

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



**DECEMBER 4, 2023**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Lead by William “Billy Mac” McIntosh

**INVOCATION:** Given by William “Billy Mac” McIntosh

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:** Councilman Brandon Garrett loves this City and has always tries to recognize the south side of town when presenting Citizen of the Month. There are two people/groups he wanted to recognize tonight that really co-inside and lock down both ends of the south side of town. The first, Brad King. Garrett first had the opportunity to get to know Mr. King when he came, fresh out of his position at Prairie Creek, to the Building Commissioner’s Office and in the position of City Building Inspector. He claims he wouldn’t have learned anything if it wasn't for Brad King knowing every code and every ordinance, being literally the walking ordinance book. He is the Old West End. Garrett attended the Neighborhood Association meetings and it is a family thing for King. His wife and son are there and they do it because they love the neighborhood. And, King is great during the Halloween tours at Beech Grove. There is so much that could be said about Brad but the number one thing is that he is someone we all want to have in our town. He is for the people and for helping the people. Brad King thanks Councilman Garrett stating he appreciates this award and recognition. However, this can't be done by just him. When he moved down to the Old West End, there were already long-time residents, like the Britains, already there established to help guide through the revitalization and new residents, like the Hannahs, that came in to help support. When he was moved into the Preservation Commission, he had legends like Mike Mavis and Russell Irving to lean on. When there were new faces, like Briana Paxton and Margaux Dever that came on board to further support. When he went on to help form the Muncie Land Bank there were people like Marta Moody who helped guide them through this process and Dr. John West from Ball State in making this a successful endeavor. So, while he appreciates this and accepts this award on his effort and through this entire time he has been there with his family and extended family down on Main Street. He owes all of them as much as this award.

Garrett informs this next recipient just came on scene and took it by storm. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Common Market; Mike Martin is phenomenal with the Game Changers along with Jeanetta Pressley and her service dog Bernard; their team has really taken the south side of town by storm. He cannot say enough nor can he wait to see what they are going to do. The way they connect with the youth is something we have needed for a long time. The Game Changers show the kids fun things, like haunted houses. It shows the example that even though you made some mistakes look what you can come back from. They really give the building blocks to what they can become which is even more important. Aware Mike has a bunch of people he wants to thank, Garrett only wants to thank him for getting this started, what is to come. (Inaudible) the way he works with the Ross Center, the way he works with Neil Kring to help people with addiction plagued by that side of town. The help he provides has not gone unnoticed. That is why when he thought of Brad he thought of Mike, too, because he is right there with him in his neighborhood. It is great to see his neighborhood be brought back and the passion they have to keep it going. That southside of town runs deep and he appreciates them both. Mr. Mike Martin thanks them very much and same as Brad, he really cannot accept this on his behalf alone. He brings up the Game Changers and Jeanetta Pressley. Taylee Smart and her daughter, Jazaleigh (only 14 years old and a Board member on the Thomas Park Neighborhood Association) are actually sick tonight so had to stay home. Many of these guys understand when you’re down how hard it is to get back up or that maybe

you're not worth it. That is not true. These people are a really great example to young people who are fighting hard to get back on track. Jeanetta is now a Board member on the Thomas Park Avondale Neighborhood Association. Johnny Randolph and James Nichols as well. Thank you to being a great example to the neighborhood.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Jeff Green	X	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Brandon Garrett	X	
Brad Marshall	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Roger Overbey	X	

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to approve the Minutes from the November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MINUTES APPROVED. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to approve the Minutes from the October 16, 2023 Special Meeting. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MINUTES APPROVED.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Councilman Clark has a Firehouse Assessment Committee timeline report he would like to present for the record. He has forwarded it to the Council Secretary and City Clerk. It gives an outline of the beginning in August 2020 leading up to resolution 17-23 being filed in October. President Robinson requests he send a copy of that to the Council. Clark believes he sent a copy to the rest of Council and Robinson and Ingram are that last two that have not received it.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD AND COMMISSIONS:**

**ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:**

ORD. 18-23 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-4 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE R-4A RESIDENCE ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 1701 N. JANNEY AVE., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

Before any discussion, President Robinson states he forwarded all of Council an email from Mr. Eric Nolting, the man that spoke last month regarding this ordinance, asking that it be withdrawn. He plans to work more closely with the Neighborhood Association, as recommended, to find a compromise with the neighborhood so that everybody wins. Which is what we all want. A motion was made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Withdraw. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. WITHDRAWN.

ORD. 21-23 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE MUNCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2024.

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Selvey to Adopt. President Robinson believes they heard enough on this last month. This is just fixing the maximum salaries of the Muncie Police Department. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 22-23 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE MUNCIE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2024. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to Adopt. Again, this is just fixing the maximum salaries of the Muncie Fire Department as part of the local salary ordinance. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 23-23 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MAXIMUM SALARIES FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2024. A motion was made by Marshall and seconded by Ingram to Adopt. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 24-23 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD. 10-23 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 2024.

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

Audie Barber states he is concerned with this because everybody else in the City has received a 10% raise except for the AFSCME employees. He feels the Council should take it upon themselves to introduce some language elaborating where these people get their raises as supposed to like the rest of the City employees. Keep in mind when going to vote that they are only getting about a 4% raise when the rest of the City received a 10% raise.

Craig Wright, City Controller, requests an amendment on the language to read 2024. It is the same ordinance in place for 2023 since negotiations are still ongoing. When negotiations are reached and agreed upon then they will amend it going in to next year. A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Garrett to Amend and change the year from 2023 to 2024. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. AMENDED. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Garrett to Adopt as Amended. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

ORD. 25-23 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS (BEECH GROVE CEMETERY). A motion was made by Garrett and seconded by Green to Adopt.

Audie Barber requests it be mentioned for the record how much money is being requested here. Ingram responds \$28,751. Troy Watters, Beech Grove Cemetery Superintendent, is willing to answer any questions. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

**NEW ORDINANCES:**

ORD. 26-23 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE TO AMEND CHAPTER 35 OF THE MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING BARGAINING WITH LOCAL #1348 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS AFL-CIO (CLC) AND REGARDING BARGAINING WITH THE GREGG WINTERS MEMORIAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE #87.

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Robinson to Introduce.

Audie Barber states he would like these ordinances be read out in their entirety or (at least) better summarized. He asks what all this consists of. Councilman Ingram explains that this ordinance basically makes it to where there is a councilmember on the Police and Fire Negotiation Committee. Barber asks if that councilmember will be appointed by the Council or picked by the Mayor. Ingram answers yes, appointed by the Council and it will be the President of the Finance Committee or his/her appointee.

Jason Chafin, President of Local #1348, talked to both President Robinson and Councilman Ingram (author of this ordinance) today and is not here to debate whether the language is good or bad. He just wants to point out that he learned about this today when looking at the Agenda. He called his counter-part with the

FOP and he, too, had no knowledge of this being on the Agenda tonight. Again, he is not necessarily against nor for the language and understands the rationale behind it. But, again, it was one of those shocking things when he first saw it on the Agenda and was a little disappointed in that. Councilman Overbey asks if Mr. Chafin is for or against this. Chafin answers he is not necessarily for or against it but this chapter is considered the holy grail of documents and anytime it is up for any kind of public discussion, he is not necessarily going to be *for* it. He doesn't want it to be amended sixteen times between now and next Council meeting or even that possibility being there. So, no, he doesn't necessarily like this ordinance ever being brought up for any reason whatsoever.

President Robinson advises this is simply cleaning up some language. When the Administration negotiates with the Unions on collective bargaining (in this case the Police and Fire Union), they aren't required to have a City Council member present. Although if a City Council member is not present in the negotiations then it is required that the Chief Negotiator for the City Administration contact the Finance Committee Chair within 48 hours of each negotiation. As it was learned from the Council Attorney a few months ago, that did not happen this year. The Administration unilaterally negotiated 10% raises for both Police and Fire without the Council. Imagine Robinson's shock, with all due respect, when he got the ordinance for 10% raises for both Police and Fire but had yet to hear about it as the Finance Committee Chair. To Mr. Chafin, this doesn't necessarily speak to anything that the Fire Union or the Police Union have done wrong; really this speaks to what the Administration did wrong. He doesn't want to take words out of Ingram's mouth as he is the author of this ordinance but apparently this is something that has to be done to make sure our contracts are getting negotiated in good faith without politics being at play, especially during an election year.

Councilwoman Selvey has an issue with the language and asks for everyone to follow along with her. Section 1(A) "The Mayor shall appoint the members of the City's bargaining team, at least one of whom must be the Chair of the Muncie City Council Finance Committee or their designee." She thinks it should be eligible for any member and open for the Mayor to pick somebody that he can work with. She suggests amending it to read "a member of the Finance Committee." President Robinson believes the person to be appointed Chair of the Finance Committee will be elected by the elected President of the Council and they should all be able to work together in his professional opinion. It should not matter who it is or from picking favorites but should be a professional process. Selvey just feels like everybody on the Finance Committee should have an equal and fair chance to be represented. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Garrett to Amend.

Andrew Popp is worried about this amendment because the founders of our very nation gave separate powers to the executive, legislative and judicial branch. This ordinance is trying to correct an error in those checks and balances that was clearly made by the Administration. By allowing the Administration to pick any member of the Finance Committee, regardless of how it is constructed, you then take away some of that check and balance from the legislative and give it back to the executive which is clearly not the intended purpose of how our nation is set up or the correction trying to be made by this ordinance. He understands wanting the Mayor to have his pick given next year's Council assembly. He also understands that the people should be represented and the President is going to appoint the Finance Chair. In the past few years it has always been the President of the Council because the decision was made to include all nine members of Council on the Finance Committee. Maybe that will change with the new term and it will go back to a three-person committee, who knows? However, the President of Council, whoever he or she may be, will appoint the Finance Chair and be able to execute the checks and balances that this nation intended and that the Mayor's Office disregarded during these last negotiations.

Audie Barber encourages if making changes in anyway at all then they need to have the person be the opposite party of the Mayor. Most everything is split up Democrat/Republican and if you can't keep politics out then just make it opposite of what the Mayor is that way everybody knows they have to work together to make it work. However, he advises he liked it the way it was to begin with.

Matt Wagley, Deputy City Controller, adds if it is not amended the way Councilwoman Selvey suggested then he suggests putting the word "be" in between "whom" and "the" because it reads "whom must

the Chair of the City Council Finance Committee.” Selvey requests he repeat that in which he does. He believes that was the initial intent.

Councilman Overbey mentions the Finance Committee meetings last summer and is aware the entire Council being part of that but questions if there was initially three (3) people that were basically designated to deal with that. He recalls sitting in on one of those phone calls with the State regarding the budget along with Councilman Clark and the Controller Craig Wright. His question is why wasn't somebody at negotiations. Ingram comments that is a good question and is why he felt it important to introduce this ordinance. Overbey comments there were plenty of people available. Questions called on the amendment. A roll call vote showed 4 yeas (Marshall, Selvey, Clark, Green) and 5 nays (Dishman, Overbey, Garrett, Ingram, Robinson).

AMENDMENT DENIED.

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Robinson to amend/change the wording on Section 3(A) to read “The Mayor shall appoint the members of the City’s bargaining team, at least one of whom must be the Chair of the Muncie City Council Finance Committee or their designee.” Questions called on the amendment. A roll call vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Selvey). AMENDED.

Councilman Clark mentions that the Council wants to involve itself in good faith negotiations with three entities and the whole matter is that it was an oversight by the current Administration that has obviously upset a few people on Council. The wording of “only informed” wants to be changed to “involved” and neither or either of the three parties that are going to be involved were informed or involved in the writing of this ordinance. He thinks it should be withdrawn or voted down on the reading.

Audie Barber suggests suspending the rules/minutes and vote to pass it completely tonight. President Robinson states in order to do that it would need to be a unanimous roll call, guessing that won't occur this evening. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 3 yeas (Ingram, Garrett, Robinson) and 6 nays (Green, Overbey, Marshall, Clark, Selvey, Dishman). DENIED.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

RES. 19-23 A RESOLUTION FOR TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (MAYOR).

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, states this is just moving money from the Overtime line into Office Supplies, Gas & Oil, Electric, and Subscription & Dues. It is not an additional appropriation, just moving money around within the account.

Councilman Marshall asks if adjustments were made on the 2024 budget in anticipation of these based on the 2023 spending. Wright responds they have made adjustments on the budgets moving forward with what they feel like 2024 will be. This is something that is pretty much given year after year in December. The budgets are fluid and as far as the line spending, one are will be much more this year but not quite as much next year. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 20-23 A RESOLUTION FOR TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (BUILDING COMMISSIONER).

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

Craig Wright, City Controller, states this is the same deal as the resolution just discussed and that Steve Selvey, Building Commissioner, requested this be put forth. No additional funds are being appropriated, it is just moving money around. He is aware Mr. Selvey wanted to up Part-time because a lot of additional work is being done around the City.

Councilman Marshall has a similar question and it appears there was not an increase in the Part-time budget for 2024. The only other note he would make on this is that he doesn't particularly like the Other Services & Charges line item. Things end up landing there and it seems is where money has been shifted from historically. Wright responds yes, you could basically use Other Services & Charges for just about anything. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 21-23 A RESOLUTION FOR TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (BEECH GROVE CEMETERY). A motion was made by Garrett and seconded by Green to Adopt.

Craig Wright, City Controller, states this goes hand in hand with the additional appropriations done at an earlier time. This is just moving money around into the Part-time line from Other Services & Charges to correct issues and balance out the budget.

Councilman Marshall commends Controller Wright and Beech Grove Superintendent Troy Watters for actually making appropriate adjustments to Part-time in 2024. Although, the same thing for Other Services & Charges, he would like to see a reduction there because of the forecast but understands. Wright states Mr. Watters has done an absolutely phenomenal job out of Beech Grove Cemetery this year. He thinks everybody has seen it and thanks him for all his hard work.

Audie Barber clarifies these are appropriations to make up for budget fall from last year for the 2023 year. So basically, when we get the budget we make appropriations to make it come out right at the end? He asks how much in these three proposals are being looked at to raise the budget from what it is supposed to be. He would like to know a total of the three that they just voted on. (Mayor-\$17,425.00, Building Commissioner-\$94,687.64, Beech Grove-\$243,725.00). Councilman Clark comments this transfer in particular being \$14,000. Barber would like a total for all three. Deputy Controller Matt Wagley answers the appropriations are being increased by zero. These are transfers of appropriations so its money that was appropriated last year for this year's budget. Barber asks how much is being transferring. Councilman Marshall informs res. 19-23 was for \$3,400, res. 20-23 was for \$25,133 and res. 21-23 is \$14,000. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

RES. 22-23 A RESOLUTION APPROVING DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF NEW MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT IN AN ALREADY DECLARED ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA (Spartech, LLC).

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Green to Adopt.

Elizabeth Rowray, Chief Economic Development Officer for the Muncie Delaware County Economic Development Alliance (DCEDA), takes a moment to acknowledge Mrs. Sniders AP Government class in the audience and to thank all the councilmembers for their time and service. She is here tonight to ask for this resolution that will help Spartech, LLC. They are attempting to authorize the further development of \$4.9 million investment in new manufacturing equipment at which will add efficiency to the facility located on Memorial Ave. This project will help retain 100 full-time employees and will add six new jobs at an average wage of \$50,000 plus benefits. This is already in a declared economic revitalization area. Spartech has a reputation for quality and innovation and we are pleased to have them as part of our business community. With this being a competitive project, they could have actually moved these new jobs and the new equipment to one of their other facilities around the United States. Yet, they are really pleased that they chose our Muncie site for their expansion. They were really happy to work with her representatives during this project to bring it to fruition in Muncie and also grateful to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation who collaborated and provided some state-funded support. Existing businesses here are the most valuable wins when talking about expansion efforts and helping companies thrive in the Muncie location. This is a company that is just that. DCEDA are really grateful for Spartech for choosing Muncie for the investment and have been an excellent employer in our community and have regularly invested in real estate improvements and new equipment. In recent history they have assisted Spartech in 2012 as well as 2017 so they just continue to grow. They look forward to more to come in our community and thank the Council for considering this. There are representatives from Spartech in the audience if there are more specific questions but she will attempt to answer any right now. Questions called.

Chris Welch, plant manager at Spartech, wants to thank the Council for their time and consideration with this. He looks forward to working with the City and helping it grow. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

**TABLED:**

RES. 18-23 COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA RESOLUTION REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENT (JRF MANAGEMENT LLC). (Tabled 11/13/2023)

Due to no representation being at the meeting, the resolution remained on the Table. Selvey checks to make sure she can contact the representatives about this in which Attorney Murphy advises she can.

RES. 17-23 AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY BY THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA INTO A BOT AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND TAKING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS RELATED THERETO. (Tabled 10/2/2023)

A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Marshall to bring off the Table. A roll call vote showed 7 yeas and 2 nays (Ingram, Robinson). MOTION CARRIED. Ingram makes the comment they must not be having another Public Works Committee meeting on this. Robinson guesses not.

Councilman Clark states since the two-month tabling of this resolution he has not received any questions or recommendations from any member of the Council that voted to table it so assumes that in those two months there has been no interest or questions from any member on Council. Councilman Ingram interjects that Clark was the only person to email or talk to about events. President Robinson calls Point of Order. Clark continues that being his point so if there are any questions he can answer tonight as a member of the Committee that saw this through from the beginning he would be happy to answer that.

Councilman Ingram confirms he personally requested quite a bit of information from the Administration but still has not received it all and has yet to go over any of the information other than the eight other bid packages that he so happened to receive. Other than that, he assumed there would be another Public Works Committee meeting, as told, before this would be coming off the Table. While he did not email Clark for information, he had been in contact with the City Administration to obtain information but has yet to receive it. He claims if Clark is wanting to pull this off the Table and vote on it at best point, without having that information he needs and being able to go through it all, he will have to vote no on this.

Councilman Overbey, being on the Public Works Committee, advised they voted to have another meeting, recalling an email the Committee Chair Councilwoman Selvey sent out that said they were going to have a Committee meeting after the election (which they have not yet). There were, as he pointed out in that meeting, several questions and people (such as laborer members) that couldn't be there at the time. He brought up at the meeting how he and Councilman Dishman went to different fire stations and talked to different firefighters, etc. and there was more questions being asked on that. He is not happy with BOT (Build – Operate – Transfer) and hopes when this next Council comes up that they look that over and possibly get rid of the BOT ordinance as he just doesn't see any advantages of it. He remembered talking to Mr. Martz at great length before that Committee meeting and even after. He has nothing against him or how he does business and assures some of his work is good work. He was just concerned about some of the questions and was hoping for another Committee meeting. Again, he highly recommends the first thing the next Council does is to get rid of that BOT ordinance.

President Robinson states he was under the same impression as Councilman Ingram and Councilman Overbey, with all due respect, Councilwoman Selvey is the Chair of the Public Works Committee where the resolutions was Tabled and sent to. The first meeting of the Public Works Committee was not live-streamed and from his understanding, Councilman Clark wasn't in attendance that evening. Robinson didn't know they were to direct those questions to him directly as he was waiting for the next Public Works Committee meeting to ask those questions in full view of the public. He thinks it's deceptive to ask questions behind the scenes when they can be asked in a public meeting for all to hear. That second meeting has not been called yet and

this Council voted to Table it although tonight voted to Bring it off the Table. He and Ingram, as Clark admitted earlier, have not received the timeline that was emailed so does not have enough information on this. Like Ingram, if they vote on this tonight it is going to have to be a no because he does not have any information at all and no one has even talked about it. It was brought up in October with a lot of questions, especially on the BOT, and subsequently Tabled. He thinks everyone, citizens included, had hoped that the second Public Works Committee meeting could have happened so that people could come forward and ask their questions. Robinson notices that Clark is dying to talk so passes the floor to him.

A motion was made by Clark to Approve res. 17-23. Clark calls for questions. Robinson doesn't think he can just make a motion during discussion and then call for questions while discussions are ongoing; he believes they can do a roll call on questions. Clark states if questions are called then they are to vote and asks if Robinson understands the rules of the Council. Robinson asks Attorney Murphy if that is correct. Murphy asks for clarification if a motion was made after the motion to bring off the Table. Robinson confirms that there has not been a motion to approve yet but will accept Clark's motion and provide the second which allows them to move on to the next issue which is calling questions, asking Murphy if one person on the Council can call questions and go on to vote. Murphy responds not in the middle of a pending discussion; if questions have been called then there has to be roll call. Clark confirms he is referring to voting on questions, not on the resolution. Murphy informs at this point they are on the resolution. Clark confirms there is vote then to stop discussions and then a vote to approve. Ingram asks Clark if he wants to vote before everybody gets a chance to speak and say what they want to say. Murphy explains at this point there is a motion and a second so it is time to begin discussion. If a councilmember then calls questions then they have to proceed to a vote. Overbey claims they are in the middle of a discussion, though. Robinson asks Murphy what if they are technically in a discussion. It is his understanding that questions was called on the motion that was made to take off the table, no questions has been called on the discussion of resolution 17-23. Murphy informs that is correct. The Council made a motion and a second to take it off the Table and held a whole vote on it. There has now been a motion, which has been seconded, on the resolution itself so the discussion begins now on 17-23 subject to a member calling questions. Ingram makes sure they can continue with discussion and Murphy responds yes.

Councilman Overbey is disappointed there wasn't another Public Works Committee meeting because there was a lot of people who couldn't be here or didn't see it live-streamed and contacted him with questions. He is in favor of the Fire Department getting fire stations but as he has said he just is not comfortable with BOT and would like to see it go to open bidding. The Administration has taken open bids for a new building so that's what he would like to see the next Council address but, again, that is up to them. That is just how he feels about it.

President Robinson thinks they would be doing the constituents a great disservice in pulling this off the Table and vote to pass without any discussion or being able to take any input from the public. The public has been waiting for that Public Works meeting. Again, the first one came and went and was not live-streamed, like every other Committee meeting has been. There has not been discussion on this in a little over two months.

Councilman Green asks if they have to pull the resolution off the Table in order to discuss it. Robinson states the Public Works Committee could discuss it while it is on the Table. This Council cannot (while it is on the Table). In bringing it off the Table they can certainly have discussions but it was originally Tabled to be sent to the Public Works Committee to further that discussion.

Councilman Clark thinks the misunderstanding is that they are voting to build a firehouse tonight and it's not. They are actually voting to enter into an agreement and it will be up to the next Council to do the due diligence and work on the financing of said building through that BOT agreement. They are not voting to build a fire station tonight. He thinks it is misleading to say they are trying to not get public input when this has just been sitting for two months. He has had zero public questions and zero questions from anyone that voted to Table it and that is just the truth. Robinson, again, states he didn't know that Clark was the one they should have been directing their questions to, as he was waiting in anticipation of the next Public Works Committee meeting being an open meeting where those councilmembers who voted to Table could come and



ask those questions. Clark thinks that as a member of the Public Works Committee and the Firehouse Assessment Committee he would probably be the person he would want to go to get information from.

Overbey refers to the Public Works Committee meeting on October 23 and recalls one of the questions he asked Mr. Martz was about a section stating once it starts the Council or government really does not have a say in it at that time. He agreed that was not very good verbiage and could be taken out. In order for him to be favorable of BOT, he thinks that section should be amended and taken out. Again, once this starts the new Council or government could do this how they wanted to. There were questions regarding blank sections in the bid and budget and when asked about them they were told that is in case they have to put in another line item. It seems (kind of) ambiguous to him and is why he is very skeptical about BOT.

Robinson refers to the way the resolution was written and that this was very similar and recalls the language in the solar ordinance having pages of amendments that were made because of the very reason he is mentioning now. It was really ambiguous. After the Council passed that resolution as amended, the current Administration used that resolution and the green light to go ahead and purchase property to put that solar project that then ended up failing to pass. Now, the City is the owner of that land. This resolution does more than just simply say 'yes, we can look into it.' It opens the door to other things. Again, they heavily amended the first resolution and this one is a mirror image of that resolution without the amendments made. If they pass this tonight with none of those amendments made then he thinks Overbey's fears are real. Overbey responds he would just like to see the public input that people were promised and be able to look that over and make those amendments. Again, there's nothing against the developer but he just wants to see the next Council have a say in what is being done with that instead of just throwing it out there.

Audie Barber states the public was promised a second meeting on this and Councilwoman Selvey explained at the October 23, 2023 meeting that she would not let another fireman sleep in that fire station another night but has failed to call a second meeting. As far as asking Councilman Clark about it, yes he can call him up and ask questions on the phone but when the meeting is called and he is not here then that is a problem. He wasn't here for questions that night and Barber was going to ask questions to him specifically to have it on the record. He doesn't like the back door stuff and talking on the phone and not being held responsible for what is being said. It should be on the record. With that being said, he is aware this same company turning in bids for other fire stations all over the state instead of the BOT and have done stations for about half of what they are charging on this and those turned out to be real nice fire stations. There are seven fire stations in this City so they could take the \$8.5 million and put \$1 million towards every fire station and still not spend the total \$8.5 million while still upgrading the stations we do have. A million dollars is a lot of money on a building and many renovations can be done for \$1 million per property. As Ingram said, there was eight other bids on this job but nobody else seen those. They had to ask for them. Nobody presented them nor did anybody say there was eight other bids on this. Is this even the lowest bid? Barber thinks the last Administration (not the last Administration but the four years before that) got in some trouble for giving out jobs without bids on them. He guarantees there was a lower bidder somewhere in those eight bids being stored somewhere the public cannot see them and if you want a copy of them, you have to go to the Mayor's Office or Fire Chief's Office. Councilman Clark confirms there were no bids; it is called an RFPQ (Request for Pre-Qualification). Barber asks if Mr. Martz was the lowest qualified bid on that. Clark responds yes, he was and it wasn't a bid, it was a request for qualifications. Barber claims there was eight other proposals. Clark answers eight other respondents. Barber claims nobody was made aware of that until recently so nobody in the public had a chance to look into these people or anything. This Administration is giving money away like the Administration did five or six years ago and guess what happened to those people? Clark tries to interject but Barber stops him, telling him he has the floor right now. Robinson requests Barber refrain from all that as this being a City Council meeting and Councilman Clark is a sitting City Council member so deserves the respect and opportunity to respond to his questions. Barber comments only after he is done. As he was saying, he thinks the City can get these stations fixed for a heck of a lot cheaper or build a brand new fire station at #6 for about \$4 million. He hopes and prays that they will Table this again or if it is voted down make it to where it cannot be brought back up again for another year but the new Council can turn it out to bid. Councilman Clark respects Barber's expertise in the construction industry but the way the BOT process works

allows an entity (municipality) to work with a developer and do the due diligence and background although out of public view. In 2021, a Committee was formed of four firefighters, the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Clark as a non-voting member representing the Council. In working through that process of the RFPQ which says we, as a City, know that we have fire houses that need renovated but don't know how to get from point A to point B to ultimately point Z. Using Mr. Barber as an example, a skilled and experienced developer (a respondent of this RFPQ) is going to help through this process. Nine respondents came in and that was in April 2021 and they went through the process of narrowing down those nine respondents based on the criteria they provided. They essentially interviewed who they thought were the top three respondents and requested them to present their qualifications and express why they are the best to work with. We know there are issues with our firehouses and we know that maybe we have some firehouses that aren't in the right locations and we want to get those fixed for the health and wellness of our firefighters and for the response time to citizens of Muncie. There was nothing behind the scenes of, "we're going to hide things, and we're going to move money around." There was no money exchanged. The fact is this whole process has been done with zero costs to the taxpayer. GM Development is completely taking the cost upon themselves, from the assessment to the runtime survey up to 30% of the documents that have been done so far. This Council is not responsible for that and if the future Council decides that they want to take part in this BOT agreement by funding it then the City would become responsible for those costs through that agreement. However, behind the scenes there has been nothing but professionalism by the four firefighters on this Committee, by himself, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and both the Chief and Deputy Chief starting with Chief Miller who was in charge at time this began. Clark understands that Barber thinks that things could be done cheaper and that being on job sites and thinks the one he is referring to in particular has a higher cost than what this would cost overall. Now the BOT that they or the future Council would agree to is priced at the max so if it came in below that at \$6.5 million then that is what the City pays. We follow along through the process with the developer so it is known who the general contractor would be, as he has already said it is going to be Hagerman who plan to use local union labor that is going to be bid out to local contractors. That is part of the process of the City being able to pick that work. When you go out to public bid, it can come from South Bend, Missouri, or even New York. Companies from far away can come in to do the work and we see it all the time through the public bid process. Mr. Martz had said in the meeting two months ago that this is the only way we can really protect our local labor, through this Built-Operate-Transfer process because we, as an entity, as a Council, and as a City can pick and choose who does our work and that's the important part of it. He thinks that is being overlooked by Barber claiming that there is some backroom deal going because there is nothing "backroom" about it. Barber advises he just wants to be sure.

Andrew Popp is glad this came off the table for discussion but is upset that it has been moved for approval because the public was promised a second Public Works Committee meeting. It has been mentioned that Councilman Clark did not attend that meeting apart from being on the Committee along Chair Selvey and fellow member Overbey. Popp attended that meeting with a manila envelope full of documents and questions and things he wanted to ask. He came very prepared because he is on the Fire Merit Commission and supportive of the firefighters getting new fire houses but had a lot of questions. It was said that Clark said nobody reached out but requests he check his phone because he called him earlier this week regarding questions about this and would really like to see the motion to approve withdrawn so they can have that second Public Works Committee meeting. Some of the questions he had refers to a paragraph in the resolution that made this document seem very restrictive and not much clarity was provided on that. However, Mr. Martz from GM Development did say that the Council could remove that language if they seem so fit, if that would assist the Council on the public and be more agreeable. That is an amendment that the developer said could be made that (at least for him and what seems to be for some members of the Council) would assist in moving this forward where it needs to go. Unsure if it is BOT but the endgame needs to be new fire stations. Another question he had in the resolution was on the second page where it stated "the Mayor and his Financial Advisor." Popp checked the budget and did not see a line item for a Financial Advisor and doesn't know who that individual is. Do we even have one in place or will there be one hiring in, such as bond counsel? Not being familiar with the language, he just doesn't know. Clark answers it would be a bond agent and there was

a new bonding agent hired by the City probably/maybe six months ago. Popp asks if it is known who that is. Clark responds he does not know. Popp comments that unfortunately, City Controller Craig Wright and Deputy Controller Matt Wagley had other obligations and already left. He jokes it might be time for Monday Night Football. The other question he has to the body as whole is this is a situation where yes, the language can be amended to be less restrictive. This Council is getting ready to drastically change and the Council in front of us (at least by a majority has chosen to bring this off the table with a motion and a seconded being made to approve) is wanting to start the process of writing a check that his son will pay; that Mrs. Sniders AP Government high school students children will pay. As of last month, this Council is going to be very different and the Council that will be making those decisions is going to be very different. He promises it was said by the two members of the Public Works Committee in attendance said that they could not move forward at that time with a recommendation and a second meeting will be scheduled. He still has a list of questions. The information that was provided to the other Council would probably answer some of his questions, recalling Clark mentioned response times as a nonvoting member of the Firehouse Assessment Committee and if there still a concern with the response times coinciding with where the stations are located. Clark answers not where they are now. Popp states okay because that was what was relayed in the Public Works Committee meeting and he wants to make sure there is no confusion because it was brought up. Clark states the only change would be #3 right now possibly being moved out towards Cowan Road area. Popp states then #6 would be slightly shifted. Popp appreciates the willingness to do this tonight but doesn't appreciate the lack of due diligence as far as the public goes with not being allowed to have the Public Works Committee meeting the public was told and asks this not be voted on tonight.

Nora Powell cannot speak intelligently on this resolution because she really has no information. However, she was very fortunate to be elected and voted in to City Council District #2 replacing Robinson. She has not received anything from Councilman Clark on any of this information and from what he is saying tonight, we are going to be entering into an agreement. Clark informs it is to vote on the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreement so not the finances. Powell responds it does, however, start the process of the City having an agreement. Mayor Ridneour reached out to the six new members of Council informing them he wants to sit down later this month to provide updates on projects and explain where the City currently is on things. Unfortunately, this will be voted on before they are actually even given the opportunity to hear where they could potentially go with this. She is not making any comment on the resolution itself but does support the Fire Department. They deserve to have a healthy environment to work in, as do all of our City employees. However, we will have six new councilmembers that will have to see this through. She was not able to be at the Public Works Committee meeting and it was not live-streamed or recorded so she could not even look back at that reference. She was actually looking forward to that second meeting that was promised and unfortunately, evidently it is not going to be held before voting this evening. She supposes she is asking for some professional courtesy to the next Council and the six new members that will have to see this through once this Council, at the final meeting in the final minutes, passes this potentially. She is asking them to give the new Council the professional courtesy to be educated on this and to have a Public Works Committee meeting to learn about what this agreement will mean for our community so that if nothing else, they move forward intelligently. Again, she is making no comment whatsoever on the merit of this resolution. She and the new councilpersons she has talked to support the Fire Department. They think this is valid and should be discussed and seen through but to enter into an agreement for the next Council is reckless and unfair to those six councilpersons who are going to be taking over. She respectfully asks for the professional courtesy to vote this down tonight or leave it on the Table until another Public Works Committee meeting can be held.

Jason Chafin, Fire Union #1348 President, wants to comment on the need for new stations. He talked about it at the Public Works Committee meeting and there isn't too much to debate amongst anyone other than they are definitely needed. His main concern going in to this process was, again, BOT being new. He is ashamed it wasn't live-streamed but Mr. Martz did an excellent job explaining and did so in basically every question answered. He did it very elegantly and completely and Chafin was actually somewhat surprised there was plan to have another meeting because the people there ran out of questions. They compared it to a fixed rate mortgage versus a variable rate interest mortgage and it was very good meeting. As it was said, there

really isn't a Plan B right now and all this does is introduce it for the next Council. If they want it fund it at \$0 because they don't end up liking it then they can fund it at \$0. Again, however we can get new fire stations and however this can come to be... He appreciates everybody's work on this such as the Firehouse Assessment Committee and the Public Works Committee for taking the time they have to try to learn about this. He admits he was in the same boat learning about it. It is a need for the Fire Department to get the fire stations up to livable conditions.

Andrew Popp, again, had another question relating to the vote and it may be for the Council Attorney. He is aware with an ordinance there being a waiting period before it can come back up for discussion and asks if this is voted down tonight if there is a time frame in which it had to go through before it can be brought back up. Robinson asks Murphy if resolutions are not in the same as ordinances in that regard. Murphy doesn't believe so but doesn't have that information in front of him so takes a moment to research it. Murphy cannot answer at this time. Popp asks if they would mind holding off on voting until they know what they are doing with this then. Robinson replies nope.

Councilman Overbey states some people may be wondering why he voted to take it off the Table with the concerns he has. The reason is so they could have some discussion since they didn't have the second Public Works Committee meeting. In having that discussion, he has heard some pretty valid points here, Mr. Chafin bringing up the point of having a Plan B. Thinking Councilman Clark could possibly answer this, is this the only way that fire stations can be built. Clark responds obviously, no, that the City can approach a public bid process but he is not sure if the work that is done so far is proprietary to GM Development and that business or not. But, the next Council can choose to take up a funding option for a public bid for that but that is totally up to the next Council, as well as financing this agreement. Overbey, with respect to Clark and everybody involved, advises Ms. Powell brought up a good point. They could actually make a decision here that effects the next Council and he really wasn't prepared to do that. Whoever is on the next Council is going to have to agree with this, the decision to go with BOT, Plan B, or if they are even going to fund it. Believe him when he says his humble opinion is to put it on the Table and let the next Council deal with it. Something that has been at the front of his mind ever since this come off the Table and he told people just last week or so that his only fear is if it gets killed are they going to be able to get new fire stations? If it doesn't get killed, are they going to fund it? We are late in the game now and that is why, again, he was hoping to have a Public Works Committee meeting to answer all the questions and get it out there and go for it. Having said that, Overbey would love to see it tabled and let the next Council take a swing at it. Whatever is done tonight, the new Council is going to be involved in it. Whether they Table it again, if they kill it, and certainly if they pass it with the funding as Mr. Chafin said. Those are his concerns and he just wanted to hear Councilman Clark's thoughts because he would like to see amendments done to that as he brought up at the Committee meeting (noting Clark wasn't in attendance) and Mr. Martz definitely said that there is some things there that could be, maybe should be, changed. Clark appreciates the discussion and thinks that was something cut short in the original October meeting. He personally thinks it was an intentional but is not going to go into that politics side of it. Tonight, he appreciates the discussion they had and would be in favor of putting it back on the Table and letting the next Council deal with it. A motion was made by Overbey and seconded by Selvey to Table. A roll call vote showed 6 yeas and 3 nays (Marshall, Ingram, Robinson). TABLED. Due to being removed from the Table and having discussions, the new Table date is 12/4/23 with an expiration of 6/3/24).

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Charlize Jamison thinks multiple "thank-yous" are in order and as she counts the members sitting up on the bench, five councilmembers won't be here next month. It's appropriate, whether she has always agreed with the councilmembers or not, she thanks them for their service. Councilman Clark and Councilman Marshall, Councilman Overbey and Councilman Ingram and Council President Robinson, thank you so much.

She wants to single out three people because they've kind of been in it for the long haul here. There are different strengths and weaknesses up here but we can all agree that we're going to lose a lot of deep experience that is on this Council right now. Overbey has been around, not saying he is old, Muncie government in some capacity for who knows how many years. Overbey jokes since before the Earth cooled off. Jamison refers to Overbey as quite an experienced resource that we're losing. With Councilman Ingram, we're losing independence and independent thinking. Councilman Garrett comments that being a great way to put it. She continues, the Council needs, and hopes the new ones are listening, people who aren't going to sit up there and vote the way their party Chair demands of it. That goes for either party. She knows Ingram has caught some grief but tells him he hasn't caught it from the public. Regarding President Robinson, anybody who can be in the minority party on Council and be elected as City Council President three times says a lot about his leadership capabilities and a lot about the respect that his fellow councilmembers have for him. That says a lot and she just hopes this isn't the end of seeing him run for a public office. The people need him, desperately. One more point she would like to make before her time is ultimately up. Robinson jokingly tell her with the nice things she is saying, they will let her talk all night. He further jokes that there is probably someone on the live-stream complaining about the 3-minute time limit. Jamison states the Administration here has made a commitment to improve communication and transparency and thinks a lot of that was missing in the discussion tonight. It was probably why they voted the way they did, not having enough information. She hopes that our Mayor will work much closer with the next Council and communicate with the next Council more than he has done, starting with attending Council meetings. She didn't keep track but would venture to say that our Mayor has been missing from Council meetings far more than he has been here and working around the Council is not how it's meant to be. They should be working together to get things done, not separately where you come to a Council meeting and find out something has been done behind the scenes. That is not how it is supposed to be.

Chip Taylor, members of the Ethics Advisory Committee, reminds everyone their December meeting will be held next Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 at Marion Hunt Library. He knows with the holidays people are busy this time of year but really encourages members of the public, City employees, elected officials, and anybody interested to come and provide input. There are no final decisions being made but they're continuing discussions from last month such as some of the particular ethical standards like nepotism, gifts, etc. Please come out. He wishes to thank the City Clerk, Belinda Munson for uploading the materials from the meeting on Municode so they could be viewable to the public. The documents consist of Minutes, Agendas, and other materials. Therefore, whatever happens there will be a permanent record of what was done. In the meantime, they have created a Facebook page that can be found under Muncie Ethics Advisory Committee. They are posting legally required notices for the meeting and there's also a link to a current file repository where you can see things like the Agenda of the upcoming meeting and materials as they are prepared. They are committed to doing this transparently and openly. It is an important issue and important opportunity for the City. They are going to keep trying to get the word out but encourage anybody who has an interest in seeing the City continue to operate ethically to come out and give input and feedback on what needs to be put in this ordinance they will be bringing back to the next Council next September or October of next year.

Councilwoman Selvey states she learned a lot attending their last meeting. She is aware there are certain members on the Committee and they are splitting the work. She asks about attendance, if every member has been attending and if they, as a Committee, have a way to report to Council about attendance. It is a lot of work and they have to make sure everybody is carrying their load. Dr. Taylor states they have had two meetings so far and the entire Committee was in attendance at the October meeting. For the November meeting, all was in attendance but one. Selvey asks if there is a requirement about attendance, as a group. Dr. Taylor informs there is no specific rule. They have talked about the process in getting the Agenda together in

advance of the meeting. He has had some people contact him about membership of the Committee but is not sure what all the issues are. He told them that the Committee is appointed by the City Council and if anybody has concerns or issues of who has been appointed then that needs to be addressed with the Council. They haven't adopted a rule about attendance, not sure in the resolution if they have the power to do that as they have been tasked with specific things as far as drafting an ordinance and that is what they are really focused on. Selvey thanks him.

Robinson thanks him for all his work on this Ethics Committee. This is not an easy task. There are going to be critics and people that think "this" is happening or "that" is happening. He really appreciates him coming to Council meetings to let people out there know that the Ethics meetings are open to the public and people are welcome to come and be a part of the process. If they think it is anything other than what it is then they should come. Dr. Taylor adds that when people contact him about issues they want the Committee to consider and for some reason cannot attend the meeting, he tells them they are welcome to put that in an email. Send him an email at cdtaylor@bsu.edu and he will put it in the Committee packets making sure it is shared with everyone there as if that person actually attended to the meeting. There are multiple ways for people to provide their input. At the end of the day, what they will be judged for is the work they do and the ordinance they bring back to the Council that they can enact, amend or deny. People forget that the Committee doesn't have a lot of power but has a lot of work to do. Ultimately, the ordinance that is enacted or not will be up to the next Council.

Audie Barber first of wants to say that he is not accusing any of the Administration of wrongdoings. He just doesn't want to see it be brought up later and "oh, wait they have been." He mentions the next meeting being January 8, 2024 and just wanted people to be aware. Furthermost, he would like to thank the Council as a whole. Most of them he has called on the phone and they have talked, argued and maybe said a few choice words to each other but they all got through it. It has been a delight. We are losing three really good members of the Council, not going on record saying which three he feels they are. However, he hopes those members come back in four years and do their paperwork the correct way. (Most people now have acknowledged he is referring to Councilman Ingram) Barber tells him he would like to see him back on the Council. They are on different sides of the political spectrum but he thinks he does the right thing for the people of Muncie which is very commendable of him and thanks him for his service. For the rest of the Council, if they decide to retire and not come back after this, he understands that too because it can be pressing at times. When the new Council comes in, Barber will be right here. Hopefully, it goes as good as it has for last four years. There has been a couple bumps but not nearly as many. In closing, he thanks the Council for their service.

Jason Chafin wishes to echo what Ms. Jamison and Mr. Barber have said. He just wants to thank them for a pleasurable four years. To the original members and all the new faces that came on throughout those four years, they have been an awesome Council and it has been a privilege to sit here and watch them work. They've done a great job and he knows the next Council will continue that. Some aren't coming back yet others will be seen again. He just wanted to thank them for their service to the community, Fire Department, and an all-around great four years.

Nora Powell, President of Westridge Neighborhood Association, wants to give thanks. Especially President Robinson and former Councilwoman Anitra Davis for having the incredible thought to put some of that ARP money into the neighborhoods. She knows that tonight is kind of bittersweet for several of them. She has actually been where they are and knows how tough it can be. She wants them to know that as they drive through every neighborhood in this community, look at what they've done. Their footprint is all over this community; Anthony Northside, Riverside Normal City, Westridge, and South Central. The people

appreciate that. As a Neighborhood President who is now going to have amazing tree program, she just wants to say thank you for that. Thank you for having the courage to put that aside, for taking that stand and for seeing it through and working across the aisle. She appreciates that on behalf of all neighborhoods but especially Westridge.

Andrew Popp teases with Robinson that nobody on the live-stream has checked him on time but the citizens were confused thinking both Robinson and Ingram were on the Democratic Party. He wants to congratulate the winners and wishes the outgoing councilmembers the best of luck in whatever the future may hold. He hopes the new Council coming in can be as successful this Council has been as a whole. Unfortunately, for the last four years, we've had failed campaign promises, misleading statements and critical errors made across the board; none of which came from this body but did come from the building. He is hoping and praying that the people who take these seats at next month's meeting hold the high standard of character and ethics that this board holds as a whole. It is also his hope that the next board deals with the critical issues that are coming up just in the upcoming year such as Union negotiations. This was just a one-year contract that the Fire and Police signed. There's Union negotiations upcoming so hopefully the process is followed this time. There is fire houses that need to be built. There is a Public Works Committee meeting that needs held and there is also a Crisis Center that is now becoming more of an issue. It very well may come before the next Council and hopes it does, at least. He hopes it isn't circumvented like the last three and a half years have been of this Council. There are outgoing members and unlike others, Popp is truly sorry to see Robinson, Ingram, Marshall and Overbey go. While they didn't always agree, referring to a very firm conversation he just had with Overbey about two months ago. Popp believes Overbey represents his District well. With Marshall being new, he thinks he has done an admiral job. Obviously, he appreciates Ingram and Robinson for always taking his calls and Selvey for always calling him back since he always rang her at the worst times, however, she always reached back out. The last thing that he wishes to mention is the date and time he called Clark, as earlier mentioned. It was last week at 11:58 AM on Wednesday, November 22 and Popp left him a voicemail telling him to call him back. Popp advises he may have the wrong phone number. Clark assumes he does because he has nothing and confirms that was the night before Thanksgiving. Popp tries to dial and the call does not come through as they are waiting to confirm. Clark states it is not coming up. Popp must have the wrong number or assumes there must be a glitch between Verizon and wherever Clark's cell phone provider is. Best of luck to everyone moving forward and best of luck to the Council coming on.

### **FINAL GOODBYES:**

Councilman Overbey states he was caucused in almost two years ago. It has been a challenge but a good experience. He said it in the beginning and will say it now, he never wanted to be a politician and when people called him a politician, he thought they were cussing him out. However, he does like public service and has been around, as it was mentioned, for quite a while and it has been an honor and privilege working with this Council. They didn't always agree but agreed to disagree. He saw a comment online that some of them were "214 sheep" and has to say he has never, ever, since being on this Council, had the Chair of the party say anything to him about what was going on in the Council. Matter of fact, if he wanted to talk to her he would have rung her up on the phone. The Vice-Chair is sitting right here (Councilman Dishman) and even they don't always agree. He doesn't tell Overbey how to vote. They talk about different issues and sometimes it can get heated. However, Overbey reached across the aisle many times to talk to people on this Council and had meetings with Councilman Ingram, a lot of conversation with Councilman Clark and other Council members. Politics be damned, he just thinks everybody on this Council has done the best they could for the public, not the parties and appreciates that. That is what needs to happen and hopes it keeps happening. In closing, he asks Mr. Barber where their damn cake is.

Councilman Marshall begins by stating he was only up here a short stay but does want to thank God for giving him this opportunity. It has been wonderful to serve the constituents of District #4 and he thanks his wife and family for supporting him in this. It has been a difficult year with many challenges but they made it through. He thanks this Council for giving him advice, for being here, and agreeing with him but disagreeing with him at times as well. That is what is important and is part of this process and an important process of our government. He also wants to thank all the members of the public that come to these meetings. It is great to see a full crowd in here tonight. They are what is important and that is how things get done. The people elected all them to serve and he believes they all did their best in serving the community and wants to thank everyone for trusting in them. Lastly, he wants to challenge the incoming Council, seeing many of them in attendance this evening as well as last month. He challenges them to work and remember their constituents. Start the work now. They may not be in until January but there is a lot of work coming – which has been talked about several times tonight. Feel free to call them, the Clerk, the Council, or the Mayor. There are many resources here to help them hit the ground running so do not hesitate to reach out. He wants to thank the Council President for the time he served. He has appreciated being here with everyone of them. Thank you.

Councilman Ingram first thanks the citizens of Muncie for giving him this opportunity to serve. It has been an amazing experience with good and bad times, absolutely, and some high tensions. That just happens when you have a lot of people passionate about what they're doing. He believes most all of them are most definitely passionate about serving the citizens of Muncie. He also wants to thank his beautiful wife for weathering the storms when he would come home from meetings upset about how things went or allowing him to take phone calls on date night from constituents who had issues. She has been amazingly supportive of him through all of this and he knows he could not have done it without her. He also wants to encourage the new Council to think for themselves. It is not about party politics when in these seats. It is about the citizens who put their faith in you to do the right things for them. That is what he always tried to do while sitting here. He feels he has done a pretty good job of that. He told his wife when elected that he has four years, not caring about re-election, to try to make a difference, a change, in this community. With the help of some of these amazing people sitting next to him, he feels like he has managed to do that. Thank you all for allowing him to help.

Councilman Clark states it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Muncie for the last four years. He could not have done it without his beautiful family who are here this evening, minus his daughter Avery who is in college now living a life of her own. He loves each and every one of them, Jack, Lily, Jet, Maria, and Lil Will. They are his rock and he thanks them for that. He came out to serve four years ago because of the situation our City was in. He believes they are on the right track and that this Council has served the citizens well. They are obviously divided by their political beliefs and sometimes on the things they voted on but that is what makes this city and country great. We can have a debate, share our thoughts and ideas and vote on it before moving on to the next order of business. Thank you to the people who invest a lot of time in the neighborhoods, as there are many Neighborhood Association leaders in attendance this evening. It is a thankless job, at times, for our neighborhoods, trying to pour out and build up a city that really needs you. He didn't want to get emotional but is thankful for the opportunity to serve and is entirely grateful for that.

Councilman Garrett, as part of the new Council, is aware of the huge shoes they have to fill. He was caucused in as well and recalls what happened the four years before the original councilmembers were elected. They really helped shaped and mold every one of them that later came on. They would not be able to look at



their votes the way they agree and disagree but the way everyone held himself or herself up here and out in the community is a huge testament of what our City needs to move forward. He appreciates Clark for always having his information ready to go and tells Ingram that he *did* make a difference. Marshall was only up here for a short period but always had great questions and kept a close eye on the budget. Overbey, jokingly, has been here since the Chief of Munsee was put up and his knowledge goes back deep and far; Garrett has had to dive into that knowledge a couple times on some information from the past and he was always ready to answer his questions. Robinson, along with his parents, have become very close friends with Garrett. He thanks him for all the help. For the new Council coming in, this here is bipartisanship at the best, working together and getting results and hopes to see that continue. He thanks them and more importantly, the citizens thank them.

Councilman Dishman thanks everyone for serving on the Council, even those who were appointed. He can say from his heart that they have done a good job. He knows they might have had some little problems here and there and went back and forth a few times but were able to get over it. He doesn't look at a councilmember for being a Democrat or Republican. He looks at them as friends and wishes this next Council to be the same way. We need to put the politics aside and get the City of Muncie going. He has appreciated serving with them all.

Councilwoman Selvey was caucused in also. She came in thinking that she knew what she was doing but really, it is only because of everyone sitting here with her, guiding her when she had questions and answering all her phone calls. They have given her the best advice, not caring what party she belonged. They have made her who she is today. She learned very fast because they were not selfish with their knowledge and willingness to share and she trusts every one of them. Every one of them has treated her with nothing but respect. Being, for a long time, the only female on Council, she was still treated with respect and treated as one of the guys and felt that support. She appreciates their kindness, respect and everything else.

Councilman Green appreciates each and every one of them and what they have done as well as the experience they have provided him while on this Council. He remembers back two and a half years ago when Robinson was the first one to reach out to him when he was caucused in. He appreciates that, calling and checking on him many different times. The input from each and every one of them is going to sorely be missed. He appreciates their stand to do what is right and would say that 85% to 90% of the time their votes were 9-0. There were a few issues that came up in which they divided on but for the most part, everybody cares about the City and wants the City to flourish, grow and prosper. That has been proven and those members will be missed.

President Robinson feels the same way as many other councilmembers and doesn't need to repeat himself. He does wish to provide thanks to his constituents. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve District #2. This has been a really great but also eye-opening experience. Tonight, he more than anything wants to give a message to the incoming Council, many of whom are here this evening. Most of all, he wants to wish them good luck. This is a thankless job. A difficult job. He believes tonight is (really) the first time that some of them have heard "thank you" and that's okay, he is not pining for it. He just wants to warn this is a very difficult job, making decisions they feel are what is best for their collective constituents should always, *always*, be the top of their minds. Making decisions for what is best for the people. Sometimes, when doing that, they are going to be running counter to what is being proposed. We saw it here this evening. When that happens, they are going to be vilified and called horrible names. Rumors will be made up about them and things about them will be said by people that will never step foot in this building and by people who will never do a damn thing for this community. When that happens, because it will happen, what Robinson wants them

to do is just do what he did and just keep moving forward. To hell with them. As long as their heart is in the right place and they can walk out of this door at the end of their four years, like he is going to do tonight, and feel proud of the job that they did in spite of them all because they don't have the balls to put their name on a ballot. They don't have the guts to come in and try to say anything. They will just do it from their La-Z-Boy. He is urging all of the new Council to stay the course, do what's right for their constituents and leave personal and political beliefs at the front door. This Council has done their best, those who have been here for four years and those who have not been here for those four years. He hopes they will leave this Council better than when they received it and hopes the new Council hands off a Council better than when they receive it. He hopes they set some type of precedent here with this Council for how things should be done such as with public input, listening to constituents and answering that call every time. That is something he is very proud of. In talking with Ingram earlier, he told him that both of them can walk out of here tonight with their heads held high knowing they did everything the right way no matter what anybody on Facebook is saying. Godspeed and good luck to them all.

Overbey knows he has already said his speech but wants to thank Robinson because from day one at his caucus, he leaned on him for several things and tapped in to his experience. They didn't always agree on everything but got the job done. Thank you.

**ADJOURNED:**

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Overbey to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 7 yeas and 2 nays (Ingram, Robinson). ADJOURNED.

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President of the Muncie Common Council

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Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk  
of the Muncie Common Council