

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



AUGUST 7, 2023

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Jason Donati.

INVOCATION: Given by Joyce Mitchell followed by a Moment of Silence for victims of last Sunday's shooting as well as public safety personnel.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilwoman Selvey is humbled and honored to extend deepest appreciation to our courageous first responders. The Muncie Fire Department and Muncie Police Department selflessly answer the call of duty in the most challenging circumstances. When chaos and fear engulf our streets, they run toward putting their lives on the line to protect and to serve situation without a second thought. Their unwavering bravery and dedication exemplifies the very essence of heroism. These brave souls recently demonstrated exceptional skill, composure and compassion as they tended to the wounded, saved lives and ensured the safety of our community. Their professionalism and commitment to their duty have undoubtedly made a difference in the midst of such tragedy. Behind the uniforms and badges lie individuals who have families, dreams and aspirations just like any of us, yet, they chose a path of service knowing that each day could bring them face to face with unimaginable horrors. This extraordinary commitment to the well-being of others must be honored and admired. We also remember the victims of this senseless act and recognize the true heroes among us, the first responders who displayed immense strength in the darkest of hours. They have demonstrated that even in the face of evil, goodness and bravery will always prevail. In the days, weeks, and months ahead of healing and rebuilding, let us not forget the sacrifices made by these exceptional individuals. Let us show them the support they deserve not only in times of crisis but also throughout their careers. May we always be grateful for their service and never take their dedications for granted. To the First Responders, thank you – for the bottom of our hearts. Your courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to duty are a shining example for us all. As we move forward together, let us hold on to the strength and unity that defines our community and through these bonds that we can overcome even the darkest of days. The August 2023 Citizen of the Month award goes to both the Muncie Fire Department and the Muncie Police Department.

Muncie Fire Chief Rob Mead, on behalf of the MFD, is honored to accept this award. MFD strives to be the very best in every aspect of their jobs, whether it is fighting fires in our community, technical rescues, EMS, inspections, investigations or whatever else called to do. They train daily to keep skills fresh so when arriving on the scene of any emergency, they are confident in their abilities to mitigate that problem. In the early morning of Sunday, July 30th, MFD was dispatched to the area of Willard and Hackley streets for a shooting call with multiple victims. There were many challenges associated with this call, as you can imagine, and the MFD and MPD units met these challenges and excelled. This call was unique in the fact that it almost maxed their resources. They are thankful for neighboring agencies that were activated to ensure that our community was safe during this time. It is evident that MFD high expectations and comprehensive training have created a team that is ready to serve the great City of Muncie. You can rest easy knowing that when the alarm goes off, MFD will respond

with professionalism and compassion. Chief Mead is proud to represent the men and women of the MFD who dedicate their lives to ensure the safety and welfare of every single person in this City.

Muncie Deputy Police Chief Chris Deegan thanks everyone for being here as well as for the thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims from the senseless tragedy that occurred about a week ago. The men and women that are here in uniform (taking up both aisles walkways in the auditorium) are the people that were there that night, serving at 1:00 AM. It is hard to put in words what they dealt with as a community in the past few weeks so he will try to keep it brief because the focal point from the police department's side of things is who the personnel were that responded. They couldn't be more proud of the group of people that were willing to answer that call that night. It was chaotic to say the least. Hats off to all the men and women as well as the agencies that helped assist. With that being said, Deputy Chief Deegan wants to read off the names to show just how many people responded to the call for help. Initial responding officers were: Sgt Joseph Duckham, Officer Joseph Shaffer, Officer Brian Frantz (who transported a wounded victim to the hospital and then returned to the scene), Officer Zackary Bradbury, Officer Logan Shoemaker, Officer Ryan Miley (who also transported a wounded victim and returned to the scene), Officer Sean Dennis and Cody Campbell (who was his partner that night and both transported a victim to the hospital and then returned to the scene), Officer Jacob Faulkner, Officer Nathan Soliday (transported victim to the hospital and returned to the scene), Officer Gary Moore (also transported a victim to the hospital and returned to the scene), Officer Riley Reese (also transported to victim to the hospital and returned to the scene), Officer Zachary Osborne (also transported a wounded victim to the hospital and returned to the scene), and Sgt Gary Vannatta coordinated the response effort for all the Personnel that came in to assist. The MPD is a Department of about 100 people and had 55 officers respond to the call for help just from Muncie Police alone. That is not including the neighboring agencies that provided assistance and assured they needed every single one of these people. Special teams officers that came in consist of were: SWAT Commander Jeff Pease, Sgt Dan Vogel, Sgt David Porter, Officer Brad Downing, Detective Josh Carrington, Officer Zach Morgan, Sgt Chris Wells, Officer Matt Hollans, Officer Dante Roki, Sgt Tyler Swain, Detective Gage Winters, Officer Sean Dennis, Sgt Michael Rehfus, Sgt Ryan McCorkle, Sgt Nick Vollmar, and Officer Gabe Williams who are all Special Team Response Officers that came in at 1:00 in the morning. Detective response consists of: Sgt Michael Nickens, Sgt Brandon Qualls, Detective Casey Bell, Detective Kevin Pierce, Detective Chris Duncan, Detective Jami Brown, Detective Matthew Burger, Detective Mariah Copeland, Officer Corey Conlon, Detective Jacob Wood, and Detective Dustin Lee. That's ten (10) people and the Detective Division is only about eleven (11) people so that was an all hands on deck kind of situation. The day-shift officers had an early response in consisting of: Lt. Seth Stanley, Sgt Greg Skaggs, Officer Corbin Garrett, Officer Dawson Schmidt, Officer Travis Barber, Officer Trenton Ellis, Officer Maverick Rastakhiz, and Officer Drake Hall. There were some officers that were off and received the page to help and responded. Those officers consist of: Officer Jacob Teters, Officer Brianna Antrim, and Officer Michael Skinner. In the following days, a debrief counseling was held for all of the first responders and law enforcement side were involved. Those debriefs were conducted by especially certified and trained officers that go through critical incident trust management to ensure that our Personnel are well. Sgt Daniel Vogel, Sgt Gary Vannatta, Sgt Christopher Swanson, and Officer Brad Downing conducted those training briefs. Because of that, the department needed to have shift coverage for the debriefing. It is obvious that law enforcement is a 24/7 response profession and they can't just pull personnel off the road to go through debriefings without having people available to answer the calls. There were several volunteers from the opposite shift (as they work on mirrored days) so the personnel now that weren't here that night and scheduled off (obviously some can't come in) but some stepped up and covered the on shift debriefing time. Those people consists of: Sgt Brian Ashton, Sgt Gary Vanatta, Officer Michael Skinner, Sgt Brian Qualls, Sgt Daniel Vogel, Sgt Greg Skaggs, Officer Grant Brown, Officer Trenton Ellis, Officer Brandon Martin, Officer John Henderson, Officer Kevin McNamara, Officer Brad Downing, Officer Brianna Antrim,

Officer Michael Skinner, Officer Maverick Rastakhiz, and Officer Travis Barber. Lastly, Deputy Chief Deegan would like to thank the assisting agencies, Muncie Fire EMS, noting they would have been in a real pickle without them, along with Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Ball State University Police, Indiana State Police, Delaware County Emergency Management, Eaton Police, Albany Police, Daleville Police, Hartford City Police, IU Ball Hospital Police, and the list goes on. Several neighboring agencies contacted to ask if it was under control or if further help was needed and if so then help will be sent. There were communities outside of Delaware County that were willing to come in and help. It is just a testament that when you sign up for this profession, you are always on duty. He truly could not be more proud.

Sherry Smith states as the sister, daughter and mother of former police officers and to the EMS and Fire Department, she personally says thank you for their response time. They are marvelous and people should support these men and women because they deserve it. They are not appreciated enough.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Green to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023 as presented. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. MINUTES APPROVED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Clark, the Finance Committee Liaison, states July 21st was a pre-budget meeting with the DLGF. Police and Fire Merit meetings have concluded. The AFSCME meetings are still ongoing and he has requested to be part of those discussions moving forward. Coming up in the next few weeks will be review of the first round of budgets from the Department Heads and will keep them all in the loop.

George Foley thanks Councilwoman Selvey for inviting him to talk a little bit about their summer mentoring and inter program, which just concluded its fourth year. What a better time to come in and talk about programming and what all it has done for our youth and gives condolences to everybody involved in the incident a little over a week ago. He wants to talk about why youth programming is important. They cover mentorship and gun violence awareness during the 6 weeks with a whole session lasting about an hour and a half where police officers come in and talk to the young people about gun violence awareness. It has really opened up dialogue for the kids. Superintendent Malone has set up more discusses with that in the school. However, today he would like to thank the Council for investing in the programming and mentions they would, at some point, like to get increased funding to continue to program and even make the programming longer. It is very effective with education components for the 12 and 13 years old and the 14 and 16 year olds worked at different sites learning different skills. Thrive came in to provide some financial literacy and open accounts for everybody so everyone then had a bank account. New this year was a partnership with ecoREHAB where twenty (20) young men were able to

build ten (10) picnic tables and twenty (20) park benches for various City parks. Mr. Foley would now like to shine some light on the youth that benefited from this program and to all the Council what all they learned.

Jacob Tyler has been an applicant in the summer parks program for two years now. He goes into details about learning financial literacy through a course of activities. The 50-30-20 rule recommends putting 50% of your money toward needs, 30% toward wants, and 20% toward savings. They learned the different expenses that would be considered a need such as rent, food and utilities while wants are considered entertainment, cars, etc. He would use this rule if he worked and obtained a paycheck and understands how effective that process would be. The program is very educational and he felt like he was always learning something in his own personal experience and made many good memories.

Nia Pryor states this was her second year with the work program and she cannot wait for next year. The site she worked at was the YWCA who deal with a lot of women and children that are in need. While being there, she experienced how her life can be very different from somebody else's. It showed her that although she might donate a small amount of cash to someone in need, it may make a huge impact. She dealt with several women who were needing just a place to come to and it gave her a nice feeling of comfort and home. It brought her a lot of happiness to help everyone else. Besides working on Thursday and Fridays at the sites, Wednesdays would be for mentoring. Different people came in and she remembered one day being the Army day when all the different branches of military came in. She remembers them yelling "HOOAH!" It was a very different experience but showed how people can have all these different career paths. The work program really showed her that no matter what challenges she will face she will always find a way to bounce back.

Dreamah Patterson has been with the program for about three years now and has learned a lot about our community. She also has learned about adults in which she can trust that are all around her and that it is okay to speak up for herself. She has met some nice adults that she knows will be there for her especially when she is struggling. Something about her is that she loves working with children and seeing kids younger than her improve. One time a child was having trouble with their math homework and she had the opportunity to help them. They had the biggest smile on their face when she was done and it made her feel good about herself that she is making a difference helping the youth. Something else she did in working with the youth was serve free lunches at Tuhey Park. She claims how surprised she was at how nice and respectful the kids were. She also helped homeless people at the food bank providing packs of various foods. It was fun and made her feel good because she knew she was helping people that were really struggling. Something she learned from working at the Parks Department is that she loves being involved in the community. It is not about the money, it is about being involved and helping each other knowing that we have support system.

John Fisher was fortunate enough to work with the Parks Department in the echoREHAB collaboration this year. Before he attended that job, he did not know career wise what he wanted to do in life. Moving through the process of the program, he definitely learned what he is going to be doing for the rest of his career after high school. It is just an awesome opportunity to work for something that most people don't get to experience. A program called STEP was just for juniors/seniors or people that have dropped out of high school. The freshmen were getting to do some of the stuff those older kids were doing and learning trade and skill that will help him later on. Just learning that one skill has set him up with a lifetime of work. That right there helped him figure out his entire career path. That is the one thing he is most looking forward to next year and in years to come. He cannot wait to work more with the STEP Program, echoREHAB and Mr. Foley in the years coming up, looking forward to learning more about being a carpenter, or electrician or plumber, whichever way he decides to go.

George Foley lets it be known that was just the testimony of four (4) kids out of the 180 that were enrolled this summer. It started off challenging, no lie there, but what it does is bring the kids from different schools, different environments, and different cultures together. The kids aren't really talking to each other all that much at the beginning but within a few weeks they are exchanging phone numbers, hanging out, and talking to each other. Not only are they learning the skills but they are building relationships. He thanks the Council and requests their help in keeping this going and ultimately improving it. This year, the program was dedicated in the memory of Jaden Garrett who worked in the program for 2 years. He was an entrepreneur who learned a lot about financial literacy. He thanks Parks Superintendent Carl Malone for giving him the opportunity to do this as well as the Council for having the opportunity to talk a little bit about the program. They look forward to continuing it and improving it in years to come.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD AND COMMISSIONS: Continuing conversations from last month, President Robinson informs they still need to appoint one (1) Certified Public Accountant to the newly formed Ethics Advisory Committee. Nominations opened. No nominations made. Councilman Green refers to the CPA's he spoke with being unavailable to dedicate the time to do such. If they are having problems filling that position, he questions if it would be possible to change and remove the 'CPA' perhaps putting in 'Clergy.' Robinson states they can certainly make amendments to any ordinance resolution but would need to bring that forward next month. The Council may entertain that and suggests reaching out to their Attorney Brandon Murphy to acquire his assistance on the matter. Councilwoman Selvey seconds and explains she has reached out to a few CPA's and received the same feedback as Councilman Green. Robinson adds for next month they will need to appoint one (1) more licensed attorney to the Ethics Advisory Committee as one of their two previously made designations was declared ineligible based on their retirement status. In addition, to be made next month is one (1) appointment to the Beech Grove Cemetery board as longtime member Lesia Meer resigned citing health concerns. She has been on and served that board for many years and has been a valuable asset. Lastly, there will be one (1) appointment to be made to the Human Rights Commission in the business affiliation confirmed by Councilwoman Selvey.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 12-23 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TARGET AREA FOR JRF MANAGEMENT LLC. (1250 N. Elm Street)

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

Joe Jackson, JRF Management LLC, provides documents to the councilmembers. He first corrects the address as being 1950 N. Elm Street. Last fall, a windstorm came through and blew the building over that is located on this property. It was all cleaned up and can be seen in the documents and illustrations Jackson provided. He further explains their roofing business office is located next door (to the south) having been there for thirty (30) years and have watched that property deteriorate over the years. He recalls it being part of the old Marhoefer Packing Complex. The building was falling down and the trees had overgrown and his roofing business needed some warehouse space because they stockpiled materials during Covid. They purchased the building next door and was looking at this particular building to fix it up. Creatively in their business, they would fine applicants that would want a new roof on their building but were a little short on cash (having some of the money along with excess inventory or dead stock, something that had value) and do some trading. That led buying properties and fixing them up with these building materials. He and his son bought many houses in Muncie and fixed them up to rent out, making

note that the JRF in their company name stands for 'Jackson Retirement Fund.' They were thinking of fixing up the building that fell down and make it into somewhat of a retail shop because they have so much of this building material that maybe they could sell the building materials to others in the community. They are starting to pile up and claims they really have a lot of materials. Upon further discussions, people have told him that if it gets fixed up they would be interested in renting it so there are a couple options, to use it for themselves or to let others use it. It is a lot of money to invest and he is a little uncertain about the economic climate were in and with everything going on in the world; he was hoping that if he made this big investment (\$250,000) then he could just get a little bit of relief on the on the taxes, maybe a 5-year incremental tax abatement to get the business up and going. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas. INTRODUCED.

Mike Goodman states this is what needed to be done years ago. That Marhoefer business that sits on that corner has been nothing but an eyesore to our community for a long time. He agrees with Mr. Jackson and encourages the property to just be turned over to him to let him do what he wants if he is going to make a difference in this community. No one else in this community has done anything to try clean it up. If he is willing to work and invest his money in that property then by God, let it be.

Mr. Jackson requests if there is any way they can vote on adoption this evening because he is concerned about the weather closing in on them. President Robinson explains this ordinance just designates it as an economic development target area and the only way they can pass this tonight is if someone wanted to move to suspend the rules to vote. The Council has very clear rules on ordinances. The ordinance establishing the rules of City Council states someone could vote to suspend those rules but it has to be a unanimous vote. Looking through the information provided, he still has a ways to go if he is seeking a tax abatement (which assuming so because this is the first step in that process). There will be at least three (3) more meetings before that tax abatement will be cleared. They will have to come back and vote to adopt next month, and if applying for an abatement then they would need to bring a declaratory resolution to the following month and then a confirmatory resolution the month after that. It is a process and that is the process laid out by state statute.

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 10-23 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF A 2007 GILLIG BRT DIESEL BUS TO THE CITY OF MUNCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

President Robinson refers to conversations with MITS (Muncie Indiana Transit Systems) wanting to donate a bus to the Police Department. Because MITS is not part of the City government, being their own tax entity in the City, it needed to go through the resolution process for MITS to actually be able to give it to them and for the City to actually receive it. That is what this resolution is. Questions called.

Councilman Ingram questions the purpose MPD would need this bus. Chief Nate Sloan, MPD, explains states this is for training purposes only. There are things that happen in tubular environments that they need to be able to train and deal with and jokes they will not be cruising around Muncie in it. A roll call vote shoed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

RES. 11-23 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, TO ADOPT THE RESILIENT MUNCIE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

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

Jason Donati, Muncie Action Plan Board Member, recalls back in 2021 when the Council unanimously passed a climate resiliency resolution that set the wheels in motion for the Planet Muncie Committee, which was a Subcommittee of a task force of the Muncie Action Plan, to begin drafting a

Climate Action Plan for the City of Muncie. This is the first Climate Action Plan that the City of Muncie has ever drafted and wishes to approve. There is a lot of details in there and a lot of work went into it. The Committee worked hard to try to meet the goals that were listed in that 2021 resolution. He notes they are a little behind their goal for timing but have checked all the boxes as far as presenting to the Environmental Review Committee for a public meeting and working diligently to get it completed. He is here to answer any questions. The resolution is basically the City Council approving and accepting the Plan. The Plan is a guide, not a mandate, and there is nothing in it that says the City of Muncie has to do this, that or the other. It is purely a guide that the Committee worked on and is being presented to the Council in the hope that the City takes some ownership in it and uses it as a guide. With that, potentially some action items they could all consider is establishing some sort of Sustainability Commission or Board that can help oversee the implementation of this Plan. Reason being, the Muncie Action Plan has recently restructured with the new Strategic Investment Plan that was completed with TogetherDM so there isn't technically a Planet Muncie Committee anymore due to that restructuring. He is still a member of the Muncie Action Plan Board and still anticipates helping in any way he can and in answering any questions.

President Robinson states this is a very robust Plan, about 130 pages outlining a number of initiatives, goals and timelines as far as accomplishing those things. He asks if it is currently available online and if so, where can the public view it. The Council Secretary confirms it is also online on the City Website in the form of a pdf. Donati confirms it is on the City Council webpage as a link as well as uploaded to Municode.com. He notes some delay with the document was working with a grad student from Ball State who did a lot of the writing and interviewing of it and when she turned in her completed version it was close to 200-pages. Therefore, they had to sort of whittle it down and put together a matrix in the beginning to help make it more user friendly. Robinson comment sit is very well done.

Councilman Marshall refers to the reference where the Plan was targeted to be updated every three (3) years and questions who they vision updating this Plan or maintaining this process as it was mentioned Planet Muncie is not in formation anymore. Mr. Donati responds the Plan suggests the City would potentially create a Commission or Committee that could be made up of Department Heads because one of the main things they want to stress with this plan is how it is a guide for our municipalities to look at ways we can address climate change and be more efficient. He mentions a community survey that was done and one of the biggest things people commented on was infrastructure. Updating sidewalk infrastructure or bike/ped infrastructure is key because if this Plan is encouraging people to travel less by vehicle or ride their bikes or walk more then that all comes back to infrastructure. Again, this is a suggestion that the City Council or City create some sort of Board, Committee, Commission that could be made up of Department Heads, appointments or anyone at their pleasure to help guide this and potentially always look at Muncie Action Plan as an ally in this process too. Marshall refers to several stakeholders listed in the matrix and in the Plan and questions if the other stakeholders here reviewed, been presented or adopted this Plan. Donati answers no, they haven't adopted the Plan by any means but the intention is that after passage of this Plan (because it's been in draft phase for so long) that they would reach out to all the different stakeholders, some of which have been involved. A lot was learned from Ball State. Bob Kester is on the Committee as well as Donna Brown and Allstate passed a Climate Action Plan in 2013. So, it's 2023 and the City has it on its table now. Ball State helped tremendously with the writing, drafting, feedback and suggestions. However, the other stakeholders are certainly entities that they will reach out to after the passenge, hopefully, in acknowledging this Plan. Marshall has one more clarification and refers to the reference of the race to zero and clarifies Mr. Donati is not asking the City to adopt that or pushing for race to zero. Donati states that is correct and explains for those that aren't aware that race to zero is a pledge that over 700 cities throughout the world have pledged to, to try to be

net zero emission by 2050. It is important but challenging goal for a City like us to meet. Using numbers from the greenhouse gas inventory put together in 2017 in their software determined if the goal was to be net zero emissions by 2050 then *this* is how you would achieve it. It would be a lot of work and be many things that are out of the hands of local, talking legislation at the state and federal level. The data just showed business as usual (emissions reductions) and then race to zero (emissions reductions) but not suggesting that that be the path we necessarily take. It is just giving guidance and suggestions. It should be noted that many of the things that are in here are already in process, been completed or are being worked on as we speak. For instance, the blue toters and the recycling program; with a lot of mention about improving our recycling program. Obviously, people are seeing the blue toters over town now know that is a process that is being implemented right now.

Sherry Smith has been noticing the last several years the race to climate change. It started years ago and our President Joe Biden just keeps hammering away at this. She, as a taxpayer, doesn't want to be involved in this garbage because that is what it is. She cannot afford to go out and buy an electric vehicle and is not going to convert gas to electricity because number one our electric grids, even in this area, is nowhere up to code. It should be but it is not. She is not angry with anybody and claims she is just tired of hearing this nonsense. During this, what is happening is more and more people are being put out of work. You have people in the middle-income bracket and lower that cannot afford these things. We're going to go bankrupt. Smith is a baby boomer born in the 50's so that means her and her husband are retired. She resents it, being told that she can no longer drive her vehicle because its gas powered. If people quit going out here stealing and cutting the catalytic converters off of these vehicles then the environment would be much better. This environment is not going to change. They are doing it all across the nation, all across the world, only to find out that this is nothing more than a way to move our country into more socialism and backstabbing that is happening in every form of government throughout each and every state thorough the United States and other countries. She has had enough and will not give \$1 of her tax money for this nonsense. Muncie does not even have 50,000 people living here anymore because all the factories are gone and that was mainly how this City was employed. That is why people have moved away or died. The elderly people are hit with property ordinances because their grass might be too tall. Her husband was employed for over 50 years and went through a six bypassed heart surgery in 2006 in which he was not supposed to have survived but yet continued to work afterwards. In also having a full hip replacement, they then get cited for their tall grass because they can't get out and move like they used to. She assures they want their home to look nice and be respectful like everybody does but doesn't have a \$250,000 house or more and even if she did she doesn't think she could take care of it because it'd be too big. She is also sick and tired of seeing people shoved into apartments claiming the seniors in this City are being driven into apartments because nobody wants to redevelop the houses in the south/southeast end of Muncie. In addition, it is not just there, suggesting to take a ride in through the north and west ends too. Businesses are closing daily referring to the Muncie Mall. That is ridiculous that those stores had to leave that mall when they were needed here so the citizens needed didn't have to drive to Indianapolis or Richmond to shop. There are people who cannot drive there. Referring to Anderson, she mentions the Delco Remy now being out of business along with The Guidelamp Corporation there, which is a part of GM. Her father worked there for many, many years. Every member of her and her husband's family worked in these factories here. That was how they lived, not on food stamps because everyone thinks if you don't make much money you are living off food stamps and welfare. No. She could never get welfare or food stamps. Her mother whom died at age 90 was living in Randolph County and lived with her brother getting \$200 a month in food stamps. Her brother passes away after seven months of living there and her mother's food stamps were reduced to \$4. You go out and buy something to eat for \$4

because it is ridiculous. President Robinson thanks her for her comments. Smith is not trying to be mean or take up anybody's time. Robinson understands she is frustrated and that is fine. Smith insists it is not just frustration; it is what she has watched our City government do. He understands. She has one more thing to say and claims the climate change stuff has to stop. People cannot afford these vehicles. Do you know how much it is to change a transmission in a 2000 model vehicle? Robinson reiterates they are only discussing res. 11-23. Smith urges her question is part of that. Robinson appreciates her comments. Smith concludes stating the cost would be \$5,000.

Audie Barber states the MSD has been putting out bluebags for recycling for years. He has been out to the trash barn a few times and claims these bluebags are getting mixed in with the regular trash, compacted and sent out. He hopes that some of the councilmembers go out and check that out because they do not separate the bluebags when bringing the dump trucks in. They push them all in one pile and out the door to the landfill they go. A lot of the money that is spent on those bags is going to landfill claiming he personally has seen it challenging the rest of the councilmembers to just randomly go out and check it out sometime.

President Robinson encourages everyone to remain on topic. They are discussing the Resilient Muncie Climate Action Plan.

Jason Donati, MSD, regarding Barber's comments on the bluebags claims that being an inaccurate statement. City Council is welcome to tour East Central Recycling and see the process of how recycling happens. The bluebags do get separated but it speaks more to the change of the program that is currently in the process where grant funds were received to purchase new recycling trucks. That resulted in the move to a loose toter program where the trucks will pick up only recyclables, dump them in a location so they can go into a recycling sorting stream, be bailed and warehoused and then sold to potential buyers. Again, this is not a mandate of any sort. There is a lot of division and controversy related to climate change. He didn't pick that phrase and jokes that maybe they can blame that on Al Gore. It does really bring out a lot of emotions in people but this document talks about really basic things like infrastructure updates and having a plan for cooling and warming stations for public safety. These are the things that we need to be ready for no matter what happens and that is what resiliency is, being able to respond. Just earlier this evening we recognized our public safety officers. This plan is about being a resilient community, not about any mandates or being divisive. It is really *just* suggestions and guides.

Lorey Stinton, Delaware Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commissions, assures everyone that in the creation of this, the attempt was to keep everything as apolitical as possible. As Donati has emphasized, the document is guide to guide you and the sections are very specific toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions within City operations so when the City goes to replace light bulbs using LEDs that are going to save money and create less emissions for the process. Referencing the importance of things like heating and cooling centers for those extreme temperature days for public safety is a big part of the infrastructure that the City should be providing. The second section is on mitigating and adopting the climate change such as public safety and such and a third section on education and outreach. As the planner that guided the grad student on a daily basis, she remembers a lot of discussions about how to make these recommendations without making people feel like it is a mandate because most of us in the City cannot afford to jump into a new infrastructure plan of an electric vehicle. Many people want to wait and see how gas efficient fuel cars can be. They just wanted to make sure it educational and resourceful and not a mandate or anything. They also wanted to make sure that the City has the plans needed in order to go after monies that are nationally available. If we lose out of them as a City then we're just falling further behind.

Councilman Clark agrees with the comments made by Stinson. He recalls going through the process with the Parks Department and having that 5-year plan and possibly adopting something like this would help secure future grant money and federal funds. Some great points were made on land use and the greenspace management. Those are many low-cost things that we can do to improve greenhouse gas emission. Referring to the community survey, he saw there was a mention for a single plastic bag cost or tax. He just visited Colorado over the summer and notes that was an option you could do in the grocery or retail stores was to buy that bag. Alternatively, a lot of us that shop at Aldi bring bags to use from our own home. That is something they could think about, not from a tax method but from a choice that the consumer has to do that.

Mike Goodman asks if any of the blue recycling totes are made out of recycling materials that the City is bringing in. Donati answers yes, there is a percentage that is made from recycled materials that are picked up. He cannot recall the actual percentage but can get back to him on that if he wants to obtain his contact information. Goodman then asks how many employees are employed through the recycling center. President Robinson calls point of order and explains this discussion is on the Resilient Muncie Climate Action Plan while these questions are Muncie Sanitary District questions.

Holly Juip wished to speak in favor of this resolution. She definitely believes we need places for heating and cooling stations for our most vulnerable population and appreciates a guidance to build a system that citizens could have a board to address environmental issues. Earlier this year, she ran in to some trouble where there was burning trash at Prairie Creek and she didn't know the right authority to address that to which is a common problem for citizens. For example, does an air quality safety issue go to the County, City Council or the Health Department? There is this gray area as we move into more environmental concerns. We know Indiana has poor air quality and having a guiding plan to set in motion ways that citizens and the community can address environmental concerns is really important.

Councilman Green asks if it is possible to provide copies of this plan to the different Neighborhood Associations so people there could review and look at it. Donati answers yes. Green thinks it would possibly answer a lot of questions and concerns. Donati assures they can print hard copies or at the interest of being environmental conservation minded, maybe provide a card with a QR link to look it up online. He would also be willing to present at Neighborhood Association meetings and thinks that is a great idea. Green acknowledges some of the seniors that aren't tech savvy. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. APPROVED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Green acknowledges some things that have happened in the community in the last few weeks you have not been good but there is one thing he would like to recognize individuals for this evening and it has to do with music. Music is a language that there is no balance to. It will go across every language and from one continent to another. We have had music in our community lately starting back in May. These youth started to learn and practiced to the point that they were able to memorize their music. This would span most of East Central Indiana and we want to recognize all of those groups. They finished just last Saturday at the Indiana State Fair Track Show. There were bands that practiced in the 90° temperature days and some children passed out from the heat but they were dedicated and committed to do the work that needed to be done to produce a wonderful program. The bands from Yorktown, Cowan, and Daleville went together. Three different high schools, Monroe Central, Jay County, and Winchester in Henry County went together and of course our Muncie Central Spirit of Muncie. The band performed very well at the State Fair Track Show competition but unfortunately fell short of winning the competition by one point. We are very proud of their commitment and all the energy and effort they have

put forth and we appreciate all they do. It has been proven through the years that these young people go on to become leaders in our communities including many that are on different departments here for the City of Muncie. Some are Department Heads along with others who ventured on to become doctors and lawyers and many teachers. Everyone in here has some type of an affiliation with music. We are very proud of what Muncie has done and we want to thank those young people tonight.

Councilman Marshall informs the Halteman Village President was unable to be there this evening but reached out to share some information with both the Council and community. The Neighborhood Association is doing a second campaign to help pay for improvements in the park. That being the only City park in District #4, the Neighborhood Association has been very engaged in helping retain the ownership of the property there. When it went to the tax sale, the Neighbor Association Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) and raised private dollars to help fund some of the structures in the park. In this second campaign, they are looking to add additional seating and landscaping near the new pickle ball court and splash pad as well as research for a multi-generational play in the park focusing on both older and younger generations. He is willing to pass along any questions to the Neighborhood Association.

Courtney Jarrett is here in her role as Community Inclusion Ambassador for Shafer Leadership Academy. There are two other Community Inclusion Ambassadors who unfortunately couldn't be here this evening but they are making the rounds to different areas to talk about their program. She, herself serves as the Community Inclusion Ambassador for people with disabilities. There is also one for people of color and a third for people on the LGBTQ+ Spectrum. The whole point of their role is to make sure people with varying identities have access to participate on board service with non-profits and government boards. It is a little timely for her to be here since there are so many open appointments coming up and talking about with the Climate Action Plan to potentially add a committee. What Schaefer does is kind of two-fold; the first part is keeping both a list about people interested in joining government boards or commissions and then a separate list for people that are interested in doing non-profit board service. People can sign up for both of those. There is a QR code on their flyer and she is happy to share those after the meeting with anyone who is interested. Secondly, for people that are serving on government boards also people that may be in the audience or watching the are serving on nonprofit boards like herself (as she is currently on the YWCA Board), they do loads of training for all different kinds of leadership opportunities at Shafer, lots of them free. It is super important whether you are in a leadership position or you are striving to get to that point to always be thinking about how you can better yourself and think about your leadership skills. She encourages the City Council as they have already encouraged the County Council, presented to Muncie Pride Network and the City County Council for People with Disabilities and loads of other people for about a year now. Their role is to hopefully get more folks that are interested in doing this type of work, volunteering, and having their voices and identities around our community.

Mike Goodman asks the Council to revise a law that has been passed, according to the Muncie Animal Control Director, about vicious dogs biting. Recently, he was bit by a neighbors dog as he was mowing his yard. The dog was turned loose when he was going down the property line. These dogs are constantly snarling, growling, showing teeth, biting the fence and he hopes none of those dogs ever gets out. Unfortunately, it was his misfortune that they did and got ahold of him. It was 8:00 PM and he was mowing his yard since the weather was starting to cool off. The dogs weren't out when he started mowing and were evidently left out during the course. To the best of his knowledge, the dogs came

running up behind him and he never even knew it because the lawn mower was running. The dog jumps straight up in the air, reaches its head over the fence and grabs him right up by the upper/lower bicep. He yanked his arm out of the dogs' mouth and it felt like he pulled his muscle out. It was throbbing, hurting like hell and he was afraid to look at it. He carries a sidearm, 45 and M1911 and if he had that sidearm at the time of that attack, he would have shot and killed that dog himself and wouldn't be here tonight complaining about it. The thing is it would have been premeditated for him to go in his house to get his M1911 off the kitchen table, walk over there in his neighbor's yard and shoot their dog. He would have more likely went to jail over that incident but it would have been self-defense because the dog kept trying to come at him through the fence and attack him after it already bit him. Had he would have shot the dog, he would have been in self-defense mode. He called the police and an officer came out and did a report on the dog bite. EMS was called and they looked at the dog bite because the officer wanted to see if he needed to be transported to the hospital or not. Thank God, it was four puncture wounds, but that is enough. This is from an animal that does not have any vaccination shots, no rabies, no distemper, no parvo vaccines. He directed his concern to the Animal Control Safety Officer to remove that animal because that family doesn't deserve that dog as they can barely take care of themselves. He states they claim the dogs come from an abused home when they cannot even take care of themselves let alone an abused dog. Those dogs were aggressive biters and he recalls asking for the dogs to be removed before they bit a child. In lieu of his 3 minutes being up, President Robinson apologizes. Mr. Goodman continues that the Animal Shelter refused to take the animal and put the blame on the City Council saying they passed a law that says a dog can bite one time, freely. President Robinson explains he does not recall that to be the case. Goodman recommends somebody getting ahold of the Animal Shelter Director who needs to be replaced entirely for not doing her job. The Animal Shelter is over capacitated and too small. Either quit picking up stray dogs and capacitating the space in there over a stray dog that's just looking for food that might find some food and the City won't have to be responsible for feeding it. Pick up the biting dogs. He just talked to a woman where a Rottweiler jumped her two little girls and nearly killing them, ripping one of their eyeballs out of her head and Animal Control let them keep the dog. This is nonsense. President Robinson will review the chapter of the City Code (Ch. 90) where the Animal Control falls under and encourages him to do the same. He does not believe that being the current City ordinance but will review it and is happy that he is okay.

Audie Barber thanks Councilwoman Selvey for recognizing the Muncie Police Department and the Muncie Fire Department tonight. He believes that all those people involved, even though it's their jobs, should receive a letter in their personal file and it remain in their personal file as long as their employed. He wants to thank those guys 100,000 times for the job they do. They get up to go to work every day not knowing whether they are going to return home or not. Last month, he requested a copy of the abatement list and Councilman Clark told him to send him his address so he did. He never received anything on it, calling him once since then to tell him that he hasn't received it and was assured he would get it to him. He never received it and would still like to obtain a copy from the Council. On res. 11-23, Barber is not against that whatsoever but wants to see progress in the situation to where it is effective. Going back to the trash bags, he has been out there a few different times over the last five (5) year dumping trash and every time he goes out there and sees bluebags mixed in with the regular trash. No one is separating them and insists that is the truth. He hopes the Council will drop in out there from time to time to see the bluebags mixed in with the trash. He loves the recycling idea but if we are going to provide bags at the cost of the City then let's make sure that stuff is getting recycled and not just thrown

away. Councilman Clark apologizes about the abatement list and informs just went back and sent it so he should now have it.

Wayne Scaife doesn't want to go into details about July 30, 2023. He recalls a few years ago approaching the Council to provide a copy of the Hope Six Grant dealing with the Community Center. In giving the Council an entire month to read it, he came back the next month to see if he could answer any questions. He remembers Councilman Clark making a coming that he contacted Joe Anderson. Scaife indicates he found that offensive because Joe Anderson didn't appear before the Council, he did. The multi-service Community Center was torn down in 2006 and the Hope Six Grant was an agreement that allowed tear down the Center to build these a housing addition with a brand new Center to be built. Well, that new Center was never built. That is why he is bringing up July 30 because one of the comments made was that yes, a 30 year old man was killed that night but there was a lot of underage kids there. One of the things he has been stressing is that these kids have nothing to do. By the time they are eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10) years old without nothing to do, they're hanging with the wrong crowds and learning about or picking up guns. These kids have nothing to do and no mentors. Earlier George Foley spoke about the Park Program where some of the kids have been attending three (3) or four (4) years now. Imagine that on a broader spectrum with a Community Center and how some of those kids had nothing but positive things to say. We have no Community Center in our community. Back when he first approached the Council, there were no questions about what can be done. Malone requested the Council look into the \$450,000 of earmarked money that Congressman Mike Pence gave to the City to get that Community Center started. That money was given during the Canan Administration. At the end of the Tyler Administration that money was down to \$273,000 and never spent on a Community Center. His point is we need a Community Center. It was bad what happened on July 30 but if that Center had been gone since 2006 then that would make it being in operation for 17 years now. Imagine a 10-year-old child back then being 27 now and grew up without a Community Center. They grew up without being mentored. Instead a so-called Thug probably got ahold of a kid at eight (8) or nine (9) years old to show him a gun or how much money can be made doing this or that. He recalls asking the Council to look into what happened with that money, making note it was paid out through the Community Development Office. He is sure there is a record of it. We need a Community Center. Requesting a show of hands of the Council, he asks how many would let somebody tear down their house with a promise to build a new one and then just let them walk away from it and not provide a new house. That is what happened here. Malone is not going to walk away from this Community Center and it has been 17 years. They promised to build one if allowed to tear the old one down, so we let them do so but they didn't rebuild it and now these kids are suffering. We have to do better.

Councilman Clark agrees that a Community Center is needed and confirms that document was brought to the Council recalling he and President Robinson both met with Mr. Anderson and (probably) some members of the original Committee. What was found was that there wasn't any more questions for Mr. Malone, the money is gone just like he said. That is the point, yes. So now, it's a start with the Grassroots effort of how to go about this as a community because it doesn't do any good to point fingers at somebody in the past that may no longer even be part of this community. All we can do is say we know it is an issue, we know we have a need and ask where we can start with that. He tells Malone to call him out on it and that is fine but he thinks they did their due diligence in meeting with, finding out the facts and saying this is where we are at. Malone responds if Clark came to him and told him to look into something and he did just that then he wouldn't have gone to "Joe Schmo" and tell him what he found out, he would come back to go the Council. They should have come back to him with questions but

instead went to the main culprit saying duplication of services, that time is over and they are not getting anything. Clark states that is not what was said. Malone knows what has been being said because it gets back to him. He wishes they would have come back to him personally. Clark notes it has been a couple of years. Malone appreciates what he said but not the fact that the money is gone because he can't settle for that. He knows the money is gone but is not just going to walk away. Clark adds that is something they could dig into, to find out where it went. Malone, again, mentions the Community Development Office being where the money was spent out of. It went from \$450,000 down \$273,000 so was spent somewhere.

Carl Malone, Parks Superintendent, wants to comment on the youth in our community. In reference to a Community Center, the last Center we had was in 2016 and there were several gun violent initiatives, the last one documented was in 2016 sponsored by Old National Bank and had several guest speakers come in. IUPUI, Dr. Thomas Stokey came in to provide data driven information about handguns. Since, there hasn't been any prevention awareness to the community and our kids now are carrying handguns. There has recently been two (2) incidents at Muncie Central this past school year. This past summer in doing the gun violence initiative, they asked the 180 kids how many of them see handguns of a morning before they get on the school bus and several hands were raised. We have a problem. There isn't a place for a lot of our kids to go. Sometimes people bring up the Boys & Girls Club or the Buley Center. No kid from Whitely can walk out and through the neighborhood and go to the Roy C. Buley Center because it's locked. Those kids end up in the street. Malone refers to Mr. Scaife's comments about the Community Center that was tore down on S. Madison and recalls over 407 kids and families came back once keys were obtained and insurance established at Garfield School. They started with \$0 and would use some of the Park summer monies along with Malone's private donations to open Garfield which is the Unity Center (at that time) with about 375 kids and families documented in just 90 days. The importance of a Community Center is needed in our City. We need to put our heads together, do our research and find a way to get a Community Center so that our kids can be educated about the pitfall of handguns because they're learning all that in the streets now. Fast forward to 2013, which was the first training period, to it now being 2023 and here we are. When you look at the crisis cycle, we're up here (being a firefighter trying to put the blaze out) when we dropped the ball down here (in educating our kids and families). Everyone has a lot of work to do. He has had conversations with the Mayor and there is a task force being developed. The shooting that recently occurred came from lack of awareness and lack of education. In talking with parents, a lot of many allow their children to carry guns. Malone's own niece was hit in the chest so it is personal. Just sad. It was a sad day. He knows conversations on this have been happening for ten (10) years. The last time discussions were had was in 2016 when that building closed and our kids went to the street with no awareness, no family, no tools, no toolbox, and no knowledge of how to report a handgun in their home. No one knows how to report a handgun so they just don't say anything. Again, there has been a lot of kids in our community carrying handguns. At the last neighborhood meeting parents were asked and answered they allow their children to carry because the kid down the street carries. That is what we have going on in our community. Until we figure out a way to reduce the awareness, we will have problems and we will keep having a crisis like the other night. The Police Department was part of the mentoring session at Northside and witnessed the response the kids had when asked and they are scared. Imagine two (2) 14-year-old kids in a house; they are not going to tell on their older brother knowing he has a gun in his backpack. Malone just wanted to say that not having a Community Center is crucial. They could provide a lot of teaching that hasn't been provided by any kind of resource availability due to the lack of a Center.

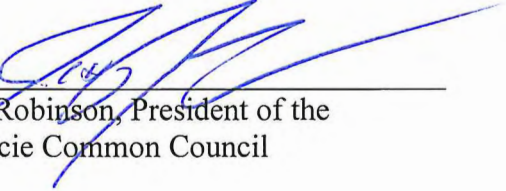
Sherry Smith feels for Mr. Malone regarding his loved one being shot because her only son was murdered in this City on October 19, 2019 in the parking lot of Cheers. He was a U.S. veteran but nobody ever knew that. It went to trial but the man that killed her son was found not guilty due to the fact the Judge wouldn't allow any evidence in the courtroom about her son's life that he lived as a veteran and what he suffered through when he came home from Iraq and Afghanistan. He had a grown daughter and was a very good father. The reason she is coming to the Council is because she went to the Victim Advocate Program run through the Muncie Police Department who waited over 3.5 years to tell her family that they could not get any finances because the man was found not guilty. Then, they were told that had to be done within 180 days of his death. Smith recalls asking the person on the phone if they might have said something in the last 3.5 years that would have helped them because they had to go to the Township Trustee to get money to have him cremated and she did not want to do that. She realizes the cost, as she has buried every family member she has had. She asked them for \$5,000 to pay off his burial plot because Elm Ridge Cemetery gave them everything but they paid \$5,000 out about her own pocket for her own son's burial plot. She has yet to have him interred because she was hoping at the end of that trial that man was found guilty because he was a Habitual Offender yet was never charged as such by Eric Hoffman, our Prosecutor. She claims he did not speak to her until 3.5 years passed and apologized for doing all that they could do. No. That went through Circuit Court #2, Judge Kimberly Dowling who finds everybody lightly; it does not matter what kind of criminal they are. Smith needs the City Council to approach these people and let them know they are no longer going to put up with the garbage that is going through our courts. There are criminals that are walking free. Referring back to comments made by Mr. Malone, she claims they need that Center very badly and all over this town for the matter. These children are being murdered. Her son was ran over by a car three times and his skull was crushed. The cousin of the man who did it was a former Muncie Police Officer and hid that car. It was ultimately found but they did not do any DNA testing on the car and that man didn't spend one day behind bars. President Robinson goes to inform her that her time is up. Smith continues and thanks them for listening; however, she does not know whom else to go to. She has approached Doug Walker of The Star Press but heard nothing back. Her son was 45 years old when he died. She was the one that had to tell her husband that their only son was dead. In addition, to tell their only daughter that her brother had been grotesquely murdered. His blood was all over that parking lot. All she is asking for is for Victim Advocates to keep their word. She doesn't care if they are found guilty or not guilty for whatever reason, when they tell you they are going to work with you and help you but slam the door in your face at the end. She is up here speaking for her son. He fought for each and every one of our rights, hers as well. Now, he is not here anymore. How many more of our veterans are we going to lose in our City? After he was killed, another U.S. veteran was shot in the back right here in Delaware County and it ended up making the newspaper. She is requesting the Council to please approach the Mayor because they will not call her back. The Deputy Mayor will not call her back. She called the Police Chief and claims he would not speak to her. She talked to the Deputy Police Chief and she told her that she would call her back but she has not heard a word from her to this day. She is asking them to please look into this. There is something wrong. She loves our police officers and refers to a father that was a police officer and a brother who has been a deputy sheriff in another state for over 20-some years. Her own son was a military police officer so she loves them and they did their job on July 30. They did what they were supposed to do and she congratulates each and every one of them but the people that did not do their job was our Prosecutor, our Judge and the idiots that are the defense attorneys. She apologizes but, again, claims they are idiots. She is putting that out there for not just her but for all the moms of murdered children here in Delaware

County just asking for understanding, patience and expresses thanks to President Robinson for allowing her to have this time.

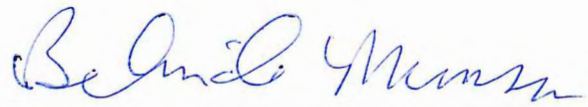
President Robinson states of course and on behalf of the entire Council and everyone listening heartbroken at this story; his empathy is with her. He refers to the several Deputy Chiefs of Police that are in the building this evening just outside the auditorium so maybe one of them will stop and talk to her on her way out. His heart goes out to her and he knows that must be a difficult process to go through. He can't even imagine and thank goodness he doesn't have to go through that. The Council's hearts are with her and if she has any issues moving forward getting in touch with the Chief or Deputy Chiefs then any member of this Council is more than happy to facilitate that conversation. Come back or reach out to any of these councilmembers if she needs anything moving forward. With that, his deepest condolences, empathy and expresses thanks for being here this evening. Smith responds stating thank you and that she supports him. She does not tell people whom she votes for as it is none of their business. She then holds up a photo of her son in Iraq/Afghanistan and the last job he held. It is a small piece of paper with his photo that was taken out of his wallet the morning he was killed. That's the last picture she has of her son.

ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Overbey and seconded by Ingram to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 1 nay (Robinson). ADJOURNED.



Jeff Robinson, President of the
Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council