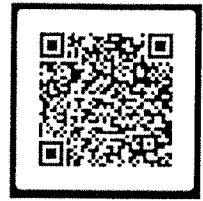


MINUTES
MUNCIE COMMON COUNCIL
300 NORTH HIGH STREET
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305



DECEMBER 2, 2024

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Councilperson Gullion.

INVOCATION: Given by Councilperson Green.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilperson Green chose to recognize an individual from the south side of Muncie this evening. He claims he is partial to the south side because he lives there and his children went to school there. This individual was born and raised on the south side of Muncie and graduated from Southside high School. She said if she is cut, she bleeds Southside red. She attended Ivy Tech and Ball State University and is deeply committed and invested in the south side of Muncie. She's the President of the Muncie Southside Neighborhood Association, Girl Scout Leader of Troop #4469 (as well as Brownies, another group varying in age), a receiver the Mayor's Art Award as well as the Girl Scout Service Unit Fall Production Manager for Delaware County. She serves on the board of Fiona's Place as well as being a member of Active Avondale. She has organized the Mark Kinman Fun Day at Cooley Park as well as basketball and kickball tournaments at Ball Corporation Park. Most of the time the tournaments were for young people but some of those times were between the Muncie Police and Fire Departments. She has worked for the Southside Panther Pantry in helping support it and coached for kids at Muncie Southside. Courtney is very invested in the youth of our community. She cares about them because they're the leaders of tomorrow and worthy of our time and our energy that we give to raise them and teach them to be productive citizens. In addition to the boards and committees she has founded, she has also found time to attend many local conferences that are given and some of the cool events in our community. These consist of the IDEA Conference (held in conjunction with the neighborhood partners and resources), Fire Up Downtown, the Washington Street Bridge Festival and Bridge Dinner, and being a big supporter of Iron Man investing her time there. She has the ability to engage others in those activities. She did a lot in getting volunteers to help in the Iron Man as well as other things on the south side of town. She manages to complete the Girl Scout Leader Service Conference every year, Southside Cleanup (setting up dumpsters on south side) and walking the neighborhoods to pick up trash. Cortney is a person willing to do all that alongside anybody else that would come. Not only that, but she would pick up trash in different locations, like Walmart. These are just to mention a few of the things that she does while still fitting in time to share with her family and friends and her four-legged son, Zane. He presents the December 2024 Citizen of the Month Award to Courtney Marsh.

Courtney Marsh thanks District #1 Councilman Jeff Green for the ability to award her the honor tonight. She is not only gracious for the nomination but for all the help he has provided to the south side of Muncie in the many years he has not only sat in the seat for District #1 but resided there as well. She also thanks the amazing crew behind her. If she has not had the ability to work with you yet, she definitely looks forward to it. If she has worked with you then she is sure it was a blast and looks forward to those things again and the many endeavors that will come in 2025. Green had stated she has been part of many different organizations, boards, foundations, and just all-around amazing community events. This would not have been possible without hard work and dedication and she is happy to share those types of things with everyone tonight. She is accepting this honor tonight but it would be dishonest for her to share these details alone. She would like to give a special thanks to the Southside Neighborhood Association board and neighbors because without you all there would be no Neighborhood Association. She would like to give a big shout out to all her Girl Scout friends in the Girl Scout Service Unit of Delaware County that provide events for Girl Scouts to come together and grow and learn, especially Troop 4469. They will always hold a special place in her heart. To all the community family she has gained during this amazing journey, family is not only blood, its everyone you bring into our life along the way. Some of her family members

APPROVAL OF 2025 CITY COUNCIL DATES AND DEADLINES: A motion was made by Gullion and seconded by Basham to approve the 2025 City Council Meeting Dates and File Deadlines. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Councilman Basham reports on the ongoing negotiations between the City of Muncie and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and Firefighters Local #1348. The parties met again just before Thanksgiving and are meeting again tomorrow and each session seems to get closer and closer to a contract. It is their hope to get very close tomorrow. President Dishman asks about the AFSCME employees. Basham informs he was not asked to sit in on that session and believes those negotiations began before he was seated on the Council, therefore, he was not invited to sit on those negotiations.

Aubrey Crist, Assistant City Attorney, referred to the last AFSCME session in which their legal counsel let the City Attorneys know they would be getting back to them on a counteroffer and scheduling of another meeting but the City Attorneys have yet to hear back from them. The City Attorney Office was going to reach to them this week but figured with the holiday last week that schedules weren't currently working so they plan to reach back out to them this week to see what's going on because they have not heard back.

MUNCIE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Andrew Dale serves as one of the City Council's two appointments to the Muncie Redevelopment Commission. As they may recall, back on June 3, 2024, MRC Commissioner Zane Bishop, the other MRC appointment, provided an update on some of the projects of the MRC. Dale's update tonight won't be an update detailing disposition of MRC projects, that is something that should be addressed by the City Administration or the President of the MRC. Tonight, he would like to share some observations and make some recommendations to City Council that, if pursued, could go a long way in mitigating concerns that many people (including himself) have about the MRC and its current functions and that puts safeguards in place to protect and maximize the value of taxpayer dollars. Per the MRC Handbook, the main purpose of the MRC is to create opportunities for development, growth, investment, and jobs with a focus in the more blighted areas of Muncie. The MRC oversees business development opportunities and is authorized to acquire and dispose of abandoned properties. The duties of the MRC are clear and require due diligence, including: identification of problem areas in community needs, utilization of strategic planning activities and interaction with policy makers, establishment of goals to address identified problems and needs and opportunities, the acquisition and the conveyance of property, and meeting certain statutory requirements pertaining to annual reporting and planning. Annually, no less than a few million dollars of our economic development income tax dollars (EDIT) and proceeds from long established tax increment financed districts (TIF) leverage vastly more private, public, and even nonprofit based capital. Coupled with an occasional Municipal Bond issuance and various grants, much more can be achieved. Conversely, a lack of planning (or haphazard planning or unilateral decision making) squanders vast amounts of public funds intended to advance our collective well-being. The tasking of the MRC demands that it's work be organized in partnership with citizens, local officials, policy makers, experts, and constituency groups, and especially those most impacted by the mission of the MRC. Unfortunately, little of this is done presently, rather, the MRC is a reactive body which primarily approves funding requests for projects brought to the Commission by Mayor Ridenour and Jeff Howe, Director of the MRC, often with little notice and typically avoid discussion in scrutiny. For example, the former downtown YMCA was purchased by the MRC for \$500,000 on December 20, 2022. The public bid process which garnered only one bid from a Colorado based developer was squeezed down to a bare minimum of 14 days. The MRC closed on the former YMCA property back on July 11th and it was it was closed at an amount of \$770,000. Now, on par, that sounds good until you factor in it being a 10-year seller finance sale. The MRC is the bank and holds significant risk. The MRC is to contribute up to \$200,000 from the \$270,000 gained from the sale towards environmental remediation and/or demolition activities. The MRC is to rebate to the developer an amount equal to

items Dale mentioned being key factors. Dale advises he will get him those materials. McIntosh requests a copy as well. Dale assures he will provide it to anybody that wants them. In closing, he thanks the Council for the time tonight and appreciates their ears.

SKATEPARK UPDATE

President Dishman informs it is long past due but construction work has finally begun at Westside Park on the new Muncie Skatepark. It has been a year of advocacy with red tape and permit requiring due to being located so close to the river but they are finally making progress and it should be a really fun area for the kids and skaters of Muncie once finished. He applauds them for finally getting started on it. The company is Hunger Skateparks.

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 33-24 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-23 FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY APPOINTED OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, DEPUTY, ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENTAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL HEAD OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, INCLUDED HEREIN FOR THE YEAR 2025.

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, had a couple things he wanted to point out on this salary ordinance. The appointed officials here will need to be amended to reflect the budget cuts the Council previously made. The salary ordinance is not going to reflect the budget 100% because there are so many variables that go into it. Basically, it just sets a ceiling for it. He advises he will get those adjustments to the Council so they can take a look at them. The Administration plans to live by the budgets exactly the way the Council set them so their amendments will be adhered to. They would like to keep the Deputy Controller and Communications Director as positions on the salary ordinance but they will not be funded through the General Fund. They are important positions and it was decided to fund those through EDIT funds so it doesn't affect the budget. Wright goes on to explain some details about the next salary ordinance up for discussion (ord. 34-24) with similar circumstances in making adjustments to elected officials to reflect the amendments Council passed on the budget.

Councilperson Powell requests Controller Wright double check and make sure that Parks Program Director and the Urban Forester are the correct amounts. He responds yes. She thanks him.

Councilperson Basham asks for clarification on the agreement Powell and Wright just made. Powell explains the actual numbers for the Parks Superintendent, Program Director and Urban Forester amendments when read off at the October 23 Special Meeting had an incorrect new number so they were just correcting that.

Selvey asks if that was included in the report Wright sent out today. Wright states no, that was something different. Powell instructs the report Mr. Wright sent out today was actually an Income Expense Report. Selvey mentions giving Wright a 24-hour notice when being asked to turn over a report so will take that into consideration in the future. Powell believes that report is supposed to be provided monthly to the City Council anyway via City Ordinance. Wright informs that being no problem. Powell wonders if that could just be a standing order to send that to the Councilmembers before every meeting. Wright replies absolutely. Selvey agrees.

Dan Gibson, Council Attorney, has some proposed amendments and refers to the fifth introductory paragraph (which isn't technically apart of what Council is adopting but requires them to salaries in the budget) and recommends, as Mr. Wright mentioned to avoid any inconsistencies, striking that provision but obviously keeping the amount the same because it would then allow them to fund the position through EDIT while not being inconsistent with the budget the Council passed. In addition, he suggests removing Section 4 which talks about how this ordinance supersedes ord. 24-23 which was just a carry-over from last year. This is the first new ordinance for 2025 salaries so Section 4 and a reference to a previous ordinance number isn't needed. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Mason to Amend. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas. AMENDED.

President Dishman asks Gibson what he thinks about this and the materials Crist presented tonight. City Council Attorney Dan Gibson addressed this in his summary that was provided to the Council over the weekend. Some of the changes have been made in the proposed amendments he will go over here shortly. Some of the other things he doesn't really have an opinion on one way or the other. They are not legally required as Council to make those changes for this to be enforceable but if they are substantive changes the Council wants to make then, by all means, they are permitted to do so.

Councilperson Selvey is going to let the public state their comments but after everyone has spoken, she would like to suggest to send this to the Government Affairs Standing Committee of City Council. She is a co-sponsor of the ordinance and would like for that Committee to make the final decision, if agreeable with the rest of Council.

Councilperson Gullion, also a co-sponsor of this ordinance, advises she is not against that per se but feels like there has been plenty of time. The Ethics Advisory Committee has been really transparent and open while working on putting this together for months. She is aware some of these questions came up over the holiday weekend and, again, isn't against sending it to Committee but is a little disappointed they can't just go ahead and pass this tonight.

Selvey agrees with it being very thorough but this is just her decision to send it to the Government Affairs Committee. It is no reflection on the members of the Ethics Advisory Committee but it just seems they have varying differences of opinion. They, as the City Council, are in charge of that and she would be comfortable going by the recommendation of the Government Affairs Committee.

Basham is asking if Selvey is suggesting to Table this for a month. Selvey states yes, she recommends sending this to the Government Affairs Committee and letting them make that decision. She doesn't want to put a time frame on it because the Chair of the Committee will have to set a date and time for the meeting. Gibson instructs they don't have to put a time limit on it but it would be the appropriate procedural mechanism to Table and forward to the Government Administration Committee. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Basham to Table and Forward to the Government Administration Committee. A roll call vote showed 3 yeas (Selvey, Basham, Green) and 6 nays (Powell, Gullion, Garrett, McIntosh, Mason, Dishman). MOTION DENIED.

Green thinks this is too important to make a mistake and he is concerned about that. He wants to make sure they get it right for all the employees, officials and elected officials. He doesn't want them to have a problem and asks if they can still send this off with the new amendments/changes that been made to get the verification, as Councilperson Selvey has asked, to see where we stand to make sure we don't have to make more changes to that. Can that be done? Gullion asks for clarification. Selvey states it is too late. Gibson informs they can send a matter to Standing Committee even if it's been adopted and they are considering changes. Green confirms they can do that and still get input on what it is because he is aware AIM has worked with all the other cities that have these ethics ordinances put forth. It is his recommending to let AIM have it but that is just his opinion. Again, he wants to ensure they do it right and doesn't want to have to make changes and go back and forth when claiming it can be done right the first time. The Ethics Advisory Committee worked too hard on this to mess it up now and he just doesn't want anything to be wrong with it. That is how he feels and he wants it go forward.

Attorney Gibson states he believes the concerns raised by AIM have all been addressed or determined to be not necessary changes. Once he recommends the amendments previously sent to Council over the weekend then the other items are suggestions from the administration's Legal Counsel and not directly coming from AIM. They are just items that the City Administration would like to see. They can obviously still send this to AIM and nothing prevents Council from considering amendments in the future. He just wanted to make sure that was clear.

Selvey directs her questions to Legal Counsel and asks, in their opinion and in communication with the City Attorney, if he believes their points are valid from a legal standpoint and if he sees why they would want to send it to AIM. What is his professional opinion? He is their guide here. Attorney Gibson believes all of AIM's concerns have been addressed or determined by the two attorneys (Gibson and Crist) not to be necessary to fix. He alludes that what Crist passed out also included suggestions from the Administration that did not directly come from AIM. Selvey questions how he feels about those changes from the Administration. Gibson has provided his thoughts on those and at the end of the day does not think they are necessary for this to be a legal and enforceable

just doesn't work and that is kind of what was happening with the city which is why this all come about. Nothing was on the books and we all know the history of Muncie and how we got here without it. If we don't understand where we are coming from, we don't know where we are going. She makes the comment it being months since they finished this and is floored by some of the proposed changes they are wanting to implement. Today was the first time she saw those changes and she was one of the founding committee members that initially voted on this. If it is changed within the three months then it is no longer the same document she voted on and will not be happy about that either. This is her first time serving on a board and it has been very interesting to say the least. In closing, she thanks them for listening.

Jeff Robinson recalls speaking about this last month encouraging the Council to vote in favor of this ordinance and still stands firmly in support of this as well. He also wants to remind them that AIM is simply the Association of Indiana Municipalities. It is simply there to advise municipalities on a wide range of things but is not a member of state government. With that, putting that much weight into AIM, he thinks, is dangerous. Secondly, he believes this has been in the Administrations hands since September and it's now December. He also addresses the fact Basham, with all due respect, did not reach out to AIM's attorney until today as he mentioned himself. He also addresses those that voted to Table this and push it off, yet again, which honestly is a little concerning. He isn't sure if they didn't read or understand it but is aware that Mr. Gibson sends legal summaries prior to every meeting so is sure he briefed them on all of these potential changes and recommendations by AIM ahead of the meeting. Therefore, it's disappointing to say the least that they would try the table this and continue to kick the can down the road. When he brought forth Resolution 6-23 last April, just like Ms. Wilson, he also had concerns. Being an elected City Council member and City Council President for three years, he brought this because he had concerns. Quite frankly, it is why he ran for City Council in 2019 because he was concerned that we didn't have ethical government. This ordinance is before them tonight because it is needed. He wants to commend Mikah Wilson because it takes a ton of courage to stand against your boss, people in a city who hold some power. It takes a lot of courage to do that and even more courage to come up here after the fact and stand in support of this ethics ordinance. (They both wish he would have proposed it two years ago but better late than never.) He gives her a tremendous amount of respect and thanks her for being here tonight and for having such integrity that she would leave a job she cared about for these reasons. Again, he encourages them to vote yes. Everyone is watching. To the ones that want to vote against ethics then he wishes them all the best.

Selvey responds mentioning two things Robinson just said that bothered her. One, when he said he wasn't sure if some of the councilmembers had read it. He is wrong because some of them read it and attended several meetings so she takes offense to that. Two, when he said that everyone is watching. Well, as Councilperson Green earlier stated, they want to get it right. Referring to the comment she made earlier, this has nothing to do with the work they've done. It is just information has been received from City Legal and Legal Counsel for Council and they just want to get it right. It is not saying that it's not needed and she doesn't think anyone here would vote against it. Robinson is glad. Selvey continues explaining that Gibson does send out legal summaries and they also get documentation from the City Attorney so she just wants to make it clear that she, as a co-sponsor, has participated in conversations with Mr. Taylor and many others. She takes offense to the statement that "everyone is watching" because everyone here wants this for the City of Muncie. She, herself, would have loved for it to have gone to the Government Affairs Standing Committee even though she isn't on that committee but trusts the councilmembers that are can come back with the best recommendation. She doesn't think the criticism is fair because they are trying to do the right thing. She knows how hard Mr. Robinson has worked on this and appreciates everything he has done. She is in support of this and just wanted to make it clear because he made it seem like they don't care and are against ethics which is not true. Basham agrees. Robinson apologizes if she took offense to his question that he questioned if some of the councilmembers had read it. He apologizes as it was a rhetorical question not directed at any one specifically. His comment was "he questioned if." He fully understands, as former Council President for three years until this year, the role and the job and procedure of councilmembers and fully understands that that the suggested changes from AIM had come several weeks ago. He makes note he communicates with councilmembers and has known what was going on with this ordinance. When he said people are watching, that was just a statement of fact. The citizens of Muncie have screamed for years for ethical

problem with any of the amendments that were made tonight. He does have some concerns about some substantive changes that were proposed by the Administration and shared the one he has the most concern about because he is honestly just baffled by it. However, what the Council is passing tonight, as far as he is concerned, is fine. Green values his opinion which is why he asks.

Basham, too, wants to say thank you for the work Dr. Taylor has done along with the Ethics Advisory Committee. He assures him that the Council read through the materials including their legal summary and the edited/amended ordinance in a fairly lengthy email trail with a number of parties just yesterday afternoon. They are considering these issues as earnestly as a City Council should.

Gullion wants to mention that yes, they received those materials yesterday but when this was first brought to them as a Council, she was asked to be a co-sponsor and the City wanted another month to review it. She informs she was originally planning to bring this a month earlier but the City did ask for more time and they ultimately agreed because she thought it would be good to receive input. She admits they did push it a month to allow for that.

Mikah Wilson, again, congratulates them for their first year on Council in already doing something big. The reason she came back up to speak is to bring some clarification on the training itself. The training she adopted primarily came from the Inspector General's Office at State of Indiana. It addresses ethics from a standpoint of legal obligation which is in the Indiana Code. Ethics is pretty simple. Every single person on this Council takes an oath of office and has an obligation to that very same Indiana Code. So, why send it to a Government Affairs Committee (and she understands why Councilperson Selvey suggested that) when they are all Government Affairs experts for the entire City of Muncie? This does not belong in a subsection of the Council. It belongs exactly where it's at and that's in every single one of their plates; just as it would be in every single one of their inboxes when a citizen or employee has a concern because that is their place and role. They are the democratically elected body that is here to protect the citizens of Muncie. They serve for four years and, unfortunately, she believes it should be every two because four years is an awful long time to decide to get in trouble but we're not going to decide that with an ethics bill today, are we? She thanks them.

Aubrey Crist, City Attorney, wishes to clarify a couple of points that have been made. When the City of Muncie Legal Department looks at this ordinance, they have to look at it as if they are going to prosecute. When she looks through the language in it, she wants to ensure that when someone files complaint that she can win in court. Some of the language she can't if it fits in that scenario. With that, she wants to make sure that this is ready to go so that once the Ethics Commission is formed and they receive a complaint then she can move forward with that in court. She just wanted to clarify that being the reason behind most of this. Questions called. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 38-24 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 77 (PARKING REGULATIONS) OF THE MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made by Gullion and seconded by Powell to Introduce.

Nate Sloan, Muncie Police Chief, provides a file of materials to each councilmember consisting of the proposed ordinance, the current ordinance in place, State of Indiana home rule definitions and a previous ordinance passed by Council regarding the parking chapter in the Code of Ordinances. He is accompanied by Parking Enforcement Officer Darrin Clark who is the lead officer for the Parking Division. All of these ordinances are either already illegal or were already enforced previously. They are all safety related offenses such as parking too close to a fire hydrant, parking too far out from the curb, parking too close to public or private driveways, parking against the flow of traffic, parking too close to a crosswalk, parking too close to an intersection, etc. It is basically a lot of language cleanup. To write state codes, you have to cite the registered owner of the vehicle. That isn't what MPD does, instead, citing the vehicle itself because there is a defense if you're citing the registered owner of the vehicle when they might not have been the one driving it and ultimately the one that committed the parking violation. So having our own ordinances here slightly different from the state code allows the department to keep

ORD. 42-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-5 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BV VARIETY BUSINESS ZONE FOR 4000 BLK N. MORRISON RD., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

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

Kathy Vannice, Ashton Land Surveyors, was here last month to have this parcel annexed into the City of Muncie and would now like to switch the zoning from the R-5 to Business Variety. That is the south adjoining zoning to this property. What this is doing this is expanding the properties from the northwest corner of Bethel and Morrison (617 ft to the north of that) and it is making it from R5 to the variety business so they can develop that area. Questions called. Julie Mason confirms the location since she lives in this area. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas. INTRODUCED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Julie Mason, former member of Bridges Community Service Board of Directors, explains they no longer exist as of the end of October 2024. At this time, the Board of Directors for Bridges Community Service would like to thank the Muncie Management Company for purchasing all the rental property as well as the Muncie Mission which purchased all of the Bridges campus properties which include small homes, administrative offices and three (3) shelters. They thank First Merchants Bank and various businesses, such as Jackson's Plumbing, for assisting and being patient during the times they didn't have the funds. Of the disbursed funds received from selling the properties legally, they gave over \$18,000 to A Better Way, the Muncie Mission, the Nonprofit Support Network and the YWCA and gave approximately \$15,000 to the Ivy Tech Community College Foundation to establish scholarships for culinary students. She explains the reason they decided to give back to the Ivy Tech Culinary School was because nutritional healthy food was provided to all the homeless people during the time of their existence. To everyone who helped, thank you. The Board of Directors succeeded in accomplishing to sell the properties and end her statement by recalling how the Bridges Community Services Board Directors was a good name in the community.

Joseph Romero is the founder of The Shepherds Heart and Hands which is a public charity here in Muncie. He recalls their annual Christmas event had over 300 homeless people show up. They had to open the main sanctuary just to keep the waiting area clear so that people can come in to the Warming Center (which is open for those unaware). Romero works with Ball State University to pick-up food every day to help feed the community. They do a food box ministry on Tuesdays because he has found out there is a lot of shut-ins. The Christmas event went really well and many agencies were involved. The Muncie Housing Authority was there because something new is about to go on in the neighborhood and he will touch more on that in a moment. He wanted anyone there that could help get some of these people off the street because the homeless camps are being moved again. They provided the tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks filled with toiletries along with other nonprofits that were available to help. A biker group did a fundraiser to help them obtain a lot of these things. Keep in mind, Romero is a small little fry out here in this city and depends on the community. An example of that consists of the Amazon wish list they put together so that residents of Muncie can go online and order backpacks and toiletries and that was how they were able to bless all these people. It's a collaborative effort with us and the City of Muncie working together. Praise God for that. Going back to the tents, they have a list of people asking for them. His policy with tents is to verify that the person is really living in a homeless camp because tents are expensive and he doesn't want these people selling them off for drugs. They just want to verify that the people getting what is being dished out is really needed. Last year, they went through it with the Muncie Inn with the biggest issue there was giving those people just 10 days to move out. The same problem is occurring now but with the biggest camp in Muncie, nicknamed Tent City, being given 10 days to move along with a few other camps. The big camp has been there for over two (2) years. He is asking for prayers, help, and whoever has the power to give an extension to please do so. He has been able to raise the volunteers and committees to move a lot of these people. When referring to these "camps," a lot of people picture a man or a few people living in a tent, but no. These are large established camps

reading a letter that was sent out and noticed the land was donated in 2002 or something like that so read in between the lines and assumed something caused this. Mason has residents that live right across from it who have reached out to him being fearful of something happening to their residence. He would really like to see something in the lines of a real shelter. Romero can produce a n accommodation that is similar to what many call an RV Park and has already been done by many cities. An RV Park is like a tiny home community supervised by trained individuals (such as himself) that know how to supervise people such as this (because they all have their different issues and not all are capable of holding a job like a normal person). He tells people we shouldn't leave anyone behind. It is all about having the right infrastructure in place. A lot of people focus on the housing alone but that is just one part of it. You got to have the counseling, the jobs and it has to be tailored toward these individuals. He has the privilege of getting to know them intimately when they come to the Warming Center and can see the hang-ups upon interviewing them. He can tell what is mentally, legally, spiritually, emotionally going on that is keeping them on the street. Some of them are stuck, having obtained a flat tire on their journey and just never got it fixed. He preaches about that all the time telling people to do the work to get yourself back on the road of life. In that particular area, a few people will be okay because there was somebody who received some finances but there's still a lot of people that won't be okay. As far as an area, he is very interested in finding out about the land on the other side of Broadway and would love to lease that land if it is not a preserve but he doesn't know. He could put in some tiny homes and build a privacy fence along the back with a community kitchen and work with sanitation to have all the bells and whistles in place so there is no trash and proper supervision. And, it would be drug free! It doesn't happen overnight. It takes a team of people but working with organizations, like Teen Challenge where there is a 86% success rate, then he knows all the bells and whistles to help these individuals. Plus, you have to have staff on the property as well. A lot of people have done it throughout the United States and it is starting to get more common. A tiny home is one way to do it but group homes are his preferred way. If he can find any 3-bedroom or 4-bedroom homes and turn them into a Women's Home or a Men's Home ran with supervision then it can work very well. There are so many categories of homes because some of the homeless people are seniors. For example, he knows a women named Letha is sure that she and her five dogs aren't going to go to the shelter. President Dishman requests Romero get with Councilperson Mason after the meeting to further discuss the matter.

WaTasha Barnes Griffin, Chief Executive Officer for YWCA, states one of their programs is the Emergency Shelter Program. To piggyback off Mr. Romero's comments, thanks to Bridges closing there is a consortium of homeless providers in our community such as the YWCA, A Better Way Services, Muncie Mission, Christian Ministries, the Center Township Trustee, Community Development partnering with them along with Open Door Health. Their consortium meets every Monday to talk about these issues. For the winter, we also have warming stations and all of our shelters and programs have spaces for people who may not be able to necessarily live in congregate shelter but can come in and get warm. They will provide support. There are also plans to create a new permanent supportive housing opportunity. The YWCA is the coordinated entry lead for our region (District #6) that covers Delaware County. Frank Baldwin is the Continuous Care Chair for the region so they are responsible for ensuring that everybody that's homeless in region #6, specifically Delaware County, have places to go. They also understand that there are a lot of individuals who don't like systems and structure and don't want to be in shelters but still want to work with those outreach folks to help them. In real time, there is a list of individuals so their doors are staying open to support women and the men that need places. Being real, she admits there are some harder to house and some who are unsafe to put in congregate living and that does need to be figured out. She just wants people to know that there is a continue of care and housing consortium and people within the community who have those grants and funds. There are benefits from Bridges and the City of Muncie so it is working and anybody that need support please don't hesitate to reach out. People can reach out to YWCA, A Better Way, Muncie Mission, Christian Ministries, the Center Township Trustee's Office, Open Door and they will help. They have to prioritize homelessness in our community as they are getting funds for it so will help in any way they can. Councilperson Mason asks if there is any possibility for a partnership with Mr. Romero. Barnes Griffin replies absolutely there are opportunities to partner and all it takes is the start of a conversation. There are people structured and traditional shelter programs will help and there are those who won't. But it's cold outside. Just