days. It has been very interesting because they are now getting secondary migration where people have heard from their friends and family how great Muncie is and people are starting to move here from places like Florida, Texas or Michigan. They are excited to welcome their friends and family as well as they start to establish more of their community here in our community. As going forward with the Refugee Alliance, some of the ongoing needs they see consist of housing assistance and transportation. Most of the women have never driven a car before and many of them do not read their native language of Pashto so trying to teach them English is going to continue to be a challenge. The hope at some point soon to be able to empower these women so that they will be able to drive. Many of the men already have driver's licenses, are able to get themselves to work and have cars. That is a good start but they are trying to further develop the family. Regarding translation services, part of what the group pays for is a paid Case Manager, Ari Hurwitz, who is the one that helps them navigate the Social Security System, finding a job and just life in general in these United States. RADC also has several paid translators who help communicate and make sure they understand clearly what is being offered to them and what their choices are. They try and treat them like the adults they are, though, by giving them the choices and spelling out all the options and the pluses and minuses to let them make their own choices. They have Educational Services because there are over sixty (60) students in Muncie Community Schools as a part of this now. It is a great thing because they bring about \$300,000 in funding with them for the Muncie Community School System. They also have English as a second language classes for the women where they get on buses and go have a couple hours of English class. Currently they are working on having one of the translators also teach the men because their work schedules make it very difficult for them to have one organized class and get the transportation to get there. Career assistance. RADC continues to counsel them on what our normal practices in the United States for workplace and how to continue to grow. Many of them are supporting big families back in Afghanistan. There are eleven (11) here who are not with their wives and children so part of the goal is to reunify these families and make sure they are whole again and that they can continue to prosper and grow here in Muncie, Indiana. That's a big part of their goals. One man is supporting twenty-seven (27) family members back in Afghanistan. He had worked very closely with the Americans

and now the Taliban is not allowing anyone in his family to work. They've all been blackballed so he feels a lot of pressure day-in and day-out to try to make enough money here and send as much of it back home as possible. Additionally, RADC is working on immigration assistance. A lot of them are now either a special immigrant Visa, SIV Visa, or an asylum Visa working towards their green cards. Most of them had their asylum hearings in the last week or so, so, they are moving along on that one. They have had several who came in the last month from Dubai and they already had their green card so that process is moving very fast. The American government (she thinks) recognizes the service that most of these folks did for our country. A big part that is near and dear to her heart is the women's empowerment piece. She wants to see these ladies learn how to use the banking system in the United States and to learn how to get some work and earn some money for themselves. They are collaborating with Ivy Tech to hopefully create a one-day-a-week pop-up restaurant for Afghan food and for the Afghan ladies who have the skill to be able to share that with our community and their fellow Afghans. They are also working on community partnerships and mentions they have too many to name. Additionally, they have great volunteers and are continuing to look for volunteers, especially women who can drive during the day. The ladies have a sewing circle where they meet once a month and the group is trying to find drivers for the sewing circle claiming it is a challenge. A lot of the women have small children with them too so there's car seats involved and some things like that are a little bit of a barrier for regular drivers and it must be a female driver. Lastly, they are looking for donations as well. They are working on all kinds of things and you can find them online at RADCinc.org. The website will be up soon and the Facebook page is already up and running. It is the Refugee Alliance of Delaware County – RADC on Facebook. They appreciate the support and hope people will see these folks in the community and help them feel welcome. She has been impressed by the neighbors that so many of them have and mentions a lady over on Powers Street that has adopted two of the families over there and protects them like a mama bear taking care of the children and the ladies that are at home. McKinney is very proud and has not heard of one incident of people in Muncie being rude or disrespectful to these folks and that warms her heart that our community has been so open, welcoming and understanding of what these folks have been through and what they can also do for us in the future. They are a great group of people. They just had a first where one just enrolled in Ball State so a college student is getting ready to start at Ball State. Also, they are counseling two or three other high school students on how to get through the FASFA process and all that stuff to ultimately becoming full-fledged citizens. She thanks the Council for the time and attention tonight. Most know how to reach her if needed and they can discuss further. President Robinson thanks her for updating the Council and community on the progress that's been made but more importantly thanks her for everything she does not just for our new friends but for the community overall. He acknowledges her being awarded Rotarian of the Year because of the acts of service she has given. Most importantly with this Afghan Refugee resettlement, he has met several new members of our community (through Nancy Carlson and some others) and they are so appreciative and feel so welcomed and so loved. We all knew since the beginning that Muncie would be that way because that is what Muncie is. He requests her to please pass along their deep gratitude for the rest of the members of the organization and committee that have helped resettle these folks. It makes them very proud. President Joan McKinney lists the board members, Vice President Brian Beatty, Secretary Kelsey Harrington, Treasurer Jean Drum, Board Members Cecil Bohannon, Julie Fields, Heather Hunt, Kelsey Pavelka, Gay Nation, Michael Sherman, and Jessica Snow. Nine of them on the new board were actually on the former board and just want to continue the great work.

Mary Stilts, Muncie, is going to be a broken record tonight and again references the intersection at Ohio and E. Jackson Streets with literally an accident there every week. She has tagged Councilman Ingram in several of the posts since he is on the Traffic Board. She is not only addressing the Council but also addressing the public that is watching live to pay attention to that intersection. Bill Goad, who is in the audience tonight, told her about being out with his daughter just the other day on Jackson. They came upon that intersection and he had to yell at her because some moron come flying up there and if she would have went then they would have been involved in a wreck. It is ridiculous. We have to get the stat to do something, somehow. Let's petition the state to fix that intersection now, not in a year or two when they want to put this little mini roundabout in. They need to fix it now before somebody else gets killed. The other thing she wanted to address, claiming she is not hammering Mark since the public access channel has been up better but she is not seeing any meetings and is unsure when they are being televised. She also remembers a slide that used to be on there that showed all the meetings for the month and knows that was in the software back when Roger (Councilman Overbey) ran it. She encourages if we're still on that software if there is any way to see if Mark can work with that and try and get the schedule in. A lot of people don't know, herself included, when the Parks Board meetings are half the time so she would just like to see that improved a little bit more for the people that do not have internet. Those people really do count on that and she thinks there would be more participation in all meetings if they knew when the meetings were. She appreciates anything the Council can do to help and she appreciates what Mark is doing, even when she messaged him the other night and told him that it was down again and he got it fixed back up. She knows he is trying but still thinks they can expand that public access channel. Try to keep working on it.

Jeanetta Presley first excuses herself for the medical issues she has going on this evening and relays that her service dog is sick. She explains there are two elderly homeless men staying on a porch at Franklin and 10th Street and advises the men can't go to the Mission because they have been kicked out and the Hub won't help them because they're drunks. Miss Jackie from the Ross Center called and asked her to go down and see what she could do for them but her hands are tied. She doesn't have any place for them. They can't go to Christian Ministries either because they're alcoholics so they're drinking all the time. Cold weather is coming and they have no blankets or anything so the men are basically going to freeze on that porch. She explains it is not an enclosed porch with just a railing around the edge, boarded up and unsure of who owns the house. She has been feeding them. President Robinson assumes the property does not belong to the men. Presley informs no, it doesn't and the neighbors are complaining and are the ones that ultimately went to complain to Miss Jackie at the Ross Center who turned around and asked Presley to check on the men. Presley did so but there is not anything she can do. She has called every place and the men have been put out from everywhere. They drink so they always have alcohol on them and cannot go into the Mission or Christian Ministries in that state. However, they are going to freeze to death on that porch. She doesn't know what they are supposed to do with these people. Robinson wonders if they can find and make arrangements to, at least, get them some resources such as some heavy clothes. He acknowledges that is not an ideal solution but surely there is something they can do to be able to help or at least act as a gap measure until they can find something better suitable. Presley informs she has been to the Hub and talked with the woman running it who told her that when people come in there drinking then they are not going to help them. If they come in for the night at like 3:00 in the morning because they are cold and have been drinking then they can't stay because they've been drinking. You can't have alcohol in your system and be able to go in anywhere. She is afraid of

finding them froze to death and adds she has been feeding them but doesn't have a warming center anymore. She has been working out of the Common Market for her high peer recovery. Robinson makes sure she knows how to get in touch with each one of the councilmembers. Presley replies she sent Councilwoman Selvey a message this evening since she wasn't planning on coming but when she didn't receive a reply, she thought it needs to be known that these people are out there. We have eleven (11) women living in tents. She tries to go around every day and feed them, out of her own pocket. She has a friend, Miss Amy, who has a food truck and had a bunch of left over chicken on a stick yesterday when they came in off the food truck. So, at 10:00 last night, she was out driving around where she recalls the homeless people staying and was feeding these folks chicken on a stick. She mentions she has attended all kinds of meetings, such as at the YMCA and the Mission, and these people just fall through the cracks. These particular people fall through the cracks and have nowhere to go. Presley advises that she, herself, has taken one of these people into her home. She first kept her at the men's mission all last winter to keep her warm and has since had her in rehab and some other different situations since she has some mental health issues like schizophrenia. She is not afraid of her and again mentions her being in her home. This lady is a good person that just needed somebody to help her pick up and get in placement. Robinson gives Presley his card with his contact information and mentions he just checked but didn't see a message from her. Presley advises Councilwoman Selvey was actually the one she emailed. Robinson encourages her to get in touch with himself or Councilwoman Selvey to let them see what they might be able to come up with to help. As he said, he understands the position of the shelters in that they have some rules and he both respects and understands those rules. Give them some time to see what they might be able to come up with to be able to provide something that can help, at least. They can work together to try to coordinate some type of resources for them while they still have a few more days of warm weather. He states it is better to be proactive than reactive. Presley comments she was going to stay home because of her health issues but this is important to her. She apologizes for her ticks as there was nothing she could do about them. Robinson assures her she has nothing to apologize for and this is what she is passionate about. She cares about people and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, at all. They know it was difficult for her to come here this evening but she did so for these people and that is so admirable. He thanks her for doing that and assures they will put their heads together to try to find some sort of relief for them, short term and ultimately maybe something a little more long term. Presley thinks the reason the men picked that area is because they are they are disabled and can't walk far. She thinks they picked the location so they can walk to the Mission at noon to eat. They are getting in line and at least getting that food but it is still too far for them to get to the Soup Kitchen. Since they can't walk there, Presley has been making sure to feed them soup, mentioning making a lot of vegetable soup lately. She gives them the soup in the evening time hoping that it will help dilute the alcohol and fill them up with something warm in their system. Robinson thanks her and hopes Bernard, her service dog, gets feeling better soon.


Audie Barber would like to remind everyone to go vote tomorrow, Election Day. That is how we make our biggest voice heard when we get out and vote. A few months ago, Barber came here commending and praising the Muncie Police Department for their response to the triple murder. Well, on August 11th a call came in at the Baymont Inn hotel for a possible shooting/active shooter. Our Muncie City Police Department and Ball State Police Department went out there. Barber recently found out by WRTV6 that one of our police officers had discharged his service weapon and nobody was made aware of this. There is no reports on this and it was all swept under the rug. He talked to Deputy Mayor Ivy on Saturday and he acted like he knew nothing about this, at all,

whatsoever. So, a few years ago, there was a police report made outside of City Council on a city council meeting (so on so forth) and then two months later there was a supplement added after the fact. Barber feels that there is going to be a supplement added after the fact since this has gotten out. It happened in August and it is now almost four months later. There is a problem here when our sworn police officers are supposed to do these reports to their memory of what happened at the time and when they leave out a police officer shooting his gun into a door at the Baymont Inn, that's a problem folks. Barber claims he watched the videos on it and that Ball State Police Department was upset about it. WRTV6 had the bodycams from Ball State Police talking about how it should have been let it known that they were going to discharge a weapon. WRTV6 could not get the bodycams from the police officers for the City of Muncie and the cams from the officer that discharged his weapon. Is this a cover-up? Is this something they are trying to sweep under the rug? Barber thinks there has been a few police officers in the past that falsified police reports and didn't put the proper information in on a report. They have since been terminated and charges were brought against them. He also noticed there are no Department Heads here from the Police Department and wishes they were here to for him to be able to give them a chance to address this but... This is a problem and if they swept it under the rug then it's time for the Administration to find out who swept it under the rug, why it was hidden from the public, why it was not put in the police reports and have somebody terminated because that's a pretty serious offense, discharging a firearm into a steel door. Robinson informs the Council has no authority over the Police Department or how they conduct investigations or any disciplinary action and that would actually be with the Police Merit Commission who does hold public meetings. He encourages him to first reach out to the Police Chief to try to deal directly with those individuals but if all else fails then there is another public body, the Police Merit Commission, to take that up with as well. Their schedule should be on the Police Department's page of the City Website.

President Robinson echoes Mr. Barber's suggestion for everyone to go vote tomorrow and no matter whom you vote for, as long as you vote it is important in our community to put the right people in place. He encourages everyone to get out and do that tomorrow.

ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Overbey and seconded by Green to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 6 yeas and 3 nays. ADJOURNED.



Jeff Robinson, President of the
Muncie Common Council

Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council