

Minutes  
Muncie Common Council  
300 North High Street  
Muncie, Indiana 47305

**Monday, July 12, 2021**

**Regular Meeting:** 7:00 P.M., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor City Hall Auditorium.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Councilman Dishman.

**Invocation:** Pastor Josh Cooper with Bridges Community Church.

**Citizen Recognition:** Councilwoman Selvey expresses most people who reside in Muncie Indiana are well aware of A Better Way services along with their Director of 26 years, Teresa Clemmons. Not only is she hard at work daily in this organization that she loves, she also contributes on a regular basis to the Muncie Star Press giving her and her client's perspective on why this organization is such an important staple of the Muncie Community. Under her direction, A Better Way has thrived serving Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Jay and Randolph counties along with offering shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Programs include a Domestic Violence Shelter, support groups, suicide hotline (which answers over 30,000 calls a year), after school programs, sexual assault advocacy, transitional housing, prevention programming and legal advocacy along with a holistic approach to specific issues a client may be experiencing. Selvey recalls in her opinion, Clemmons humanity and big heart are just two reasons A Better Way has been so successful. She believes in meeting clients where they are and employs an exceptional staff who offers clients a safe haven, a listening ear, around-the-clock counseling, healthcare and non-judgmental support. In Debbie Winkle's opinion, a current board member, Teresa is completely committed to A Better Way which is why both she and organization thrive under her leadership. In Gene Drum's opinion, a past board member, Teresa has built a trusted organization of donors and community volunteers that is a force for change in our community. Her warm and caring personality reaches many desperate women and offers them a brighter future. Her strong belief system heels families and offers them a brighter tomorrow. Selvey requests to all join together and thank Theresa Clements, this faithful Director who has helped A Better Way become a model for other nonprofits across the state. Thank you and congratulations.

Teresa Clemmons thanks so much for recognizing the work that they do at A Better Way. Sometimes, the people that they serve are just overlooked. We all know that they are there but we don't see them in front of us. She is so appreciative of this community because we really are a community of people who step up and help the people in need. She recalls they do struggle but she is so grateful for being recognized and give thanks once again.

**Roll Call:**

Aaron Clark

**Present**

X

**Absent**

Roza Selvey	X
Troy Ingram	X
Ralph Smith	X
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 and seconded by Ingram to Approve the Minutes from the June 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **June 7<sup>th</sup> Minutes Approved.** A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Approve the Minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **June 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes Approved.**

**Committee Reports:** Councilman Polk explains the Government Affairs Committee met on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to look at ord. 17-21, an ordinance establishing the policy by which members of the Common Council may participate by electronic means and notes the Committee did make some changes that he will address later. The Committee had a favorable recommendation for the passing. A motion is made by Garrett and seconded by Selvey to Approve the Minutes from the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Government Affairs Committee Meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 3 yeas and 0 nays. **June 23<sup>rd</sup> Committee Minutes Approved.**

Councilman Clark and Chairman of the Tax Abatement Committee informs they met earlier this evening to review the tax abatement applications for Calumet Paralogics, LLC and Phillips Pattern & Casting, Inc. Both had a favorable recommendation and they also approved their Minutes from a previous Tax Abatement Committee meeting where they heard from Gillman Hone Store and Fourteen91 Lofts.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions:** President Robinson informs they have one appointment to make with the new vacancy on the Muncie Redevelopment Commission. This appointment will expire on December 31, 2021 as it is only a 1-year term and will complete the term of the individual who vacated the seat. He declares nominations open. No nominations made so Robinson advises they will take this back up next month and takes the opportunity to encourage anyone that is interested in serving on the Muncie Redevelopment Commission, being that it is a short term, it is possible and the Council may be favorable to a reappointment. Therefore, there is possibility for it to become a one and a half-year term. Anyone that is interested can send any member of the Council an email to let them know in addition to any interests and qualifications along with any questions.

**Reports of City Officers:**

**Ordinances Previously Introduced:**

**Ord. 13-21** Ordinance to Vacate A Certain Public Street in the City of Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana.

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

Maura Hoff, DeFur Voran 400 S. Walnut St, Muncie, recalls since the Public Hearing and Introduction last month, they have received no concerns or questions from any citizens. She reminds everyone that this is Cardinal Street that has been blocked off for well over a year and is not actually used. This will finalize its vacation. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 17-21** An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Establishing the Policy by which Members of the Common Council Participate in Electronic Means.

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Garrett to Amend based on the recommended changes from the Government Affairs Committee.

Councilman Polk explains that Sec. B(2) previously stated "a member may not attend more than 50% of the meetings in a calendar year by electronic means" and the recommendation from the Committee is to change it to 25%. The second recommended amendment was to add Sec. E that states "a member that violates the electronic participation requirements of this may be subject to removal in accordance with Indiana Code § 36-4-6-6 and Sec. 32.06 of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances."

A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.** A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Adopt as Amended. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted as Amended.**

**Ord. 18-21** An Ordinance for the Transfer of Cash.

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

Mayor Dan Ridenour mentions there is few things to come up tonight regarding a City Engineer position. He thinks that the results have been seen throughout the City what can occur from having a qualified licensed engineer on staff. Of course, they hate to see Brian Stephens-Hotopp go but there is still a few months or so left of him being here. The Mayor explains this is taking five months of salary plus the other benefits that go with it from the EDIT Funds and moving it into the City Engineer position to provide the funding for the rest of this year. That allows the new employee a couple of months to work with Stephens-Hotopp before he leaves for Colorado.

Councilwoman Selvey questions how much time that gives the new employee to get trained under the current engineer. Mayor Ridenour budgeted for five months but it is not going to be a full five months as we are already on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. It is hopeful the person could start August 1<sup>st</sup> but he is not for certain that they can make that happen and comments the person will have to give notice. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 19-21** Ordinance for Additional Appropriations for Local Road and Street Fund.

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

Brian Stephens-Hotopp, City Engineer, recalls giving a detailed presentation at the mast meeting regarding this. The 2021 budget had \$200,000 allocated for the Local Road & Streets fund which they have subsequently paid down the debt from that account quite

significantly. The proceeds and revenues from that account have exceeded projections so they are asking for an additional \$400,000 in appropriation and all of that would be going toward road projects. The request is to increase the \$200,000 appropriated up to \$600,000 for the 2021 budget. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 21-21** An Ordinance Fixing the Maximum Salaries of Each and Every Appointed Officer, Employee, Deputy, Departmental and Institutional Head of the City of Muncie, Indiana, Included herein for the year 2021.

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

President Robinson points out this is amending the salary ord. 3-21 and the only changes here have been to the Superintendent of Streets as well as the City Engineer position. All other positions remain the same as they do in ord. 3-21.

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains this sets the pay scale for the Superintendent of Street and the City Engineer. With that being said, he will say that the Sanitary District is going to pay \$20,000 of the City Engineer salary with the City being responsible for the rest. Also, they will take care of the health benefits.

Audie Barber confirms this is dividing the Street Superintendent and City Engineer positions and making them separate like the way it was before. Robinson believes they are going to be combined into one position. Barber questions if it is combined into one as in the City Engineer has to do the duties of the Street Superintendent. The Council confirms.

Councilwoman Selvey appreciates the Muncie Sanitary District and their willingness to help get this position up and going and thanks MSD Board President Stephen Brand who is in the audience.

Audie Barber has one more question and asks if this means the Street Superintendents salary and the City Engineer salary become one, with the price increasing, or is it still at the \$70,000+ spoken about before. Robinson reads the ordinance the change is within the Superintendent of Streets and City Engineer position. Superintendent of Streets is a scale because no one has yet been hired but the scale is from \$2,096.38 – \$2,692.30 bi-weekly and the City Engineer is \$3,076.92 bi-weekly. Barber questions if that means that is about \$5,800 bi-weekly.

Mayor Ridenour explains this keeps the positions created and shows what the maximum salaries could be. It does not mean that is a funded position. In 2020 and 2021, the City did not pay a Street Superintendent (only a City Engineer) and in 2022, the **intention is to just have a City Engineer. The employee doesn't get both salaries.** The City is just not funding the position as it was not in the budget for this year or last year. It is just something that rolled back into the Street Department budget and was used to maintain that department and street. Robinson clarifies that it is being paid from ord. 18-21 passed a few moments ago. The Mayor doesn't recall what the ordinance number was but yes. In conclusion, it is not both salaries combined. It just keeps the position open so if, down the road somebody wanted to, they could ask the Council to fund both positions. Right now, they are only asking one to be funded.

Barber questions if the Engineer is going to be making roughly \$78,000 a year and the money from the Superintendent is going to go back into the budget. Mayor Ridenour states that is correct and clarifies it was not in the budget this year for a Street



Superintendent but they didn't want to eliminate the position. The Mayor confirms and that they would have to come back before Council to appropriate. Barber just wanted to make sure the employee wasn't making \$150,000 a year doing both job duties. Mayor Ridenour replies the employee will not. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 22-21** An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Amending Ordinance 24-20 of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances (Chapter 77).

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

Nathan Sloan, Muncie Police Chief, recalls this being the direction of ticket money that's currently being generated by the parking enforcement officers to account #541 or the police department. President Robinson comments this is for the escalation of fees.

City Clerk, Belinda Munson, questions if this is the ordinance that should have the \$3.00 to Passport. Chief Sloan answers that is something the City Attorneys are working out now and is something that may have to be taken care of later. Clerk Munson explains if she doesn't have this to give to the software provider then they can't charge/take money... Chief Sloan states that is something the City Attorneys overlooked and will address when they get to it if they can. Clerk Munson questions if they can do an amendment to add something about paying the provider their contract fees. Chief Sloan relays that would be up to the Council. Robinson advises he hasn't seen that but will defer to the wishes of the Council and asks if there is a City Attorney present tonight but there is not. Robinson seeks direction from Council Attorney, Dan Gibson, about the City Attorneys working on an amendment to ord. 22-21 to include \$3 ticket fees to pay to Passport which is the software the Clerk's office uses to collect parking ticket money. The Council doesn't have anything in front of them by way of an amendment from the City Attorneys and asks if this is something Gibson knows about or can speak on.

Dan Gibson, Council Attorney, hasn't seen anything on that. The only ordinance on this issue is the one that has been provided to Council before. Chief Sloan recalls speaking to the City Attorneys earlier relaying that is something they are going to have to work on regarding an amendment. President Robinson then clarifies with the Clerk to see if it is ord. 23-21 that she is actually speaking about. Councilwoman Davis believes it is. Chief Sloan knows in ord. 23-21 there is actually an issue with the \$0.25 per hour as it hasn't been \$0.25 per hour in several years. It has been and is now \$1.00 per hour so that needs to be amended. President Robinson informs they will address ord. 23-21 when they get to it. Clerk Munson comments that ord. 23-21 is about parking meters, ord. 22-21 has to do with the direction of funds. Her only concern is that when the citee is set for court, a charge of \$3.00 is supposed to be sent on to the software provider the office contracts with to collect parking fines. However, that is not written here. The court software the office contracts with, Odyssey, needs an ordinance that specifically declares the \$3.00 Passport fee in order for Odyssey to add the line item which pulls that \$3.00 out. At the end of the month when she writes the checks to the City, the software provider gets their \$3.00 for each payment. Chief Sloan recalls there have been some other issues with Passport come up. Clerk Munson adds it is a small issue but the company wants to get paid. Attorney Gibson advises under Sec. 77.99(B)(3), it entitles the City to collect all reasonable collection costs and administrative fees if it is required to commence litigation

to collect unpaid fines. President Robinson confirms that covers it then. Gibson repeats that should cover any additional fees due to the software provider. President Robinson asks if that satisfies the Clerk. Clerk Munson replies she has sent this to them before but will submit it again so she will see. President Robinson thinks if there are any issues moving forward, that is something they can address when the issue arises but they can have a friendly agreement here in a public meeting to say those fees will be taken care of. Perhaps Passport needs a certified letter from the City Attorney stating that it is covered, maybe that might satisfy that requirement as well. Clerk Munson states it has to be written in an ordinance so if they have to do an amendment, they can bring it before Council next month. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays.

**Adopted.**

**Ord. 23-21** An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Amending Ordinance 42-14 (Chapter 77) of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances.

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

Muncie Police Chief Nathan Sloan explains this is just so that the account where the money is being deposited from (#541) and the tickets and everything else can be used not only for the parking services but also to support a sustainable vehicle purchase program for the Muncie Police Department. He confirms the Sec. D(2) needs amended as the City Attorneys were unaware of at the time of submitting the ordinance, it is \$1.00 per hour and has been for quite some time. With the updating of the ordinances through the years, it just was not ever done. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend Sec. D(2) the rate of use of parking facilities for which a parking meter is assigned from \$0.25 per hour to \$1.00 per hour. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.** Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted as Amended.**

**Ord. 24-21** An Ordinances of the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana, Designation of Economic Development Target Area (Muncie Mall Area).

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

Mayor Dan Ridenour recalls they went through this in some detail last month and that this is a hope for an expansion that would include some additional retailers in the area. By creating the economic development target area, some additional benefits are able to be provided such as tax abatements, with Council approval that is. It allows retail and that was one of the main reasons that they were looking for it as one of the components. Also, reminding the public and the Council, this includes the mall, areas across from the mall like the theater and Muncie plaza, the area across from the railroad tracks and the east side of Broadway/MLK. It does not include Target. The Mayor explains they felt like this area was an area needing some economic development and decided to seek those opportunities. This just provides a little bit of flexibility but without this document, they can't even do a retail abatement although any abatements will have to come back before Council. Questions called. President Robinson wishes to state this has passed through the Economic Development Commission and received a favorable recommendation which is one of the requirements. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 25-21** An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana, Designation of Economic Development Target Area (South Madison Street).

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

Mayor Dan Ridenour explains this is the block that includes the corner of 29<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison where the Red Carpet Inn used to sit before being torn down last year. The Gillmans want to put up one of their home stores there so these are some of the steps that have to happen. He hopes they are able to come back before Council next month for the tax abatement with an August and September approval. He claims they are very excited which was expressed last week when they were here. The Mayor adds there has been many people involved in this including Councilman Clark and Councilman Smith in particular also with Deputy Mayor Richard Ivy. The administration, too, is very excited about this and again, the Gillmans are very excited about coming here to the south side of Muncie.

Councilwoman Davis mentions that this may be addressed next month but she just wants to be sure there are going to be corrections made on the SB-1 form. Mayor Ridenour confirms yes and that is why they are not here tonight. With vacations, it has just been a challenge and states it is even going to be a challenge to get it filed by next Monday but that's what they're working for. The deadline for the next Council meeting is just this upcoming Monday and the next meeting is just three weeks from now. Davis concludes she just wanted to be sure everyone was on the same page.

Audie Barber hopes they can get this passed and taken care of so the building process can get started. We need this on the south side of Muncie and he wants to congratulate everybody that was involved. To bring this to the south side of the City brings hope that maybe we can get more stuff like this on the south side. President Robinson points out that this ordinance, much like the ordinance prior, received a favorable recommendation from the Economic Development Commission as required. Councilwoman Selvey congratulates Councilman Clark and Councilman Smith on a job well done. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 27-21** An Ordinance to Vacate Certain Streets and Alley in the City of Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana.

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

Brian Stephens-Hotopp recalls this is regarding the vacation of two alleys that are located in the White River Canal District; Franklin Street (which is to the east), Gilbert Street (to the north), Liberty Street (to the west) and Washington Street (to the south). Both DAC (Delaware Advancement Corporation) and MSD (Muncie Sanitary District) have joined this petition for vacation to essentially eliminate the right-of-way that is established there. They have ensured no utilities have been located within those right-of-ways and it would also allow for further development in that parcel.

Councilman Ingram questions if vacating this will restrict any access to any personal property. Stephens-Hotopp explains that DAC and MSD joined it because they were adjoining property owners so that is the joining properties that joined the petition but no, this is not eliminating access for any property that is there. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**New Ordinances:**

**Ord. 28-21** An Ordinance Declaring an Development Target Area for Greater Muncie, Indiana Habitat for Humanity, INC. 1717 S. Jefferson Street in the City of Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana.

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

Zane Bishop, Community Development, informs this ordinance is to establish a development target area at 1717 S. Jefferson. This would allow for a 3-year sliding scale tax abatement estimated at \$1,000 to \$11,000 over that 3-year period. This tax abatement received unanimous recommendation from the Economic Development Commission. Here tonight is a member of Habitat staff as well as the respective homeowner.

Ryan Payonk, Habitat for Humanity, expresses gratitude for the opportunity the Council has granted them on some past new builds which has been wonderful for the families that are purchasing these homes. Certainly, the families who are purchasing Habitat homes are often becoming first-time homebuyers and the opportunity to be investing in themselves is a huge opportunity. This has been really helpful in helping those families as they are investing in themselves to transition and ease into homeownership so that they can continue to invest in some other areas of their life. Alongside him is the purchaser of 1717 S. Jefferson.

Cassondra Cecil thanks for the opportunity to be able to be a homeowner. Councilwoman Davis congratulates her. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

**Ord. 29-21** An Ordinance Declaring Ordinance an Development Target Area for Greater Muncie Indiana Habitat for Humanity, Inc. 1621 S. Mulberry Street in the City Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana.

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

Zane Bishop, Community Development, explains this ordinance is similar to ord. 28-21. It would establish a developement target area at 1621 S. Mulberry and allow for a 3-year sliding scale tax abatement estimating at \$1,000 to \$11,000 over the 3 years. It also received a favorable recommendation from the Economic Development Commission. However, the homeowner was unable to attend this evening.

Councilman Polk questions if this is a new build as well as the last one and that they are on vacant lots. Bishop confirms they are unimproved and owned by Habitat so they are receiving no taxes whatsoever.

Councilwoman Selvey kindly wishes for Bishop to explain for the people who are present and/or watching, how a family would go about working with Habitat to be able to get in one of those homes and hopefully be a first-time homeowner. Bishop explains that Habitat has its own guidelines and policies. The first step is being in need of stable housing. The second step is contacting them at Habitat. Bishop knows there are some financial requirements as they do not want to see the houses sold to people that just end up sitting there. They want to set these people up for success. The home-owners also have to put in sweat equity hours on their own build or another build or rehab. The first step would be contacting Habitat. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**



**Ord. 30-21** An Ordinance Authorizing Service Fees for Electronic Payments.

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, was asked to present this to the Council by the Building Commissioner, Steven Selvey. He joked that this was bringing his office into the 20<sup>th</sup> century because right now all they take is cash or check. The ordinance just sets up a credit card reader for credit or debit in the office. This has to be presented by an ordinance per State Board of Accounts so that is why it is being brought forth this way. It is at no cost to the City and the fee is basically taken off of the transaction from the individual by the company that is running the credit card through. It is a 3% fee for the transaction to the individual using those services. President Robinson questions how they are running them now. Wright answers they aren't and it is either cash or check that is accepted. By doing this, they will be able to take payments over the phone. It sets up the City for collection of additional revenues and quicker payment. Wright claims he told Building Commissioner Selvey it is pretty much a "slam dunk" with trying to get this through because it makes a lot of sense on the additional revenues and updates his office. That being said, he questions if there is possibility to Suspend the Rules to get this passed so it can be set up immediately.

Councilman Ingram questions the difference in passing this normally or suspending the rules to do so now. Councilman Polk comments the next meeting is just three weeks away. Wright answers it sets it up quicker so they can go ahead and get the ball rolling and start collecting the fees. Councilman Smith confirms that if doing so, the City would get money sooner. Wright answers yes. Ingram adds he just hates bending the rules. President Robinson leaves it to someone else to make that motion but first, they must vote to Introduce.

Councilwoman Davis thinks these next three weeks will be enough time to let people know there will be an additional fee therefore she is not going to vote in favor of suspending the rules. Wright will pass the information on.

Audie Barber confirms the additional fee is only for people paying with credit cards. It is not an additional fee for cash or check. Wright confirms that is correct. It is just for the use of credit cards. Barber questions if this is a common practice of 3% for credit card payments for all the departments. Wright states it varies but that is a very small fee for that (in comparison to the \$3 fees earlier discussed for parking) and is going rate. Barber does not see a problem with the 3%. He just wanted to make sure everything was in order with everybody else. Again, the fees are only going to go up for the credit card machine, not cash or check purchases. Wright states that is correct. Robinson reads the very first WHEREAS section, "the City Building Commissioner accepts payment for permits via debit and credit cards as a convenience to applicants." Davis is aware that the County Treasurer has a 3% fee for debit or credit on property taxes. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

**Ord. 31-21** Ordinance of the City of Muncie Requiring Notice of Environmental Impact.

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

Councilman Ingram explains this is an ordinance that he along with Attorney Gibson and Marta Moody have been working on. Due to the issue with Waelz Sustainable Products where the public didn't get any information until it was almost too late and luckily, the



City came together to stop it. This ordinance is designed to prevent things like that from happening. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

**Ord. 32-21** An Ordinance Amending Section 79.07 and Section 31.08 of the City of Muncie City Code of Ordinances.

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

Mayor Dan Ridenour recalls bringing forth a similar type ordinance last month. It was discovered that there was listed as positions for the City both a "City Civil Engineer" and a "City Traffic Engineer." This ordinance will combine those two positions into one. A Traffic Engineer was not budgeted/funded for and the Mayor cannot recall when the City ever had a Traffic Engineer. Under Sec. 2, it states the City Civil Engineer will then serve as the City Traffic Engineer. It eliminates that other position, essentially.

Audie Barber makes sure this is just a part of housekeeping and it is not giving more funds to the position that is already there and that person isn't getting a raise to do both positions because now it is considered one position for two peoples work. He understands it has not been filled in a while but still wants to make sure there is no money raising these people up in salaries. Mayor Ridenour explains there was no Traffic Engineer in the budget and there will not be ever again. President Robinson recalls there is a lot of housekeeping like this that comes up from time to time. The Mayor replies that as they see them, they are trying to fix them. He mentions the Land & Traffic Committee meeting held in conjunction with the City Engineer a few months back and there are so many little things to work on with the old ordinances that those changes haven't been filed to come before Council yet. Although, it is in the works and getting close, the Mayor just wants to make sure they get it as correct as possible. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

Mayor Ridenour asks that while he is here, he would like to ask the Council to Suspend the Rules. As it is known, there are many departments that are unfilled inside the City and one of them is with the soon-to-be leaving and resignation of the City Engineer (the other is a City Engineer position). Several applications have been received but Mayor Ridenour is concerned that other cities are also looking. It was intended for this to be filed last month and up for adoption this month but last month, it was withdrawn because they felt like they didn't want this to come up later about two different engineer positions. He is asking if the Council would (please) approve this so that they can get to the process of securing a City Engineer for our City. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Smith to Suspend the Rules to consider for adoption. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Motion Carried.** A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Selvey to Adopt. Questions called. A roll call vote shoed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Ord. 33-21** An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds Pursuant of I.C. 36-7-14-3.5.

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

Brad Bookout, Delaware County Redevelopment Commission, has some good news and is excited to share this as well as happy to answer questions as he goes through this. The Delaware County Redevelopment Commission (DCRC) is in the process of refinancing a bond that was issued in 2015. The bond requires City Council approval. That bond was

originally issued to complete sidewalk, trail and other infrastructure projects in the area of Morrison Road. This refinancing of this bond will save taxpayers approximately \$356,196.00 so that is why the DCRC is initiating this action tonight. This refinancing does not extend the life of the bond any further than the original term that it was issued for. He advises that the Council Attorney reviewed the ordinance provided and made some revisions, which the legal counsel of the DCRC has accepted. With this refinancing, the DCRC is able to capture some additional revenue. The DCRC proposes paving \$1.3 million worth of roads in the area of the Morrison Road TIF district. After discussing the roads with the County Commissioners, DCRC, the Mayor and the City Engineer, it is proposed to pave the following roads with the additional funding: 1. Morrison Road from Keller drive to Bethel Ave, 2. Benton Road north of McGalliard and 3. Clara Lane from Bethel to Walmart (most people don't understand that Walmart actually owns Clara Lane in front of Walmart). Bookout has talked with the City Engineer who has put Walmart on notice that they would like that paved as well. It is unknown if they will do that but it will be nice if they did. It is very important to the County Commissioners that also some residential streets are paved at the same time so they have proposed to pave all of the Lantern Park Edition. Pending that they have enough money to pay for this additional work, they would like to pave Bethel Avenue from Morrison to the Cardinal Car Wash. That is, if the bids come in and they have enough money to pave that fifth street. The plan is to issue bids immediately on July 15<sup>th</sup> for the first advertisement and then July 22<sup>nd</sup> would be the second advertisement. They would like for the work to happen this year. The County Commissioners and the DCRC would like to work in cooperation with the City on this project and relays they have stayed in close contact with the City Engineer. The project not only saves the tax money from the refinancing but also gets some much-needed roads paved. Bookout knows a lot of us drive this area frequently and we know that it needs help. In closing, he thanks the Council for their consideration and thanks is happy to answer any questions tonight. Lastly, he asks the Council for their approve so they can get the work started as soon as possible.

President Robinson clarifies for those in the audience and those at home watching on the livestream that when it comes to spending these dollars that are coming in and the issuance of the TIF, this has to be spent in or adjacent to the TIF. Bookout clarifies the term that is commonly used is "serve and or benefit" the TIF District. So, these are main artery roads that are in and around serving that TIF District. A lot of people are confused as to exactly how large that TIF District is but it is not as large as most people believe it to be but it is served by all of the roads that have been discussed here tonight. Robinson continues he just wanted to make that clarification before the complaints about what road should be done as a priority. In this circumstance, these are dollars that have to be spent in that area that's generating the revenue. Bookout states yes and the DCRC has historically spent a lot of those dollars redoing a lot of things consisting of: working with the new Optum Healthcare facility that is locating behind the building of American Health Network, repurposing the former Mursix and TFX Plating building, doing a lot of sidewalk and trail infrastructure in the area, installing crosswalks at different intersections, the Morrison roundabout, the list can go on and on as there is a lot that has been done over the years. The County was in control of this TIF area prior to the City annexing the area.

Hence, there is a state statute that declares that the County is therefore in control of that area. They are here tonight to work together and cooperatively with the City.

Brian Stephen-Hotopp, City Engineer, wishes to point out that Mr. Bookout has reached out to him and obviously, the City is excited about this opportunity. He explains they, too, have also incorporated some additional roads that they would like to add on to their project. They will be bidding concurrently with them to try and have a larger project that they can really capitalize the savings. Additionally, he just wants to inform that some of these are boundary roads but most of what really is being done are local City streets. That is really something that is saving the City a significant burden of having to go through trying to get all these roads resurfaced and brought up to better conditions for the future. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

**Ord. 34-21** An Ordinance for Additional Appropriations (Fire Dept. – EMS)

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains this is asking for additional appropriations to a line item for the Fire EMS Department. It is asking for an additional \$125,000 in appropriations from the current budget of \$120,000 bringing the total to \$245,000. Right now, 96% of that line item has been spent due to the costs of supplies and the additional runs and burden that has been acquired over the years to date. However, the revenue is there to support that. President Robinson states he has spoken with several members of Muncie Fire Department and the run count is substantial and he understands it's tough to budget for something that you don't know. The first year, being a Covid year, we don't really know what to expect year to year in terms of supplies, how many runs you might take and budgeting the proper amount.

Councilwoman Selvey questions if the money is coming from the Fire Department's general fund or if this is additional funding from the City. Wright explains it is coming from the EMS revenues of over \$300,000 year-to-date. Selvey questions if there is a way to amend this section to specify where the money is coming from. President Robinson confirms it is already on there and points to the Fund – Dept. – Account # 104-24-422173.

Audie Barber, wants to be sure that Muncie Fire EMS is still making money, that this money is just coming from their revenue fund and this is not additional money from taxpayers to bail out the EMS system on Muncie Fire. Wright confirms.

President Robinson comments that he would like to see the accounting of the Fund #24 EMS Department year-to-date. Mayor Ridneour can present on it right now as he just so happened to have his briefcase and he always carries his budget. The budget that was approved for 2021, it was estimated \$1.7 million in revenue. Through June, they are at \$1.629 million and that includes the first \$200,000 installment from Center Township as they pay the City every six months. He is not sure if that includes the second installment. The revenues are way above where they estimated. The Fire Department and the EMT's are doing a great job and they are getting run after run after run. There is plenty of money in that fund because of revenues that was not forecasted as they didn't want to overestimate the revenues and they certainly did not as, again, it is much higher than expected.

Councilman Ingram asks if they can look forward to a civilian EMT ordinance coming before them soon in order to save some more money. Mayor Ridneour answers they could look to that, yes. Questions called.



Council Secretary reminds that this is an additional appropriation which is required to go before a Public Hearing which has been scheduled before the August 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council Meeting at 6:45 PM confirmed by President Robinson. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

**Ord. 35-21** An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Amending Chapter 80 of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances.

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

Mayor Dan Ridneour comments he is not involved in everything, it is just tonight they have discussed a lot of things he has had an interest in and explains this looks at the new Canal District between North Street and Liberty Street that is a small two-lane road right now with no parking. He informs it is currently being paved. The plan is to make that a one-way street going west and around the new circle and one block south on Liberty Street from Gilbert to Washington one-way south. That will limit the traffic and does two other things. One, it will make it safer for the pedestrians because a lot of people are expected to be in that area once the apartments are finished and the parking lot is done (which the vacating of the alleys helps accomplish) and then when some of the other things that are coming get here. There is commercial space inside the new apartment that is almost finished and they are looking for restaurants to go in there. Almost any restaurant is needing, wanting and desiring on-street parking. There is no chance for a drive-up window so that is not going to happen but they want a one-way street with one lane of parking so that it will provide additional parking spaces in that area.

Councilwoman Davis asks if anyone has spoken to the current neighbors and if they are okay with this. She also asks if there has been a meeting. Mayor Ridneour states yes, the owners of the federal building there are okay with it. Thomas Business Center is okay with it and actually like it as it makes it easier for their trucks to be parked. The big building is all owned by WSP Properties, which is under construction but near completion. The canal on the other side of the street and there will be a parking lot there. However, there is not a lot of neighbors in the area at this time but they are hoping for more. Barber questions if this was a one-way street in the past, which everybody believes so. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

### **Recess.**

### **Resolutions:**

**Res. 16-21** A Resolution Approving Settlement of Litigation.

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains this is a resolution they are hoping is the last litigate in the brutality cases under the last Administration or, at least, the last of the large ones. He will say that he and the Deputy Controller are meeting with Davie's Claims tomorrow so they will get a final number on hopefully everything that is still pending and all legal fees, etc. to move forward in these litigation cases.

Councilwoman Selvey hopes this closes a sad chapter in Muncie and a sad chapter of police brutality. She wants everyone to know that this is by no mean a reflection on the

current Administration or the current Police Department. She believes in Police Chief Sloan and appreciates all the professional development and training he has done with his officers. They are top-notch, a class act and we move forward. Wright agrees 100% that Chief Sloan, his Deputy Chiefs and his staff are second to none. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Res. 17-21** Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana Preliminary Economic Revitalization Area Resolution New Manufacturing Equipment Tax Abatement (Calumet Paralogics, LLC).

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

Councilwoman Davis explains the title should state that it is already in an economic revitalization area. In addition, the third WHEREAS, is to be replaced with "WHEREAS, by previous resolution the Common Council declared and affirmed that the area commonly escribed as 301 S. Butterfield Road, which is identified on the attached map and legal description (the "Area"), is in an economic revitalization area, which authorized deductions from assessed value of new manufacturing equipment, installed in the area for purposes of taxation." President Robinson sums up that the original resolution submitted was asking to designate an economic revitalization area but the area is already an economic revitalization area so they want to remove the language asking to designate the ERA and replace it with changing it to the fact that it already is an ERA. A roll call vote shows 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.** A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Davis to Adopt as Amended.

Traci Lutton, Muncie Delaware County Economic Development Alliance, has been working with Muncie-based Paralogics for a few months on an expansion project. She is joined tonight by a representative of the company, Phillip Murphy, and their tax advisor and their location consultant, Jenny Massey of FairWinds Advisors. Last year, Paralogics was acquired by Indianapolis-based Calumet and with that acquisition, as they are always a little nervous when local companies are acquired by local companies but think this is a great outcome for Muncie. An opportunity for new investment comes and the beginning of which will be seen this evening. They are planning a \$2.6/\$2.7 million investment in new equipment in the facility and working with the current real estate owners to purchase the building and acreage with the intent to potentially double the size of the facility taking it from 200,000 to 400,000 square feet, which is a very significant manufacturing company. She explains they have twelve locations in the United States so they could locate this business elsewhere therefore she considers this a competitive project. They are seeking a 5-year tax abatement on this equipment investment. As a result of the abatement, they will create ten new jobs that will range from \$30 to \$34 an hour plus benefits as well as retaining their existing seven employees. So, not a big operation in terms of employment bug a huge growth potential here.

Philip Murphy, Vice President Calumet, states as mentioned they are headquartered out of Indianapolis and acquired Paralogics in March of last year right before the pandemic. They have been looking to expand their wax portfolio, adding fee stocks and increase the production of the site. This resolution would allow them to invest \$2.7 million in new state-of-the-art production equipment and a loading facility that would allow them to do loading and unloading railcars, which would allow them to do more



natural wax blends that they are looking to expand into. That then allows them to go into new markets and hopefully expand sales into Canada and other Midwest region states as well. As said, the investment will double or triple their capacity, although the blending capacity isn't ultimately decided but that will require a double or tripling of the employment base. They are looking to hire Muncie residents to work in the production facility and this investment, if approved, would start in third quarter of this year and be completed in 2022 to 2023, depending how long the development takes.

President Robinson reminds everyone of Councilman Clark's Tax Abatement Committee report earlier this evening giving a favorable recommendation prior to the regular scheduled meeting. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Res. 18-21** A Resolution of the Muncie City Council Supplementing the Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan.

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

Marta Moody, Muncie Delaware Metropolitan Planning Commission, recalls for those that were here last year can remember she did a similar supplement to the comprehensive plan adding some neighborhood areas. As a result of that, there was a tax credit application that was approved by the state for scattered site redevelopment of some vacant lots and that is all underway. The same company is planning on making another application and do a similar in-field development project. She comments she should have done this last year but recalls she is expanding the neighborhood target areas so that they are able to say that they have support from our local land use plans in their applications. She thought it might be of interest that handout that was just passed out was compiled by their consultants who has been working on the update to the comprehensive plan. She thought it was pretty telling they use records they got from the Building Commissioner's Office and mapped them and it shows where demolitions have occurred coincide with the areas that are being proposed in this amendment for it to be designated as targeted revitalization areas in the comprehensive plan. It all goes together.

Councilwoman Davis thanks her because a lot of these areas are in many of the blighted neighborhoods on the south side of Muncie. Having those scattered homes in those areas brings back our neighborhoods and she appreciates that. Moody believes her part is small compared to others. Councilman Ingram confirms this resolution brings zone one through five. Moody confirms. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Res. 19-21** A Resolution Approving Deduction from Assessed Value of New Manufacturing Equipment in an already declared Economic Revitalization Area. (Phillips Pattern & Casting, Inc.)

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

Traci Lutton, Muncie Delaware Economic Development Alliance, explains Phillips Pattern & Casting is requesting a tax abatement on purchase of some new equipment that will help them replace one obsolete piece and then acquire another piece of equipment. This will allow them to keep their current customers and potentially acquire new ones. The Controller for Phillips Pattern & Casting is here and can speak in more detail. She just

wants to say this is a Muncie-based company that has been here since 1947 and they have continued to evolve with the changing times and this new investment is further evidence that they continue that. Their total equipment investment is about \$343,000. It will allow them to retain their existing 31 employees and they intend to hire one additional. Their average wage is \$17 an hour but she just learned after the Tax Abatement Committee meeting that this average wage does not include salaried employees. Mr. Paul was saying that had he included that, it would have raised that significantly. Typically, all salaries are included, so, \$17 an hour on average is just for the hourly employees. It also does not include their benefits package.

Jason Paul, Phillips Pattern & Castings, explains one of the two pieces of equipment they are looking to purchase is a CMM, a coordinate measuring machine for the machining department. The other piece of equipment is a state-of-the-art lathe also for the machining department. The lathe is going to replace a 30-year old lathe that still runs and operates but is just not fast enough. The new lathe will run faster and allow them to secure new work. They have a current customer who had their machine shop manager retire so they are now looking for someone to handle their machining. Phillips currently makes the castings but that customer is looking for someone to handle the machine. It is all turning, which is what the lathe would do. So, they have secured that machine in hopes to secure the rest of their work. He explains they are currently doing it on their old machine but was told they need to tighten up on their pricing. The CMM allows them to check on their parts, as they are all 100% checked after being in the machine. They have an old CMM but the new one is three times as fast in checking the parts where as the old machine gets bogged down where employees have to wait to check thier parts. The new one allows them to check for parts faster.

**Councilman Ingram clarifies this isn't an incremental abatement like 100% for the full 5-years.** Lutton explains it is not a 100% abatement for the 5-years, it would be phased-in and follow the typical tax abatement schedule located on page 7 of the resolution. It also notes the projected abatement percentage, what they pay, the estimated abatement savings and then the net property taxes. The City will still receive tax revenue from the project.

Councilman Dishman informs that Phillips Pattern & Castings is in his District. They received tax abatements before and there has been no problems. They have been very good about keeping their word and doing what they say they will do. He recommends they approve this. President Robinson, again, reminds everyone this received a favorable **recommendation from the Tax Abatement Committee prior to tonight's** regularly scheduled meeting. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

**Res. 20-21** A Resolution of the City of Muncie Concerning Noncompliance with Tax Abatement Monitoring Deadline.

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

David Ritchay, President of Development with Commonwealth Development Corporation, appreciates the opportunity to be able to speak tonight and apologizes for being the last item on the agenda and keeping them here unnecessarily. He would like to point out a few things that this resolution is specific to the administrative filing being tardy. There is no change in the request of the abatement as it was already approved and

has been in force for a few years. Ultimately, as the President of the Company, he apologizes for the tardiness. Their only business is to develop and own and operate affordable housing communities similar to Fourteen91 Lofts. They work in multiple jurisdictions and claims this past year have had issues maintaining necessary staffing for a variety of junctions. This is one that they have actually hired a third party consultant who is going to monitor all of their tax filings to be sure this doesn't happen in the future and they aren't late again. Most importantly, they are at 100% compliance with the purpose and intent of the reason why this abatement was given which was two-fold. One is for the redevelopment and reuse of previously vacant and blighted properties as well as to be able to provide affordable workforce housing. For those that aren't familiar, this property consists of 72 units of affordable and workforce apartment housing. He is very proud over how the property was formed and operated over this last year with Covid, especially over these last 6 months with the property being at 96% occupied. There are 20 residents who are longstanding residents over last year and this year who were impacted by Covid directly though loss of work, work reduction or becoming sick themselves or having to care for other members of the family. He recalls the company was successful in reaching out to the state to secure Covid funds for them. As of right now, they don't have any residents who are late or behind on their rent due to Covid. They don't have any evictions for residents who are anticipated because of late payments. He will say that their residents tend to be individuals who have been most impacted by Covid in the past 18 months and tend to be wage workers often times with multiple jobs. They did a quick survey of their residents and believe over half would qualify as essential frontline workers. He does recognize that they are tardy in the submission of this but does want to emphasize this being a project that is doing 100% what it is supposed to do to serve the residents who need it the most in this community and who have been most impacted in the last 18 months.

Dan Gibson, Council Attorney, clarifies what is being requested here. A prior Council granted real property tax abatements to Fourteen91 Lofts for three separate projects. That abatement was granted several years ago. Gibson relays Mr. Ritchey is correct that the purpose and intent of the abatement has been satisfied in terms of construction and jobs. After an abatement is granted, each year the applicant is required to file what is called a Form CF-1. That simply allows the City to determine whether or not they are living up to their obligations of the abatement. There is a deadline to filing that document which was May 17<sup>th</sup> this past year. A representative of the company, a tax advisor, contacted Gibson a couple weeks later after they realized they had missed the deadline. State code does allow the Council to excuse that non-compliance by adopting a resolution stating that simply they are waiving the non-compliance and they can get the abatement for this year. Regardless of what happens tonight with this resolution, if they filed a CF-1 timely next year, they can continue in the abatement sliding scale. This isn't a complete wipe out of the abatement if the resolution doesn't pass, it just relates to 2021 taxes payable in 2022. President Robinson clarifies that he understood correctly in that they also missed the deadline last year, as well. Gibson informs it wasn't last year but was the year before or the initial year it would have kicked in. What was realized pretty quickly was that only one of the three projects actually had the increase in assessed value hit from the project so really they technically missed the initial deadline on one of the three

projects. Then, timely filed everything last year, later missing the deadline this year for all three.

Councilwoman Selvey expresses as a member of the Tax Abatement Committee, it is hard for her to accept but she appreciates everything that Mr. Ritchey does. But, as a good steward of taxpayers money and being put in positions of making decisions, she thinks Muncie has been very generous with its tax abatements. Muncie is very understanding and we welcome people to come to us but at the same time, it's a two-page application. It's hard for her to accept the fact this was late and it has happened before. Also, it was not mentioned the person or the accounting firms that will take care of this situation in the future and they are not here being represented. One other issue she has with that is it is just hard to come to terms with this. We want people to know that we are very generous but at the same time we hold people accountable to do what they say they are going to do. That is her personal opinion.

Councilwoman Davis questions if told they are in non-compliance and they vote against this, if those fees will be passed along to the residents in the facilities in some way. Ritchey answers they will not.

Councilman Ingram asks how long this abatement is for. Ritchey states it is a staggered 10-year abatement that burns off. Ingram asks the Council Attorney if they approve this, would it start back at the second year of the percentile or does it go on to the third. Attorney Gibson states it will just keep going as normal. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 0 yeas and 9 nays. **Denied.**

### **Other Business:**

Councilwoman Davis has been asked a lot about the ARP funding, the Committees, when applications are going to be taken and how this is going to go from this point on. She is unsure of what to say because she does not know if deadlines have been set yet of when non-for-profits can start. She is aware that small businesses started with a website set up for that and confirms that was one of the Mayor's committees. The Mayor comments actually three committees. Davis requests the lists of committees again.

Mayor Dan Ridneour states the three committees that he was responsible for all have been operating. He is off all of those committees now and was only at the very first meeting when they set up who their officers were and that officer took it over (he has not attended nor will attend any meetings after that). Those three Committees are Restaurants, Small Business/Tourism and Hotels. Those are all items that were funded in 2021 and are sitting in the bank now. The Mayor and the other committee members felt and agreed that these were funds they wanted to get out as quickly as possible. He does not know the deadlines for each of the committees because he does not serve on them any longer. One, he knows is at least the end of July of which applications are accepted to that point. He thinks a number of applications, well over 145 have been submitted at this point. The Mayor is not apart of those other committees but does know that some of those have been setting up. In their defense, some of those other committees don't have any funds available in 2021. So, they didn't have the same type of urgency the three committees that are operating have. The applications are all online at the same website: [www.cityofmuncie.com/arp](http://www.cityofmuncie.com/arp). Go to the bottom of the page and there are links that will



then take you to the appropriate application. The Mayor explains the buttons have been established by the City IT department that are there for other things as well such as art's, neighborhoods and so forth but doesn't believe those committees are operating as the neighborhoods don't even have the funds until May of 2022. That is why some of the committees have really got started more quickly and others did not need to because they don't necessarily have the funding.

President Robinson states the committees he has established are non-for-profits, (Organizations as well as Neighborhood Associations). He will say non-for-profits has met once and are in discussion and coming to an agreement with the Heart of Indiana United Way to be the fiscal agent of those dollars for nonprofit organizations. They are not accepting applications at this point as they want to come up with the eligibility criteria and make sure that those nonprofit organizations know what they're applying for. The hope and goal is to have something a little bit more concrete by mid-August and notes so many people are taking summer vacations so they are going to reconvene the last week of July in hopes that they can start to solidify some of those things. To the Mayor's point, one of the other committees Robinson is tasked with forming is the neighborhood associations. They will start meeting after the no-for-profits have set their eligibility criteria. That money, as the Mayor said, is not available until 2022. They certainly do not want to wait that long and want to give the neighborhoods an opportunity to develop plans and come up with ideas so that they're ready to hit the ground running when the City receives those funds in May of next year. For those that don't know, that money will be administered through the Muncie Action Plan, who work in neighborhoods every single day. That process is expected to begin in late August. Robinson advises anyone can email him with questions relating to non-for-profits or neighborhoods. Davis states that helps because a lot of was concerned was when they can apply. Again, she knew small businesses is going on right now but wanted to confirm that restaurants and hotels can also apply on there. The Mayor confirms and believes the hotels started last week. He mentions it is all on that page, you just have to scroll to the bottom and if somebody doesn't scroll down they may not see it. It is just the way it was set up. Click the link that matches your particular organization and if it doesn't accept an application that means that it may not be ready yet. If it does, it goes in the pool and will be reviewed by those committees.

Mayor Ridenour refers to those currently in the auditorium at City Hall hearing some noise out in the hallway and he wishes to explain. He takes it back to a security mishap last year at City Hall. The incident that occurred was some individuals got in the building and started putting out a white powder (which wasn't what everyone feared). The employees had to evacuate the building and it was realized that this building is not setup ideally (because of the three entrances, the signing-in area in the middle of those entrances and the elevators are before the signing-in area). It was not designed considering the environment that we are in today. At that point, a plan was made with the Police Department, City Engineer and Deputy Mayor Ivy to secure the doors so that people could not go up the elevator without checking in and people could not use the stairways without checking in. The Mayor explains it is his responsibility to make sure that the Council is safe and it is his responsibility to make sure the employees in this building are safe. The



second phase is getting started now, which involves the area right outside the auditorium doors. Going forward, it will be a secured area to where you will not just be able to walk in and go wherever you want to go without checking in. They want to make it more like what you would see at the County building and more like what you see at other buildings with multiple people on multiple floors that need to be safe. The noise is them tearing down that existing station and the Mayor wanted to just explain what it was. It is being paid for through the Police Department and the Muncie Sanitary District; yet another collaboration in this City and how both parties can work together and all City and County organizations are working together. With Council help, the Mayor believes they are making great strides.

Councilman Smith states tonight marks a milestone for him and his wife Christie, who is always in the background by choice. They met on the flight line as security police in February of 1977, started dating in March of 1977 and have been together ever since. When one person in the military serves, just like when one person in government serves, the entire family serves. It's not just one person, it's not just that person and it effects that entire family. Smith would like to read a letter and make a statement that President Robinson allows. He reads, "Mr. President, Members of this Council and Madam Clerk, I humbly submit this letter as notice of my resignation as District #1 City Councilman effective August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. I thank those who elected me to represent District #1 as I have been honored to do so for the last 19 months." Smith recalls running as candidates, they all stated that they would put service before self and people before politics. They have done that and he is proud of each and everyone on the Council for holding true to that. He has been honored to serve with them all. The golf tournament they put on this year is testament to those commitments they made to themselves, their families and this community. He thanks them for allowing him to serve with them, as stated he has been so honored to do so. Smith continues it has come to a time in him and his wife's life that over the past six or so months, they have had some major challenges that they have overcome and conquered together. She is his rock in this life and has been for 44 years. They do this together and now they choose to go into another chapter in their lives and they are so looking forward to that. Again, they have been honored to serve these many years. With that, Councilman Smith tenders his resignation.

President Robinson thinks he can speak for everybody when he says it has been an honor and a privilege and he has really enjoyed getting to know him. Good luck to him and his wife with their plans moving forward. Robinson acknowledges Smith has been serving people for a very, very long time. It is time for them to serve each other.

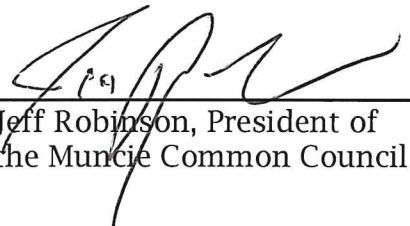
Audie Barber hopes they can get an update on the handicap pier at Prairie Creek Reservoir. He is aware it is not the responsibility of the Council but they are receiving a lot of flak over it and it still isn't open stirring a lot of issues and things on the internet. Another thing, on his way to the meeting tonight, Barber went down Liberty Street and there was a couple barricades blocking off Washington Street. He came up Franklin only to find a couple more barricades blocking the street. In other words, there is two little barricades on Washington Street blocking it off with no lights or flashing barricades, no signage, nothing. That is going to cause an accident tonight. Again, he knows it is not the City Council's problem but that is something that needs to be addressed because that is a

possible lawsuit in the making when you have two little sawhorse barricades blocking the road completely off. He knows that most contractors have to have barricades, signage and arrow boards when they block a road off. Why is the City Street Department different when it comes to blocking off roads? Please look at them. Driving down there at night, you will run right through those things and that happens a lot. Again, it is just going to open the City up to a lawsuit.

Councilman Garrett expresses it has been an honor to sit up here with his uncle. He has taken such pride in sitting next to him this meeting (because due to social distancing, this is the first meeting they are all back up side-by-side on the bench). He appreciates that and the two share a hug.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Garrett to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adjourned.**



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Jeff Robinson, President of  
the Muncie Common Council

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Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk  
of the Muncie Common Council