

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



MAY 4, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Courtney Marsh.

INVOCATION: Given by Councilperson McIntosh followed by a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Mike White, a pillar to the community who had served multiple terms on the MITS Board.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Postponed until June.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Dale Basham (At-Large 1)	X	
Ro Selvey (At-Large 2)	X	
William McIntosh (At-Large 3)	X	
Jeffrey Green (District #1)	X	
Nora Powell (District #2)	X	
Brandon Garrett (District #3)	X	
Sara Gullion (District #4)	X	
Jerry Dishman (District #5)	X	
Harold Mason (District #6)	X	

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Garrett to Adopt the Minutes from the April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas. MINUTES APPROVED.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: President Green expressed a preference for receiving board interest applications ahead of time rather than at the last minute to help the Council make more informed decisions.

BEECH GROVE CEMETERY BOARD (3): President Green declared nominations open. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Basham to nominate Pamela Ivy. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Powell to nominate Ron White. A motion was made by Basham and seconded by Selvey to reappoint Zac Bow. A motion was attempted by Green to nominate Jerry Shanner but failed due to lack of a second. No further nominations.

Troy Watters, Beech Grove Superintendent, strongly recommended reappointment of Zac Bow, noting that he is the current President of the Historic Society and serves as the Cemetery Board’s Treasurer. Councilperson Basham inquired if all nominees were cemetery lot owners, as required. Superintendent Watters confirmed that Ivy, White and Bow all met this requirement.

A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays for all three nominations. MOTION(S) CARRIED. Pamela Ivy, Ron White, and Zac Bow are declared appointed to the Beech Grove Cemetery Board.

COMMUNITY CENTER DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1): President Green declared nominations open. This position required a member of the Council to be appointed to the Committee. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Powell to nominate Councilperson William McIntosh. No further nominations. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MOTION CARRIED. William McIntosh is declared appointed to the Community Center Development Advisory Committee as the City Council representative.

MIT'S BOARD: President Green declared nominations open. The Council sought to fill the seat vacated by the late Mike White. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Gullion to nominate Carlos Taylor. A motion was made by Basham and seconded by Selvey to nominate Nate Carroll. No further nominations.

Carlos Taylor highlighted his previous experience as a mayoral appointee to the MIT'S Board. As a blind individual, he emphasized his role in bringing concerns from the disability community and noted he has experience running meetings in Mike White's absence.

Nate Carroll discussed his professional background in construction, sales, and project management at J Construction. He cited his leadership roles as president of the Muncie Homebuilders and vice president of the Delaware County Planning Commission, as well as holding his CAP certification.

A roll call vote showed 5 votes (Mason, Garrett, McIntosh, Gullion, Powell) for Carlos Taylor and 4 votes (Selvey, Basham, Dishman, Green) for Nate Carroll. Mason's MOTION CARRIED. Carlos Taylor is declared appointed to the MIT'S Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

NEW ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 7-26 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 AS AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH.

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

Councilperson Powell shared that her stepfather, Jerry Thornburg, passed away from ALS 20 years ago and that she sponsored the resolution at the request of a constituent. The resolution highlights ALS as a progressive neurodegenerative disease with no known cure. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Paul Partezana thanked Councilperson Garrett for his inquiry into the former Borg Warner site and expressed hope for encouraging news by June. He also reminded the public that the following day was the primary election, urging citizens to participate and guard their freedoms.

Rick Yencer criticized the lack of local media coverage regarding the election and raised concerns about government transparency. He questioned the Muncie Redevelopment Commission's focus on real estate transactions and property management rather than core services like streets and public safety. He further challenged the City's use of public money for non-profits that do not pay taxes while residents face rising tax assessments.

Courtney Marsh announced a series of upcoming neighborhood cleanups on May 9 and May 16, stressing that additional volunteers are needed for these efforts to be productive. She also invited the Council and public to a ribbon-cutting ceremony and game night for a new mural at Cooley Park planned for May 26.

Troy Watters requested volunteers to help place flags on veterans' graves at Beech Grove Cemetery starting May 16. He also sought interest for a recurring volunteer group to clean and repair historic headstones. Speaking as a private citizen, he urged the Council to consider implementing stricter security measures for meetings—such as metal detectors and banning electronic devices—citing recent violent incidents involving public officials in Indiana.

Kristopher Bilbrey admonished President Green for communicating with a citizen during public comment after previously stating the Council would not respond to the public. He complained about the City Hall doors being locked during meeting hours and criticized the Council for a lack of oversight regarding the City's Crisis Center and a recent State Board of Accounts report on the Parks Department.

Elisabeth Edgell alleged that \$2 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds intended for an inpatient treatment facility were being misused. She claimed the Administration's property exchange and dollar sale of the Crisis Center site violated federal law and intended to report the matter for fraud to the US Department of Treasury Inspector General and other state and federal agencies.

Norman Hawkins reported ongoing traffic and parking issues during food giveaways at Blaine and Kirby, noting that participants block his driveway and use his assigned handicap spot. He also requested information on how to obtain sidewalk repairs for a rental property he owns. Councilperson Garrett advised he would speak with him after the meeting.

Paijzhae Campbell stated that her family had been forced to live without running water for 69 days due to an illegal self-help eviction by the Muncie Housing Authority (MHA). She demanded immediate emergency relocation and compensation for damages, prompting Councilpersons Mason and Garrett to agree to meet with her immediately following the meeting to try and resolve her crisis.

Zane Bishop questioned why the University Avenue ordinance (which includes bike lanes) remains tabled after six months. He argued the project is essential for safety, supported by multiple City and County comprehensive plans, and recommended by national transportation associations for high-traffic corridors.

Wayne Scaife commended Councilperson Garrett for his independence and then criticized the lack of Black representation on the City's major boards and commissions, such as the Redevelopment Commission and Board of Works. He suggested that a lack of diverse representation hinders the City's ability to attract and retain Black families.

Cooper Archer spoke against the "Iron Nation Indiana" initiative, which involves using \$15 million in state tax funds to partner with Israeli tech startups. He argued against the investment based on human rights concerns and regional instability.

Jeanetta Presley expressed concern that the 8th Street paving project and a proposed center divider would eliminate street parking for several disabled residents and hospice families in that area. She

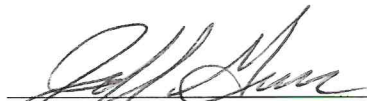
requested that if parking is removed, the City must take responsibility for grading and clearing the nearby alley to provide residents with reliable access to their homes.

Brianna Ramon voiced concerns about the potential environmental impact of data centers on local land and water quality. She also criticized general City corruption, referencing a recent park official scandal and failures in ensuring safe housing for residents.


Neil Kring, a neighborhood pastor who criticized the mayor's decision to transfer property intended for a behavioral health crisis center to a faith-based organization for a medical clinic, argued that this decision lacks transparency and fails to address the urgent need for substance use and mental health services in the community.

ADJOURNED:

The next regular City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Garrett to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas. ADJOURNED.



Jeffrey Green, President of the
Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council

Muncie City Council meetings are streamed on the City of Muncie Facebook page and archived on its YouTube page:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/City-of-Muncie/100069317225158/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@city.of.muncie>
Website: <https://www.muncie.in.gov>