

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



MAY 6, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING: 6:45 P.M., 1ST FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

RES. 4-24 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CONFIRMING DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF NEW REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS.

Joe Jackson, property owner, is here to answer any questions. No further comments. Public Hearing closed.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Dishman.

INVOCATION: Given by Councilperson Jeff Green.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilperson Garrett begins stating this plaque simply does not justify what this organization does for the City. He, being from the south side, admits he used this organization numerous times as a kid and it is still being used over multiple counties. The May Citizen of the Month award goes to Second Harvest Foodbank. Garrett recalls going through a class with Second Harvest where different people wrote their story about growing up experiencing lack of food. Quite a few people attended and it was very eye-opening. He was grateful for the opportunity to put his story in a book but to see the impact and hear other people’s stories about this organization is unreal and unheard of. He is very privileged that his aunt works there and reaches out to the community working her tail off to make sure that whoever needs food or help with anything they get it. Second Harvest is always there and have always been there. It might be a little outside city limits but that has not stopped them from impacting our city all over. It is non-stop. They work their mobile food banks and are just a phenomenal organization. Garrett cannot speak the passion that they have for the organization. They are tirelessly working with their phones always on. Garrett jokes that one of the ladies mentioned her husband would love it if she could turn her phone off but she doesn’t even do that at home. It’s always “help” and “where can we help?” Garrett is happy to attend a golf outing hosted by Second Harvest on June 28. He put a team in and challenges the Council to try to work and put a team in as well. It is for Second Harvest Food Bank and the Whitley Community. Every dollar they use is given back within food, a meal, somehow. It is a revolving door of food, supplies and whatever else is needed. He appreciates them and cannot express it enough. He is so glad they are based in Delaware County and for the work tireless work in the City non-stop. They never quit and are always doing programs. This Citizen of the Month award isn’t enough and he just wants to give a little recognition for what they do. Every District is impacted by this organization which is very hard to say with anything that we have. What they do is impact for the better. They are an organization that makes it so a little kid does not go home hungry and that is huge. They should sleep very well at night knowing all they do for this community.

Bekah Klawson, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank, states this honor is important to them because it brings awareness to what they do. They are passionate about the folks they serve. The latest numbers in food insecurity and Muncie and Delaware County is 16.7% which is 1 in 6 people. You may not realize that your neighbors may be food insecure. There is a difference between hunger and food insecurity. She woke up this morning and was hungry for breakfast but knew there was breakfast food in her refrigerator. Even if for today or this week you have food, next week you may not know where your food is going to come from and that is what

food insecurity is. Part of being insecure is wondering about things that also affects your resources, your basic necessities. One of the things they are really proud about is being involved in all of the Muncie Community Schools in a program called The Big Idea by doing a Choice Pantry once a month in the evening. You cannot imagine the looks on those children’s faces when they have the opportunity to come in with their families to be able to choose the food that their family can, will, and is important for them to eat. They also do a senior safety net where there are seniors who often have to choose between medicine and food which is an awfully important and hard choice to make. It is important they try to make a difference for everyone who needs it. They are all about help for today but also about hope for tomorrow. They are constantly looking at ways to help people shorten that line of need but more than that, make a difference in their lives so that food insecurity is not such a big deal. They have all kinds of programs that is important to make happen in Muncie and this area. In 2023 their economic impact in this area alone was \$3,790,522.00. They are so grateful to have food recovery and for all the people/volunteers that help. Many in the community with businesses or have been part of being a volunteer or a part their pantry partners; most agency partners that have food pantries and there's 22 of them just in Muncie alone. Most anybody that you know has a food pantry gets their food from Second Harvest Food Bank. They are grateful to have those hands and feet out there making that happen. She cannot express how grateful they are that the community recognizes this is important and that not just them but the members of the public too. There are folks that you just don’t realize. More and more lately they are realizing that the folks who are food insecure and working 1, 2, or 3 jobs. It is the wage versus inflation. They try to help with that gap and appreciate the recognition that the community impact is large. It costs about \$500,000 to do just what they do in Muncie in a year. They have quite a large budget serving 8 counties but that \$500,000 consists of all personnel and everything they do. In closing, they appreciate having the support and that the public recognizes it is an issue. They would love to have anyone interested in volunteering. All you have to do is look up Second Harvest Food Bank in the app store and click on where you would like to serve. The app also informs where you can get food in real time at that moment. She thanks everyone so much. President Dishman closes by informing next month with be Councilperson Gullion presenting the June Citizen of the Month award.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Dale Basham (At-Large 1)	X	
Ro Selvey (At-Large 2)	X	
William McIntosh (At-Large 3)	X	
Jeff 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 Green and seconded by Powell to Amend the Minutes from the April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting on page 8 from ‘\$275,000’ to ‘\$775,000.’ A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. AMENDED. A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Green to Approve the Minutes from the April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting As Amended. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: President Dishman opens nominations to the Human Rights Commission. A motion was made by Dishman and seconded by Selvey to nominate Kim Miller. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Garrett to nominate Kat Carey.

Kim Miller was appointed to fulfil an existing term and states she has really enjoyed the work. She put in a lot of effort and doesn’t just show up to the meetings but goes out and helps the public recalling being an individual that helped the families living at the Muncie Inn when it was shut down. She was there for 2 months helping people pack, loading up their truck, and get them into new places to live. She went to various meetings with others

just to be there and hear their stories. Not only did she help people pack but she listened to them and wants to keep doing that work and helping people as much as she can.

Councilperson Selvey, as the past President of the Human Rights Commission, would like to say a few words. This was her last term on the Muncie Human Rights Commission as President and Ms. Miller came in at a time to finish somebody's term. She learned everything so quickly and cared so much and was probably the most active person on the Human Rights Commission. She worked well with everyone, was very innovative and her heart is in the right place. As a President that has worked with her, Selvey was super impressed. President Dishman refers to a discussion with Human Rights Director Yvonne Thompson who indicated she would like Miller to remain on the Board.

No further nominations. A roll call vote showed 6 votes for Kim Miller (Basham, Selvey, Powell, Green, Gullion, Dishman) and 3 votes for Kat Carey (Garrett, Mason, McIntosh). Dishman's MOTION CARRIED. Kim Miller is declared reappointed to the Human Rights Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chip Taylor is here on behalf of the Ethics Advisory Committee to remind everyone their next meeting will be this Thursday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Marion Hunt Library. They invite everybody to come out and participate in the conversation about the drafting of the ethics ordinance they are currently working on. It is very informal and everyone that wants to say something has the opportunity. He also thanks the City Council and the City Clerk for making the draft standards they have developed available on the City website. They have actually received some feedback from the public on that but are still seeking additional feedback. They will take it anytime but it will be most useful if they can receive it at or before the next meeting on Thursday. People can come and give feedback at the meeting or email him directly at cdtaylor@bsu.edu.

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER – TILLOTSON AVE.

Rob Keisling, Indiana Michigan Power, is here after receiving an invitation from Councilperson Powell regarding the work on Tillotson. They have entered a new phase and appreciate the patience of the community, especially Ball State. The Riverside intersection is now open so the current phase is from Riverside north to Petty which requires a closure of Berlin Rd. They expect this to last from now until the end of June, possibly early July, before moving on from Petty to York Prairie Creek. From there, they will be in backyards for the remainder of the work. They certainly understand the impact of traffic and appreciate Powell for her continued communication and advocacy for her District throughout the project.

Powell asks if they will have more visual aids that can be posted on social media to make sure that people know how current traffic patterns are going. Keisling answers absolutely. They will continue to send and the Administration the updates of shifting traffic patterns and phase completions. The graphics will help residents understand how the lanes will change and where the lane mergers will occur.

Councilperson Selvey drives Tillotson to work everyday and was very impressed how quickly things are being done. They are working swiftly and doing a great job cleaning up and restoring street areas. Keisling thanks her and relays there has been a lot of communication with the Street Department and what is expected and they have been very good at adjusting the traffic plans to mitigate the impact on drivers. President Dishman drove past it as well adding it is going pretty good. Questions called.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMITTEE

Councilperson Gullion has a report from the Environmental Impact Committee that met on May 1 regarding the groundwater ordinance 6-24. In attendance there was a representative from the former owner whose insurance company is currently the responsible party of the cleanup and the author of the proposed groundwater ordinance. A representative of the current owner was also there and believes that further testing should be done before passing. Attending via phone was a representative from the Indiana Department of Environmental

Management who has worked on the ordinance with the responsible party and believes that so far they have been in compliance up to this point. There were 3 members of the public that spoke; one being a representative of the local neighborhood association. Basically, all members of the public just want to make sure that everything is safe and there will not be any migration to neighbors aside from the properties where it already is. They would like to see it rezoned for housing at one point so want to make sure it's cleaned up for that. The Environmental Impact Committee chose not to take a vote for recommendation but rather took the meeting as an informational gathering session and did not vote to either recommend or not recommend.

TAX ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

Councilperson Powell has a report from the Tax Abatement Committee that met last month to discuss resolution 4-24 which is a tax abatement for JRF Management who will be coming before them tonight for the final approval. The Tax Abatement meeting was very informative and they were able to get further information compared to what was heard at previous meetings. The information has been included in the packets and the Tax Abatement Committee has chosen to endorse the tax abatement by reaching a favorable recommendation.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Councilperson Mason has a report from the Public Works Committee that met on April 24 to discuss the funding for the proposed new Fire Station #6. Several residents attended to voice their support and Greg Martz from GM development was on hand to give a complete rundown of the facility studies from the start of the project to present time. Prolonging this project will only ultimately end up costing more with inflation. The Public Works Committee is recommending that this project move forward with a unanimous favorable recommendation.

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 5-24 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA APPROVING A PILOT AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE VILLAGE TAPESTRY HOTEL PROJECT IN THE CITY, AND AUTHORIZING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Geoffrey Mearns, President of Ball State, takes a quick moment to express appreciation to Councilperson Garrett for recognizing Second Harvest. He is pleased that so many BSU staff, faculty and students volunteer hours at Second Harvest and on an annual basis they donate about 28,000 pounds of food for community distribution. They are a very deserving organization and Garrett thanks them for that generous donation. Mearns is prepared to answer any questions regarding this resolution and will provide an update on an upcoming meeting for local contractors, subcontractors and suppliers that will be held later this month.

Jim Lowe refers to a flyer. The meeting will be held May 23 so all suppliers and contractors in Delaware County are invited. It will be at the Student Center, Room SC237 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. He mentions the list of suppliers he received from Councilperson Selvey and Traci Lutton. He requests anyone they wish to be included or ones that might have been missed to just let them know. Councilperson Selvey refers to discussing some of the shortcomings and requests he explain the importance of how someone describes their business and how sometimes that can limit the perception of what they do. Lowe looked at some of the suppliers and when he read what they were labeled it didn't align with the majority of what they actually supply. It is important to make sure that they create a robust list that is accurate to what their forte is because they are competing. Being honest here, they are competing with larger companies who are buying in quantity so it's very important to do that. They found several that thought, "well I would have listed 'X, Y, Z' instead of 'this,'" and some companies/contractors coming to Muncie to do work may just look on whatever website they are referred to. Getting accurate information about the suppliers helps what contractors can do in Muncie.

Greg Shockett, Shockett Hotels, Indianapolis, Indiana, thank the Council for the consideration this evening and is happy to answer any questions they may have. Councilperson Powell requests he remind everyone what City Fund the proceeds of this pilot will be going in. She directs her question to Mayor Ridenour who confirms from his

seat in the audience it is the General Fund. Powell notes the General Fund is the fund to help provide other services that the City provides. Shockett responds that is correct and adds it is currently sitting on a piece of property that is generating no real estate tax so it will be an incremental gain for the City.

Jeremy Reese, Industry resident, has some questions regarding this. He confirms the hotel will be operated by a company out of Indianapolis. Mearns answers yes. Reese then asks if the restaurant on top will be operated by the same company. Shockett answers yes. Reese acknowledges Ball State making a beautiful building within Muncie that may generate some tax revenue. However, they aren't really building something for Muncie. Yes, they might use some local contractors but the businesses aren't businesses that will be putting money necessarily into Muncie. There might be a handful of people working there or what not but, in particular, it's not really generating income for the Muncie Community from what he can tell. Also, that area of University has not been very helpful for "mocals," which is what the people at Ball State call us locals. It lets us know we are not really welcome in that area either. Even Brothers had a time where they said "no mocals." He just wants to make sure everybody is aware of these types of things happening in this area that needs to be considered. He isn't saying to not go through with the agreements with Ball State in regard to this but keep in mind he wouldn't necessarily put this in the checklist of Muncie accomplishments because he doesn't really feel like that is truly the case on a on a large scale.

President Mearns refers to last month during the introduction when they shared a summary chart of various economic impacts. Shockett adds that while this property will be in proximity to Ball State, the vision from the beginning has been that it's not specifically a Ball State Hotel. It's a hotel for the community and they really want it to be a gem that will attract people to Muncie not just to Ball State. It's really meant to draw people to the Muncie community.

Audie Barber states his concern is more the fact that this is being discussed and most of the people that are here in the audience or are watching this live don't exactly know what they're talking about. He requests they provide a description of the property and where it is located. Nothing was said this evening until Mr. Reese mentioning Ball State actually being the location of this project. If they could just give some more intel on where it's going to be he would appreciate it for those that have no idea.

President Mearns mentions he didn't provide that description because this was the second reading. Principally, the side of the hotel is on the northeast corner of McKinley and University which will be where the Performing Arts Center and hotel will be located. The Center for Innovation will be just south of the Alderdice Gates immediately adjacent to the Village. There will be another project that is not subject to this request a little further east on University and then the owner-occupied residential housing will be a bit further east to that, closer to Downtown where the commercial district expands into the Riverside Normal City Neighborhood. Councilperson Garrett confirms that what was all included in the presentation last month. Mearns states yes.

Councilperson Green mentions the new building/hotel going in being taxing to emergency services as the Fire Department, especially, will have to come through and do inspections. The resources are all there and close to proximity but God forbid there ever being a fire and especially being able to reach the top floor safely. In thinking along those lines, taxing the resources for the City of Muncie, he asks what Ball State is willing to do in helping fund a new fire station there for the safety for not only the residents but also the students at Ball State. Mearns is not familiar with those details but refers to Alan Finn, Vice-President of Business Affairs, being in conversation with some council members and he is aware the Mayor has initiated the same conversation. Those discussions are ongoing so he does not have a specific answer but understands the question being asked. Green thanks him.

Councilwoman Selvey claims Mr. Barber has a great point and asks if the plan has been published on the City website and if it could also be posted on Ball State's website. Mearns advises it is available and there is a detailed portion on the website but will get them the specific website address.

Councilperson Mason asks about those meetings between Council and Ball State regarding Fire Station #5 and if there is any information that can be shared. Councilperson Powell recalls meeting with Mr. Lowe who has put them in contact with Alan Finn and a meeting has been scheduled with more to report after that. She assures they have same concerns as Councilperson Green and will be further discussing that with Mr. Finn. Chief Burford has been very helpful in providing data that they can take to the meeting to make certain points.

President Dishman requests Chief Burford approach the podium to answer to having the appropriate apparatus needed to cover this hotel. Chief Burford responds this specific structure is very similar to a lot of structures in the area so for single incidents, yes. The placements of the aerial trucks and allover station needs have been included in many conversations over the past few Council meetings. Questions called.

A motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Garrett to Adopt. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. APPROVED.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 9-24 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE AMENDING CHAPTER 35 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING BARGAINING WITH LOCAL #1348, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS AFL-CIO (CLC) AND BARGAINING WITH THE GREGG WINTERS MEMORIAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE #87.

As the sponsoring councilperson, Powell withdraws ord. 9-24. WITHDRAWN.

ORD. 10-24 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE AMENDING CHAPTER 37 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

As the sponsoring councilperson, Powell withdraws ord. 10-24. WITHDRAWN.

Councilperson Powell notes her reasoning for withdrawing these 2 ordinances is to give opportunity to speak with representatives from Local #1348 and FOP Lodge #87 to address their concerns.

Councilperson McIntosh states his concern with the ordinances and the way some of it is coming out with negotiations and why the Council would even want to be a part of that, conflict-of-interests, etc. Therefore, he needs more information in order to be able to address this the right way. His recommendation to Powell was having further discussions to get more information about it.

Councilperson Selvey feels like negotiations between Safety and the Administration are already tense and to include other members and change the dynamic will create more stress and drama in these procedures. She thinks as long as both departments are happy with the negotiation and whether they agree or disagree with Administration, the Council should just wait until the agreement is brought before them and they get a chance to vote. The Council does have a say so in it but to insert themselves in it from the beginning creates more conflict, in her personal opinion.

Councilperson Green asks Legal Counsel if this is a legislative overreach on both of these ordinances. Attorney Dan Gibson is not entirely sure what Green means by that but since they have been Withdrawn there really is no business for them to discuss. He is certainly willing to have that conversation once/if these ordinances are brought back up.

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 4-24 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CONFIRMING DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF NEW REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS.

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

Councilperson Powell refers to her earlier Committee Report announcing the meeting held by the Tax Abatement Committee. They obtained additional information about job creation and the project overall that really wasn't that clear prior in the previous meeting. The overall consensus of the Tax Abatement Committee was a favorable recommendation.

Attorney Dan Gibson clarifies this is for a 5-year tax abatement, sliding scale and wants to remind everyone this abatement will only be on the increased in the assessed value based upon the improvements. There will be an annual compliance filing that will need to be filed so the Council will have an opportunity to review this each year and if the company is not living up to their standards the Council would then have the opportunity to rescind if they wish. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

TABLED:**ORD. 3-24 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA.**

A motion was made by Dishman and seconded by Selvey to Bring ord. 3-24 Off the Table. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Mason refers to his earlier report announcing the meeting held by the Public Works Committee in which they came to a unanimous favorable recommendation. A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Powell to Adopt. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Wayne Scaife has a concern relating to this Council. During the first meeting of this year the City Clerk requested to pass out some documents talking about conflict-of-interests and asked if there were any. Gullion was one that stated her conflicts and even relayed to the audience what it was. He describes the Clerk then made a comment about Powell filling one out since she believed her son to be on the Police Department which Powell responded they would talk about it later. The next meeting comes in February and the Council is nominating appointments to the Police Merit Commission which Scaife was a nominee for. He admits he has been an outspoken critic of the hiring practices of the Muncie Police Department for years. There were 3 people nominated and he won't go into specifics about the other 2. Disregarding the conflict-of-interest, Powell nominated someone. President Dishman nominated someone as well. They then went through 3 rounds of voting. The problem Scaife has is the voting was not to put someone *on* the Merit Commission, it was voted to keep someone off, namely himself. He states that President Dishman nominated someone but never voted for that person in the 3 rounds of voting (believing he was keeping a tally of the votes). He asks how he can nominate someone but not vote for that person in 3 rounds of voting. President Dishman states he was asked to nominate that person. Scaife replies okay but still; it doesn't matter the reason. How can he nominate someone and not vote for them? He doesn't understand that. Dishman, again, advises he was asked to nominate that person. Scaife continues that his problem is that February 5 was when that meeting was held and 3 days later the Police Merit Commission met to fire an officer who happened to be Powell's son. His question is why she didn't abstain her vote or refrain from voting knowing that is a clear conflict-of-interest and with the recent formation of this Ethics Commission that's highly unethical. He thinks that needs to go before the Ethics Commission when they met. He has 3 questions. Why didn't she abstain from voting? If she knew when she voted that that Police Merit Commission meeting was going to take place 3 days later and if she attended that meeting. Referring to Dishman, he doesn't care if someone asked him to nominate a certain person, if you nominate someone, why wouldn't you vote for that person? Did he vote to keep Scaife off? Dishman states he isn't related and that person couldn't attend the meeting. Scaife claims anybody could ask him anything but that doesn't mean he has to do it. He just thinks it is highly unethical and requests they please send that to whoever is in charge of the Ethics Commission to be addressed.

President Dishman advised he was asked to nominate the person he did due to him having foot surgery and being unable to attend. He isn't related to him and there is no conflict-of-interest there. He would do the same for anybody else asking him to nominate them and that is what he is here for. He then gives Powell the opportunity to address Scaife's comments.

Audie Barber has a couple concerns. There is still an open contract that has not been rectified yet with the Street Department and part of the City. Hopefully, they can get it rectified. He heard there was 10% raise given to some of the members but it wasn't brought to Council. Once again, the Mayor is circumventing the Council. He isn't even sure if they were aware of that or not and believes all the raises are supposed to be brought to the Council but the Administration went ahead and gave them anyhow. He is not saying that the employees don't deserve them, don't get him wrong, they do but procedures have to be completed and followed. If we don't follow those procedures then people are taking advantage of the system. He thinks the Council (or somebody) needs to look

back on the Minutes of all the meetings and find out if there's an ordinance that states if you are an appointed figure or elected official of the City of Muncie then you cannot do contracting business with the City. If we look into that and maybe create an ordinance on that then maybe this Administration now would not be being investigated by the State Police along with the previous Administration because it all falls back to people that's working for the Administration. They are now being invested by the State Police and possibly the FBI so business as usual in the city of Muncie and the taxpayers are the one footing the bill. If an ordinance can be proposed stating if you are an appointed figure, you can't sell the city of Muncie anything. You have a choice to either be an appointed figure or a vendor for the City but you don't get both. He thinks that is a problem with what is going on with stuff is coming up missing and money is being given to certain people that just now started a business. That itself will pan out on its own time. Another point he has... There have been some Committee meetings which have been posted just out here at City Hall. Prior to the meetings, he would like the notices be posted on the City website. They need to make sure they get on there, regardless. There have been meetings held this past month that a lot of people didn't know about. Mason's meeting wasn't too publicized but there's been several others. He would like to see the Council work harder to be a little bit more transparent and get this stuff out to the public. People don't come up here every day to look at the City Hall bulletin board to even know these meetings are going on. There is no communication there and it's not just the Republicans and Democrats, it's the whole Council as a unit. They all should know about these meetings and shouldn't have to have access to the City of Muncie website to get that stuff posted. He knows a few of them have personal Facebook pages where they post stuff but some of these meetings wasn't posted there. These meetings need to be posted for the public besides out here at City Hall so that people who work 10 and 12 hours a day know when these meetings are without having to come into City Hall. He hopes they take that into consideration and seriously look into adopting an ordinance that says employees of the City of Muncie cannot do business with the City because that is highly unethical.

President Dishman asks if it is the Clerk's office that posts on the City website and mentions he would like for the Council meetings to be put on there. Regarding all comments that have been made this evening, City Clerk Belinda Munson advises that Councilperson Powell did file a conflict-of-interest form as well as Councilperson Gullion. Those are on file and placed in the HR file upstairs. Regarding Mr. Barber's comments, the meetings are posted as well as outside on the front doors of the building. The Council Secretary confirms all public notices are posted on the website under "Public Notices" in the Document Center.

Kristopher Bilbrey wishes to go back and talk about that topic. There's a train of thought that the law is the floor, not the ceiling. It's a place that you start and you and the public have to decide if 'just good enough' is just good enough for us. For Bilbrey, it is not. The City Clerk's office has done wonderful in doing everything that they need to do. They have published the notice and contacted the media but everybody knows the newspaper here is shrinking and shrinking and shrinking. We're down to one reporter now. All they have to do is attempt to notify and attempt to get it published. Most of the time they do publish it but there is a heck of a lot of people out there that don't read the paper either in print or online. Then the only other way for someone to notice if there is a Committee meeting, a Council meeting, any meeting that is not a regular monthly meeting, is to pin it in their calendar to drive up to City Hall, get out of the car, walk up to the building, check the doors and see if there a notice about a meeting or whatnot and that's ridiculous. That's absolutely ridiculous. He doesn't know if it's a problem from the Administration but is blaming the Council because it's their Council and Committee meetings. There was a question earlier tonight and the answer was it was presented in last month's meeting. Well guess what? Last month's meeting was not livestreamed so unless you were here you have no idea what was talked about last month. The City was able to publish an audio recording a couple days later but it was a crappy recording. It is very hard to hear and he doesn't know how the Council Secretary does as well with the transcription as she does because it was very hard to hear. This Council has an obligation. He claims he is still trying to contact some councilmembers that just refuse to reach out and talk to him. He doesn't know Councilperson Basham just plans to not respond to him ever in the 4 years that he's going to set up on Council but that's not acceptable. He doesn't care if they think he doesn't like them or if they don't like him because they are no longer a Republican or Democrat but an elected Councilperson. They are all up there working for the citizens and need to put aside biases and respond to

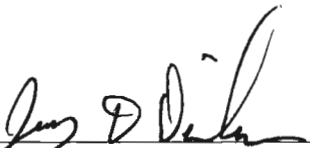
text messages and emails. The email thing is a problem. Just 2 months into the term a young lady came to the meeting and roasted the Council for their emails not working. It is May and there are still members telling him that their email or iPads aren't working. Figure it out! If their City Council email isn't working then set up a Gmail or yahoo account and let the public know how they can get ahold of them. If we are holding a meeting and something messes up with the livestream then they need to pull out their phones and live stream it. The Council has an obligation to meet the public where they are. If they don't want to do that then they should just resign because there are other people out here that will. Have a Facebook page, a Twitter account and respond and post when those meetings are. The City Administration last year posted every time the Mayor turned over in bed because it was an election year. Now they don't post when Committee meetings are because that is not their job. Force them to do it and hold them accountable. Tell them we have a Communications Director so they should publish when the meetings are. Post them on the Facebook page and not just the City website because not everybody goes there. It is not a secret that Bilbrey and Councilperson Powell don't get along but she has responded to his questions and responded back and he appreciates that. Some of the other councilmembers need to wake the hell up or leave. It's not that hard. Just communicate.

City Clerk Belinda Munson advises for the sake of transparency, she and the Council Secretary discussed it and whenever they get a meeting calendared in the auditorium a notice will be sent to the Communications Director to be posted on the City's Facebook Page.

Councilperson Powell requests Controller Craig Wright approach the podium. She references information that just came out being that 10% raises were provided and requests he expound on that. Controller Criag Wright informs it was a direction to go ahead and implement it. They will be doing a salary ordinance but as far as him answering this he would rather have Legal Counsel answer it. However, they did implement it. Powell asks when that salary increase will take effect. Wright states it came in on this last pay which was this previous Friday (May 3). Powell clarifies this being outside City ordinance. Wright insists as long as they get the ordinance in... Powell comments no, ord. 24-23 talks about the hourly maximum for each hourly employee and sets a maximum amount for each hourly employee. If they are paying above that then they are outside City ordinance and have spent money without authorization from Council. Wright assures they will take that up with Legal Counsel. Powell asks that Council Attorney Dan Gibson look at ord. 24-23 and compare it to what is being paid not and report back to Council. He advises yes.

ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Gullion to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADJOURNED.



Jerry Dishman, President of the Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk of the Muncie Common Council