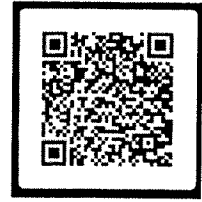


RECONVENED MEETING MINUTES
MUNCIE COMMON COUNCIL
300 NORTH HIGH STREET
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305



OCTOBER 16, 2025 (reconvened from OCTOBER 6, 2025)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Harold Mason.

INVOCATION: Given by Councilperson Jeff Green followed by a Moment of Silence for Todd Moore.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
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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	
Dan Gibson (Legal Counsel)	X	

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 32-25 AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (PROPOSED 2026 MUNCIE SANITARY DISTRICT BUDGET).

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

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Basham to Amend (to include all forms that were filed after deadline). A roll call vote showed 9 yeas, 0 nays. AMENDED.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Gullion to Adopt As Amended.

Deanna Cox, Financial Manager for Muncie Sanitary District, was present to answer questions. She confirmed that 3% raises were included in this budget for MSD. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas, 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ORD. 31-25 AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (PROPOSED 2026 MUNCIE INDIANA TRANSIT SYSTEM BUDGET).

A motion was made by Basham and seconded by Selvey to Adopt As Amended.

Amanda Price, General Manager for MITS, was present to answer questions. She confirmed that 3% raises were included in this budget for MITS. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas, 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ORD. 30-25 AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES (PROPOSED 2026 MUNCIE CIVIL BUDGET).

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Green to Adopt As Amended.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by McIntosh to Amend based on 3 reductions suggested by Department Heads; Controller Overtime (reduction of \$48,000 – proposed amount was \$53,352 and the preferred total is \$5,352/reason: error), Local Road and Streets Other Services & Charges (reduction of \$1,000,000 – new total is \$0/reason: duplicate), Local Road and Streets Capital Projects (reduction of \$500,000 – new total is \$0/reason: duplicate).

Powell explained the Finance Committee agreed upon the 3 reductions but Councilperson Selvey questioned that statement. Powell clarified they were *suggested* by the Department Heads as reductions during the Finance Committee meetings. A roll call vote showed 7 yeas, 2 nays (Basham, Green). Motion Carried. AMENDED.

A motion was made by Gullion and seconded by Powell to Amend and remove the \$62,670 Deputy Controller line item (#101-04-411013) for a new total of \$0 and the \$52,342 Communications/Channel 60 Director line item (#101-22-411162) for a new total of \$0. A roll call vote showed 4 yeas (Powell, McIntosh, Gullion, Mason), 5 nays (Garrett, Dishman, Selvey, Green, Basham). Defeated. MOTION DENIED.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by McIntosh to Amend and eliminate the 4% raises exclusively for Department Heads. A list of proposed reductions for specific Department Head positions was provided (Police and Fire raises were excluded due to Union protection). Department Heads received 21% raises in the past 4 years and this can help free up money in the General Fund. A roll call vote showed 4 yeas (Gullion, Powell, McIntosh, Mason), 5 nays (Garrett, Dishman, Selvey, Green, Basham). Defeated. MOTION DENIED.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Selvey to Amend and eliminate the City Council raises, stating they would not ask employees to do anything they wouldn't expect of themselves. The proposed amount was \$135,308 and the amended total would be \$130,104 (reduction of \$5,204). A roll call vote showed 9 yeas, 0 nays. Motion Carried. AMENDED.

A motion was made by Green and seconded by Basham to Amend and remove the \$51,100 Civil Rights EEOC Investigator line item (#101-18-411049) for a new total of \$0. Green explained one individual has run that office for a year and a half which suggests the position is redundant.

Powell voiced concern about changing the makeup of the Human Rights office without input from the Director of the Human Rights Commission/Commission members themselves who are not present to make that recommendation. This action is reckless.

Selvey stated she has discussed the issue with some Board members and noted they are hiring a new Director and working on changing job descriptions, potentially incorporating the investigation position into the Human Rights Director's role. She affirmed that Human Rights Commissioners have investigative rights and noted housing complaints must now go straight to the state for investigation.

Gullion agrees with Powell and thinks it is irresponsible to cut this position without any insight from the Department or Board it represents. Basham asked Selvey if she is aware how long the position has gone unfilled. Selvey replied at least a year and half.

Cameron Grubbs criticized the motion and called it sickening to eliminate a position that helps people with civil rights when other protections are being lost. He pointed out that the Council is voting to cut a \$51,100 position that actually helps people when they just voted against removing \$178,000 in positions that were added back into the budget after being defunded the previous year.

Powell asked for clarification on the one-and-a-half-year vacancy, questioning whether the person was simply off on verified or excused reasons versus the position being entirely unfilled. Selvey confirmed the

position has been unfilled for over a year. Powell still believes the more responsible option would be to consult with the Department and/or Board before making a decision to reduce their funding.

It was clarified that the Investigator position deals specifically with housing discrimination (EEO housing), while the Human Rights Director handles everything else.

Wayne Scaife, a former member of the Human Rights Commission, claims that just because the position went unfilled for a year and a half that doesn't mean it became a burden on the Director. He referred to the multiple Police Chiefs this Administration has in place and how those positions were added. Positions were added that the City had gone without, yet, here we are wanting to take away positions the City had gone without. It just doesn't make any sense.

Patty Goddard, Human Resources, confirmed the position has been vacant for more than a year a half, closer to 2 years. She confirmed there were multiple denied requests by the Human Rights Commission and the Executive Director to post the position. She also confirmed that a 4-member subcommittee she met with expressed the intent to eliminate the EEOC Investigator role, though no final decision has been made by the full Human Rights Commission (who met the following Monday). She noted the job description for the Investigator has not been updated since the early 2000s.

5-MINUTE RECESS (due to technical difficulties with the livestream/sound)

The meeting is called back to order and apologies are provided for the technical difficulties.

Janna Oliver, back on the topic of the Human Rights Investigator position, noted the difficulty in drawing and training a qualified person for the position that that the former employee has retired.

Cameron Grubbs expressed concern over the lack of accessible budget information for the Council and the public. He criticized the lack of transparency regarding employee insurance coverage and noted that the General Fund balance is projected to drop from \$1.6 million (June 2025) to \$432,000 (end of 2026), indicating the need to use savings.

Powell stated that using savings to pay bills is not sound financial management and that the budget is not sustainable. It will require using \$1.2 million of the General Fund savings. When you're paying your bills with your savings, you're not making good financial decisions.

Dan Ridenour, Mayor, directly addressed Councilperson Powell's assertion that the proposed 2026 budget was unsustainable because it required using \$1.2 million of the General Fund savings. He called the claim that there would be a deficit of \$1.2 million inaccurate. The Mayor provided four (4) specific financial rebuttals, arguing that the true financial situation, when all expected revenues are accounted for, results in a projected \$1.974 million surplus, not a deficit. He stated that \$526,072 in unrestricted opioid funds had not been moved to the General Fund by June 30th and were therefore not included in the numbers used by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) or in the August budget submission. He confirmed documentation exists showing this transfer has since been completed, covering over \$500,000 dollars of the alleged deficit. He accused Powell of conveniently failing to include the planned use of \$900,000 in Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) funds, which the Administration plans to use to shore up this budget. He noted that adding the EDIT and Opioid funds alone turns the minus \$1.2 million into a plus \$300,000. (The Mayor later confirmed that he is required by statute to submit an EDIT budget plan every year to the Clerk's office.) The current year's interest income budget was conservatively set at \$400,000, down from \$500,000 the previous year. However, the city has already generated over \$400,000 through September and anticipate an additional \$222,000 beyond the budgeted amount. The Local Income Tax (LIT) income is also trending higher (budgeted \$6.5 million, predicting an additional \$300,000). The Mayor defended his Administration's overall financial management, specifically addressing the General Fund's reduction from the \$2.9 million balance when he took office. He admitted the General Fund balance was spent down, but

emphasized that when he took office on January 1, 2020, the Street Fund had a negative balance of \$1,937,869. The state required this money to be paid back to continue receiving state funding, and his Administration paid it. The administration also paid over \$1.8 million for claims and lawsuits stemming from actions that occurred *before* his Administration, specifically between 2015 and 2017. Despite these payouts, the City's cash flow balance is growing. He provided end-of-year balances: \$163,019 (2022), \$367,958 (2023), and \$762,000 (2024; significantly higher than Powell's estimate of \$191,811 for that year). He noted that Powell's past estimates have been inaccurate, citing her 2025 budget estimate for the operating balance (\$191,811) which was off by half a million dollars compared to the actual figure (\$762,801). He pointed out that Powell was the Finance Chair when the Street Fund was negative and voted for those measures that led to the deficit and confirmed the current Street Fund balance is \$213,000. The Mayor stated that the City should be working as a team and provided examples of how he felt the Administration had shown respect and teamwork. He recalled that when Councilperson Powell made an addition mistake on the 2025 budget, she asked the Administration to fix it, and they corrected the error and made employees whole quietly and internally, treating her like a teammate without public fanfare or shaming. He detailed conversations and a meeting with Councilperson Mason regarding Highland Avenue improvements, which he subsequently funded because it made sense and they are teammates. The Administration holds monthly meetings with three (3) councilmembers on a rotating basis to provide information. Mayor Ridenour stated that Councilperson Powell has never attended one of these meetings. Powell mentions she attended on December 19th. Mayor Ridenour noted that she has attended less than two meetings, while other members of both parties attended five of seven opportunities. He criticized Powell for sending her budget questions via email at 9:30 P.M. and then not treating them like teammates, by posting the questions on social media at 10:44 P.M. before the Administration had time to respond. He emphasized that it was decided if she was going to handle things publicly, they would respond publicly. He concluded by urging Councilperson Powell to attend the monthly meetings, stating that the Administration is tired of it and that her estimates are often not accurate.

Powell countered the Mayor's claims and insisted the information she posted was based entirely on official Administration documents such as DLGF documents that the Controller provided. She reiterated this point, stating her information was verified through our DLGF field rep. Questions called.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Gullion to allow public comment after questions have been called. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas, 1 nay (Selvey). Motion Carried. PUBLIC COMMENT ALLOWED.

Charlize Jamison criticized the Administration for presenting contradictory financial data such as losing \$1.5 million from SB1, changing insurance allegedly to save \$1 million (though proof was never fully provided), yet funding previously defunded positions and issuing raises. She encouraged a no vote on this budget.

Kristopher Bilbrey defended Councilperson Powell and questions Councilperson Dishman and Garrett for voting differently this year to fund positions they have voted to defund last year. Dishman explained he changed his mind because he saw the positive work being done by the individuals in those positions (Amber Greene and Matt Wagley).

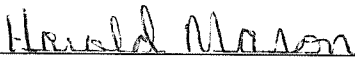
Wayne Scaife recalled a time when Powell (serving on the Finance Committee) went against her own party on the budget for that year and that action cost her an election. Based on his history, one thing he can say about her is that she is fair attests she isn't playing politics.

A roll call vote showed 5 yeas (Selvey, Dishman, Garrett, Basham, Green), 4 nays (Gullion, McIntosh, Powell, Mason). Motion Carried. AMENDED.

A motion was made by Basham and seconded by Selvey to Adopt As Amended. A roll call vote showed 6 yeas (Basham, Green, Dishman, Garrett, Selvey, Gullion), 3 nays (McIntosh, Powell, Mason). Motion Carried. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ADJOURNED:

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



Harold D. Mason, President of the
Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council

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