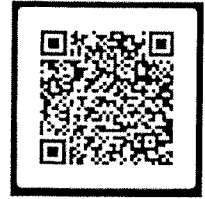


MINUTES
MUNCIE COMMON COUNCIL
300 NORTH HIGH STREET
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305



APRIL 7, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING: 6:45 P.M., 1ST FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

ORD. 13-25 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF A CERTAIN PUBLIC ALLEY AT 2619 WEST ETHEL AVENUE IN THE CITY OF MUNCIE, DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA.

David Karnes, Dennis, Wenger & Abrell P.C., is here representing the petitioner, Robert Huddleston, on a petition to vacate the alley. They are requesting vacation of the unimproved portion of the alley running behind the previous houses (on Ethel) but have since been torn down. It is an open area at this point. Mr. Huddleston owns the Tillotson Plaza which is the entire area behind it so actually both sides of the alley. There is no one located on either side and if it gets vacated it would just go with that property. No further public comments. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Garrett to adjourn the Public Hearing and reconvene at 7:00 PM for the Regular Meeting. ADJOURNED.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Mason.

INVOCATION: Given by Pastor Robert Scaife with Union Missionary Baptist Church.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilperson Selvey stated David Robbins, affectionally known as “Coach Dave” in the Thomas Park Avondale neighborhood, is a cornerstone of community engagement, youth development, and grassroot leadership. A native of the Shed Town neighborhood, Dave’s roots run deep in the community he now serves with tireless dedication. Since joining the Ross Community Center team in 2021 (initially helping with maintenance) his unwavering work ethic and passion for people quickly elevated him to the role of Sports Coordinator. In this position, he not only oversees a range of athletic programs but also becomes a mentor, role model and advocate for countless youth and families in the area. Coach Dave is far more than a title. It’s a name spoken with admiration and gratitude by children and adults alike. He coaches baseball, football, basketball, and soccer, ensuring there are always opportunities for kids to stay active, build teamwork skills, and develop self-confidence. The Ross Center’s sports programs would likely have disappeared without his leadership but continues to thrive because of him. He does not just coach. He creates a nurturing space where kids feel valued, safe, and inspired to grow. Whether on the field, in the gym, or walking in the neighborhood, Coach Dave is a constant presence, a steady force, and a listening ear. Beyond his work with youth sports, Dave serves as the President of the Thomas Park Avondale Neighborhood Association, helping to organize monthly community meetings and lead improvement initiatives. He listens intently to the concerns of residents and works diligently to implement meaningful change. His leadership is rooted in humility and action, making him a trusted voice in neighborhood development. David’s contributions also extend to vital community support programs. He plays a key role in the Ross Center’s bi-weekly Market Days, where fresh produce, meats, pantry staples, and hygiene items are distributed to residents in need. His selflessness is evident in every task he undertakes, no matter how big or small. He steps up, not for praise, but out of a sincere love for his community and a deep commitment to its well-being. Coach Dave is, according to his friend and business owner Mike Martin, the glue that holds his corner of the community together. His impact cannot be overstated and without him many essential programs would falter. With him, they flourish. David Robbins is a shining example of what it means to lead with heart, serve with purpose, and lift others through consistency, compassion, and care. As a councilwoman and community advocate,

Clara mentors a handful of kids on the southside and met David a little over a year ago with the kids she works with. She got to see him in action at the Ross Center and couldn't say it any better. Every conversation with David is very inspiring and this award is very well deserving and long overdue. A community youth member named Tony expressed the impact David made on him coaching him and teaching him life skills. David appreciates everything and everybody. He mentioned the community neighborhoods and everybody coming together. Hopefully this is a good start of all of us working together and collaborating to make everything in Muncie better. One thing at a time, one step at a time, one day at a time, and we will get o where we need to be.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Dale Basham (At-Large 1)	X	
Ro Selvey (At-Large 2)	X	
William McIntosh (At-Large 3)	X	
Jeff Green (District #1)	X	
Nora Powell (District #2)	X	
Brandon Garrett (District #3)	X	
Sara Gullion (District #4)	X	
Jerry Dishman (District #5)	X	
Harold Mason (District #6)	X	
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Dan Gibson (Legal Counsel)	X	

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilman Green wanted to comment on the Muncie Central High School winter drumline, also known as the winter percussion, recently achieving 1st place finish at the state championship. This is the second state title for Tom Crist, the first state title for Muncie Central. They have never excelled to this point before in the winter drumline which allows the band to have a step up when it comes to marching this summer. Good things are happening for Muncie. A lot of it has to do with the dedication and commitment of the young people. We are very thankful for them. There were a few times where of Mr. Crist was down with sickness and the kids chose to have practice on their own. They did and showed their dedication and commitment. At state finals, one young man became ill and his mother wanted to take him out and to the doctor to be looked at but he told her he can't and had to perform first. Those kids are really committed and we appreciate their dedication. It is something that should be an honor for us to be able to look and reflect upon that if we work together then we can accomplish many things. Tonight's Citizen of the Month Award showed that as well.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion was made by McIntosh and seconded by Garrett to Adopt the Minutes from the March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MINUTES APPROVED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: President Mason wishes to announce his report from the 911 Board in May.

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 7-25 AN ORDINANCE FOR TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (POLICE/FIRE)

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

Tanya Pearson stated she is here to oppose ord. 7-25. She explained she works with the homeless and addicted population and is an addict and alcoholic in recovery for 18 years, attributing her recovery to federal

funding and non-profit organizations. She was a homeless addict for about 6 years and is now a Professor at Ball State University. She argued that the proposed transfer of \$500,000 from the opioid settlement fund to salary increases for Police and Fire Departments would be an additional 5% increase on top of the previous year's 10% raises. Pearson respectfully requested that the Council wait until the Opioid Advisory Committee is established before voting on this first transfer. From being homeless to detox to rehab to a halfway house to a sober house, she was also the recipient of a local non-profit organization's funding. This non-profit found her housing, a job and encouraged her to pursue her education. Her Muncie community members suffer from substance abuse disorders themselves or have seen family members suffer and die. She emphasized that sobriety is only the first step and the money should be invested in recovery and harm reduction centers as well as long-term aftercare programs focusing on rehabilitation, education, job training, and housing stipends. She stated that the homeless and addicted community want opportunities to work and contribute and suggested there were millions of better ways to spend the initial allotment, urging the Council to reconsider the ordinance until the Advisory Committee is formed.

Jason Chafin, President of Muncie Firefighters Local #1348, is here to support ord. 7-25. He mentioned that during negotiations with both the firefighters and the FOP, the extent of their service on the front lines of the opioid battle was discussed, noting they respond to well over 300 overdose calls. He emphasized their proficiency in handling these calls, often arriving to find individuals not breathing but are walking and talking by the time they leave. Chafin stated that these funds played a key role in successfully ending their negotiations and argued that appropriating some of these funds to the front-line responders was appropriate. While not against an Advisory Committee for the long-term use of the 20-year settlement funds, he supported the immediate passage of ord. 7-25 to honor the negotiated agreement.

Sarah Vitali clarified that her views were her own and not her employer's. She asked the Council to Table ord. 7-25. While acknowledging the importance of competitive salaries for Police and Fire personnel, she argued that \$500,000 would not significantly improve their competitiveness and would only cover a short period. More importantly, she contended that using opioid settlement funds for salaries goes against the spirit of the settlement which aims to help communities devastated by substance use disorder. We are receiving these funds because citizens of Muncie and Delaware County have had their lives torn apart by substance abuse disorder. In many cases, a huge percentage of this is due to big pharma and they have been held accountable. People need to see that money directly helping this communities. She highlighted Delaware County's high ranking in drug overdose fatalities (3rd out of 92 counties). She also noted the prevalence of poverty and trauma, arguing that the funds are desperately needed for harm reduction and the promised crisis center. Vitali asserted that the funding should respond to the communities who need it most. 30% of our residents live in poverty and we are one of the least healthy counties in Indiana. Young people and adults in our community are suffering from a high prevalence of ACES (adverse childhood effects). Recently, the Indiana Youth Survey surveyed 7th graders in Delaware County Schools and one noteworthy statistic is that 30% of 7th graders reported having a parent who spent time in jail. These children are suffering from trauma and what is more is we don't have the services to meet that trauma. We are 42nd out of 50 states for high prevalence of mental illness and substance abuse disorder and lack of access to care. Indiana is behind. Delaware County is behind.

Daisy Dale considers that 75% of our budget already goes towards public safety, we already gave a higher raise to Police last year, this wouldn't make any major difference to how the opioid crisis has affected Muncie. The fact that we are even thinking about passing this ordinance is inhumane but the main point here is that Dan Ridenour should use other funding to give these pay raises to Police and Fire. Even though \$2 million was cut from the General Fund last year for the sole purpose of giving negotiating power to these groups, Ridenour has tried convincing them that the budget cuts prevent them from increasing their salaries. He did this while also spending the last two years trying to break apart the City Employee's Union and pushing councilmembers out of negotiation meetings. Who cares that this is an unrestricted part of the funding considering how dire the situation in Muncie really is. Over the year, we are going to continue getting less and less state and federal funding and we shouldn't be using money over and over again for public safety.

Robert Miller stated that the purpose of the funds was clear and focused on the fiscal concern. He argued that using these funds for raises would create a \$500,000 hole in next year's budget that would need to be filled. He

questioned the source of this future funding, suggesting the 18-year settlement fund could be targeted. He also raised concerns about who would be on the Advisory Committee and what would prevent from looting the fund to cover budget shortfalls created by this decision.

Matt Wagley, Deputy City Controller, pointed out that the \$526,072.77 represented less than a third of the amount appropriated for opioid addiction treatment that year, with \$1,138,450.01 allocated directly to treatment. He stated that negotiations with the Police and Fire Unions were based on this funding, and if the funding was not available, the contracts could not be paid. He warned that the Mayor might have to declare an economic emergency and break the contracts, asking the unions to renegotiate for less.

Craig Wright, City Controller, clarified that Mayor Ridenour had sent out a funding proposal on February 24th, which split the unrestricted opioid funding, allocating \$263,000 each for Police and Fire, with the remainder coming from savings from three eliminated positions (Deputy Mayor, Deputy Controller and Communications Director).

Councilperson Powell stated she had reviewed res. 7-25 (FOP) and res. 8-25 (Firefighters #1348) and neither indicated that the contracts were contingent on the adoption of ord. 7-25. She repeated this to Wright's assertion about the necessity of the funds for the contracts. That is information that Council should have been made aware of. Wright responded stating they'll use this unrestricted opioid money for one year then next year look at funding moving forward.

Councilperson Gullion followed up on Powell's comment, stating that councilmembers were not involved in the negotiations and had no idea the raises were intended to come from these funds. Both Wagley and Wright mention that Councilperson Basham attended those meetings.

Councilperson Basham mentioned he attended only as the representative from both sides. He did not participate in a way that was intrusive being there only to listen (and report back). Wagley insists the contracts weren't contingent on these particular funds but if they don't have the funds then they won't be able to pay for the contract.

Powell clarified that the Administration negotiated with money they did not have. Wagley insists they negotiated with money the Council appropriated for this year's budget which was the opioid money. Powell questions the line item which Wagley responds 140-19-439006 opioid unrestricted. The funds were appropriated and they thought this was a reasonable expenditure of them since these were the two departments most effected by the opioid epidemic. Powell confirmed that the money was appropriated into the budget but is not designated as appropriated into the Police and Fire budgets. Wagley stated that is correct.

Gullion raised the issue of finding an additional \$650,000 in EDIT funds recently. She questioned whether EDIT dollars could be used for salaries, as the opioid distribution was argued to be a reasonable use due to the departments being most affected by the opioid epidemic. Wagley insists that refers to economic development and doesn't think that applies to this as the opioid distribution, he believes, does.

Powell questioned if EDIT dollars are being used for any other salary. Wagley confirmed that EDIT dollars were being used for the salaries of the positions cut by the Council. It was not, however, done for this reason. The Mayor still wanted to fund two positions that the Council had cut from EDIT funds so that made the funds in EDIT available. He reiterated the Administration's belief that opioid distribution funds were a reasonable source for the Police and Fire Departments' raises due to their impact from the opioid epidemic. Powell clarified again that Wagley had said that EDIT dollars cannot be used for salaries because it is economic development but she wanted to point out that EDIT dollars *are* being used for salaries.

Joseph Souza, a Ball State University senior political science major, stated his opposition to ord. 7-25 calling it a gross misuse of public funds against the spirit of the settlement. While supporting public safety interventions, he argued that they only respond to the crisis, not the root causes of addiction. He reiterated that three-quarters of funds already go to public safety and suggested investing in addiction and recovery services like Muncie Folk Collective or Recovery Café would better support public safety in the long run. He also noted the sick irony of giving police officers who arrest people for drug offenses kickbacks with opioid settlement money.

Ryan Mills, a Muncie resident, expressed his opposition to ord. 7-25, feeling the \$526,000 could be better allocated towards opioid rehabilitation to benefit the community, given the devastating effects of the epidemic in East Central Indiana.

Brandon Qualls, President of FOP Lodge #87, addressed the conversation around recent raises, stating that the Muncie Police Department's pay is 103rd in the state among departments in the 77 Pension Fund, despite being the 12th largest city. He emphasized their lack of competitiveness, leading to staffing issues and reduced service to the community. He countered the "kickback" accusation, stating they save lives and actively work to combat drug dealing, which requires adequate staffing. Delaware County is also leading the state in the number of deaths resulting in death cases leaving a large impact on the community. If they don't have the staff to staff the Department it is only going to be harder and harder to do that. He acknowledged the Fire Department's role in helping individuals with addiction.

Councilperson Garrett questioned whether every officer leaving was doing so for better pay, to which Qualls believes four or five officers had been lost since January, primarily due to better pay and lower call volumes in other agencies. Madison County Sheriff's Department just received a huge raise over the next three to four years and their salary will blow ours out of the water. Garrett says he has family members that have battled addiction for years and praises the Fire Department for helping one of his family members back in 2001.

Councilperson McIntosh questioned if the reason officers were leaving was honestly for better pay. Qualls replied no and mentioned he said that at the last meeting. McIntosh just wanted clarification for the public's sake. Qualls confirmed that while it was a leading cause, it was not the only reason and that lower call volume was another reason.

Councilperson Basham followed up on the issue of Madison County recruiting officers and the attractiveness of transferring departments within the 77 Pension Fund, where service time carries over. Qualls confirmed they were all competing for a limited pool of applicants and that transferring within the pension system was attractive. Basham closes stating we need to keep our people.

Holly Juip, a community advocate, expressed feeling intimidated by the Police Department's implication of reduced response if they didn't receive another raise after six months. She argued that the average income in Muncie (\$44,000) necessitates working within their means and potentially reimagining crisis response. She questioned the impact of \$500,000 across the Police and Fire Departments and doubted it would significantly improve recruitment or retention. She criticized the Mayor for negotiating contracts without Council approval of the funding source and advocated for using the opioid funds for community treatment, noting that even officers arrested for drugs receive treatment through their union contracts.

Elisabeth Edgell found it preposterous to prioritize funding the policing agent over those with addiction. She questioned the effectiveness of the current approach, referencing past arrests of police officers. She argued that the community and neighborhoods are struggling and questioned how long the opioid fund had been available and whether it was becoming a rollover EDIT fund. She called for adherence to proper procedures and policies.

Dr. Sally Archer Jones, a LSW (licensed social worker) with the Muncie Police, along with Ashley Snyder, a MSW (master of social work) working toward her clinical licensure, clarified that the Police Department had hired then as two full-time social workers. They have been working since June 2024 and their salaries are covered by opioid dollars. She countered the idea of this being a "kickback," emphasizing that these are licensed professionals helping the community. She highlighted the demanding nature of law enforcement work and the emotional toll it takes. They have done everything from helping families secure guardianship for troubled adult children, working to clean up encampments for unhoused individuals and to find housing for them where appropriate. They provide comfort and support to families in crisis as police investigate the death of their loved ones and provide harm reduction as well as Narcan as appropriate and prophylactically. She emphasizes their role in real-time response with officers, aiming to provide resources and reduce officer time on social service issues. She highlighted her and Snyder's education, licensure, and experience and noted the surprising volume and complexity of their calls and the trauma officers face daily. Snyder continued to explain they understand there are limited resources and that everyone has demands. Together, they are working to help that. Some examples include: assisting individuals get the monthly Invega shots to help with their ongoing substance abuse issues,

transport individuals, respond with officers to overdose calls and help get these people into rehabs. They know they are limited but are working daily to get this community where it needs to be with the resources it deserves. Not providing appropriately for law enforcement would affect their ability to respond and continue to serve the community. The officers are balancing a very difficult job while also raising their own families and having other responsibilities. She has seen officers give death notifications to families and then break down. Officers having to explain the death of children because of tragic accidents. These officers are amazing and work tirelessly daily. The least we, as citizens and a community, can do is provide appropriate wage to help compensate the work they do. An investment in our law enforcement is a direct investment in our community. As Deputy Chief Deegan's numbers are going to show the multiple issues our community is facing and without the police to address these issues, we will not be able to attract these individuals to Muncie, maintain current citizens housing prices, or increase the quality of life. She stated that she and the other social worker had responded to approximately 700 calls since June 2024.

Gullion stated they all appreciate what the Police do. She was happy to hear they hired social workers and thinks that is a great use of some of these funds. She clarified that the social workers' funding is from a state grant side of the opioid dollars, different from the funds being discussed. Dr. Jones confirmed a portion is, but a majority is opioid dollars. Chief Deegan agrees from the audience.

Garrett asked for a breakdown of how many of the 700 social worker calls were opioid-related. Snyder explained a good amount of time was spent getting those numbers and Deputy Chief Degan would address that later. Garrett just wondered if it is over or under half. Deegan, from the audience, answers around half of the 700 calls were opioid-related. Dr. Jones adds that it is difficult to say half is from overdoses because these social problems have a level of complexity. It is not just an opioid case, it might be an opioid case with homelessness and mental health issues or physical health issues, or inability to get housing. As part of the individual's autonomy, they refuse to participate in the services that are provided. They are trying to fill gaps and provide care wherever they can while respecting what the individual wants. Garrett thanked her for her honesty.

Mary Beth Lambert, a resident and business owner, spoke of her frequent interactions with individuals overdosing in her neighborhood and her admiration for the Police and Fire Departments' immediate crisis response. She also praised the hiring of social workers. As a business owner struggling to find and retain employees due to addiction issues, she emphasized the need for more resources for both individuals and employers. She asked the Council to Table the ordinance to allow more time to understand the use of all available funds, both unrestricted and restricted. Drawing on her experience with city bonds, she questioned the sustainability of creating raises without a clear long-term funding plan. She reiterated Muncie's history of not maintaining initiatives and believes Police and Fire deserve to be paid more but emphasizes the need for logical funding.

Bernice Graham, a resident of the Whitely neighborhood and first-time Council meeting attendee, expressed confusion stating it seemed like the community was being pitted against Police and Fire, which she believed was not the intention. As a nurse, she values the Police and Fire departments but argued that the opioid settlement money should be used for its intended purpose of addressing opioid problems. She feels the issue is pitting the community against public safety and suggested that reducing opioid issues would, in turn, reduce the burden on first responders. She suggests funding for social workers, which she understands is the plan. While believing Police and Fire deserve raises, she felt the City needed to find alternative funding sources without using dedicated funds.

Wayne Scaife asked for clarification on whether approving the raises using opioid money would create a budget hole the following year. The answer is yes, eventually. He noted the recent cut of three city positions due to budget constraints. Powell believes Mayor Ridenour last month said they would not be using opioid monies for raises the following year so that is a question for him. Scaife emphasized that the issue was the source of the money, not whether Police deserved a raise. He acknowledged no one is against Police raises but the issue is the funding source. He questioned the high number of social worker calls, implying they were likely all opioid-related. He also questioned the recent expenditure of \$650,000 on an empty building, suggesting that money could have been used differently. He admitted to being upset at the previous meeting due to misinformation and reiterated his stance that the opioid money should be used for its intended purpose. He believes recruitment and retention issues

are not solely about money. In closing, he asked for confirmation that the \$500,000 was unrestricted money and inquired about the planned use of the \$1.1 million in the restrictive fund.

Powell clarified that the Council had already voted 9-0 to approve the Police and Fire contracts, which included a 5% raise, emphasizing that the current debate was about the funding source of that raise. She stated that disparaging remarks suggesting "kickbacks" were unwarranted and reiterated support for Police and Fire. She expressed frustration with the lack of transparency regarding the contingency of the raises on the opioid funds.

Grant Godwin emphasizes the need for politicians to find solutions that benefit both officials and residents, noting the division and chaos caused by the current situation.

Chris Deegan, Deputy Police Chief, stated that the matter before the Council was the use of unrestricted opioid funds, already appropriated, to be transferred to help compensate Police and Fire salaries as the "first line of defense" in the opioid crisis. He highlighted that every police officer carries Narcan, first-aid, and other life-saving supplies. He argued that understaffing strains public safety agencies in their ability to deliver timely services and believes the crucial principle is to maintain market competitiveness to avoid losing officers. He provided data from the past twelve months, citing over 300 direct overdose responses and 161 "man down" investigations related to overdose activity or drug use, leading to 27 death investigations. He emphasized the Department's collaborative work with social workers, detectives, investigators, and the Prosecutor's Office. He agreed with the need for community services, highlighting the Administration's creation of a social services program, but stressed that public safety staffing needed to be maintained. This funding will help maintain staffing to deal with the problem. He acknowledged the decades-long nature of the drug problem and the need for continued discussion and solutions and believes maintaining staffing in public safety is foundational to addressing the problem.

Councilperson Selvey clarified that 35% of the opioid settlement funds (around \$900,000 this year) are for restricted use and must be used for opioid remediation efforts such as treatment, prevention, education as outlined in the settlement. There *is* money that this settlement has dictated. The state is allowing the other 15% of the unrestricted funds to be used without restriction. She noted that only 80% of Indiana municipalities have started using these funds. The remaining 15% of unrestricted funds allows municipalities flexibility based on their needs. She believes first responders are essential in battling the addiction epidemic. Muncie is one of the first municipalities trying to shape what will eventually be paid for with the unrestricted. She refers to res. 11-25 up for discussion later that'll bring more debate and planning to this situation. She, personally, is on the fence about this ordinance for this year, acknowledging the need for salaries but also wanting more social worker involvement. Deputy Chief Deegan addressed her question about training, stating their continuing education platform was pretty robust, exceeding state requirements with annual training in CPR, AED, first responder, and Narcan administration. Much of their training is state-mandated.

Gullion reiterates that Police and Fire are supported for a raise but the Council also has to think about the rest of our citizens. Deputy Chief Deegan agrees. Gullion adds there was mention of the decades worth of drugs that have made it difficult for the Police Department to do their job. The point of this is due to the entire state being so ravaged leading big pharma companies to settle this once in a lifetime opportunity. We are never going to see something like this again. Yes, it goes until 2038 but each year the municipalities get a little bit less. At some point, they will have to really focus on the prevention so the Police aren't having to deal with so much. She questions the funding source, emphasizing the significant impact of the opioid crisis. Deputy Chief Deegan agreed that prevention efforts are obviously important but noted the immediate need to maintain a fully staffed first line of defense while addressing long-term solutions with the remaining funds.

Bernice Graham, again, uses an analogy about a fence and an ambulance emphasizing the need for prevention rather than just responding to overdoses. Imagine a house at the top of a cliff... would you rather install a fence at the top to keep your kids from falling, or, an have ambulance at the bottom for when they do fall? We want to do the prevention and not come and scoop them up off the ground after going "splat."

President Mason agreed, citing research that the primary effort of these funds should be prevention and long-term investments. Emphasis should be on supporting children, youth, families, making long-term investments and effective programs and strategies to change our communities.

Neil Kring, Pastor, acknowledged the difficulty of managing money and public safety. He highlighted the burden on community care due to a lack of funding for treatment, detox, and outreach. He praised the social workers' presence. He detailed the significant need in his neighborhood, Thomas Park Avondale, with high rates of opioid use disorder, fentanyl deaths, and involvement with DCS and the justice system. So many people have drug felonies that are struggling to navigate, get jobs and access services. Fentanyl is killing neighbors. He noted that community members, including drug users, are actively administering Narcan. They distribute anywhere between 1,000 and 1,500 doses of Narcan a month to Muncie community members to use to reverse overdoses. This is in addition to all the people that Police and Fire are administering Narcan to as well. He agreed with the need for help but stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of why so many people are struggling. He requested the creation of opportunities to alleviate the burdens of Muncie residents through the use of these funds, believing that was the intention. Substance use disorder is a disease and not just for the individuals who face it but a disease on our community. We have waited way too long to come up with positive solutions to address on why so many neighbors are falling into the river. We need new solutions. This money could be used for more outreach workers, social workers, expanding some of the current services that need expanding, expand medically assisted treatments (which have been proven effective for people specifically struggling with opioid abuse disorder), etc. Police and Fire need to be paid but there is a heavy weight on our community right now and it is a heavy, heavy weight. We could do things like create housing, recovery services, and put more outreach workers into the community to build relationships with not only people who want to get better but with the people who are stuck in the cycles one finds themselves in when they start using drugs.

5 MINUTE RECESS

Jeremy Reese expressed sympathy for everyone involved such as Council making decisions, those dealing with addiction, those fighting for funding for addiction services, and those fighting for Police/Fire raises. He felt the situation was presented in a way that pitted people against each other. He suggested it doesn't have to be "either/or" but "both/and." He then recommended to Table the ordinance for a month to allow the Mayor to find another way to fund the raises, avoiding the conflict.

Holly Juip, again, reiterated the high number of calls for help and the need for more treatment, care, and housing options. She wasn't surprised to hear they took 700 calls knowing how many calls outreach organizations receive from people needing help with nowhere to go. She reiterated her points from earlier about needing world-class care and attracting people. She envisions a safer community leading to a larger tax base and better wages for first responders, but cautions against relying solely on opioid funds for raises.

Natalie Jones, student at Ivy Tech, opposes using opioid relief money for raises, advocating for more investment in outreach services, housing, and treatment. While she agrees there is need for officers, she echoes others that the money is for opioid relief. She cites treatment as the leading cause of recovery and a healthier community.

Dr. Lynn Woody, (retired physician and community advocate) acknowledged the need for competitive salaries for Police and Fire for community safety. Having worked with police deputy chiefs on various projects, including bringing in a social worker intern, she recognized officers were spending time on issues social workers could handle. Police and Fire are so busy – they need raises and competitive salaries. Not telling the Council how to do it, just to make it happen. There are amazing police programs and outreach. They don't need a quick fix rather than long-term support. She spent recent years volunteering with addiction issues and can say that addiction is a continuous stream that requires continued services such as recovery housing, treatment, MAT, and peer recovery. She warned if services are dropped then the problem will worsen. In closing, she emphasized the continuous nature of addiction issues and the need for ongoing services like a crisis center and recovery housing.

Audie Barber criticized the fact that the crisis center is still not open despite \$1.4 million spent. He mentioned money spent on other buildings (\$1.8M facility next door, \$650k old bakery). He stated he doesn't have a problem with Police or Fire getting raises if the money is available. He addressed the burnout argument, stating no amount of money will keep them from being burned out. He suggested using money from the Fire Department's

\$4 million surplus account (if it exists) or more EDIT money for raises instead of spending EDIT on other buildings. Last month he warned that if Council voted to approve contracts without knowing where the money would come from. He believes Council needs to get their finances ("ducks") in a row before voting. In closing, he advocated for the opioid money to be spent on the crisis center instead.

Powell seeks clarification from City Controller Craig Wright or Deputy Controller Matt Wagley regarding the claim of an economic crisis if the ordinance fails and the plan for next year's budget if the raises funded by opioid money create a hole. Wright insists they would look at it next year, anticipating a 3.5% revenue increase (\$1.2M to \$1.5M). Powell reiterated her frustration and disappointment that the Administration negotiated a contract and allowed the Council to vote on it without telling them it was contingent upon those opioid funds being appropriated. Wagley argues the opioid funds have been appropriated. Powell clarified without *this* additional appropriation being adopted. Wagley continues referring it to the appropriations the Council approved. Powell, again, stated the Administration negotiated a contract and allowed the Council to vote on it last month without telling Council that without adopting ord. 7-25 it would send us into economic crisis. Both sides are very deserving. The Polcie should not have to get up and argue why they deserve 5% because they do. And the Community should not have to plead their case for prevention services. She has had numerous emails from people within her district (and Garrett's District #3) on why these funds should be used for prevention. Again, the Council is in a horrible position where they have to chose between two very worthy causes. Shame on the Administration for putting the Council in this position. Wagley clarified that 68.4% of the \$1,664,523.28 (which is \$1,138,450.51) is dedicated strictly to the treatment of opioid addiction. Powell advised that clarifying the restricted funds doesn't address her point of not telling the Council last month that if they didn't adopt this ordinance that it would throw the City into economic crisis. She feels it was a lack of transparency on his part and very unfair to the Council to put them in this position.

Gullion echoes Powell's frustration about the lack of transparency and the fact that Council was not informed during negotiations (despite asking for representation who would share info) that opioid funds were the intended source for the raises.

A motion was made by Gullion and seconded by Powell to Table (for the Administration to figure out how they are going to obtain the money to make up the opioid fund). A roll call vote showed 4 yeas (Powell, Gullion, McIntosh, Mason) and 5 nays (Selvey, Garrett, Basham, Green, Dishman). Motion to Table is DENIED. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 5 yeas (Selvey, Garrett, Green, Basham, Dishman) and 4 nays (Powell, McIntosh, Gullion, Mason). ADOPTED. Both Powell and McIntosh express apologies to the Police Department for their vote. Powell relays to the audience voter turnout means the ordinance passed, which is also a good thing.

ORD. 8-25 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-4 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BV VARIETY BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 2810 W. ETHEL AVE., MUNCIE, IN 47304.

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

David Karnes, Dennis, Wenger & Abrell P.C., is the attorney representing Mike Lunsford with regard to a request to change the zoning from the R-4 Residence Zone to the BV Variety Business on this premises. This building, which has always been commercial, has been there since 1966 and Mr. Lunsford has owned it since 1999. Exactly when the zoning was put in place he is not entirely sure how it was made residential. There is an adjacent building to the north that is identical consisting of 9 commercial units that have always been commercial since construction. He is just here to request approval to make the zoning essentially what it should have been to start with in a Business Zone opposed to the Residential.

Councilperson Gullion confirmed businesses are located there and it is not being used as residential. Karnes responds no, none of them have been residential. They consist of small business shops, Symphony Orchestra, and a host of other businesses.

Councilperson Garrett doesn't believe it has ever been zoned residential. Karnes confirmed it has always been commercial. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 11-25 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE MUNCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2025.

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

Dan Gibson, Council Attorney, recalled discussion last month on Sec. 3 containing a typo reading this takes effect January 5, 2024 which needs to be amended to 2025. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Basham to Amend. A vote by acclamation vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. AMENDED. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Gullion to Adopt as Amended. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ORD. 12-25 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE MUNCIE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2025.

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Powell to Adopt. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays.

ADOPTED.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 13-25 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF A CERTAIN PUBLIC ALLEY AT 2619 WEST ETHEL AVENUE IN THE CITY OF MUNCIE, DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA.

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

David Karnes, Dennis, Wenger & Abrell P.C., is the attorney representing (Bob) Huddleston in this matter. He briefly spoke at the Public Hearing and relayed Mr. Huddleston has owned the Tillotson Plaza for about 35 years and has acquired the properties to the north which has been torn down. There's been an unimproved alley between those that essentially is just grass and they initially thought it was part of the residential area when they bought it but then found out it was not. This is just requesting that unimproved portion of the alley between his 2 properties be vacated.

Councilperson Dishman apologized for the lengthy discussion Mr. Karnes had to wait through before getting to his item on the agenda. He insists if he knew that discussion was going to take that long he would have requested to rearrange the agenda. Karnes understands it being a very worthy cause and that Council obviously has a very difficult job and his clients have been enlightened by the process tonight. Dishman recalled going out to look at the property and everything looks okay to him. Questions called. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

ORD. 14-25 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-4 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BV VARIETY BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 1300 BLK E. CENTENNIAL AVE., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

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

Ken Hudson, Executive Director for the Whitely Community Council, is here to answer any questions. This property is being redeveloped for a Central Resource Center on the eastside and points to the portion of the rezone on an illustration he provided. The zoning code dictates they have to have a certain number of parking spaces in this redevelopment and without rezoning the eastside of the property to add more parking spaces it cannot be done. That is what they are looking to do.

Councilperson Garrett asked if this rezone has slowed the process down. Hudson responded not at this moment because they are not at the point where they are laying concrete or digging. But it is better to have this done now than thirty days before they are supposed to sign the contracts. Garrett thanked him.

Councilperson Gullion confirmed this passed through the Planning Commission. Hudson replied yes, it passed unanimously. Garrett thanked her for bringing that up, the 7-0 vote via Planning Commission.

Councilperson Selvey requested he provide a quick presentation of what is going on here. Hudson advises he will give his elevator pitch. The neighborhood association owns a property at 128 E. Centennial at the corner of MLK and Centennial that is being redeveloped into a space where residents can receive different services that will help move them from one state of life to a more prosperous state of life. The goal here is to provide a wraparound list of services that will holistically help individuals improve their quality of life such as healthcare, housing

support, financial literacy programs, credit repair programs, mentoring program, etc. There is even outdoor venue space along with public and private space for people to actually lease to put on public and private events. It will give the community a space where they can hold functions and won't have to leave the community to hold that function. The only thing that won't happen in this location is sports and recreation but it will do everything essentially that a community center would do. Questions called. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Green to Suspend the Rules to consider adoption. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. RULES SUSPENDED. A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Garrett to Adopt. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 15-25 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-3 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BV VARIETY BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 3300 N. MILTON ST., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

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

A representative of Net Lease Properties stated they are looking to rezone the location to Variety Business to construct a 7 Brew Coffee shop on the corner of W. McGalliard and N. Milton Street. President Mason confirmed a similar coffee shop located on Tillotson so will now have two locations in Muncie.

Councilperson Selvey noted that 3307 and 3308 are two houses. She is aware the rezone is supposed to include a buffer and wanted some explanation. Other than their due diligence in placing notices in the newspaper, she questioned if efforts have been made to contact those homeowners. Net Lease responds only being aware of the letters but he, specifically, has not made contact with them. Selvey is less worried about 3307 than 3308 and shows him where they are on the map. Regarding the buffers, he explained the intent is to have landscaped buffers and, if need be, could also install a privacy fence along that north edge. They will follow any type of municipal code to make it go. They want to be consistent with the buffers to the adjoining residential properties (referring to Valvoline) and follow those similar type of buffers. Selvey is aware it received a favorable recommendation but had concerns about 3307 after looking at a picture of it in the summer with vegetation. She is worried about wintertime so suggested they think about it a privacy fence before coming back next month.

Additionally, Councilperson Gullion would also like more information about the traffic pattern because the 7 Brew on Tillotson is quite busy every morning and you hate to see people backed up out into the street, especially a neighborhood here. Questions called. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

ORD. 16-25 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 33-24 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 Selvey and seconded by Green to Introduce.

Audie Barber asked if this ordinance provided the previously forfeited raise for councilmembers. Councilperson Powell responds no. President Mason believes they are making less now than what they were initially. Barber questions if their budget was cut. Quietly, numerous councilmembers answer yes.

Craig Wright, City Controller, explained this being the salary ordinance fixing the salaries for civil employees for 2025. These are going to be paid for out of the EDIT funds. Council clarification is pursued. Powell questioned if this includes the AFSCME raises and the civilian raises. Wright confirmed and stated it is \$159,000. Gullion noticed the Channel 60 Director and asks what that is. Wright replies it is the Communication Director, the one Council cut and the Administration decided to go ahead and fund out of EDIT funds (already). Gullion confirmed it is all coming from EDIT. Wright explained this ordinance just sets the salaries and it will be paid out of EDIT. For clarification, Powell stated the entire salary for Channel 60 Director is coming out of EDIT, not just the raise. Wright confirms. Councilperson McIntosh asks if this includes a new position of 'Paver' for the Street Department. Wright answered no. Garrett questioned the same. Wright advised he will have to get with the City Engineer Adam Leach for an answer to that. Powell stated if there were, it is not here within the salary ordinance and it is not in the budget so that person would not be paid. Wright referred to the salary ordinance that was presented. Questions called. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 9-25 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND COUNCIL 962 AFSCME LOCAL #3656.

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

Nate Burgess, President of AFSCME #3656, is here to answer any questions. It's been a long two years but they were finally able to get it done. Powell requested him to explain the contract (since they had asked Police and Fire to explain theirs last month) and wondered what the percentage raises were along with any concessions made to get them to that point. She appreciated their patience as AFSCME employees have showed up and done exemplary work. Burgess began by stating they received a 2% raise. They negotiated a 3% as the Mayor gave 1% at the first of the year so that would have been an additional 2% on top of it. As far as concessions, he will email the Council those details.

Councilperson McIntosh commended the AFSCME employees for hanging in there. It has been a long two years and he feels for them as the other two unions never gave up anything but AFSCME had to give up a lot in order to get things done. His heart goes out to them.

Councilperson Garrett speaks on behalf of the union members and mentioned his father being a part of the same union for a long time. Burgess recalls and claims ever since he was wet behind his ears Garrett's father was in the union. Garrett knows and respects Burgess like a brother and asks if he is happy/satisfied. Burgess states it is worth the world knowing that if something comes down the pipe now that he can file a grievance and it *has* to be answered. Garrett questioned any previously filed grievances. Burgess stated all those have to be dropped. Garrett was just curious. He then thanked him because if it wasn't for AFSCME, the roads won't get paved, piers at the reservoir won't get put in, fields wouldn't get weed-eaten or mowed, etc. Police and Fire are appreciated too but when driving our throughfares throughout the city and people come in to visit, picking up trash all up and down McGalliard – that is all AFSCME. He commends them and recalled they were the first ones to show up for him when his father passed away. Burgess recalled his father being a good man. Garrett mentioned they consoled his mother and have always asked how she is doing. Yards are mowed and streets are paved, plowed, and salted. They do not get enough recognition and applauds them for bus and sidewalk safety acknowledging Burgess' mother spending over 30 years as a school bus driver which is incredible.

McIntosh is curious, being an ex-union person himself, if they tried to go for the 5% raises. Burgess noted they asked for more than 3%. Powell apologized it wasn't given. Burgess acknowledged you win some, you lose some. It is not exactly what they wanted but it is a step in the right direction. Powell noted the Council appreciates them. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 10-25 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE OPPOSING INDIANA SENATE BILL 1.

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

Seth Rawlings mentioned this is actually the most important thing Council will talk about tonight. It is the root cause of all the issues they faced early on and is the root cause of what happened with AFSCME. The state of Indiana is trying to cut the City of Muncie. SB1 is not completely hammered out and there's a lot of forms involved. There are forms that call for abolishing all property taxes and other forms that call for abolishing part of it while there is part of it to change the assessment process. All of them are harmful to the City of Muncie and Delaware County. They are harmful to East Central Indiana. They are harmful to almost any city in the states, especially ones that have any population of poverty. This isn't just for Council to understand, it is for everybody in the audience. It is important because you don't have a lot of this in the discussion when hearing about this bill. Everyone in the audience, from the Mayor to his Administration to the Council to the average person watching online or in the audience should call the following representatives in opposition to SB1: Representative Elizabeth Rowray, who represents Delaware County. Representative J.D. Prescott, who represents Delaware County. Representative Sue Errington, mostly representing the City of Muncie. Senator Scott Alexander should also get

calls (even though it's out of the Senate but it can always come back). Indiana is the 10th most tax-friendly state in the nation, according to the tax foundation and there's actually no competition between us and our competitive states. So, if you look at Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, we are the most tax-friendly of the areas. But what has it gotten us? Honestly... Taxes should be as low as we can have them. That is what everybody wants. But stuff needs to get paid for. Police and firefighters need to get paid. AFSCME members need to get paid. You need cops and firefighters as well as the roads to be paved. You need a lot of this stuff and with this bill it is going to make it harder to pay for stuff. He has seen three economic models of possible legislation that state is looking at. It cuts city budgets anywhere from 5% to 20%. A 20% cut to the Muncie City Budget is just astronomical and assumes we would have to fire at least ten to fifteen cops, at least. It would be the same with firefighters. There is no mathematical way to pay for it. Now, there are some proponents in the legislature who say, "well we'll cut the property taxes but let the municipalities raise their local income taxes," and that's the most cowardly part of this whole thing. That is actually something you're going to see here. The state of Indiana is advocating their responsibility to pay for essential things. What they are going to do is going to force people (like the Council) in every city and county in the entire state to make hard decisions. How are we going to pay police and firefighters? We were just fighting over \$500,000 earlier... In the future we will be fighting over \$10 million because of this bill. It is important to be unanimously against this in opposition. The Delaware County Council is in opposition of this. It is terrible for us. If you care about law enforcement and fire protection, if you care about the roads being paved, if you care about any money for economic development in the city, if you care about the parks, if you care about anything that has to do with the city, you should call the following members of the statehouse and senate and ask them to vote no. Call Representative Elizabeth Rowray who is on the House Ways and Means Committee. This is currently being heard in Committee now but got paused today as they didn't fully vote on the full legislation. You should call Representative Sue Errington who represents mostly Yorktown and a small portion of northwest Muncie. You should call Representative J.D. Prescott who represents the eastern portion of Delaware County. He is also on the Ways and Means Committee so they both have outsized impacts on this. Then you should call Senator Scott Alexander. You should call all of them in opposition and you're able to find the numbers online. Everyone should do it. Again, from the Mayor to the average person, everyone should be opposition to this and should be in opposition publicly.

Rick Yencer, newsman and author, tells the Council before they do something they might regret they might need to know that in that \$1 billion dollars the state wants to cut taxes are ways to recover the taxes. It is (kind of) like what we saw the other night in Congress until about 3:00 AM where they passed a reconciliation bill to cut \$7 trillion in spending. You're going to find out that you're going to be on the losing end either way with the state or the federal government when they cut back spending. And they will – there's nothing you can do other than try to spend what you have and do and live within your means. It's like tonight. He has sat here for over two hours and has been around here a long time and to hear, "well, we can't use EDIT money for salaries *here*, but, oh we did it there." Again, pay attention because you haven't seen the end of what the state and the federal government will do the local government and local schools so think about what you're going to do here.

Councilperson Gullion refers to the early models of this and how we were going to lose anywhere between \$300,000 to over \$2 million in just the first year. Again, as Mr. Rawlings mentioned, we don't know exactly how it is going to shake out but it is going to be somewhere in those figures. It is a lot of money and it continues to get worse after that first year.

Mary Beth Lambert claims when she goes to pay her taxes the ladies are all like "Oh here she is again" because she is probably the only person who walks in that office on an annual basis and says, "I'm not paying enough taxes." She owns her home as well as the rental next door. They are the exact same size and she received both tax bills just the other day. She pays less than \$500 for the house she lives in (exemption homestead, not a mortgage, so outright own). She has a second lot that is incorporated. The road was paved last summer for the first time in 35 years. She is sure that the less than \$500 she pays in property taxes did not pay for a quarter of what was directly in front of her house for that job. For anybody that thinks their property tax is too high then try to think about it this way; you walk out the door and you have expectations of what your city, state, and federal government are giving you. That consists of traffic lights, roads, police officers, fire, parks... We have the largest park system

per acre for a city our size in a seven-state area in the Midwest and we are the most underfunded Park Department per acre in the entire area. All of those things that you expect when you walked out the door somehow have to get paid for. She doesn't cover paving in front of her rental for what she pays for that and that's less than \$800. What does that pay for a police officer? Between her two houses, she doesn't cover one for a week. She doesn't begin to cover hardly any of the services. So, if you're at all interested in how we're going to solve this, all these people behind her and anybody else you want to talk to, property taxes can't get cut anymore. She knows the Council all know this but this has been like a mantra of her for about 20 years. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 11-25 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE ESTABLISHING AN OPIOID FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by McIntosh to Introduce.

Neil Kring, Pastor, stated one of the realities of the substance abuse crisis we are in is we have tried the same things over and over again but are not seeing any success. There are evidence-based solutions that exist in our world for treating opioid abuse disorder. We need to come up with both creative and evidence-based solutions to address the crisis we're in. He supports this resolution, of course, but encourages draw from the expertise in this community and from the evidence about what is actually working and then try to start doing those things. Other communities are addressing the problems of people with substance abuse disorder in very tangible real ways and we can do that as well. We have been given money that's come on the backs of so many people that have died, that are now living on the streets, families that have been torn apart, and so many people that are in prison or jail right now. That money has been given because of that and because of the recognition that this is a disorder that can be treated we can implement those sorts of treatments in our community to help to address this crisis. He encourages the Council to figure out a way to pull together the smartest people around who know what they're talking about and understand the research of what is and isn't working along with community members who are impacted by this so that those who have firsthand stories, experience, and knowledge of what is going on in our neighborhoods can come up with some real solutions. We have a great opportunity to be able to do that with this money.

Lynn Woody recently found out that what she and Mr. Kring do is called "embedded planning" where you actually go out in the community and talk to people. She spends her time in the community out at all the different neighborhoods and has learned a lot. The things you find out about communities stick with you as well as what you see and what needs to be done. You hear it from people. Her two favorite words are communication and education and we don't happen to do that very well. The first time she ever saw the City and the County get together was when she made them go to Ball State (on mutual ground) about the IRACS Program because it affected everyone. Everyone was in one room and she doesn't think that has happened since then. She doesn't know how they would even consider not having an advisory board of people who are very knowledgeable about addiction but as well as people in the community who need to be involved. You don't need a huge group because that doesn't function well but to chart a course and never have follow-up... there are things going on in the community that get started then nobody knows what is going on. This hand is doing something different than that hand. She has worked with the County on the rehab unit and took around twenty people to five different places looking at crisis centers throughout the state. There are people that want to be involved that are knowledgeable and to say "we hope for the best" is nowhere near good enough. You have to have people who are on top of things to make decisions or suggestions but to also do follow-up and see what happens with those things. There have been comments about the crisis center and she doesn't speak to anything she doesn't know is trust and cannot say but thinks about people that are speaking just don't know because it really hasn't been disseminated. We need people to do planning and follow-up and advise because that is what they are there for. Please don't make it random. Have someone take this money and use it for what it needs to be used for so we can cover all these bases and not losing people along the way.

Audie Barber tells the Council they can pass all the resolutions they want but until they enact on them and follow through with them it doesn't mean a thing. It means nothing. They've spent the opioid money for this year so might as well Table this until next year because it doesn't mean anything. It isn't even worth the paper it is written on because we don't have the money and it is just something to pacify the people in the neighborhoods.

Carolyn Neil is a social work student and one thing the evidence is showing that is that 30% of the community buy in is needed. So, they need the local people and 30% of those people making the decisions about their own community as opposed to people coming in and saying this is what you need. We need at least that 30% of community members on that advisory board in addition to research and professional assessments.

Councilperson Gullion recalled working with Mr. Kring and Jean Marie Place, Director of Community Research & Administration with Addictions Coalition of Delaware County on this resolution and thanked them for all their input. This contains a list of specific categories for the people that will be on this. The whole point is to have local people who are experts that know what Muncie needs to fight this. She is sorry the Administration is no longer present at the meeting because they are to be involved and she hopes they will be. Again, this is an Advisory Committee and at the end the Mayor has final say. That is the point of it that we will get the local buy-in and figure out what Muncie itself needs.

Councilperson Powell thanked everyone involved in this. Muncie has been hit very hard with addiction and it is in all of our families. She just wanted to thank them.

Gullion added this is something that the Attorney General's Office, who is in charge of this, recommended. They encouraged municipalities and counties use some kind of Committee like this so they are just following guidelines at this point. President Mason questioned if it is required. Gullion replied it is not required but strongly recommended.

Councilperson Selvey thanked Councilperson Gullion for sponsoring and helping author this. She thinks it is great and another opportunity for us as a community to take control and not fight over opioid money. Hopefully this will be a healing point for that 15% and 35% and give the Committee some direction. That way, they aren't showing favoritism towards Police or Fire being deserving. She thinks this will be a positive thing that glues everything and brings everyone back together. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays.
ADOPTED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Curtis Westbrook is here to ask a question but first wants to frame some key points of discussion. The question he plans to ask should be answered by citizens of the community. When he was growing up here in Muncie, there were two things they could count on in the summertime: summer jobs and summer recreation. The City of Muncie used to have three centers. They have since closed those three centers as well as the South Madison Center and the center we were supposed to get with the Hope VI Grant never came to fruition. Unsure if anyone has noticed or if it just isn't that important but school athletics in Muncie has degraded and it's only going down. We need a community center for that reason and also due to losing a generation of kids because we can get them. The churches aren't doing it and the neighborhood associations and special interest groups aren't getting it done. We need a City-run, City-owned, City-funded Community Center. People mention the YMCA but even when there were three community centers in Muncie the Y was being underutilized then too. There are enough kids to go around. The YMCA is private and costs money that some people can't afford. The way he looks at it is we can afford it a City because we've got Ball State University, Ball Foundation, Ivy Tech, EDIT tax funds, Community foundations, etc. we have all sorts of money and funds but we need to put our money where our kids are. Summer employment... if money makes a difference in a household, these kids working for three or four hours a day for three months over the summer means more money coming into the household which helps tremendously. The community center would be a part of that but the way to pay for a community center is through Ball State, Ivy Tech, and Community foundations. To all the people that say that have an interest in kids let's do this. Also, he would like to know how, if, or what it takes to have a referendum for the community to vote whether or not we want to designate our tax dollars for a new community center. It doesn't have to be brand new and suggests revamping the old Y downtown or some type of building already standing. We need a community center. The people should be able to vote on whether or not we want new tax dollars or to designate tax dollars that we already are getting to that community center. He earlier mentioned having entities like Ball State and Ivy Tech that have an interest in kids so let's put our money where our kids are if we're really serious about it.

Attorney Dan Gibson isn't sure that's possible but can certainly look into it. President Mason mentioned discussions with the Mayor where he mentioned the use of EDIT dollars to do this center. Then, he has heard from fellow council people that he's also committed, at one time, opioid funds. Mason insisted he has never heard the Mayor say anything about opioid funds and that it has always been EDIT dollars every time he has spoken to him. Westbrook adds that, personally, he doesn't think it is the responsibility of churches, neighborhood associations, special interest groups, etc. to recreate in public. He thinks we as citizens have that responsibility to recreate our public. The YMCA is private and costs money but designating our tax dollars to do that would take care of a lot of those situations.

Councilperson McIntosh tells Mr. Westbrook since he didn't attend the meeting last month that the Mayor previously stated on record that he was going to look into the EDIT fund dollars to try to do something with this youth center. He knows personally that this Council is going to hold him to his words.

Councilperson Garrett recalled just spending two and a half hours discussing the opioid epidemic. What Mr. Westbrook is speaking about is the number one thing that will cut down on that epidemic. He recalled graduating with Mr. Westbrook's son, Todd, and remembers him being there through 6th grade to senior year of football with Coach Paul. He knows numerous kids that came from single family households where Mr. Westbrook, personally, had an impact on. The impact in sports is very underutilized. The impact in a good coach from a single-family household is very underutilized. It is super underutilized that so many people have no idea. Garrett grew up attending the Ross Center and there was a man named Bird Kissick that was there every day and knew what group you were to hang out with and what group you weren't to hang out with and would tell you every day. He saved numerous kids. Those community centers are about the number one thing that's most important to Garrett as a councilperson. It all starts at home and he believes a community center is a home in your neighborhood where you're comfortable. That is number one mentorship that can cut down on everything from the ground up. It is more than athletics. Going back to the Citizen of the Month Award from earlier in the evening, Westbrook assured we could have so many more of those individuals if we just had a community center. He isn't afraid of our kids, we just need a place to corral them.

Mary Beth Lambert encourages the Council to reach the constitution and do a little research to learn how the Park Department is supposed to be set up as a Park District and everything would drastically change because what is the difference between a department and a district? Muncie Sanitary District... Who has money? Who doesn't have money? According to the state constitution, it is supposed to be a park district. She would also like to talk to Council about having the Street Department put two or three much needed signs up down at the south turnabout south of Canan Commons where the right-headed lane headed south on High Street (going past the hotel) must turn right. If you're coming up Walnut Street on the right-hand lane going into the curb to go behind Canan Commons, you must turn right. As an individual who lives south of downtown, works in downtown and takes care of the park, she assures there at least 250 near misses at that roundabout. That isn't even all the ones they witness while working in the park or the actual accidents. Yes, there are arrows on the street but if they were to just put signs up which, according to state law, they should have a signs up about a block and a half back that say "right lane must turn right" but those aren't there. As a daughter of a driver's ed teacher, please put the signs up!

Audie Barber appreciates the Council but claims it is a problem when they are up there on their cell phones while people are addressing them here at their meetings. He would like to see an ordinance brought forth enforcing the Council to not play on their phones while conducting business. He is aware his kids and grandchildren in school aren't allowed to be on their phones while they're doing business so would appreciate the respect to stay off their cell phones please. The Council is letting the City Administration walk all over them. The Council was lied to several times tonight. A gentleman was standing up here saying he didn't know anything about a new paver person... his answer to that is his answer to everything anybody ever asks him is that he 'will get back with them'. Yet, we still go ahead and vote for what he is wanting before he can have a chance to get back to the Council on it. They have to slow this Administration down. He is talking about Councilperson Basham, too, claiming he doesn't hardly say anything. He represents as a stamp-man for the Mayor and needs to reach down, feel for his backbone

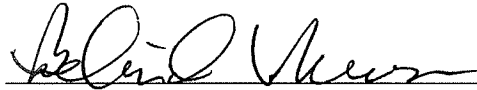
and stand up to this nonsense that is going on in this City. It is not right. If the Council asks a question they are told "oh, I'll have to get with Adam on that and will get back to you on that." He guarantees if he didn't bring it up then the Controller wouldn't have gotten back to any one of the councilmembers. He is sure he won't get back in touch with Council before the next meeting. He isn't sure if it is true but thinks that is probably what is happening. He does the same thing at the Board of Works meetings and they just stamp it and pass it. Keep that in mind because the public is asking the Council to do their job for them. It is an issue when they stand up here at the podium with the Council going against them and they still vote.

ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by McIntosh and seconded by Powell to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADJOURNED.



Harold D. Mason, President of the
Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council