AMENDED RESOLUTION NO.: 9-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, TO PARTNER WITH THE MUNCIE ACTION PLAN, BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS, INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY USE, AND TO CREATE A RESILIENT MUNCIE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY, PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, The City of Muncie currently is taking multiple measures to reduce blight, clean up brownfields, enhance public parks, create more green space, protect the White River and other waterways, and improve the quality of life of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, climate action attracts jobs, new residents, and economic development opportunities that will positively contribute to the development of a sustainable, livable city with a strengthened economy and higher quality of living as well as increase energy efficiency activity regarding vehicles, buildings, electricity, and the community of Muncie; and

WHEREAS, Muncie citizens have voiced their support for climate action initiatives, including a formal climate action plan to be written by community constituents and leaders, in public input processes such as the Vision 2021 economic development plan and three iterations of the Muncie Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission has already hosted an Indiana Environmental Institute Resilience Cohort to conduct a baseline greenhouse gas inventory for Muncie and Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, Ball State University has implemented significant climate actions, including signing the Talloires Declaration and the Second Nature Climate Leadership Commitment, establishing a Council on the Environment (COTE), developing a Climate Action Plan, installing the nation’s largest ground-source, closed-loop district geothermal energy system, solar energy technologies, obtaining LEED certifications for campus buildings, and making a commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that with continued business-as-usual operations and no attempted reduction in carbon emissions, the Midwest can expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure, and agriculture due to increased heat wave intensity and frequency, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events, and flooding that decreases agriculture yield, and degraded air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, Indiana has already warmed 1.2°F since 1895 with data showing it may significantly increase in coming years, Indiana’s average annual precipitation has increased 5.6 inches since 1895 with more of it coming in heavy downpours, and Indiana’s frost-free season has lengthened by nine days per year since 1895 with trends pointing to a dramatic increase in
coming years in the absence of global action to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, supplies of non-renewable fossil fuels are finite, and Forbes reported that U.S. electricity generation from renewable energy exceeded coal in 2019 and that Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) analysis shows U.S. renewable energy prices fell below the cost of coal in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a healthier environment will substantially reduce health costs, especially for those suffering from asthma and emphysema or other respiratory issues associated with poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, various economic analyses have shown that the introduction of measures that mitigate climate change impacts is possible at a low cost and that the projected benefits outweigh the associated costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA as follows:

SECTION 1. The Common Council acknowledges that climate change is a critical public issue that threatens to negatively impact public health and the world’s economy and, therefore, action is necessary to lessen those negative impacts into the future.

SECTION 2. The Common Council intends to partner with the Muncie Action Plan (MAP) to collaborate with its Planet Muncie Committee to create a formal Climate Action Plan utilizing data from the Resilience Cohort’s greenhouse gas inventory completed for the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission in 2019, and other related information.

SECTION 3. The Common Council will participate in the Planet Muncie Committee by, at a minimum, appointing a committee member who will serve at the pleasure of the Council.

SECTION 4. The Common Council will support and encourage the Mayor of Muncie to also appoint a Planet Muncie Committee member to work toward the creation of a Muncie Climate Action Plan.

SECTION 5. The Common Council, via its Environmental Review Committee, in collaboration with the Planet Muncie Committee, will publish the results of its Resilient Muncie Climate Action Plan (RMCAP) by April 2022 on the City of Muncie’s website with a goal of adoption by the Common Council of the City of Muncie within ninety (90) days of its completion.

SECTION 6. After completion of the RMCAP, the Common Council will work with the City Administration to announce plans for emission reduction goals and create an energy management program based on the RMCAP starting in 2022, and the RMCAP shall be revisited and updated where applicable, every three (3) years thereafter, beginning in 2025.

SECTION 7. The Common Council, via the Planet Muncie committee, will engage in education and outreach activities for community members and support individual lifestyle changes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
SECTION 8. The Common Council will encourage and support the Mayor of Muncie, in cooperation with the Planet Muncie Committee, to create an annual recognition awards program to acknowledge and encourage local businesses that demonstrate tangible action steps to be more sustainable and to reduce their carbon footprint.

SECTION 9. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council.

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Muncie, Indiana, this 5th day of April, 2021.

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<td>Troy A. Ingram</td>
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Presented by me to the Mayor for his approval this 5th day of April, 2021.

Belinda Munson, City Clerk

The above resolution is approved/vetoed by me this 5th day of April, 2021.
ATTEST:

Belinda Munson, City Clerk

This Resolution is proposed by Council Member: ________________________________.

This Resolution is approved in form by Controller: ____________________________.

This Resolution is approved in form by Legal Counsel: ________________________.

Sources:


Amended filing
Presented by me to the Mayor for his approval this _____ day of ________________, 2021.

Belinda Munson, City Clerk

The above resolution is approved/vetoed by me this _____ day of ________________, 2021.

Dan Ridenour, Mayor

ATTEST:

Belinda Munson, City Clerk

This Resolution is proposed by Council Member:

This Resolution is approved in form by Controller:

This Resolution is approved in form by Legal Counsel:

Sources:
