

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

Monday, November 1, 2021

Regular Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 1st Floor City Hall Auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mark Kinman.

Invocation: Moment of Silence for contemplation or silent prayer.

Citizen Recognition: Councilman Polk recognizes Michael R. Lewis and calls him up to the podium. The Principal and staff of Northview Elementary school provided information about Mr. Lewis. The school being where he volunteers a lot of his time. He is a 64-year-old Muncie native who has been married for over 43 years to his beautiful bride, Rita, and his blessed with two daughters, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter. Mr. Lewis joined the United States Army at the age of 17 and graduated from St. Louis High School in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1976. He served 3 years in Hawaii in the 25th Infantry Division as an Infantryman 11B10 and as a Supply Specialist 76Y. He changed his military occupational specialty to a Finance Specialist 73C and afterwards was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison down in Indianapolis where he was an on the Honor Guard participating in over 75 barrels of veterans and active-duty Personnel. For that Duty, he was awarded the ARCOM (Army Commendation Medal) and went to Vicenza, Italy for 3 years from 1980 to 1983 as a Finance Specialist. He also served as a 5-ton truck driver for the Guard Duty Personnel and for the Quick Reaction Force. From there, he came back to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana where he helped edit and write the Quick Reaction Force. Additionally, he wrote the 73CFM Finance Field Manual. Mr. Lewis left the Army in 1985 after 10 years with disabilities. In 1986, he was involved in a serious accident that caused the amputation of his right leg. In 1990, Mr. Lewis graduated from Ivy Tech with an Associate's Degree in Computers and then started volunteering with the Muncie Police Department where he graduated from the Muncie Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. He volunteered with the Muncie Police Department's Cop Shops and started volunteering for Muncie Community Schools in 1997 at Wilson Middle School by making an HO scale model train layout for a 6th grade class. He volunteered at Wilson Middle School for 2 and ½ years. Then, in 2007, Mr. Lewis started volunteering at Northview. In the last 15 years, Mr. Lewis has spent a majority of his volunteer hours at Northview but also volunteered at Sutton, Westview, Southview and South Middle School. He arrives at 6 a.m. daily, Monday through Friday, and will stay as late as they need him to. He does absolutely anything for students and staff serving as the school Librarian, helping in the cafeteria, fixing broken zippers, serving as a crossing guard and also serving as a mentor to a young man with disabilities. There is not enough space to list the countless deeds that he does and is not expecting a cent in return, everything being volunteer hours. According to Ms. Heidi White, Principle of Northview, individuals like Mr. Lewis are far and few between and the countless deeds he does while not expecting a cent in return is one of the reasons they are beyond thankful for his service to the students and staff. Mr. Lewis is well-deserving of this honor. Polk's spouse is a teacher at Northview so he has heard lots of stories about him and

the help he provides every single one of the staff members as well as every one of the students.

Michael Lewis thanks all the Northview people in attendance tonight and his wife and grandson for also being here. He states he could not have done this without them and thanks all of the students. He loves what he is doing.

Roll Call:	Present	Absent
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Jeff Green	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 Selvey and seconded by Ingram to Approve the Minutes from October 4, 2021. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Approved.**

Reports of City Officers:

Aimee West is here tonight to talk about Candidates of the Future which is a forum that returns for its third iteration on Saturday, November 13th at the Innovation Connector and poses the question “is running for office and political activism right for you?” Participation is free and ideal for anyone who is interested in running for office someday, would want to become active in their party or wants to learn how to engage in local political or policy activism efforts. Registration is required and there are 10 spots left so if interested, register right now on the Shafer Leadership website. Breakfast and lunch are provided and again, it is all free. A little bit about their beginning, Candidates of the Future began in 2017 as a Civic Engagement Coalition of three people, Dr. Chip Taylor, Mitch Isaacs and herself. It has since grown to include a wide variety of partners and valid access party leaders including this year's new partners the Indiana Democratic Party, Annette Craycraft, and the Delaware County Republican Women's Club, Roza Selvey. So, why do they keep at it? West recalls her years of working in civic engagement and that many people just don't know how it all works (even people who probably should) but to be fair, local government is not included in Indiana in its K-12 curriculum standards. This is one small way to help right that ship. The way it all works is a mystery to many and the keys to the kingdom are hidden among the few, which is why Candidates of the Future is making a deliberate effort for you to hear directly from active elected officials, party leaders, and political activists. Since its inception, the series has provided a partisan civic engagement platform that lays out what it takes to run for office and was adopted in 2019 to convene a Summit for Government Transparency. In the face of the pandemic last year, their Committee coordinated the only bipartisan local State and Federal Candidate Forum Series in Delaware County in 2020. They have convened again in 2021 in the spirit of preserving community civic engagement and civil discourse. This year's forum is facilitated and moderated by the Political Signs Experts of the nonpartisan Bowen Center for Public Affairs of Ball State University and is sponsored by the Delaware County Republican

Women's Club, Indiana Democratic Party, Indiana Michigan Power and Shafer Leadership Academy. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of whether or not running for office is right for them, how to engage with local party leaders, the importance of elective rules (like Precinct Committee Chair and State Delegate), how to advance policy issues important to them, how to pursue opportunities to serve on local boards, the obstacles and opportunities for women serving in political leadership roles and how to run and serve on campaigns. Through the Bowen Center of Public Affairs, Dr. Taylor has maintained the task of reaching out to all ballot access County and District Chairs and candidates represent the Republican Democratic and Libertarian parties the last 4-years. While some party leaders or candidates have chosen not to respond or participate, those participating this year and in years past have been responsive and enthusiastic. Again, how does it all work? Elected officials from internal party positions like Precinct Committee Chairs to outward facing Council, Executive and higher Office holders determine the trajectory of their parties for better or worse and influence both the quality and variety of candidates to go up for election and the quality of our lives in our community – sometimes for years after their terms. Their votes determine funding for projects, appointments to Municipal Boards and which ordinance and bills advance. They determine our local government's capacity to address economic and social problems and our community's ability to retain or attract talent and development, those that are accountable to the public, to the quality of life and other economic and social metrics and to their constituencies – who decide if they stay or go at the ballot box. West indicates that both Jeff Robinson and Roza Selvey attended the forum and both have stated that it was a good starting point to lead them in the direction of running for and serving in local office. Now, they are both on the City Council. So, what other offices are on the table? Other past Candidate of the Future participants have run for office and/or earned positions like Precinct Committee Chairperson or State Delegate within their respected parties. Citizens are often aware of these vital roles that are highly attainable and usually the first step in becoming involved in politics. They determine the overall health, ethics, transparency and direction of local and state political parties, they vote on party leadership and their party central committees. They champion voter access and help coordinate election of their Precincts. Precinct Committee Persons serve a 4-year term, which State delegates serve for 2-years and both go up for election in May 2022. In short, if citizens are unhappy with the direction of the political party, the forum begins with getting involved as a PCP or State Delegate. Both are good starting points for individuals to be the change they wish to see in their community. Participants will learn more about these rules in the Issue Advisory Panel. Most that know West know that she is Women's Rights Activist and she is excited to say that one of the new elements to this year's forum is the addition of the Women and Political Leadership Discussion. Women are under-represented in both of the political parties and this is a bipartisan problem. According to the Indiana Commission for Women, women in total take up just 21% of Indiana's General Assembly and hold only 17% of the seats in the United States Congress. Indiana's formal and official candidate and election forms include Chairman and all current state filing documents for Precinct and County Chairs. She doesn't know about anyone else but would like to see this changed. During a time where politics are so deeply divided, bringing everyone together in the spirit of civil discourse and bipartisanship seems like a radical concept but a worthy one. Again, join them in two weeks, Saturday, November 13th for Candidates of the Future and learn more by visiting shaferleadership.com.

Mike Whitted, President of Muncie Firefighters Local #1348, along with Vice President Matt Grindstaff and Cody Leever, President of Anderson Firefighters states the reason they are here tonight is to recognize three councilmembers who went through a Fire Ops last month. A Fire Ops allows the decision makers, or elected officials, to go through very safe controlled scenarios of what firefighters do on a day-to-day basis. Cody Leever, President of Anderson Firefighters, organized this event in Anderson and was able to reserve some slots for Muncie City Council members. They have a state-of-the-art training facility and three of our own councilmembers went through it, wearing full turnout gear. They used the jaws of life, did a medical scenario, a search and rescue in smoke wearing an air pack and mask where they had to crawl in and look for a victim. The last scenario they did was a flashover chamber, which is a controlled burn in a metal container that reaches the temperature of what firefighters experience when everything in a room catches on fire. Again, it is very safe and controlled. Normally, each participant is issued a helmet and after the event, they're allowed to keep the helmet. However, in this case, firefighter gear is not immune to back orders. Everything was on backorder when they were doing this so the helmets just came in a few days ago. President Whitted then presents the helmets to Councilwoman Selvey, Councilman Garrett and President Robinson.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions: A motion is made by Garrett and seconded by Ingram to nominate Perry Hovermale to the Muncie Human Rights Commission. No further nominations.

Perry Hovermale is fortunate enough to already know many of the councilmembers and states he was asked to volunteer for this position and it is something that he feels he is suited for at this point in life. He recalls providing a biography that detailed a little bit about himself but he will say that he has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for most of his life growing up and as a service to his community and the individuals around him, which has always been important. He was able to receive the rank of Eagle Scout in his Troop and was awarded the Key to the City of Marion, Indiana by then-Mayor Wayne Seybold in 2008 for the service to the community that he was able to provide. He grew up, after his parents divorced, with a single mother that had a high school diploma and 5 kids. She had a lot to learn very quickly to be able to provide for them and she did. She is doing great now but he was able to see, firsthand, the struggle that she went through. Human Rights and the rights of every individual is important to him. He has been a resident of Muncie since 2015 and a local business owner of Cardinal Vapor Co. since 2017 and just opening Upland Liquor in Grant County this past February. He is an entrepreneur, local guy that really wanted to be more involved in the community and this was one opportunity that he saw and was really interested in filling. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Motion Carried.** Perry Hovermale appointed to the Human Rights Commission.

Ordinances Previously Introduced:

Ord. 46-21 An Ordinance to Amend Section 153.56 of Chapter 153 of the Muncie City Code Entitled "Electric Code."

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

Robinson recalls hearing from the Building Commissioner on this last month at the Introduction. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Ord. 47-21 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 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.

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, confirms this is an amendment to an already passed salary ordinance that was timely passed for 2021. It is fixing the part time salary to a maximum of \$15 per hour. Davis states this is wonderful for the part-time workers and thanks him.

Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Ord. 48-21 An Ordinance for Additional Appropriations (Overtime and Other Services & Charges).

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains this is additional appropriations to the EMS Budget on lines of Overtime and Other Services & Charges.

Audie Barber wants to make sure that the EMS is making money or maintaining itself before the Council votes on this. Wright answers very much so. They are on pace to really go above and beyond and the numbers for November haven't even come in yet. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Ord. 49-21 An Ordinance Fixing the Maximum Salaries for Each and Every Appointed Officer, Employee, Deputy, Assistant, Departmental and Institutional Head for the City of Muncie, Indiana Included Herein for the Year 2022.

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, states this is an ordinance fixing the salaries for the upcoming year for each department with the \$15 included in the part-time. It fixes the salaries for the new year. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

New Ordinances:

Ord. 50-21 An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Amending Section 161.05 of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances.

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

Dan Gibson, City Council Attorney, informs the current ordinance governing tax abatements for single-family residences terminates (as it stands today) on its own terms on December 31st of this year. The ordinance here extends that for an additional 5 years, which from his research, has kind of been the standard on the last few amendments; the last one being done in 2016. This is the ordinance that is typically used to grant tax abatements to the Habitat for Humanity homes. They need to do this in order for those abatements to continue beyond the end of this year. Councilwoman Selvey really appreciates what Habitat for Humanity does for Muncie and the home-ownership opportunities it provides people. This is great for our City and for the people of Muncie. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

Ord. 51-21 An Ordinance of the City of Muncie Amending Chapter 93 of the City of Muncie Code of Ordinances.

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

President Robinson states this is amending an ordinance regarding Beech Grove Cemetery and the Board of Trustees at Beech Grove. He and Councilman Clark met with Superintendent Mike Miller, who is in the audience this evening. They want to be able to provide Beech Grove Cemetery with as much help as they can and indicates there are some restrictions by state statute when it comes to the Board at Beech Grove that they need to be landowners. That part remains. They also wanted to add an attendance section of this ordinance to require the attendance of those Board of Trustee members. If passed by Council, this would take the Board from 5 to 7 members. Of course, this is just for Introduction and could potentially be passed in December if the Council votes that way. If so, they will make those two new appointments in January. Robinson reminds everyone that this is the only entity in the City that the City Council has all of the appointments so he feels strongly. State statute and our own local ordinance would agree that the Council has a responsibility to do whatever they can to make sure the Beech Grove Cemetery is successful and well taken care of. This could provide an opportunity for Mr. Miller as well as the other Board of Trustees members to do just that. Questions called. Clark notices the term of office and asks if the 4 years is a reduction of the current term of office. Robinson states it is. It was originally 5 years (and he is happy to make any amendments here) but in talking to a couple existing members, as crazy as it sounds, one year is not too much off it. However, 4 years sounds a lot better than 5. Clark agrees. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Introduced.**

Resolutions:

Res. 32-21 A Resolution for Transfer of Appropriations (Beech Grove Cemetery).

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

Mike Miller, Beech Grove Cemetery Superintendent, wants to make sure that everybody understands this is not any new appropriations. It is just money moving from one account to the other to clean up some stuff that they've already done and hopefully continue to do. This will help for part-time help through the fall and will try to get them through past November. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Res. 33-21 Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana Preliminary Revitalization Area Resolution Real Estate Tax Abatement (Muncie City View Homes LLC).

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

Mayor Dan Ridenour states City View was willing to be here today but they have already been in front of this Council a couple times already. This is the preliminary declaration and next month is the final declaration but on the project that will end up being 45 homes filling vacant lots throughout (mostly) in the following Industry, South Central, Thomas Park and Old West End neighborhoods, primarily, with some others in Blaine as well. City View said they were happy to drive over from Cincinnati but the Mayor told them that all the others recently gone through with a 9-0 vote. The Abatement Committee gave approval and have already been through the Planning Commission and everything else. Robinson comments they have been hearing about this one for a while.

Councilman Dishman questions the definition of a tax abatement, if it is \$0.0 or assessed value of the property (like Gilman's which he claims the Mayor never got back to him about). The first two years, if it pays nothing or pays the land value. The Mayor clarifies he is speaking about the construction year. Dishman states yes. The Mayor informs there won't be any additional taxes because it wouldn't be assessed, as assessments run behind. Dishman

relays he understands that and, again, asks if it pays the land value. Mayor Ridneour states it pays the current assessed value which will always be part of the property taxes. Dishman mentions the Mayor not getting back to him on the others, that being the reason he was asking. The Mayor understands and states that all of those will always be current value and is always included in the property taxes for the City (General Fund), school system, Center Township, MITS and any other entity that receives those taxes will continue to receive those taxes on the current values. Dishman mentions asking that on the other project and Ridenour disagreed so that was all he needed to know. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Res. 34-21 A Resolution for Transfer of Appropriations (Muncie Police Dept Fund #101). A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Garrett to Adopt.

Craig Wright, City Controller, explains he spoke with Chris Deegan, Deputy Police Chief earlier today and this is the moving of funds from various line items for cleanup and balancing. He is aware that Deegan went into great detail last month and this is for the General Fund (#101). Jumping ahead, Wright explains that the next resolution, res. 35-21, is for the COIT Fund (#106).

Councilwoman Selvey refers to the transfer in the Telephone line item for \$13,000 to make it \$103,000. She wishes to have an explanation wince there are less Police Officers then why do they need more money in that line. Wright believes that is for the radios that Deegan mentioned when explaining this. Selvey asks if Wright could define what type of radios which he has no idea. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Adopted.**

Res. 35-21 A Resolution for Transfer of Appropriations (Muncie Police Department Fund #106).

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, reiterates this is appropriating and moving funds around in Fund #106. Councilman Ingram believes this seems to be quite a bit of money to be left over in this budget and asks why it is not being used for the Patrol Officers, PERF, etc. Wright states these were funds that were moved over and a majority of it is a very large payment due from 2016. That is the last payment in Capital Equipment due on January 1st and Chief Deegan wanted to get ahead of it and get it out before then. As far as the appropriation for those funds on those, they will be used before the end of the year indicating here is still two more months. Ingram comments that it is almost \$400-some thousand dollars, though. Wright reiterates in Capital Equipment, which has large payments. Ingram is just concerned they are over budgeting to have money left over to move wherever they want to use it towards the end of the year. Wright assures they are not over budgeting. They are going to have to move things around during the course of the year as circumstances change. Deputy Police Chief Deegan does a very good job with maintaining the police budget, foreseeing and looking ahead and this is the solution he wants to do to move forward.

Councilwoman Davis questions the amount of the payment. Wright does not know but can get with Deegan and get back to the Council. Davis explains because they would be deducting from these line items and adding it to Capital Equipment and confirms that it is specifically for this payment (is what Wright is saying). Wright adds they have some additional expenses of \$80,000 coming up for the new radios that the Deputy Chief wants to purchase.

Councilwoman Selvey requests the definition of Capital Equipment. Wright explains it could be vehicles or any major expense. Selvey confirms they aren't purchasing anything new

and are just paying prior bills. Wright states yes, that was his understanding because it is due on January 1st which is why he wanted to take care of it in December. Selvey asks if it will go back to \$0 after this payment. Wright states closer, meaning it will go down but is not going to go to zero. It is just additional funds needed to pay that off.

Councilman Garrett asks if any of this is coming from parking. Wright does not believe so but verifies with the Clerk. Clerk Munson states that is why the Police Department wanted the parking money to purchase vehicles. Wright explains this is paying off something prior, nothing new. Munson asks if this budget will effect next years budget. Robinson calls point of order. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 5 yeas (Clark, Green, Garrett, Selvey and Polk) and 4 nays (Ingram, Dishman, Davis and Robinson). Adopted.

Res. 36-21 A Resolution of the City of Muncie Condemning Conversion Therapy.
A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Charlize Jamieson states she will rise in support of this resolution, opposed to the practice of conversion therapy or reparative therapy. Conversion therapy is a dangerous and discredited practice that falsely claims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. For decades, conversion therapy practices have been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization. Because anti-LGBTQ sentiment still exists, some councilors continue practicing conversion therapy, usually on minors, who are especially vulnerable. Some even resort to using shock therapy treatment. Depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness and suicide among our youth are the results of those sentiments and practices. According to the CDC and the Trevor Project, suicide is the second leading cause of death among those under 24 years of age. 42% of LGBTQ Youth have thought of attempting suicide in the past year from the Trevor Project. Alarming, 52% of all transgender and non-binary young people considered suicide in 2020. Surely, we find these statistics shocking and appalling. They are the results of a canvassing of 35,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24. As horrible as those total numbers are, minority groups had even significantly higher suicidal tendencies. While there are several reasons for these horrific statistics, one contributor is conversion therapy which seeks to coerce a child into believing they are different in what or who they are. Currently, 20 states plus the District of Columbia ban the practice of conversion therapy on minors and 5 states (and Puerto Rico) partially ban conversion therapy on minors. 32% of United State LGBTQ minors live in states, including Indiana, which offer no conversion therapy protections. Thankfully, nearly 100 municipalities across America (many of them in University cities like Muncie) have ordinances in place banning conversion therapy on minors. Conversion therapy has no place in today's society and certainly not in Muncie, Indiana. It doesn't work. Beyond that it is a cruel and dehumanizing practice. Conversion therapy begins with an incorrect assumption that something is wrong with an individual. These youth don't need fixing. They need affirmation. They need the laws, ordinances and resolutions established by their government that will aid them in living their lives free from the practices of conversion therapy. Jamieson urges Council to adopt this resolution standing against the practice of conversion therapy in our City and standing strong in support and protection of LGBTQ Youth in Muncie.

Dr. Valeria McClain, Clinical Psychologist, comes in support of the previous speaker, Ms. Jamieson, who is trying to present this bill to ban or limit conversion therapy. As a Clinical Psychologist, she has a LGBTQ following and is cisgender as well. She just wanted to say that the American Psychological Association (which she is a member of) does not condone conversion therapy finds it unethical. They understand and since 2013 do not even have a

gender identity disorder in the DSM-5 which gives people their diagnosis. They have found that the research shows you cannot change someone's sexual orientation. Basically, she is just here as a professional to support this effort to get this out of our City or keep it out in any way possible.

President Robinson adds he was contacted by Charlize Jamieson and has had discussions with several other people as well as an organization that works with LGBTQ+ youth. He knew what conversion therapy was at the beginning of those conversations about a month and a half ago and has since done a lot of research and reading. For him, it was a no-brainer to bring this resolution, wishing they could have done it as an ordinance because there are 20 states in the United States that have protections for LGBTQ+ members of their states and unfortunately, Indiana is not one of those. Hence why this is a resolution and not an ordinance. Robinson felt it was important for us, as a City, to send a strong message to those youth that they are seen, respected and supported for who they are.

Seth Rawlings recommends voting yes on this. It is basic respect. Nobody is trying to convert you if you are a straight person, coming at you trying to convert you and make you gay. It is something we need to do to show respect to LGBTQ people in our City and its great, especially with the university, with a higher proportion of younger people who identify at LGBTQ. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Clark). **Adopted.**

Other Business:

Mrs. Snider, Government Teacher at Muncie Central High School, brings up students of her dual credit Government class as well as her AP Government class. Referring to past years, she explains this is a part of their civic engagement project they do each semester. This semester it was just to attend a City Council Meeting and they are going to have to come up with a resolution to present next semester. For now, the students are just getting the feel of it and will actually participate in the meeting next semester. The students introduce themselves as follows: Perce Dunn, Mackenzie Durbin, Paris Turner, Sophia Brandt, Colleen Kinney, AJ Jackson and Quentin Dick. Councilman Polk states he looks forward to their resolution they will later present. Councilman Garrett thanks Mrs. Snider and recalls having her in class. She lit a fire in him and he definitely would not be here and as involved as he is without her. He appreciates her. President Robinson recalls hearing a story just today from one of Mrs. Snider's former students who was turning 18 on Election Day in 2012. The office wouldn't allow that student to register to vote and Mrs. Snider went all the way to the State to make sure that he could get registered. That student informed Robinson that he has voted in every single election since. He urges her to keep up the good work with those students and seconds with Garrett about listening to your teacher.

Dallas Hopkins, W. 10th Street, has one question and if the answer is "yes," then he will have further questions but if the answer is "no," he will not. The question is if it is on the Mayor's agenda to move 100 Afghanistan families to Muncie. Robinson advises they can't answer that and the City Council is a separate body from the Administration and that question would have to be asked of the Mayor. Hopkins wants to know if he needs to contact him directly in his office and set up an appointment to meet with him. Robinson informs he can email him at mayor@cityofmuncie.com.

Mark Kinman, E. 26th Street, believes it was back in April sometime that the Land and Traffic Committee had a meeting at Cornerstone to bring in all the Neighborhoods to make suggestions on what they would want improved. As of right at this moment, he does not know if anything has been happening except for (he believes) after reading a Facebook post about a stop sign placed in President Robinson's District to help control traffic. What Kinman wants to find out is if there is anything else that is going to be coming up anytime soon for all the other Neighborhoods. The biggest problem the Southside Neighborhood Association has is on 26th Street, which is connected to a Middle and Elementary School where people literally drag race down the street all the time. A suggestion was made by Kinman and some other people there that they either put a three-way flashing light or stop sign at Hackley to slow people going down on 26th Street. They would also like to see a flashing light put up down by the schools when you get closer making it aware that there's a 20 mph speed limit and (in turn, if need be) try to get Police Officers down there. With having both an Elementary and Middle School down on this corner, it is surprising now that there has been nobody killed yet (kids-wise). Robinson explains that traffic ordinance is in the hands of the Administration's Attorney via Brian Stevens-Hotopp, the City Engineer. The issue with Kenmore Neighborhood, which Robinson came to Board of Works because (to be perfectly honest) his patience also started to run out. He came before the BOW and asked for a 90-day exception for the BOW to add that stop sign. He also plans to bring a standalone ordinance for that stop sign in December. He has been told that the traffic ordinance should be completed soon and is hopeful that will happen but it is still in the works. It is just out of his hands at this point. They are hopeful to get something done and he is happy to have a conversation with Kinman after meeting. Robinson adds that Joe Greer has been on his head about that stop sign out there as well and he would be happy to discuss it between now and three weeks from now (maybe they can talk about adding that into that ordinance for December). Kinman states yes and questions if Brian Stephens-Hilltop is still leaving his position to go to another position. Robinson only knows that currently, he is still the acting City Engineer. Kinman was just trying to find out some information because this has been going on since April, long enough where they need to get the school systems involved or something done somewhere. Robinson agrees 100% and apologizes for the delay for all of the Neighborhoods across the City. It is something that needs to be done as there are some traffic changes that will make neighborhoods safer for kids. The Neighborhood that Robinson ended up going to the BOW on was actually the first suggestion he heard in 2021 that actually created the forum that was done at Cornerstone to throw in all these changes at once. He requests for Kinman to get with him after the meeting and they can get a time to talk. Kinman acknowledges several Neighborhood Associations there that made a lot of suggestions of things to fix in this City. When he watched the BOW meeting the other day, so far the only changes have been in Robinson's District and Kinman respects that. He did what he had to do to try to get something going. Something has to be done to slow traffic down all over the City.

Claretta Jolly is here because of the pollution in the Whitley Community and also about the school zone for the kids in that area. They have very little sidewalk and lighting and have to walk to school because they don't have a bus to pick them up. It is dark and scary. The kids have to walk to school when it's snowing and by the time they get to school, they are soaked and wet but expected to go in and learn. Who can learn when you're cold and most of them are hungry, not having eaten any breakfast. She just wants to know what can be done in the Whitley area. Councilwoman Davis clarifies she is talking about sidewalks. Jolly confirms

sidewalks, lighting and also the pollution. Davis explains they had a plan consisting of a list of lights that were out that was given to the Mayor and the City Engineer. Davis recalls speaking with Whitley Neighborhood Association President, Frank Scott, who provided a list of the areas that had lights out. Davis adds that even she has gone through and wrote down some areas. Supposedly, that is in the process of being worked on and she hopes that the Mayor and the City Engineer are still working on that. Jolly is wondering if she should talk to the Mayor then. Davis states she and Jolly can have a meeting with each other in addition to a meeting with the Mayor as well. Because, again, this is on a list in which they are still waiting and still waiting. Waiting, waiting, waiting. She doesn't know what to do besides maybe create a separate ordinance and force the issue. (Looking at Robinson), Davis questions if that what they have to do. Jolly noticed as she rides around different areas that things are being done but in the Whitley community, she sees no improvement whatsoever. Nothing. Davis apologizes and mentions that she is trying but cannot physically make the lights work. She indicates she goes to these meetings with the Mayor and the City Engineer and they talk about all the things that need to be done and everything comes on a list. However, Davis is willing to meet with Jolly and talk further to make sure the list she has coincides with the lights and sidewalks being discussed and try to keep fighting to get this stuff done as quickly as possible. It is the same with roads and potholes. It is hard to get these things done across the City so she does understand. She is sad about it and wished she could push somebody to get it done immediately.

Councilwoman Selvey wants to piggyback on what Councilwoman Davis said and also mentions she was in a few of those meetings. She was able to see one of the people from AEP who was part of the meeting who said that Muncie was going to go first so they are going to work on our lights very, very soon. "Very soon" might be a month or two but before the beginning of the new year, according to the information relayed to Selvey.

Councilman Clark refers to Jolly mentioning lights and clarifies if she is talking about new lights in addition to ones already up. Jolly answers yes, more lighting. Clark mentions they want to make sure they clarify that too and confirms that these lights are normally along paths that children are taking from neighborhood to school. Jolly confirms.

Davis brings up the pollution Jolly earlier mentioned. Jolly explains the soil in the Whitley area (Industry too) is very polluted. It is toxic. The air. Her friend tried to sell her home and believed everything went through but when the report came back, the soil was too toxic in addition to the air and water. Jolly knows the water was toxic because her son, neighbor and herself met with some women from the environmental department (around 2016) at Kennedy Library who told them it was polluted but they knew it was anyway because it was in the paper that it was because of the watermill. She indicates they said that soil was going to be polluted for 100 years and that the cement was not to be broken or dug up but they did all that anyway. It is very toxic over in that area. Almost all of the children are on inhalers, even herself. She can't breathe. Something needs to be done, it is killing them off. Davis requests she talk with her after the meeting.

Mayor Ridenour provides some updates explaining that over two months ago, he signed the paperwork with AEP to replace every single streetlight that they have. The City does not own the streetlights. Well over 95% of them are owned by AEP so the City Street Department cannot get up and replace them. They are owned by AEP and belong to them. It was indicated at the meeting that they would do the replacing by the end of the year. The other challenge faced with when it comes to the sidewalks is that is since being done in conjunction with MITS, they are to approve the sidewalk work (which does include Centennial) and be signed by MITS

for the final step. They cannot start the work until MITS does their part and once this is signed at their Board meeting (which he believes is Wednesday this week) then that sidewalk work can begin. However, keep in mind, this is like every other construction project being seen across the country. It doesn't mean that there are construction people out there to do the work today which is the problem. Those sidewalks aren't going to get done until next year but the delay was waiting for MITS to sign-off on it. As far as the Street, the City has literally millions of dollars built up in cash in the Street Department and have already done the engineering work but can not get contractors to do the work. That is the other challenge they are faced with. The problem is that there aren't enough people who are wanting to do the work for the contractor so the contractor can do the work. They are hopeful. What happened with Covid was essentially the shut down of the country and construction industry. We saw it with these new apartments that are going up and you can ask anyone in the construction business and they will tell you they have seen it. When that work shut down, it didn't stop, it just got delayed. So, in moving into 2021, there is literally millions of dollars set aside to pay for all these paving projects in line to do but they are still working on the 2020 pavings from being shut down. The City does not have pavers and has to hire that work to be done (and claims they have not asked for nor do they have their own pavers). Again, the challenge being faced with is a construction issue. The Mayor does know that one of the contractors said they could do 3 or 4 streets this year and the rest are going to be moved to next year with all the others so they are going to have to roll that money over and comeback and put them in to 2022 projects. The contracts are all signed and the engineering work is all done but it has been a real challenge to get the contractors to do this work. These are important, to him and the City. He indicates the reason the Parks are being done is that they used Parks, Streets and Sanitation District employees to do most of that work. Had they had to wait for contractors, they might have been faced with similar issues but instead were able to get all the Parks they wanted to improve improved. It has just been a real challenge so he just wanted to share that they share the same concerns and frustrations. Believe him, he sends emails and makes phone calls on a regular basis following up. There are other projects that they're just waiting for one piece and once they have that one piece then they are ready to be sent out for bids. Until they have all the pieces, they cannot just do the work and it's very frustrating on his part because he knows that the costs are likely to go up, but not always. It's just a real challenge and claims the Administration is very frustrated as well and they follow-up on a regular basis. Again, it is important for our City and for the Council because they have to take citizens phone calls. It is most important for the citizens who have to deal with those particular challenges. In closing, the lights are being done just not by the City because they are owned by AEP. The Streets are engineered and ready to go. It is just a challenge at this point but it has gotten better.

Clark reverts back to the lighting and questions when they have a constituent come forward, it seems like the process is arduously taking forever. He knows the wheels of government turn slow but wonders what they can do to expedite a request from a citizen if the street is too dark where their children is walking. Clark states even a yes or no answer... Mayor Ridneour explains the best thing for a citizen to do is exactly what he does (when somebody calls and says there is a pothole or somebody calls and says the street light is out, go to cityofmuncie.com and put in the request). Clark understands that but is asking about a new request like an area that is dimly lit and they feel it needs to have light for safety reasons. The Mayor encourages anyone to send something like that to him and the City Engineer so they can get it on the list for future lists.

A member of the audience questions if the residency of the City Engineer is in Muncie. Mayor Ridenour states no it is not, not any longer. The audience member states they are now leaving. Mayor Ridenour continues the City Engineer is not and that he is remote worker. President Robinson calls point of order and would like to get back on track as they have steered far away from where they are going.

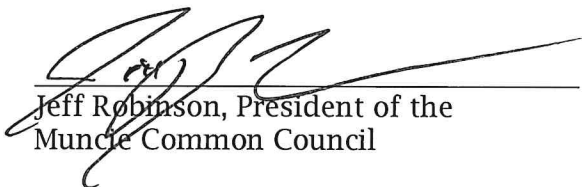
Norman Cooper, W. Memorial Dr., was going to comment about the 100+ Afghan families coming to Muncie. He wants to adhere to decorum and act and address the body that he needs to address but everyone knows it is kind of hard to get an audience with the Mayor. If he could, he would like to offer some suggestions to anybody that might be able to get an audience with the Mayor. There is the Muncie Afghan Replacement and Resettlement Committee, which exists, so we know that action is being taken to bring quite a few people in from Afghanistan. He is not at all objective or against immigration by any means and thinks that is a tight wire to balance on, especially coming for grossly under developed nations and wanting to bring them into communities. Things could get really dangerous. That being set aside, he needs some justification. If our Police Department is running at 20% under the federal guidelines of what is described as a minimum standard, there is going to be some disruption when you introduce 1000+ people who have no concept of what western civilization is and maneuvering through the ends and outs of western civilization. There are going to be problems. We don't have enough people on our force to handle what is going on in Muncie now. According to the crime rate across the statistics of the average crime rate of Indiana, our crime rate is close to 3,500 per 100,000 where our state average is close to 2,300. The national average is 2,500. We are suffering in this town. Our poverty rate is approaching 1/3 of our population. These are stats that were updated in August of this year by the federal census and you, yourself, can find it. At a 31% poverty rate, how can you justify bringing people in when we have so many people suffering? People in this community need that help and resources. Cooper insists he did his research. Today, he went to the food stamp office to apply for benefits himself and while in there making small talk and earning the trust of these people, they fully admitted that they are all immediately eligible for the resources that are needed most by the members of this community. He thinks the City should look at other places and the things that are going on in Montana, Wisconsin and Fort Bliss, Texas and what is happening to the women in those communities. Cooper has a daughter who is starting a family soon and knows many councilmembers have daughters too in addition to sisters, aunts, nieces or whatever. This is a clear and present danger and to deny that is foolish.

Seth Rawlings just wanted to give an update on the Muncie Afghan Resettlement Committee. Right now, they are actually resettling former US military contractors. A man just landed that was a mine diffuser for the US Army. The people coming in are patriotic Americans that are ready to be here and going to be great citizens of our community. These folks have put more on the line for American soldiers than any of us have (in here) that are not former military ourselves. Many of these people are going to be upstanding members of the community. He just wanted to update and insists they could continue to use the support. The Facebook page is MARRC so feel free to give it a 'like' and share it with friends and neighbors. They are trying to do some good for Muncie. We need to get economic growth through our community and this is a great way to fill the labor shortage we have. It fills a lot of gaps in the community that could be necessary.

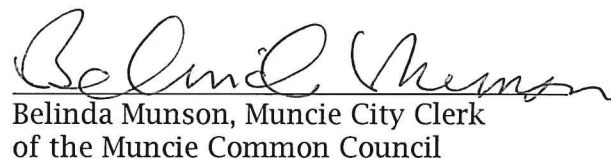
Audie Barber has concerns, which have been addressed two or three different times tonight, and explains the City Engineer makes a lot of money from this City but spends three weeks in Colorado each month. It is maybe one week a month he spends here in the City. Maybe. The public was told 6 or 8 months ago that the City would be hiring a new Engineer. Do we really want our \$354,000 a year going to Colorado? Or, do we want to keep it here in our community? Barber thinks with that kind of money that us (as taxpayers) are spending, there should be a City Engineer here in the City of Muncie. We all know two or three months ago where it was brought to the Council and BOW that Brian Stephen-Hotopp was going to become President of his own company and move back to Colorado. Well, now our taxpayer money is going back to Colorado. Barber would like to see something done to change that, to get a new City Engineer hired, pass an ordinance, pass a resolution or whatever it takes to make it happen. Whatever it takes to light a fire under the Administration to get it done. His opinion is that \$300,000+ a year is a lot of money for an Engineer and he is sure that there are plenty of people out there that would be willing to apply for the job.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Adjourned.



Jeff Robinson, President of the
Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council