

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** 6:30 P.M., 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Ralph Smith	X (Via Zoom)	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Brandon Garrett	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Anitra Davis	X	

ORD. 5-21 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO EDIT FUNDS.

No public comment. A motion is made by Clark and seconded by Polk to Adjourn the Public Hearing. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. President Robinson declares the Council will reconvene at 7:00 for the Regular Meeting. PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED.

**REGULAR MEETING:** 7:00 P.M., 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Councilman Ingram.

**INVOCATION:** Given by Pastor Chris Black from the Memorial Baptist Church.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:** Councilman Ingram welcomes and thanks everyone for being here this evening. What is heroism? Oxford Dictionary defines it simply as “great bravery” but Ingram thinks there is a lot more to it than that. Bravery does play a huge part but it also consists of great courage, valor and putting others first, even when it puts yourself at risk. The healthcare workers at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital display every one of those traits daily. The year 2020 was a year like no other when the deadly Coronavirus threatened our nation and community, changing it forever. Since the first suspected case of COVID-19 on March 19, 2020, the heroes at Ball Memorial Hospital have treated over 1,200 cases with over 12 departments caring directly for COVID patients. Every department from Housekeeping to Office Personnel and the Medical Teams deserve our recognition and our thanks. It is with great respect and appreciation for Ingram to present the healthcare heroes at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital the Citizen of the Month award for March of 2021.

Kevin Bockus, Director of Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy, assumes since he the Preacher, he was elected to speak on behalf of all the healthcare workers. He thanks the Council for recognizing all the team members at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital as Citizens of the Month. They recognize that it has been a difficult year for everyone and an especially difficult year for those of us in the healthcare field. Dealing with COVID-19 bought many challenges that we never dreamed we would have to face. In this past year, we have experienced the agony of defeat more than we have the thrill of victory. We have questioned our purpose, our love for our professions and our callings. We have thought about quitting more than we would like to admit but we have a great team that made caring for and loving people, no matter the cost, the most important thing in life. We have families that have loved us despite our grumpiness, long hours, grief, shock and tears. We have a community that prayed with us, provided meals, called us heroes, donated funds, sent letters and cards of encouragement and gratitude, cried with us and showed patience as we forged our way through the unknown. All the support helped keep the main thing just that, the main thing. Kevin wishes to say thank you to the community for coming alongside them, standing behind them and helping them serve each member of the community. From all of the team members at IU Health and Ball Memorial Hospital, thank you for recognizing our contributions, work and for naming us Citizens of the Month.

On behalf of the entire City Council, Councilman Ingram was honored to be asked to recognize 3 of Muncie's local firemen which all have received a Citation of Heroism. First, Firefighter Edward Eviston, with 2 years of service of the Muncie Fire Department, is an Emergency Medical Technician. His father is also a firefighter and assigned to the same Rescue on another shift. Second, Firefighter Bryan Cook with 4 years of service on the Muncie Fire Department is a Technician in Rope Structural Collapse and Dive Rescue and an is also an Emergency Technician. Lastly, Lt. Scott Hahn with 21 years of service on the Muncie Fire Department with 5 years As Rescue Lieutenant, the Technician in every Rescue discipline (Rope, Fine Spaces, Swift Water, Vehicle, Machinery, Trench, Dive Rescue, Service Rescue and Structural Collapse). Lt. Hahn is the primary instructor for Emergency Medical Technician and is responsible for training almost all of the EMT's on the Muncie Fire Department. He is Fire Officer 1 and 2 Certified and Instructor 2 and 3 Laboratory Coordinator Chemist at BSU Cooper Science on his days off shift.

All three men, Firefighter Edward Eviston, Firefighter Bryan Cook and Lt. Scott Hahn of the Muncie Fire Department, exceptionally distinguished themselves in locating and removing of a viable victim from a burning residence at 1621 W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street Muncie, Indiana on February 15, 2021 at 23:35 hours (military time). All 3 were assigned to Recue #1 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Upon arrival on scene of a working structure fire, they reported directly to the incident commander where he was advised and suspected entrapment of 3 individuals. Lt. Hahn was tasked to take his crew and conduct a primary search while also overseeing interior operations. Lt. Hahn immediately entered the structure with Firefighter Eviston, Firefighter Cook and Firefighter Dulaney on suppression. The primary search team lead by Lt. Hahn quickly conducted a search locating 3 individuals in a zero visibility and hostile environment. Three victims were each removed from the structure utilizing 2-men carries. Frequently during the search, the team was out in front of the attack-line with no protection for themselves from the fire. Within 10 minutes of Rescue #1s arrival, 2 individuals had been removed from the structure and packaged in EMS Paramedic care. The dedication to the mission of Firefighter

Eviston, Firefighter Cook and Lt. Hahn and their impressive resourcefulness ensured the success of rescuing the victim from further harm. Their bravery and professionalism is with keeping the highest traditions of fire service and reflects great credit upon himself, their company and the Muncie Fire Department.

Lt. Scot Hahn expresses how much they appreciate the honor. It was a fire that, unfortunately, 2 individuals did lose their life. He adds that the department cannot do it alone and that it is not just the 3 men standing here tonight. There was probably 30 firefighters working that fire, including the Muncie Police Department, which were instrumental in helping the fire department remove the victims from the fire recalling police officers actually carried one of the victims to the ambulance once the firefighters got the person out the door. There was other people on the job, including the Paramedics and the ambulance workers that contributed. President Robinsons thanks all those recognized this evening and adds that they are very proud of our emergency personnel, firefighters and police department.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Ralph Smith	X (Via Zoom)	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Brandon Garrett	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Anitra Davis	X	

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** A motion is made by Polk (no second) to Amend the Minutes from February 1, 2021 on page 9, under Boards and Commissions to add Councilwoman Selvey as the Councilperson who made the motion to appoint Jim Lowe to the Muncie Land Bank.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Approve the Amended Minutes from the February 1, 2021 meeting. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays.

MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:** Yvonne Thompson, Director of the Muncie Human Rights Commission, explains the Commission partners with many different community agencies in our City, one being the Martin Luther King Dream Team. In February, we celebrated Black History Month and the Martin Luther King Dream team had a Black History Month Celebration the first Saturday of the month. An essay contest was held consisting of winners from different parts of our community. These students are very, very smart and aware of what is going on, not just in our community but also around the world.

Thompson introduces the Elementary School Division; Third place winner is 4<sup>th</sup> grader Mariska Bjerke from Yorktown Elementary, Second place winner is Ava Brennan from Yorktown Elementary and First place winner is 4<sup>th</sup> grader Shiloh Ramos from East Washington Academy. Shiloh is here tonight to read his winning essay.

*"IU Health is a healthcare organization that cares for people in Indiana. It is one large organization with many buildings throughout the State. The branch in Muncie is Called IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. I had the pleasure to interview Sherilynn Bennett, the Director of Quality and Safety Infection Prevention for the East Central Region. During our interview, she provided information on some of the challenges they faced as an organization, the help they have given to the Muncie Community and their employees and finally, how we, members of the community, can replicate what they have done as leaders. Once of the biggest challenges that they faced at the beginning was getting prepared for COVID-19. They started looking into what happened in China, Italy and New York and prepared for the worst-case scenario. They attribute their success to Muncie being much smaller than New York, therefore, they had time to prepare and plan accordingly for the situation. They prepared by setting up daily meetings 7 days a week, developed COVID-19 floors so they can take care of COVID-19 patients, trained staff to take care of patients on ventilators and established visitor restriction to keep extra people out of the hospital. They did that because they wanted people to stop spreading the virus. In addition, they did rapid testing so they could keep people out of isolation that were not COVID-19 positive. They treated every person tested as COVID-19 until their test results came back. Last week, the challenge that they faced was that Indiana has the highest number of positive cases in the country. Right now, the challenge is that it is hard to determine if a patient has COVID-19 or the flu because they both present some of the similar symptoms. One of the ways that IU Health has faced this challenge in order to help the community is through a virtual screening app that is very easy to use and has virtual calling as a feature. Two days after the first COVID-19 case in Indiana, IU Health had a virtual COVID screening clinic using this app. In the app, they ask you questions about the symptoms. You have to figure out what you can do like go to the doctor or go to the ER or stay home or go get a COVID-19 test. This has helped out community by preventing sicknesses to spread not by being in contact with other people. This app is unique because IU Health was the first hospital in our area that created a virtual COVID-19 screening clinic as the other hospitals were just formulating plans. IU Health had a virtual clinic app two years before COVID-19 so they just added the screening clinic to the app. IU Health was able to do this because they are innovators and developers, not followers or late adopters (Hinton Miller 2020). IU Health has also supported our community by helping their employees. For example, the hospital has contracted with the Mitchell Early Childhood Center to provide childcare support to essential employees in the event of school closures. School employees have to contact Human Resources and let them know that their child's school has been closed and that they need Mitchell Early Childhood Center to watch their children. Then, the hospital contacts Mitchell Early Childhood Center and covers the cost for the employee. Another way the hospital has helped their employees is providing scrubs and mobile showers. Some of the nurses were concerned about spreading the virus to their families through their scrubs but now the nurses use the hospital scrubs, take a shower whenever they are ready to go back home and change into the clothes that they came in. IU Health used these resources to help their employees*

*because they wanted their employees to be healthy so they could take care of the patients. Through the process of writing this essay, I have learned a lot. Not only have I learned how to research an organization and improve my essay writing, I also learned from IU Health's example. We can replicate what they are doing by having a character of excellence and resilience. We can take care of ourselves so that we can take care of others. Mrs. Bennett's take away for us is to do the right thing. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers washing hands properly and wearing a mask makes a difference. Research shows that only 5% of people wash their hands approximately. The CDC recommends to wash your hands for 20 or more seconds with soap and water. It is necessary to wear a mask properly to cover your mouth and nose. We can also learn from IU Health's example by predicting challenges, facing them early and not procrastinating. I am learning to do this in my life because my parents are teaching me not to procrastinate. I am learning to complete my homework earlier and be a good planner. I work ahead so that I will be ready for whatever we are learning in class. Another thing we can learn from IU Health's example is being kind and generous and helping people out whenever we can. The hospital doesn't have to pay for childcare, scrubs or mobile showers but they do. This helps our community by letting the employees go to work which means that there are people at the hospital to help the sick. I can also help people. I can also give my time and money to others. I can volunteer to keep the outdoors clean, pick-up trash and clean up a little bit. I don't have to do this but I do it because it is good for our community. I can also donate money to a philanthropic organization or an individual. I want to be a kind and generous leader, planner and innovator just like IU Health."*

For the Middle School Division; Third place winner is 6<sup>th</sup> grader Aaron Buehler from Yorktown Middle School, Second place winner is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Hunter Coppernoll from Delta Middle School and First place winner is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Caitlin Carter from Burriss Laboratory Middle School. Caitlin is here tonight to read her winning essay.

*"The Coronavirus Pandemic has seen Americans struggle through months of job insecurity or food insecurity and grief of losing loved ones. Our community has not been exempt and now more than ever needs to lean on our local organizations to heal. The Coronavirus is not going away anytime soon and no one can argue that we have all paid a price but fortunately, even in the dark times, we have been able to enjoy and participate in opportunities throughout our local community. For me, as a violinist, I felt thankful for the Youth Symphony Orchestras of Eastern Central Indiana, YSOECI. This organization has given me the opportunity to play my instrument during a global pandemic and being involved in my community by performing for all the people of Indiana and beyond. The YSOECI is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1964 to create a safe and familiar environment for young musicians. The organization has brought young musicians of Eastern Central Indiana together to enjoy weekly musical experiences and have the chance to experience being part of an Orchestra. For most young musicians, this organization plays an important role in their journey, whether they have an interest in music as a future career or simply wish to play recreationally. The YSOECI provides musical opportunities for everyone, no matter their background or economic status. It offers multiple programs for all students of different ages ranging from 5-year-olds to seniors in high school and affords students the platform to perform in different venues within Delaware County. Throughout this*

*pandemic, the YSOECI has been able to continue offering weekly in-person classes as well as providing the students with the opportunity to perform at Sursa Hall in Ball State University while audience members watch the performance virtually. The YSOECI believes that music benefits all students, giving them essential life skills that they will hopefully take with them forever. It is my believe that music benefits musicians and audience members alike. An article from HealthLine said 'in 2017, research review concluded that listening to music, particularly classical combined with jazz, had a positive effect on depression symptoms.' This study shows that being surrounded by music can benefit you in multiple ways. For my part, music is a creative and emotional release. I have also benefited by being able to see my friends in the Orchestra each week. For all of us, the Orchestra offers a safe haven for friendship, music-making and community, which is so desperately needed at this time. With the help of the Ball State music students and Conductor, Dr. Matthew Speaker, the Orchestras are stronger than ever during this pandemic. All of the YSOECI Orchestras practice CDC guidelines to be able to meet in person and have the opportunity to create music as a group. Tiffany Arnold, the Executive Director of the Youth Symphony Orchestras of East Central Indiana explained to me how this year is different compared to other years. 'We have actually made a lot of changes to ensure the safety of our students and teachers but the most significant were social distancing, temperature taking prior to entering our rehearsal spaces, encouraging hand washing and/or hand sanitizing before and after rehearsal, reducing the numbers of students and teachers in one room, splitting Strings and Winds into two groups and eliminating standing partners' said Ms. Arnold. When asked about her major motivation to continue to YSOECI during this pandemic, Ms. Arnold said, 'its essential that we continue to fulfil our mission in times when our community is stressed and longing for purpose and meaning. Our mission is to provide musical education, events and enrichment to the youth of East Central Indiana and this is one of the times we are needed the most.' The Artistic Director and Conductor of the YSOECI, Dr. Matthew Speaker, understands how during this time, music is important. He states, 'the first priority is to make sure we can meet safely and if that requirement is met then what better reason to be together during a health crisis than to create music. Because music is an astounding human activity that allows individuals to express themselves artistically within a community. If we are limited to communicate with each other because of the pandemic then how much more important is it for us to be together musically.' The YSOECI is made possible by these extraordinary people who care about creating music with young, aspiring musicians through the tough times. I am so grateful because we need this Orchestra to keep students like me musically strong as well as having a safe social place to interact with our peers who wish to extend their musical abilities. As the Coronavirus continues, we as a community are fortunate to be able to enjoy the opportunities created by the YSOECI. Music is a way for us to express our feelings, bring people together and celebrate our community. When I asked Dr. Speaker why he has continued working with the YSOECI during a time like this, he said, 'during a pandemic that has forced us to be apart, how important is it for us to find ways to express emotions together and if our time together is limited and only for a moment, then how amazing is it that we can do this with music.' With these words ringing so true, I leave you to think about how music is our life source and how now more than ever how much we need it during this time. Thank you YSOECI for being able to provide music to the students of the communities of East Central Indiana."*

Lastly, for the High School Division; Third place winner is 9<sup>th</sup> grader Waverly Daughterly from Central High School, Second place winner is 9<sup>th</sup> grader Avery Seale from Central High School (both are students of Mr. Andrew Wood) and First place winner is 12<sup>th</sup> grader Brooke Stallings from Central High School (teacher, Mr. Jack Bimber). Brooke is here tonight to read her winning essay.

*“Keen mental health is a growing issue in America. The CDC reports that suicide rate for youth ages 15 to 19 increased 17% from 2007 to 2017. That was the date that I presented to the Muncie Community School Board Fall of 2019 as I proposed a plan to implement a mental break room or what we call The Cat Cave at Muncie Central. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has intensified the issue. In 2020, according to the CDC, young adults who have said they have seriously considered suicide has increased 15% since the pandemic began. Between March and June, suicide risk rose sharply for Americans across the board given the impact on the pandemic on American livelihoods. While the initial statistics already seem grim, especially with increased isolation due to COVID-19, the risks are even more pronounced in certain demographics. Surveys have shown that the numbers for LGBTQ and black youth are particularly shocking. Brandon Stratford, Director of Education Research at Child Trends, analyzed the recent CDC surveys stating that about half of LGBTQ youth reported having thought about suicide in the past year and about 40% said they made a plan on how to do it also indicating that the increased suicide risk for black youth, especially boys. He observed that these youth are experiencing discrimination through racism and/or homophobia, which can compound other underlying worries or triggers for suicide they are already facing. Many experts have added that the social distancing measures put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19 have significantly worsened teen mental health. Due to the social nature of the teens and their developmental resilience on their peers, the pandemic has exasperated mental health issues among an already vulnerable group. Through the increased isolation which the pandemic has caused, under privileged youth, especially, are impacted as they are cut off from school mentors whose open doors often build their self-esteem, help navigate the pressures of adolescence and cope with trauma. Many students have addressed feeling alone and unable to process all that is happening at once especially without the mentor relationships that are typically available to them through school or their community. While staying home and being isolated has resulted in great increases to mental health issues, the concept of going back to school amidst a pandemic created even further questions or concerns. For students that experience school anxiety or bullying prior to the pandemic, the option to learn remotely offered some relief and in some cases, resulting in improved mental health and academic performance, which now makes training for school even more difficult. However, for students who enjoy being at school and saw it as a safe place, they may be more anxious now that they have been accustomed to being home and know it is the only real, safe place from the virus. In the several summer months leading up to August 2020, we were told to stay home and only leave for essential reasons so going back to a semi-normal, in-person education environment was bound to induce anxiety about being surrounded by hundreds of peers whom we have no idea whether or not they’ve been exposed to COVID-19. Before the pandemic began, the need to address mental health issues and provide better resources to youth was already apparent in a project I was passionate about, driving me and four other students to create a plan to implement a mental break room in our schools. After extensive planning, securing monetary funds and gaining approval from the Muncie Community*

*School Board, the room was scheduled to be implemented at Muncie Central two weeks after Spring Break 2020. As a result of COVID-19, the in-person space was unable to be completed for use. However, with increasing mental health issues and my peers being in isolation, I know something had to be done. So, I worked to establish a mental health Instagram page @MuncieCentralCatCave creating content of pandemic friendly mental break resources and ways to decompress, initially from pandemic-related stress and later, the stress related to the return of an in-person school setting. Having effective mental health resources readily available for youth is crucial in a normal year but with the increased tensions and anxieties the pandemic has created, it is more important than ever and maybe easy to say that youth could make a major impact by joining together their efforts to destigmatize mental health as well as share resources that can help our peers understand the signs of anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies thereby ensuring that one more youth does not become another statistic. But, I believe that we also need to step up and offer a space to have courageous conversations where we can learn, grow and support each other. In closing, I believe that there is a critical need to address the mental health of our community, particularly, that of our youth. I also believe that youth can be a crucial part in addressing this by supporting one another, sharing valuable resources, destigmatizing mental health concerns and normalizing the importance of seeking support when needed. Through youth-lead efforts, we can make a positive change in the mental health of our community today and well into the future as today's youth become tomorrow's leaders."*

Thompson hopes that all citizens are encouraged. These are our future leaders. Some of them are leaders right now. Therefore, Muncie is in good hands. The Martin Luther King Dream Team wants to thank Northwest Bank, Minnetrista Cultural Center and the City Council, too, for allowing the kids to read their essays this evening.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** President Robinson informs that the Council has 2 appointments to make to the Beech Grove Cemetery Board. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Selvey to nominate Sally Jo Vasicko and Mike Evans as appointments to the Beech Grove Cemetery Board. Robinson declares he spoke with Ms. Vasicko earlier today and she could not make it here this evening but everyone has seen her very impressive bio. Mr. Evans is in attendance this evening and is willing to answer any questions anyone on the Council may have. Robinson declares nominations closed. Being the only nominations, both Sally Jo Vasicko and Mike Evans are DECLARED appointed to the Beech Grove Cemetery Board.

**ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:**

ORD. 1-21 AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 39.05 TO CHAPTER 39 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Davis to Adopt.

Council Attorney Dan Gibson explains this ordinance deals with setting utilization goals for minority-owned, women-owned, disability-owned and veteran-owned business enterprises with respect to public works projects. A similar ordinance was introduced last November (Ord. 43-20) and since that time, there has been some meetings with a few members of the Administration to initially

narrow that down to public works projects. The rest of the discussion has centered largely on the need to justify and provide evidence (not only of the need for this ordinance which Gibson thinks everyone can agree is there but also setting the specific goals that this ordinance is going to put forth). Even though we are talking about goals, there is still legal scrutiny that exists with these types of ordinances in putting them in place. We need some additional statistical information to not only justify the need but also set the specific amounts. Specifically, we need numbers related to prior contract or utilization for each of the specified entities as well as information related to the percentage of qualified contractors that exist with respect to each category and entity that is available on the local market. Getting some of that information is currently in the works. It has taken longer than they, perhaps, anticipated. There are some initial numbers from Ball State University but Gibson would like to see those numbers and as it relates to the existence of qualified contractors in each category to be narrowed down a little more, in addition to looking at some of the historical utilization numbers. Tonight, he recommends the Council Table this. However, before doing that, Gibson believes there are some people here tonight to speak in favor of this ordinance and certainly encourages the Council to listen to those comments as it may give some additional insights and perhaps amendments that need to be made before this is brought up for adoption (assuming the Council takes his recommendation to Table tonight). Gibson does not believe this is going to take much longer but he just does not think all the information is obtained yet. He hopes to get that in the next 30-60 days so this can be approved by the May meeting, at the latest, if not by the April meeting.

Kelly Watson, here representing the Laborers, Local #1112, explains he brought a list of their XPE contractors that are women-owned, minority-owned and veteran-owned. As it can be seen, all those contractors are not from the Muncie area. With his contractors, Watson explains they will use a percentage of local help. This results in sitting down at a pre-job conference and regardless if it is a minority contractor, they may not use the Muncie residents. Therefore, the Council could set forth an ordinance implementing that they have to use a percentage of local residents on certain contracts (or all contracts, which would be more beneficial to Muncie residents). He knew the Council was thinking about this ordinance so he just wanted to provide a list of his minority contractors and if they need any more help, (Councilman Clark is who reached out to him) he assures he can get more information from some of the other trades. Questions called.

A motion is made by Davis and seconded by Selvey to Table. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. TABLED.

ORD. 2-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD. 29-20 FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE MUNCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2021. (AMENDED 2/1/21)

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Adopt as Amended.

Craig Wright, City Controller, states this is the amendment to the salary ordinance after they went through every single position and made sure it was 100% accurate. Also, some language was taken out that Wright had went over at last month's meeting. This does fall under the budget that was passed and he feels it should be adopted. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ORD. 3-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD. 28-20 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 2021. (AMENDED 2/1/21)  
A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Adopt as Amended.

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains it is the same situation on this ordinance as he previous one. They went through each individual position and made sure it was 100% accurate. A few adjustments were made, however, all positions are under budget and again, he feels it should be adopted. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

#### **NEW ORDINANCES:**

ORD. 4-21 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE AMENDING SECTION 34.87(F)(3) OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO SERVICE ANIMALS.

A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to Introduce.

Dan Gibson, City Council Attorney, states this ordinance addresses what James Turner has spoken about during the public comment section of the past 2 meetings. As he noted in the January meeting, initially, there is an inconsistency in our ordinance and the Department of Justice regulations with respect to service animals and whether or not we can request a certification or document with respect to service animals. Attorney Gibson thanks Mr. Turner for bringing that to their attention and states he went through and made those updates. That is what this ordinance addresses.

James Turner thanks President Robinson and the City Council for addressing this. First, he wants to say he appreciates the attention given to this. He wants to address the last part of (3) and reads "It shall be unlawful for any person of any place of public accommodation or amusement to refuse to permit a person with a disability to enter or use any such accommodations as are available for the reason that the person is being assisted by a service animal, unless admission of the service animal would fundamentally alter the nature of a service or program being provided at the place of public accommodation." This portion of that paragraph is rarely used. A business cannot extrapolate that and say "my customers have allergies so your dog is not allowed in here." It would, however, apply to a zoo. Turner recalls taking his dog to the zoo before and he is not so foolish as to take her in with the lions and tigers and so forth. So, the zoo has every right to ask Turner not to do that. Another example might be baptism in a church and if he is the one being baptized, he cannot ask that his dog go in the water with him. There are a couple of rare situations where that is not applicable but just wanted to bring that to the attention with that explanation that it is very rarely applied.

President Robinson thanks Mr. Turner for bringing that to their attention and wants to provide a quick update to the Council. There was discussion last month and since then, Robinson has been in contact with the City County Council for People with Disabilities. It does currently exist and is made up of a number of appointments from the County Commissioners and a number of appointments from the Mayor. They have and understandably so, not regularly met since COVID-19. In speaking with the Board Chair, they have agreed to pick up, look at this ordinance and work in conjunction with those interested parties in making sure that we are in compliance. It is his hope and

a number of the rest of the Council members can agree that we don't just want to be in compliance, we want to be as welcoming as we can be to everyone in the City of Muncie. So, those conversations are ongoing with the City County Council for People with Disabilities. President Robinson mentions he has talked with Councilman Polk and once those meetings resume up again, they will be attending to see where they can help. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays.

INTRODUCED.

ORD. 5-21 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO EDIT FUNDS.

A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Introduce.

Mayor Dan Ridenour refers to the 2 documents he attached when submitting this ordinance, one shows the appropriations from the state. The reason this change is necessary is the budget approved for 2021 used last years EDIT Funds. Mayor Ridenour wanted to wait until he received 2 checks from the state to make sure that the amounts are correct. Those have been received so he wanted to up those to the actual amount that will be received this year. Next year, it is expected to drop back down because of COVID-19 but he wanted to be able to utilize these funds for economic and other interests as they can in 2021. He explains the City has \$132,000 worth of remediation work being done for a local facility here in Muncie consisting of dozens of jobs. The City took on that past of paying for the remediation in both in this Administration and in the last one as well. In addition, the City continued to work on grants and was able to obtain a reimbursement for \$45,000 last year for a portion of that. Mayor Ridenour wanted that money to go back into the EDIT Fund since it paid 100% of those remediation costs last year. Again, the Mayor can use those funds for purposes as well and both of those documents are attached. What this does is take the EDIT Funds from where the budget shows it is to where the 2021 appropriations from the State amount to it (that comes in each month) and added the \$45,000 to provide that new figure.

Rick Yencer, Muncie, wants an explanation of how these funds are going to be used, whether it is going to be for job creation or other projects that are so designated by the Administration. That is what the taxpayers want to know, how it is planned to use this money. President Robinson clarifies that would be a question for the Mayor to answer and the EDIT Funds are discretionary expenditures by the Mayor and the City Council only allocates those dollars.

Mayor Ridenour answers those are all public. He reported his figures last year for his budget for 2020 to the Clerk, as he is required to do. He would say a little over \$1 million a year goes toward debt repayment from previous years. However, one debt this year will be paid off. \$1.1 million is budgeted to go toward the General Fund so it is a little out of balance. The City knows they have services to provide so \$1.1 million every year gets put back into the General Fund out of the EDIT Funds. Once this is approved, he will submit that to the Clerk's office again so next month when the Council approves this, he will submit the actual budget with the correct number. There should be about between \$1.4 and \$1.6 million that will go for economic projects, such as the Storer project. Last year, some of those funds were used on demolition work on the Red Carpet Inn and the rest of the funds go toward various projects (such as the ADA ramp Pridemark put in last year and the new rolling office chairs bought for the Council). Mayor Ridenour also mentions that last year, they were very fortunate to only spend around \$50,000 on Attorneys, which was a dramatic reduction. Therefore, the Mayor has only budgeted \$50,000 for Attorneys but that does include some consulting

fees and him helping out organizations (like this remediation) and such that come out of the EDIT Funds. Again, once this is approved at the next meeting, at least that is the Mayor's hope that the Council will approve this at the next meeting, he will make that budget for the upcoming year available as he already has it prepared. Once it is available to the Clerk, it will be available to the public. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

President Robinson declares a 5-Minute Recess. RECESS.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

RES. 6-21 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> AS "PI DAY" IN THE CITY OF MUNCIE.

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Connor Polk, Special Education Teacher at Southside Middle School, is here in support of Councilwoman Selvey's resolution to designate March 14<sup>th</sup> as "Pi Day" in Muncie, Indiana. As a resident of Muncie, he feels it is important for our city to come together to emphasize the importance of education within our community. Pi Day would offer both businesses and families the opportunity to celebrate mathematics and science. Designating March 14<sup>th</sup> as Pi Day encourages unity and collaboration within our community. This designation falls in sync with March as Employee Appreciation Month in Indiana. Employers can gather their employees at exactly 3:14 on March 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their employees with pie from local restaurants and bakeries. Employers can also offer employees the opportunity to buy a slice of pie as a way to raise money for local charity. This would also be a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to recognize educators, first responders, healthcare workers or any organization by donating pies for their enjoyment. This might also give our fitness centers or local health organizations the opportunity to hold 3.14K's in place of a normal 5K and promote health and wellness while also supporting Pi Day. Companies may want to use this day to thank their customers by sending out special deliveries of pie. Even our local radio stations are getting involved in "pie-ing up their playlist" or holding competitions where residents attempt to remember as much of pi as possible. Pi Day is an event that could be celebrated in any business, charity and school or community organization. Pie bake-offs, pie fundraisers and pie-eating contests just begin an endless list of options. Let's bring our community together for a fun and community building experience. In closing, C. Polk asks that the Council please vote yes to Councilwoman Selvey's resolution to designate March 14<sup>th</sup> as "Pi Day" in Muncie.

Megan Mertic is a recent 2020 graduate from Ball State University with a major in Elementary Education. She spent the last 4 years completing practice in Muncie Community Schools and is now a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Teacher at Southside Middle School. Although a Chicago native, she chose to make Muncie her home after graduation because of the City's dedication to the community, the arts, small businesses and education. Several prime examples of Muncie's thriving community are the many events held downtown to celebrate different holidays or celebrations. If you scroll down Downtown Muncie's Facebook page, you will see several events from the "Light Up DWNTWN" event each December to help celebrate the holiday season to a "Pot O' Gold Puzzler" to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month. All of these events are great ways to bring the community together but they vary

rarely have an educational focus. As a middle school math teacher, students ask her daily “when am I ever going to use this?” Our students are craving a bridge between their education and their life outside of the classroom. It is crucial that they see their education as beneficial in the world around them. Mertic wholeheartedly believes that Councilwoman Selvey’s resolution to designate March 14<sup>th</sup> as “Pi Day” in Muncie is a positive and fun way to bind education and the community together. The opportunities to incorporate this important mathematical content in a citywide celebration are endless. The YMCA can hold pie-themed events for students, businesses can sell different circle shaped items or even sell their items for \$3.14 and the City can hold a pie-themed scavenger hunt to prompt community members to enter locally owned businesses and stores. This even provides students with an opportunity to have a say and what they would like to see could encourage them to get involved in their community in a positive and educational way. Since March 14<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday this year and students won’t be in school, it is a perfect time to kick-off this holiday. Councilwoman Davis thanks her for staying in Muncie. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 7-21 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE ASSIGNING AN AREA WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO THE DELAWARE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Adopt.

Brad Bookout, Director of Economic Affairs for the Delaware County Commissioners, states he has worked with County Commissioners James King, Shannon Henry and Sherry Riggan for some years and they have accomplished a lot. They look forward to working with the City Council and the Mayor of Muncie. Bookout is going to share some things that the County Commissioners have directed him to do on the south side of Muncie, believing some of those items the Council will be glad to hear about. They wish to continue the work they are doing, not only in the County but also to help within the City (limits) and in some areas. Bookout is going to preface the resolution by talking about some of the things the County has done so the Council can see the intention and (kind of) where they are at with projects that are currently being worked on. In 2015, driving on roads such as the South Muncie Industrious Center, Mt. Pleasant Blvd, Delaware Dr and Hamilton Dr was like driving on the surface of the moon. It was bad with miserable conditions in that area. At County Commissioner King’s discretion, they put together a bond issue to completely redo those roads. It was a full depth reclamation where they took up not only the asphalt but also the aggregate underneath the roads. They properly sized that aggregate because basically there was hardly any there (a lot of semi-truck traffic in those areas) and put down the proper sizing of asphalt and aggregate in that area. It was a big help to the businesses that are located in that area and it really set the stage for trying to do more, branch out and pave more roads and do more things. They were doing a lot of this work and have been doing this work through the Delaware County Redevelopment Commission of which Commissioner King is the current President. They expanded their paving work out to also pave Hoyt Ave, Breezewood Dr, Fleetwood Dr, Edgewood Dr, Meriwood Dr, Horseshoe Dr, Lockerbee and Fuson Rd from Hoyt Ave to SR 67. It was discovered that if you put “Muncie, Indiana” in your GPS while in Indianapolis, the map will bring you around the Muncie bypass from I69 and right up Hoyt Ave. There were many dead ash trees lining Hoyt Ave and it look bad for a long time. Every time there was a

storm, the County Highway Department could count on a phone call that a tree had fallen on Hoyt and they would have to go clean it up. The County Redevelopment Commission undertook an effort 2 years ago to clear all of those ash trees along Hoyt Ave. They think that corridor in the County looks better coming into Muncie and they realize that is a gateway to the City and it needs to look nice. They also identified that the former Maples Motel was a blighted, derelict former roadside motel from the 1950's was a drug haven and Bookout believes at one time, a body found was found there from a murder, overdose or some sort of unscrupulous activity. The County Commissioners donated the deed to that property to the ECI Regional Planning District. A request for proposals was done seeking end-users who in exchange for the property would agree to demolish that property. A successful respondent came forth and that property is now eliminated and looks nice. It is now back on the tax rolls and in the hands of a good tax-paying entity at this time. Bookout explains they also worked to grow the tax base in that area. He, Commissioner King and Bill Walters identified a company called INOX Market Service, a stainless steel company that brings in stainless steel coils and cut them to form them. If you have a stainless steel refrigerator front, microwave oven, dishwasher, washer, or dryer at your house, you probably have an INOX product currently. INOX is an Italian company and recalls them visiting the facility in 2019. A 149,000 sq ft factory is currently being built on S. Cowan Rd which is a \$15 million investment in our community ultimately hiring up to 100 people at that location. They are really excited and really welcoming of INOX. COVID-19 has slowed down those people in management from Italy from coming here but they are anxiously waiting their arrival once they can travel and come here. Bookout explains they will host them while they are here and the Council may have an opportunity to meet them and asks that they welcome them into our community for making a sizeable investment in hiring many people on the south side of Muncie. Again, they are very excited about that. They have also worked with Jones Brothers Trucking from Missoula, Montana after the purchase of the property on Mt. Pleasant Blvd. The company has approximately 15 semi-trucks now at a facility and are hoping to build an actual standing structure there as their offices and dispatch location. They are wanting to ramp up to 50 employees and subsequent semi-trucks over a period of time at that location. The County is very welcoming of Jones Brothers Trucking being in the Industrious Center. Bookout continues and refers to how they announced just 2 weeks ago that Clearline Technologies (Canadian company) is locating at the corner of Hoyt Ave and Mt. Pleasant Blvd in the former Hinman Tool/J.D. Norman location. They will make approximately a \$4 million investment and hire up to 20 employees over a period of time. The County, again, is very excited that they chose Delaware County as their location. The building had sat empty for many year and they are glad it is getting in the hands of a good tax-paying entity. The County has also worked with Midwest Metal who added equipment over time, adding \$1.8 million last year. The company has 159 employees in the Industrious Center at 3 different locations. The County is very glad to have Midwest Metals in that area. Commissioner King oversaw the new Delaware County Jail and Addiction Health and Recovery Facility that was completed in the former ASONS building. The jail is now open and functioning successfully. They worked on a project called the Muncie Industrious Center Trail Project and if you travel down Cowan Rd, you will see a new trail from Hoyt Ave all the way to Fuson Rd and extends down 26<sup>th</sup> St. all the way to Tillotson and 26<sup>th</sup> St all the way up to Memorial. That is Phase I amounting to a \$4.5 million trail system in that area that the Delaware County Redevelopment Commission has spearheaded. Bookout claims people ask him

“why are we paving trails when we should be paving roads?” and he answers they did pave all the roads and they did a good job. They would like to pave more roads and expand out of that area which is part of the resolution currently before Council. They have addressed some environmental concerns and the Commission recognized that the public was concerned with some of the possible air eminence in the Industrious Center. The Commission contracted with a company called Mundell & Associates that completed a Phase I environmental assessment where they identified 10 locations in the Industrious Center that they plan to do sampling of air, water, ground water and soil. That is in process now and will be completed in the upcoming months. So, where does all this lead? The County wants to partner with the City to continue to develop property on the south side of Muncie. Commissioner King is from the south side of Muncie, understands its needs and wants to make sure we have an equitable growth in that area like we have seen on the north side. The County is offering and is currently in process of discussions with the Mayor on road paving in that area where the County can assist. They are also in talks with the Mayor at this time regarding the new park on Tillotson Ave, knowing that is a priority for the City. In closing, he thanks the Council for their attention.

Joe Rhetts, Delaware County Attorney and here representing the Delaware County Redevelopment Commission, states the resolution is pretty simple and straightforward. It is simply identifying some parcels that are in the consolidated Muncie Economic Development area and assigning them to the County. The County would then be able to include those parcels in its existing Industrial allocation areas. That is honestly about it. It is necessary in order for the County to take advantage of any tax increment that would come in and finance projects like what Mr. Bookout just discussed. Without it, it would still stay in the City’s TIF but the City would then have to (kind of) take on the financial part of the projects themselves. This is the County’s way of spreading the wealth (if you will) and being able to use the resources they already have in place in order to do these projects within the City limits. He is willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

President Robinson asks for the public’s benefit if Attorney Rhetts can describe the area, mentioning it is just north of the new Justice Center. Rhetts confirms and adds it includes the Justice Center property, the old football field and track and then the 2 additional parcels (which if you are driving by just looks like vacant land) going up to Cornbread Rd. It would actually then include some property immediately to the west of Tillotson, just a small sliver. Rhetts has an illustration that he holds up for the public to see what he is talking about and can be seen within the resolution. It is a relatively small area but in a really good location for development and is vacant land which, obviously, makes sense of being exactly what you would want in an allocation area. As he earlier mentioned, it is already adjacent to an existing County area so it just makes sense.

Councilman Dishman has a question for Mayor Ridenour, stating he would like to hear it from him directly, asks him if he has any problems with this. The Mayor states no, he does not. Dishman confirms that was all he wanted. President Robinson jokes it took the Mayor longer to walk to the podium than it did to answer the question.

Councilwoman Selvey appreciates the County and the City working together for the betterment of our community. There is a lot of goodwill and good faith going on and she encourages both entities to keep doing what they are doing. The Council appreciates all their hard work.

Councilman Ingram assumes the County is planning to develop these properties. Bookout answers yes, the intention is to see development at the locations. Currently, the properties are County properties in the City limits. The County has a good bond rating at this time with good bonding capacity, available funding in the TIF District around the Industrious Center and are able to carry out effect development at the site. What that development is going to be is not yet determined. The future cannot be predicted but it is anticipated some sort of commercial type of development at that location. They will likely issue a request for proposals and see what developers bring back to the County to offer. They are not able to guarantee anything but they are able to put their best foot forward and try to see development and effect development at the area.

Councilman Smith applauds Mr. Bookout for all the work he has done over the past years helping Muncie, Delaware County and reaching far into East Central and Central Indiana. He has done an outstanding job and as a Counselor, he certainly looks forward to working with him and the County Commissioners on future endeavors. Job well done. Bookout thanks him, informs they will continue to do a good job, and appreciates his confidence in the County as well.

Councilman Clark thanks Mr. Bookout and appreciates what he is doing with the City and asks if they plan on working with the Metropolitan Planning Commission on any future building there just to make sure that architecturally, these buildings are sound and (as Bookout said) welcoming to the people that drive by. Bookout states that the development that would take place there would have to go through the Delaware County Metropolitan Planning Commission for appropriate zoning and overview of the specks of that development to make sure it conforms to the rules and regulations that are in place in the County.

Mary Stilts, Muncie, was born and raised on Ribble Ave over off Memorial Dr. She has lived on the west side, the north side, and in downtown but keeps going back to the south end. Pointing to Mr. Bookout and Mr. Rhetts, Stilts affirms these men just made her day. It is about time the south end started getting recognized, business start being brought in and improvements start being done. She is so tired of having to go clear out on the north-west side of town to be able to get anything. She is thrilled that the County wants to work with the City and do something to improve the south end of Muncie, especially. It desperately needs it. President Robinson thanks her and thanks her again for always being here and keeping the podium disinfected. The Council appreciates her.

Audie Barber, Muncie, asks how many acres we are talking on this parcel of land and gives examples such as 20 acres, 40 acres or 100 acres. One of the men from the County expresses from his seat in the audience it is around 30 acres. President Robinson provides Barber with the Exhibit illustration and Barber approaches the bench to view it. Barber believes this area may be the same area that the City Council discussed last year about putting new houses here, several thousand dollars a month housing. He feels if the City gives up the rights to this property, although it is a good idea to bring industry in, the Council won't have any say on what is built on this property from this point on. That would be his only concern that the Council would have a say in what is being built out there. Barber is aware the County said they wanted to work with the City and everything and he hopes that is true. Again, nce the City relinquishes this property to Delaware County Redevelopment then the City of Muncie has no say in what is being built on that property. The Council may want to take that into consideration. Barber hopes they bring all kinds of business to the south side of Muncie, as he lives 5 minutes from this area. He just does not want to see the City lose their input on what goes in

there. President Robinson mentions for a point of clarification that the County already owns the property at this point. With them having ownership, the Council does not really have a lot of Control over the property, either. Councilman Clark confirms the acreage is in fact 43 acres.

James King, Delaware County Commissioner, just wants to say (like Robinson said) the County already owns the property. They will continue to work with the Mayor with whatever goes out there. They want this to be something where it is a joint between the City and the County, exactly like what the people wanted when both he and the Council were elected, for both to come together and start working. Pointing to Mr. Bookout and Mr. Rhetts, Commissioner King states they are his team and they work together. That is the reason they have done what they have done within the County. Now, they want the City to be a part of their team to work together to make the County and the City to where people want to come and work and spend their dollars here. People do not want to leave and go to Indianapolis or Fort Wayne; they want to stay here in Delaware County. That is why they are here tonight. They want to work with the Council and King is sure the Council wants to work with them. It is going to be a team effort. If anything comes in, they will get with and sit down with the Mayor. They want what is right for the City of Muncie and Delaware County. That is why they had Mundell & Associates come out to look at the area and if anything is wrong, they want to fix it. They want to make sure, like he said, Delaware County is where everyone wants to come. Commissioner King turns around and refers to Mr. Barber, stating to answer the question he asked, we are a team. We are not single, we are a team. That is the reason why they are here. In closing, Commissioner King claims individuals screw stuff up while teams get stuff done.

Councilwoman Selvey explains after hearing what Commissioner King said, she requests the Mayor to add to it and express his side of negotiations and how things are going between the City and the Commissioners. Mayor Ridenour asserts since he was elected January 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2 have had regular on-going monthly meetings and often meet in addition to those regular meetings. They are looking for opportunities to help. There are things the City can help with and there are things the County can help with. For example, what you may see along some of those trails that the County is building are trees that the City is planting. What you may see along some of those roads the County is repaving is trees that the City is putting in. They have had these discussions and are going to continue to have these discussions. Not with INOX but with Clearline, the Mayor assures himself and Mr. Bookout have met with them and found a great location for them. We are in this together. Delaware County and Muncie must come together in order for East Central Indiana to thrive. They must come together in order for both Delaware County and Muncie to thrive. We are well on our way. The Mayor claims they meet regularly and discuss this transaction and other areas where the City can help and the County will accept the help. They look at other areas, too, where the County can help the City. This is just a good situation. The County already owns the property. It is right next to the Justice Center. They have a much higher stake to make something wonderful there. Neither the City nor the County know what the development is going to be but it is important that we are working together. This is how Delaware County and the City of Muncie will move forward from 2021 and beyond by working together and making us stronger together. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilman Smith explains how early on, the newly elected Council talked about having a fundraising golf tournament for the proceeds to go to a local non-profit. There were discussions and it was decided the first non-profit would be the John Frank Football League. Smith recalls emailing a flyer to all of the Councilpersons today and hopes all will choose to participate. He has discussed this with Crestview Golf Course and there would be a limit of 30 teams along with as many hole sponsors as possible. If each councilmember, including former Councilman Ray Dudley, get three teams then that would max them out at the 30 teams. All members on the Council have flyers and the date is May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Crestview Golf Course. The cost would be \$250 per team and \$50 for hole sponsors. If anyone has any questions, they can give him a call or respond to the email he sent today. This is new territory. This marks a time where the entire Council (Republicans, Democrats, Liberal, Conservatives) all come together for a common cause. This first common cause is our elementary John Frank Football League. In closing, Smith encourages the rest of the Council to participate and he thinks this is a great opportunity and a new, fresh beginning.

Mrs. Snider, Government Teacher at Muncie Central High School, explains she has been bringing her Government students to City Council meetings for a few years now as a part of their Civic Engagement Project that they do for not only AP Government but also General Government students and dual-credit students. However, she does ask a little more out of the AP students by actually participating in a City Council meeting. These students have been working on this for a couple of weeks and she let them take the lead so if there are any questions about the title or anything like that, feel free to ask them. They wanted to come up with something that is (kind of) a plan to equip or beautify our City. Mrs. Snider verifies that the Council Secretary provided copies of the presentation to all councilmembers but she also has copies for anyone that would like one. She explains the students will be presenting in groups so they are not all up here at once.

**A Proposition for the Refinement of our Public Transport System**

A presentation of Mrs. Snider's Government Class' various ideas for our publicly available manners of travel.

**What we propose**

- Make alternative travel safer and more convenient
- Encourage townsfolk to get outside
- Provide for pedestrian and driver safety
- Increase property value
- Reduce harmful public opinion of travelling in certain areas

Chloe Davisson, 12<sup>th</sup> grader, is speaking for Group #1. They have a proposition for the refinement of our public transport system including various ideas for our public available manners of travel. Group #1 is going to speak on the general goals of their proposition and the other groups will be speaking on the more specific details and how they think we can achieve those goals. Basically, the students want to make alternative travel safer and more convenient such as walking and biking by improving sidewalks or bike rentals. They want to encourage more townsfolk to get outside because with improved sidewalks, that could allow more people to want to get out and exercise more and just improve the atmosphere. They want to provide more pedestrian and driver

safety, especially in the south side of town. They think there should be more streetlights so it is more visible and will help clear up things so people feel more comfortable walking or driving. They also think that improving the sidewalks would increase property value and beautify Muncie as a whole. They want to reduce the harmful public opinion of traveling in certain areas such as the really dark areas or even such areas as Heekin park that does not have sidewalks on one side of it; so just being able to have more access to that or even the Cardinal Greenway. Those are the students biggest goals and concerns.

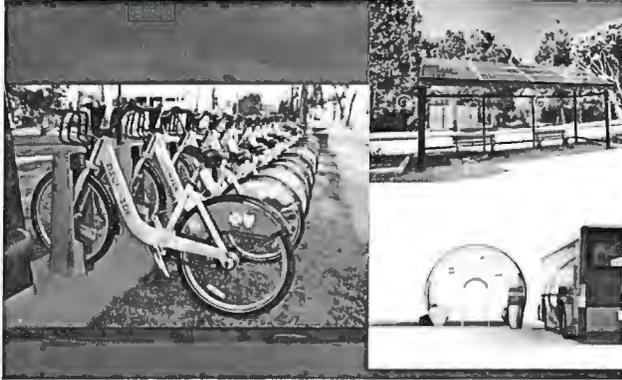


Nate Gonterman, 12<sup>th</sup> grader, states Group #2 will be speaking on the specific steps the students would like to implement in making our City a little more safer and accessible to people. Step 1 would be sidewalks connecting places together. For example, Madison Ave. connects different stores and businesses together for safer travel for people in those neighborhoods. A couple additional streets that would benefit by sidewalks would be Walnut St, 29<sup>th</sup> St, Riverside Ave, Tillotson Ave and Bethel Ave. Another point would be the safety. Nate explains people that live on 29<sup>th</sup> St travel to Wal-Mart South and/or Aldi's with or without sidewalks. With sidewalks, it would definitely and obviously be a lot safer. Referring to sidewalks that lead to bus stops, there are a lot of places where the bus stops are just located on grass with no sidewalk or concrete area. It would be a lot safer if we had sidewalks and an example of that consists of the bus stop at Macedonia Ave. Referring to when he went to Southside Middle School, Nate assures that the Southside students had to stand in somebody's yard rather than on a sidewalk to enter the Industry Willard MITS bus. The above slides show some places in Muncie where sidewalks would be beneficial like Tillotson Ave and East Jackson St, going down those main roads leading to certain businesses. Also, 29<sup>th</sup> St behind Southside and in front of Wal-Mart would be very beneficial to the surrounding neighborhoods like Southern Pines and Earthstone Apartments if there were additional sidewalks. In the first picture of the second slide, you can actually see someone who is traveling from Earthstone to Wal-Mart with no sidewalk (although there are crosswalks but no sidewalks connecting those 2 together).

**Step 2: Improving the Greenway**



Step 2 would be improving transportation to the Greenway, such as adding parking lots that can be located outside the Greenway. It should be very accessible to certain civilians because it is a public place that can bring a lot of enjoyment to people. Adding better sidewalks that would lead to the Greenway and maybe implementing rental bike stations where people could rent a bike for 2 or 3 hours and then return it to the station at the beginning of the Greenway. Maybe, implementing bus stops that actually lead to the Greenway because to his knowledge, there aren't any bus stops that actually take a stop at the Greenway so people can get off and do what they need to do there.



**Step 3-  
Bike/Scooter  
Rental Stations**

- Establishing Bike rental stations along high traffic areas
  - Cardinal Greenway, Minnetrista, and Ball State Campus
- Use a pay-per-hour system to allow more people to use the bikes
- The Bikes Promote exercise and increase public health

Teddi Bishop will be speaking about Steps 3 & 4 in their plan. Step 3 is establishing bike rental stations throughout the entire city but especially focusing on campus. If you have ever been to the IUPUI campus, they have scooter rentals stations that span across the entire campus and any of the students are allowed to use those scooters to get to their classes or dorm rooms or anything like that. Implementing something like this would make transportation a lot easier, more convenient and possibly safer for Ball State students on campus. She explains they also discussed implementing bike rental stations in areas like the Greenway where people who may not be able to afford their own bike could still have access to biking on the Greenway by renting it for very cheap. Also, the pay-to-rent system would almost pay off the cost of the bike system in the long run. The students discussed possibly implementing these all the way into Minnetrista so that people would also be able to enjoy them there in that great resource we have, in addition to campus.

**Step 4: Street lights**

- More street lights in parks and public recreational areas
- Neighborhoods and side roads should be well lit
- All street lights around school zones are functioning
- Areas of high travel volume need to be well lit
  - Walnut and Madison (especially going out of town)
  - Bethel
  - Jackson

Step 4 would be increasing the streetlights that we have throughout town. The ultimate goal of this is safety with public transport so making sure that people are able to get from one area to another on the sidewalks but also make it to where there is a lot of good lighting in areas and people feel very safe. There were some areas that need to be focused on. For example, Teddi recalls driving around East 9<sup>th</sup> St and noticed it doesn't have very many streetlights and neither does West 23<sup>rd</sup> St. One of those streets goes through the middle of Heekin Park they had talked about especially increasing streetlights in public areas or in recreational areas, like parks, where there may be a lot of foot traffic.



### How To Achieve Our Goal

- Apply for a community development block grant
  - Created to "improve their quality of life and ensure the health and safety of their citizens." <https://www.in.gov/ocra/cdbg/>
- Ask local businesses to sponsor in return for advertisements
  - For example: Adopt a highway programs
- Fundraise like we do for the senior trip and such
- Put together people with connections that can lead the project
- Ask neighborhood associations for help, as well as other private organizations around Muncie

Jameson Beaty, 12<sup>th</sup> grader, explains that Group #3 focused on the funding because, of course, that is the biggest question when people present ideas such as this one. A couple places the students came up with funding consists of applying for a community block grant. There are many of these out there (refer to link). Other places consist of asking local businesses to sponsor it. This could be advertising on benches (like what you would see in bigger cities) or other places. There are Adopt a Highway Programs that could be implemented but go towards Muncie Streets or Parks, or things of that nature. Community fundraising is another possible way to raise money. Many people in our community care very deeply so a good idea would be for neighborhoods to fundraise for their neighborhood and to fix their sidewalks, etc. Also, people can come together with connections that can lead the project, ask Neighborhood Associations to help with their neighborhood and get the money for these certain areas so it can be broken off into sections for each and every neighborhood (instead of doing a city-wide thing). Jameson knows people probably care about their neighborhood more than others.

### Our Vision



Group #1: Joseph Fleming, Chandler Covey, Chloe Davisson, Steven Lovell, Colson Dick, Lucas Seale

Group #2: Nate Gonterman, Brooke Stallings, Jerry Lynn, Jacob Emert, Teddi Bishop

Group #3: Jameson Beaty, Chase Beck, Tanner Scheoff, Andrew Piche

Councilman Ingram questions what kind of process the students went through when deciding what their proposition was going to be about. The students express to the Council they threw out ideas and whatever ones stuck is what they went with. They had discussed public parks for a while and had some shortcomings with that so decided to move on to a more accessible topic that would be easier to work with.

Councilman Clark asks if there was any personal involvement in this planning process. Referring to sidewalks and streetlights, a student speaks up that almost none of the lights in his neighborhood work and it took about a month and a half after reporting the issue for them to be fixed. Another male student mentions increasing bus stops, particularly near Southern Pines Apartments. It is a very important bus stop because all those people have a way to travel to get to it. Increasing the number of bus stops around the Greenway and in other places would really benefit the community. A female student mentions how she lived on the south end of town before moving to Daleville and where she lived in Muncie, there wasn't any sidewalks on the busy street. She recalls having to get to the bus stop by (kind of) walking across a line of neighbors' yards. They didn't want to do that but at the same time it was either that or standing in the street. She definitely thinks improving sidewalks or even adding sidewalks could help with getting people from place to place.

Councilwoman Selvey questions if the students feel they concentrated on one part of the city more than the other and if yes, why and if no, also why. A male student mentions previously living on the north side and didn't really have a lot of these problems on the north side. He felt the roads were nice and there were sidewalks wherever he needed to go along with bus stops and access to the Greenway. He recalls he used to live by Northview Elementary School so the Greenway is literally right there. However, there was no sidewalks to the Greenway and had to take the trail from Northview to be able to get on the Greenway. There are still problems all throughout the City but specifically, the south side. A female student mentions that is partially why they included the idea of the rental bikes throughout campus to incorporate the north side but she agrees. She lives on the north side of town and has not seen nearly as much of an issue with the sidewalks and the streetlights on that side of town. She works on the south side of town and spends a lot of time over there and thinks there is definitely more an issue there than on the north side. A male student adds that he moved to the north side recently and noticed there isn't as much of an issue over there as there is with more south side areas. Even on Tillotson Ave, in general, the south side would be considered East Jackson and it is not in the state it should be.

Councilman Polk states he is very impressed with everything that these students put together. He recalls this being his 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> presentation from different students (a few students he knows from when his daughter attended Central) from Mrs. Sniders Government class. Again, these are fantastic ideas and he loves the idea of the bike rentals as well as the scooters. Polk recalls after his daughter graduated, they toured IU and those scooters were everywhere. He thinks that would be very nice to see downtown and in Ball State. In looking at the presentation, Polk is very impressed and could assume this is a college class presentation because it is AP and very impressive for 17 and 18-year-olds.

Councilwoman Davis appreciates all the students for putting this together because most of the things that the students spoke about is in her District. She explains she is going to use the presentation as evidence to the Mayor and let him know this is exactly what she means. She jokes

that the students are all witnesses now and she is going to call them to be a part of the meetings she has with the Mayor about sidewalks.

Councilman Dishman would like to see a show of hands of the Bearcats in the audience. Go Bearcats! He asks if any of those students have considered running for public office later on down the road. Seriously, the ideas they have come up with matches the quality of people that this City needs. They appreciate the students for coming up and telling their ideas and Dishman believes the Mayor is going to get a handle on the sidewalks because he has a plan in place. Dishman adds that regarding streetlights, he has had a lot of complaints in his area. He explains you call them up and the people say they call the correct place but nothing ever gets done but when he calls, he explains he is with the City and they get right on it. It shouldn't be that way. However, in all seriousness, referring to the students, Dishman states they ought to think about a political career because their minds are in the right place.

Councilman Smith wants to thank the AP Government class for coming up with these ideas and going out and doing their research. He explains we certainly cannot get enough money to do all of the paving, sidewalks, and streetlights that need to be done but these students just confirmed almost 100% what Smith has submitted to the Mayor. He recommends putting it on the Mayor to come up with the money to fund all these projects.

Mayor Dan Ridenour states the reality of this plan was put together in February and he is very pleased with these students. Referring to what Thompson earlier said, our City is in good hands in the future. Back in the spring, the City made a commitment that they were going to do \$1 million in sidewalk repairs. It was offered to all the councilmembers to come in and give their ideas although not all nine members showed up. Those that did attend provided the Mayor with \$5 million worth of sidewalk repairs so that list had to be narrowed down. It is interesting because Centennial is on the list being done along with 29<sup>th</sup> Street, which are both areas the students mentioned. What the City decided to focus on was how to get people to and from retail outlets (like Wal-Mart on the south side), to and from the parks and to and from the schools. The Mayor explains they built out from there and took the Council's recommendations (again, those that attended) and its going to end up being 18 streets. As far as the streetlights, the challenge is that most of them are owned by AEP and all the City can do is contact them. The City appreciates AEP and all that they do but it can be a challenge. There are some streetlights the City owns but for the most part, they pay. If anyone sees a streetlight that is not working, go to [cityofmuncie.com](http://cityofmuncie.com) and go to the reporting portal. Councilman Clark believes there is a link on the homepage "report it" that takes you to the different reporting agencies. Mayor Ridenour says they will look into it and do a Facebook post tomorrow that details where the reporting portal is. You can report a pothole, report a streetlight out, report trash in the street, etc. and the City will send the report to the appropriate department to get it addressed. The Mayor is really impressed and proud of all of these suggestions from these students. He claims he has been involved in several of these presentations but has never heard one that offered funding solutions. Councilman Ingram mentions Prairie Creek Superintendent, Dustin Clark, noticed when they started talking about grants because he is the City's grant writer. In closing, the Mayor states it is expensive but they are working on it. Councilman Polk comments to Mrs. Snider that he believes the students all get A+'s. Councilman Ingram argues the point that the research they done was the

right issues because some have already been addressed such as the 29<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk and he, too, thinks they should all get A's.

Rick Yencer, Muncie, says he is glad to see the future here tonight (the students) and hear such good ideas. However, he wants to remind the future besides the present (and points to the Council) that government, the schools and these TIF Districts have still burdened over \$200 million in debt over the next 20 years whether its jails, town halls, school additions and then all the talk tonight about the TIF District shifting in the sand. He would hope that they would remember for the people here in the present to not go in debt the future anymore and do not raise their taxes either.

Charles Venable, owner of Victory Laps, wishes to thank Councilwoman Davis for extending the invitation to be here tonight. He does not want to take a lot of time and appreciates everybody that is here and the opportunity just to share one of his new endeavors here that he is looking forward to bringing to the City of Muncie. Many people have seen the outdoor go-cart track. He decided to invest in that property, seeing it was an opportunity to fulfill his vision; he recalls bringing his wife with him and explaining to her the vision he had while she looked at him a little weird. But, what is a challenge for one is an opportunity for another. There was a Phase I done on the property before making the decision to invest in it and he remembers the gentleman stating that he "had a lion by the tail" and that was actually the fire that he needed to help him say let's go and show them what we can do with this property. It was within a couple of weeks of closing the property, putting everything on paper and actually saying here is what the plan is. Mr. Venable got a bunch of young people here in the City involved, which was absolutely amazing to show these young people this vision (what things are going to look like, here's what we're going to do) and certainly paid them while they were there and paid them well he might add. Just to see the excitement of the young people to see something like this come to our city really made him feel good. Anyone that had drove past that property at 2921 East Jackson Street could recall the huge trees, weeds and overgrown vegetation. Before even owning the property, Mr. Venable recalls the City issuing a citation for the tall grass and he had so much time to address it. Within weeks they had all those weeds down and everything was removed. If you were to drive by that property now, you would see all that is down and they have completely started all new renovations consisting of the bathrooms and all the buildings that were there. The issue they then ran into was the winter weather as it is an outdoor facility. Now that the weather is back, they are excited to finish this product. They are looking toward a late spring/early summer opening date of an outdoor go-cart track for our City to bring our young people. President Robinson, hereby, challenges the rest of City Council to a go-cart race as soon as the track is open. Mr. Venable states they are going to work very quickly and exclaims how excited he is to see the snow melt away and they already have the vision on paper. He mentions his wife and oldest daughter are with him this evening. His daughter is the one he has challenged to lead this endeavor and has been working with them behind the scenes since inquiring the property in August. Mr. Venable, again, mentions coming across some very talented young people that he will invest in and train how to run business. Once more, we have some great young people in our community and he has been able to work with some amazing young people. Please follow the Facebook page Victory Laps and right now, they are doing giveaways because they want to show that

not only is this going to be an endeavor to get a return on their investment but we need something fun for our kids to do in our City. Aware of when you bring a lot of kids together, sometimes that brings confusion. Not only does he want it to be fun but he wants our kids to have a safe environment. The last thing he wants is to have fun and then the wrong people come and the wrong things happen. He asks for consideration when it comes to that. Not only will there be go-carts but as well as batting cages and bumper bolts. He does not want to share everything but can assure he has a great vision in store.

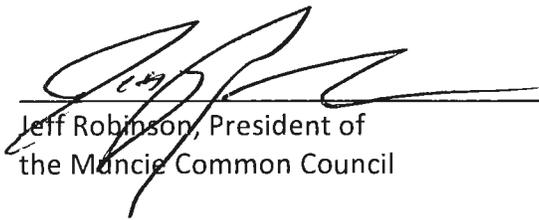
Kristopher Bilbrey was originally going to ask a question about the project Riverbend Flats that just appeared in the newspaper today about a possible 75% tax abatement that may or may not be coming before the Council at some point but then something happened that changed that. He recalls thanking the Council for how they have governed since they have been in office. He wants to say for the record that he does agree the City and the County must work together but he also feels it is important for the Council to continue to always do their role because they belong to the City more than they do the County, first. He was disheartened at Commissioner King's bravado at a question a citizen asked because it seemed there was a little bit of hostility in how he answered the question. Bilbrey, for all of the teamwork and the bravado that King had, just feels embarrassed as a Delaware County citizen that the representative from the County's executive team would walk out in the middle of these student's speaking (and point to the Government students). These students made a brilliant presentation and Bilbrey thinks that was extremely rude after King stood up here and pounded his chest the way that he did. Bilbrey thinks that sends a very poor message and when King is in the City Council chambers, he must act accordingly. Bilbrey does not care what they want to do when they are in the County building but he thought that was rude and that needed to be spoken for. Turning to the students, Bilbrey apologizes on behalf of the citizens of Delaware County.

Audie Barber, Muncie, wants to thank the Council for working together. He thinks these gentlemen and ladies are a good group of people working together for the City of Muncie. He is glad they, at this time, have put their bi-partisan differences to the side and are working for the goal of the City. He appreciates that. One thing he wants to bring up for the people in the desert areas where there is no food and stuff, there are apps and places on the internet where people are permitted to order food from the grocery store and have people deliver it to your houses. It does cost a little bit extra by they do take food stamps and you are encouraged to tip the people that bring the groceries. That could help on the food desert areas and if people need help looking that up, feel free to get ahold of him on Facebook. He just hopes that the Council keeps in mind that, like Bilbrey said, the Council represents the City of Muncie. Regardless of who owns the property, wherever it is owned, we need to keep an eye on stuff and make sure they do not try to slip something in on us once again. It happened before, a couple years ago and now Cass County is having to deal with it. They are building that factory up there and actually have quite a bit of it done. So... it is just a shame it went in up there, let alone anywhere. Barber would like to see some work done to maybe bring an Amazon Warehouse to Muncie because they are building a lot of them all over the place (mentioning he has been working on one in Fort Wayne since October) and thinks 42 or 45 acres of land out there would be a good start for an Amazon building. Keep up the good work and we'll see you next month.

Councilman Ingram informs he has Ordinance 19-20 currently on the Table and he would like to Withdraw it. He is able to do so, being the sponsoring councilmember. Ord. 19-20 is WITHDRAWN.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Adjourn. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Robinson). ADJOURNED.



Jeff Robinson, President of  
the Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk of  
the Muncie Common Council