

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



**AUGUST 5, 2024**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** 6:45 P.M., 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

**ORD. 16-24 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS (FIRE DEPT. – EMS)**

Muncie Fire Chief Dan Burford informs this is an additional appropriation for the Fire Department to appropriate funds from the #104 Corporate Account to Fund #104. The \$41,000 is on a matching radio grant received last year while \$102,000 is to help support purchasing structural firefighting gear for the 22 new recruits. There is \$58,000 for a contractual cancer screening which he will provide further details in a bit and lastly, a \$100,000 additional appropriation to cover overtime. There are some monies that need moved around and amended internally but they can go over that at a later time. He just wanted to provide a brief summary in case anybody else in the public wants to speak. President Dishman declares the Public Hearing CLOSED.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Dishman.

**INVOCATION:** Given by Councilperson Green followed by a Moment of Silence in memory of Dee Harris.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:** Councilperson Mason represents District #6 and is honored to recognize a citizen on behalf of the Muncie City Council. He refers to an article he read about a program called 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc., a program geared towards at risk youth. In providing a little more about 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, the numbers and the logo represent the birthday of the founder as well as how tough it is to pick up the 3<sup>rd</sup> down on 11 yards in an NFL game. If you can imagine, to pick up some yardage you still have a chance on the 1<sup>st</sup> down to score, 4<sup>th</sup> down to score... The metaphor reflects the philosophy at 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11 that achieving a 4<sup>th</sup> down on and off the field is the ultimate measure of success. There is a critical need to help the low-income youth in Muncie. The person being recognized tonight wants to use 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11 as a vehicle to move youth student athletes from a route considered 'at risk' to 'on task.' What better way is there to give an at-risk youth the chance in our community than to show them the process of becoming a student turned pro athlete. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc. specifically seeks to help at-risk youth prosper regardless of circumstances in the classroom and on the field. The meeting behind the name is symbolic; connecting the two scenarios. First, a football team working together and going the long distance to pick up yards despite the hard down. Second, the community coming together to move our youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 11 yards of life toward positive outcomes and successful opportunities. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc. provides our youth with the tools that encourage success through sports, community improvement and educational initiatives. Now to allude a little bit about the on the founder of this program, Mr. Brandon Hayes. William Brandon Hayes was born in Muncie, Indiana to Lois Ann Hill and attended Muncie Southside High School and Central State University on an athletic scholarship. Brandon is a former NFL player with the Carolina Panthers and the Indianapolis Colts and currently an educator at Inspire Academy where he is the first educator in Muncie Indiana Public Schools to teach an African-American studies course. Brandon is also the founding executive director of the nonprofit organization 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11 which has sponsored over five college tours to Central State University since being established in 2021. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc. has sponsored several events in Muncie communities such as football combines, financial literacy, college readiness workshops, 67 Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center tour, Paul Lawrence

Dunbar house tour, NFL FLAG Football League, Carolina Panthers games, WNBA games, HBCU Hall of Fame classic, and Muhammad Ali Center. Due to these amazing accomplishments, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc. was granted a proclamation by the Mayor of Muncie granting the date March 11, 2022 as 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11, Inc. Day in the City of Muncie. Brandon is a member of the NAACP, Muncie Delaware County Black Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Youth Opportunity Center Foundation Board. Some of Brandon's awards and honors recognition consist of, again, the City of Muncie Proclamation Day, Educator of the Month 3x, NAIA All American, Sheridan Broadcast Network All American, Black College Sports Report All American, CM Frank Small University All American, NAIA National Champion 1992, Central State University Hall of Fame, Muncie Delaware County Hall of Fame, High School All States Election, Muncie Southside High School Hall of Fame, and Central State University Team Captain from 1992 to 1994. Brandon has always been a man of faith and action. He has been a dedicated proponent of helping others his entire life. Brandon was quoted by Dayton Daily News reporter Tarn Archdeacon, “in one way or another, this place has always (kind of) been a center of my little world,” speaking of Central State University. “Over the years, a lot of good things have happened to me thanks to Central State.” With that, Councilperson Mason presents Mr. William Brandon Hayes, affectionally AKA Boss, with the August 2024 Citizen Recognition Award and thanks him for his generous commitment of time, support and commitment to the Muncie community.

Mr. Hayes takes the opportunity to thank the City Council for recognizing his work. He really appreciates it. He also thanks the Muncie Parks Department for partnering with him and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11 to be able to make these things happen. We need more of this for our community and our kids to get them back in the parks and doing what they need to do and off the video games. Next month will be Councilperson Basham presenting the Citizen of the Month Award.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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:** Councilperson Green pointed out a typographical error on the top of Page 14 correcting the word “proving” to “providing.” A motion was made by Green and seconded by Mason to Adopt the Minutes from the July 1, 2024 Regular Meeting. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. Typo corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD AND COMMISSIONS:** President Dishman declares one City Council appointment to the Transportation Policy Committee. The Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month at 1:30 PM and the next meeting is August 31. The appointment must be a councilmember. A motion was made by McIntosh and seconded by Garrett to nominate Sara Gullion. No further nominations. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. MOTION CARRIED. Sarah Gullion is declared appointed to the Transportation Policy Committee as the City Council representative.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**



After the Citizen Recognition, Councilperson Mason took a moment to reference the Moment of Silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Dee Harris who recently passed away who ran the South Madison Street Community Center for a number of years. In 2002, the City of Muncie and the Muncie Housing Authority was granted \$12.3 million to build what is now called "Millennium Place." The community had a center and it was stipulated in that grant that a new community center would be built in the first phase of construction but it hasn't happened yet. It is now 22 years later and there is scrambling to put together a youth task force for youth and gun violence. The reason there is that these kids have nowhere to go but to the streets. He is challenging the City and citizens to get behind getting a center.

Councilperson Green would like to make some comments on behalf of the Muncie Central High School Marching Band. On July 20, they hosted a competition here at the high school. It was quite an undertaking to get all those people organized as there was between 3,000 to 5,000 people and participants from 27 different bands with their buses, trailers, and staff. Anyone that drove downtown could recall how difficult it was to get through having to have Walnut Street blocked off, in fact. He just wanted to thank the Muncie Fire Department and the Paramedics for the help and assistance they provided that evening and also the Muncie Police Department who came out at the end of the showcase and were just a fantastic help in allowing the people to get back out on the streets with no issues. There have been problems in the years past but he recalls asking for just one officer and ended up with six or seven all throughout different locations and are thankful for them getting everybody out safely. Then, he wishes to congratulate Muncie Central Spirit of Muncie on their State Championship this year. Everyone is very proud of those young men and women but can assure they weren't the only band that worked hard this summer; many here in Delaware County did. It makes a difference when you have young people involved in activities like that and is amazed at the different things they have accomplished since coming out of the band for Muncie Southside and Muncie Central to where they are today. Some actually write composition for movies. Some are teachers, attorneys, or doctors. Kids that grew up to work in all sorts of fields because they had an opportunity to be active in things outside of just running the streets. He is very thankful for that and couldn't be any prouder of Muncie Central for what they have accomplished. Again, he wishes to thank the Muncie Police Department for their escort on the way home, meeting them at the Delaware County Daleville line and parading them in through Muncie with lights and sirens going. The Muncie City Council wanted to acknowledge all of their hard work and great championship.

#### TILLOTSON AVENUE

Rob Keisling, Indiana Michigan Power, provides a traffic update on the work on Tillotson which has been going on for a while now. They have shifted to the residential part since the last meeting, where the speed limit is 30 mph north of Riverside. In that time period, they have had 2 incidents where vehicles have driven through the barricades and through the work zone. Fortunately, there were no injuries as a result of those accidents but they have had to adapt how they are approaching that project and in protecting the workers who are vulnerable there (in trenches with not a lot of room to move if a vehicle come through). With that, they brought in hardened jersey barriers and the crash barrels to be installed later this week. Part of the project is taking a little bit longer but the other update is needing to adapt the next section which is south between Riverside and University (in front of their substation and the Fire Station). Working with the City Engineer, it appears that the only option at this time will be a hard closure between Riverside and University starting on or after August 19 expecting to last approximately 4 weeks. They are still finalizing those details with the City Engineer as well as the Fire Department. Councilperson Powell clarifies that Mr. Keisling is saying that the section of Tillotson between Riverside and University will be completely closed for 4 weeks. Keisling responds yes, that is how it is appearing at this time.

#### ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Charles Taylor, Ethics Advisory Committee, informs the public that their next meeting will be August 15 at 7:30 PM at Marion Hunt Library. Everyone is welcome and the public is welcome to be



involved in discussion. They are close to wrapping up their work and will be reviewing a full draft in ordinance form at the next meeting to identify any tweaks or changes that need to be made. The ideas will come back to the Committee in September at the September meeting and then hopefully into the hands of Council after that.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilperson Powell, Finance Chair, made a request that that budget be presented to and ready for review by Council as of this evening. She received an email back from Controller Criag Wright expressing that it would be ready midmonth and then an email saying it would be ready in time to be filed for the next Council Meeting, which will be in September. Unfortunately, the Council doesn't have concrete numbers to even begin the budgeting process but guarantees she has requested those numbers. She recalls a DLGF Meeting on July 18 in which President Dishman asked the Administration if she could sit in but was told no so they weren't able to get any information through that meeting on miscellaneous revenue. She was also denied read only rights for Gateway by Mr. Wright as well. Unfortunately, they are in a holding process until the Administration files the budget and then at that time the Finance Committee, comprised of all 9 members, will begin meeting and going over the budget with Department Heads. Those meetings will hopefully be published on the City Facebook page and advertised appropriately and shared on social media pages. They have talked to the media team about live-streaming those meetings as well so when the Council knows something, the public will know as well.

### **ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:**

**ORD. 14-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R4 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BC COMMUNITY BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 1300 S. LIBERTY ST., MUNCIE, INDIANA.**

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

Maura Hoff, DeFur Voran 400 S. Walnut Street, reminds this project being part of the Together to House Muncie Project and has been compiled by the Delaware County Housing Consortium which is an alliance of local agencies providing services to the homeless. This includes Muncie Mission, YWCA, A Better Way, Christian Ministries, Meridian Health, Open Door, the Center Township Trustee, and the City of Muncie Community Development Office. Many of those representatives are here tonight so if interested in any specific aspect of the project, Gretchen Cheesman is here from Community Development, Brian Ayers is here from Open Door and Tasha Barnes Griffin is here from YW. The developer, Andrew Walker from Radiant CDC is here as well. Currently, there are over 160 households on the coordinated entry list waiting for housing assistance in Delaware County. This project (rezoning request) would be moving the former Harrison School at 1300 South Liberty from an R4 Zone to a BC Zone so they are able to provide approximately 16 units of Permanent Supportive Housing. This is for formerly homeless individuals and families that comes with wraparound support services. It'll be a mix of new construction and preservation and rehab of the historic building. The zoning in the area varies as the parcel is adjacent to R4 VB and BC. Being requested as the appropriate zoning is BC because it will clearly be residential in nature but it is adjacent to a lot of other commercial interests in the area. They presented all the specific zoning factors to the Plan Commission who unanimously recommended that Council approve this rezoning ordinance. She then invites up Bob Scott to provide specifics about the actual project that will be developed there.

Bob Scott, Muncie Mission Vice President of Development, 1725 S. Liberty, elevates a few points in this really being a historic preservation project. The old Harrison School is now over 100 years old having served children for many years and is now owned by Full Gospel Temple and will be an option to the Muncie Mission and then on to the Developer. They are returning families and children to that building. He mentions



it was said that 160 to 180 households now are continually looking for housing. This will provide housing for 16 households. This will attract families because of the multi-bedroom aspect (2 and 3-bedrooms). About 40 of those 160 looking for housing right now are families with children and there aren't really options for family units so this is a really important part of bringing families back into that building. Finally, he indicates that because it is Permanent Supported Housing, that means that not only do these families find a place to live and a safe place to raise their family but they also get Case Management Services through Open Door. There is someone walking with these families to help them address whatever issues may have caused homelessness for them. That could be employment issues or substance abuse, whatever it might be, there is someone there to walk with them so that's the Permanent Supportive Housing part of it.

Councilperson Mason clarifies it was said that this is on the Historical Registry. Gretchen Cheesman, Office of Community Development, says it has been designated as being eligible for the National Register and it will be put on the National Register as part of this process. Mason refers to talking about housing and asks if there are any stipulations as to what type of housing and construction could be done with it being historic. Scott explains that historic preservation requires maintaining the outside envelope, the footprint, of the building so there is quite a bit of flexibility with how they build out the units on the inside. Cheesman states this will be a historic tax credit project and as part of the historic tax credit it goes through a whole review process with the state to make sure that all the work conforms with the secretary of the interior standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings and the developer won't get their tax credit if they don't do the work right. It is reviewed before the work starts and after the work is completed to make sure that all those standards are followed.

Councilperson Green questions the timeline they have for the construction process before people start occupying and how long will the occupation be for each family. Scott refers to the second part of that being there is no time limit specified since it is Permanent Supportive Housing. As long as folks wanted to stay there, they would be able to stay there and continue to receive assistance. Historically, folks tend to move on after a while and don't choose it to be permanent but would have that option to say. Concerning the construction timeline, they are in an application process with other entities around the state for the tax credits and should know by the end of November/beginning of December what tax credits are being awarded to this project. That would then start the financing and Development and Construction timeline. It is probably safe to say it will be about 2 years from then that they would be fully leased.

Councilperson Selvey first wants to thank all the community members and organizations. This is a huge thing for Muncie and she really likes the collaboration and how everyone came together. We know drug addiction and homelessness is a big issue and not one person or one entity can solve it. She appreciates them coming together and knows a lot of hard work, discussion and communications goes into it.

Councilperson Garrett also wants to express appreciation for the togetherness that occurred for this project. It really shows the problem we all see in the community and they are jumping on it to be a step in the right direction. There are a thousand more steps that will have to be taken after this but the biggest one is the first one. Permanent housing where they can leave when they are ready is great. He likes the hope that puts out and one thing the Mission does is bring hope. The counseling, knowing what they need to figure out, where they can go, what they need to do to move up and the fact that support will be there whether needed or not is a win-win. He thanks them, from this side of town. He thanks Director Cheesman as he knows from a Building Inspector standpoint that historic properties could be not that fun to deal with and appreciates everyone for coming together.

WaTasha Barnes Griffin, YWCA, thanks the Council for hearing this today. They have been working on this for the last 4 or 5 years or starting right at the height of Covid. She serves as the Coordinated Entry Lead for Region #6 which covers Jay, Randolph, Delaware, Blackford, Henry, and Grant County. YWCA staff is responsible to ensure that everyone in that region is housed or directed to the right housing. Focusing



on Delaware County, she can express today there are 180 individuals that are sitting on what is called a "priority list." There is one virtual door that every homeless individual or those who are at risk for homelessness come through and/or they can walk into the Muncie HUB and her team will access them, putting them on a priority list. It can say they are chronically homeless which means they need Permanent Supportive Housing and need emergency shelter right away. It might be possible to keep them in their house with some Rapid Rehousing dollars so there are multiple agencies at work here. Yet they are responsible to ensure that every person is housed in our community. Sitting on that priority list today are 180 individuals, 24 families, so they have to look at that every day and figure out where they'll stay. This project may be 2 years out but the agencies doing the work will still have to work and house those families today. Our shelters are at capacity. She explains they don't have the ability to continue this way and have had to turn people away in our own City because they are constantly working because no housing is available. This project is imperative and they really need the Council support. They thank the Council for hearing them but want to make sure that for quality of life and quality of place that everyone in our community has a place to be so this will help those families alleviating some of the lack of, especially for chronically homeless people. When they come onto that list, it ranks them by score and prioritizes them and there are 176 people chronically homeless right now. Some of them may be in an emergency shelter that is only 45 to 50 days yet see themselves keeping them for 90 to 100 days because there is nowhere to move them. Housing is important. Again, 180 or so sit on that list and 24 are families; she can break down the numbers more but it means that those people are either sleeping in places not meant for habitation right now, still trying to get into a shelter that may be full, may not be able to return to a shelter because of the safety issues or the safety factors that might be in place for them or the shelter staff or those who live in shelters. This PSH Project will be important but this is just one step because we need this in our community.

Councilperson Basham provides thanksgiving to all of these nonprofits who have come together collaborating with Community Development to give hope and to put this property back on the tax rolls.

Gretchen Cheeseman, Community Development, wants to provide a little bit about the city resources that are going to go into this project. In 2021 they received \$1.8 million in HOME ARP funds which were to be used for homeless programs or programs that prevent homelessness. Part of that money has gone to Rapid Rehousing Program that A Better Way is managing which really did a lot of work with the people at the Muncie Inn. \$1 million was put aside for this Permanent Supportive Housing Program along with some regular HOME money totaling \$1.6 million dollars being put into it allowing them to leverage that HOME ARP money 10 to 1.

Joseph Romero, local missionary The Shepards Heart and Hands, recalls the warming center and if aware then you would know all about the homelessness that go there. This announcement is an answered prayer. He encourages all the partners to get in touch with him because he wants to help and has been doing this for 30 years. He is really excited about it because he knows all about the challenges of agencies working together. He visits the homeless every week and knows where the camps are and where they live. He knows of the challenges and why they don't go to the agencies, such as the Mission, and he knows other people that do. They all come to him one way or another so he is very much hands-on and thinks he can be a great help if allowed to come to some of these meetings. He has already discussed with the Mayor some of the challenges that have to be considered. Many times, the neighborhood will try and fight it. He has seen people try to open up housing and in turn have to prove that it is not going to bring property values down. People get concerned about those kinds of things. From what he is hearing and when hearing of agencies working together, that means infrastructure. If we connect the dots like what was just described then that is a win-win. He isn't here to reinvent the wheel but come in if he sees something. That is why he is out in the woods while other agencies don't have a missionary out in the woods. God Bless everyone for what they are doing.



Jeanetta Pressley, Fiona's Place at 413 S. Liberty Street, sadly expressed that Fiona's Place is going to be closing leaving 11 sex offenders on the streets of Muncie with no housing. She is very sad about that but it is what it is. They lost their house so they have nowhere for these guys to go. She has a contract and they lost it with the gentleman who has the house so these individuals will be homeless in a couple weeks on the streets and we won't know where they are so they won't be contained. This housing won't help them because they don't qualify but she is looking for placement and housing for these people. She apologizes.

Maura Hoff, summarizes that a problem has clearly been identified, a viable solution presented and she hopes they will be supportive of rezoning this parcel as the first step in getting this project underway. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

## NEW ORDINANCES:

### ORD. 16-24 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS (FIRE DEPT. – EMS)

A motion was made by Green and seconded by Powell to Introduce.

Muncie Fire Chief Dan Burford is here tonight seeking additional appropriations for the Fire Department. He recalls sending a letter out to the councilmembers and hopes they've had a chance to review it. He is asking for appropriations from their 104 Corporate Account which is a fluid account with revenues being deposited every day that are coming from ambulance billing. The fire protection contract (Center Township funds) goes into #104 as well. They are just needing a little bit of money to sure some things up. They received a radio grant last year, which was long overdue, and the matching portion of that is \$41,196.84. They received a Covid Relief Grant last year for \$253,000 and \$176,000 of that was left because it was earmarked for other projects; part of that was this 10% matching fund so that money was there and stayed in the corporate account last year when it didn't get spent. The Department is looking at \$102,848 for structural firefighting gear. This is a very unique year for MFD as they put on a recruit class of 22 firefighters. They are very blessed to get the interest and be able to get the recruits as they are in training right now. Obviously, it's hard to budget for that large of a number and claims they have never had that size before and just didn't get that budgeted before so it's a one-time thing needed to get these ladies and gentlemen outfitted. They also have \$58,064 for an ultrasound cancer screening and this was something that was new in the contract last year which is a blood test for different types of cancer. We all have talked many times over the years on the dangers of cancer with firefighters. They are a very busy Department per capita with a lot of structure fires and are at a much higher risk even than your national average firefighter. This was negotiated in but there was a lot going on at the time trying to figure out cost and things so they didn't get enough budgeted. Chief Burford has to express that in doing these screenings, one individual alone discovered an issue with his heart that literally saved his life. They told him immediately to go to the ER. He is now awaiting surgery and will be able to come back 100%. Had it not have been for this screening, they told him the next call he made very likely would have been the last thing he ever did. They are so fortunate for that outcome and the Chief would gladly ask Council to pay for this 10 times over if he had to because it's been well worth it. Those appropriations alone totaled at \$202,108.84 and he is requesting that be placed in Other Services & Charges line item #104-21-439071 in Fund #104. Chief Burford is also requesting an additional \$100,000 for Overtime expenses. Right now, Overtime line item #101-21-41160 is showing being considerably overbudget but one of the big issues there is something to do with payroll and they have been trying to get ahead of it. Every time a minimum staffing is logged it will come out of that account, no matter what account the firefighter or paramedic is paid for. With that, they are currently going through and doing payroll amendments for the firefighters paid out of the General Fund #104 and #101 and the LOIT #105 and also the paramedics paid out of Center Township (#104). They know they have \$293,000 that has to be adjusted from that alone. With the remaining balances for the Overtime and those two #104 accounts, the #105 account, they are currently at a sitting on a balance surplus if they right those accounts. It is going to bring the #101 back pretty



close. Chief Burford also addressed in his letter referencing Firefighter Pay line item #101-21-41124 at 61% for payroll this year. They are running under due to the shortfall. In that, currently, there is \$271,33.20 that could be moved to help cover those overtime costs. So, with the \$100,000 and them being able to right those accounts, (according to a report ran at 6:35 PM this evening) would give a balance of \$284,859.85 in overtime to get them through then end of the year. They already had a percentage of their recruit class (9 already having Fire and EMS certifications) go through a shorter academy than the remaining 13 and those individuals were already on the floor working. That is easing the overtime by 3 firefighters a day so that's huge in curbing this. When the additional 13 finish at the academy in the first or second week of September there will be 4 more additional firefighters on the floor per shift. Even more, that is going to curve the overtime eventually bringing it down to a very minimal amount. They are already working on the budget stuff for next year and right sizing those figures in getting them right coming forward. Chief Burford assures they hate having to come and ask for this halfway through the year but is only asking to appropriate the money that has been earned by the Department as they are willing to accommodate their own shortfalls themselves.

Councilperson Powell is seeking some clarification on what is intending to be done here. They intend to put money from Fund #104 which is broken down into 2 different funds for Firefighters and EMS. Chief Burford explains when they right size the payroll with the amendment, they will have enough in #10424 which is the Paramedic line to cover their overtime. Once they right the overage and get the members paid out of the #10421 put back in then it is going to (about) wash it out so the \$100,000 will give the money to make to through the end of the year. Powell goes back to her first question asking about the #104 being split, it is receiving in Center Township and receiving in EMS and asks if it is kept separate with Center Township covering the firefighters... Chief Burford responds it is not completely separate, no. It is just for budget purposes. Powell continues that the Fire Chief intends to put more money into the #104 account so they can then come before Council and ask for more money be transferred into the General Fund account. Chief Burford responds when the payroll is adjusted with the people whose overtime has come out of the #101 it will adjust down to the #104 which will credit back. There is paperwork that will have to be filed and he'll have to go through and look at every employee and their overtime hours although he plans to present that at a later time. Powell requests Attorney Gibson clarify that if the Fire Department needs to put more money into the General Fund account (#101) they would need to come before Council with an additional appropriation with one line reduced from #104 and one line increased for #101. Chief Burford explains the way it was relayed to him was when they amend the payroll then the amended payroll originally taken out of #101 will then be paid out of #104 because everything went up to #101 which would then credit the #101 account. It wouldn't be transferring any money there. However, they would like to transfer some #101 money to another line item in #101. Powell mentions they have only spent 2% of the overtime out of Fire Department #104 and 8% of overtime out of the #104 covering EMS. Chief Burford states correct because those individuals should have been paid out of the #104-41160 and were not. So, the general payroll is coming out of the correct fund but anytime it is coded as minimum staffing it is applying it directly to the Overtime #101-21-41160. Powell states from what she is seeing, the entire budget for overtime in #104 and #105 won't accurately cover what is short in #101. The Fire Chief insists they have firefighters they have to cover out of #10421 which is a fire line item in a fire fund inside of #104. #10421 is Fire and #10424 is EMS. He would love to sit down and go over everything with her to simplify it for the budget process. Powell will probably want to sit down and just go through that with him to better understand the way it was broken down even within the fund. She asks if he thinks that \$100,000 will cover them through the end of the year. Chief Burford says yes, if they can do the things here and also move over \$270,000 from Firefighters Pay #104-21-41124 to the Overtime. Powell confirms they would be able to do that because they aren't fully staffed and have remaining monies in that line item. The Fire Chief states that is correct. Powell recalled asking City Controller Craig Wright the operating balance on Fund #104 and requests if the Fire Chief is able to relay that detail. Chief Burford replied it is, as



of 6:35 this evening, \$1,808,039.45. Obviously, that is a fluid account so money is coming in and is going out so he would have to sit down and do some heavy calculations to express what is totally appropriated. Powell asks if that is money that has also been appropriated; not net of what's not been appropriated. Chief Burford explains that is the cash account so anything they do comes out of that and any money that comes in daily goes into it. It is fluid. If they had a large expense, it would be low and then build back up. They know what their projections are based on. To be honest, \$0 would have to be received for the remainder of the year for them to see any issues. It is fluid and constantly going up and down.

Councilperson Gullion appreciates all the detail and homework due to many line items and sub items. She confirms no one from the Administration is here such as the City Controller to explain or verify these funds are available. Chief Burford advises he knows what is in the account because he has access to it. She trusts him but is just making it known that the City Controller is not here.

Jason Chafin, President of Local #1348, assures Chief Burford did a pretty eloquent job explaining why they need these things and what happened. He just wanted to hit on a couple other points. The radio grant was over \$500,000 from the federal government and was allocated last year. They had some turnover with Administration and things got a little chaotic but it was originally been in place last year and it is known that everything resets January 1 so they came back to reallocate those funds when the grant actually came in. Only 10% is paid on that federal grant and one of their own members wrote the grant. Their members worked hard to get that money for the Fire Department and Muncie citizens. With that, one phase of the ask tonight is to cover the money being brought in as they move money around within their own complicated budgets, just as Chief Burford just went through. Additionally, they negotiated the cancer screenings into the contract last year and it was probably one of the best things they did. By just doing those screenings, as it was mentioned, someone found out some serious health information that obviously might have saved his life by catching it when they did. Those sorts of things are going to pay off for them going forward. However, with the budget being put together last year those line items didn't get added correctly. In that they are spending money ten times over. With the overtime being in 3 different budgets yet payroll only being taken out of 1 of the 3 so obviously they will run short. Covid put the Fire Merit Commission behind so they got below on hiring and had to await a hiring list. All the while they are still losing people. Recruitment is pretty good but their retention is not the best. By the time they were able to get the hiring list done they were up to 22 people needed. It kept growing and growing every week it seemed and they never expected it to amount to 22. When it comes to outfitting 22 people with the expensive fire gear and such, it was really unexpected but yet necessary because the overtime MFD has been spending this year is basically a direct result of being 22 people short. They are running almost a fifth of a department short (110, 123 including paramedics) until these employees get on the floor and other fixes are done moving forward. He is 100% in support of getting this money reallocated within their budget to pay for these things. They are all good and necessary things.

Audier Barber mentions retention and is curious if there has ever been anything done (like a contract) for the firefighters coming in to take the classes to retain them for 5 or 10 years and make them sign a contract to where if they leave beforehand then they have to pay 'X' amount to dollars back.

Jason Chafin, responds to Mr. Barber comments and will express a few more things added to their contract over the years to try to help with that. First enacted was a 12% probationary period where they make 12% less. If someone doesn't make it through their probationary year then that 12% is saved and somewhat equals the money that was invested in them for all the gear they're supplied with. Another way they have worked on retaining is some of the training they offer. Training can be expensive and one of the more expensive ones is paramedic class. There is a contract within the contract that if the City sends them to paramedic school (again, which is very expensive) then they will either pay that money back if they don't complete the schooling or leave the department before a year. They also don't get their clothing allowance the



first year so that's \$1,900 saved for clothing allowance. Some of those first-year savings have offset the retention.

Green asks if it was considered to possibly purchase a better computer system or program so they don't have that issue with payroll. Chief Burford explains that the payroll is handled through the Controller's Office so they don't actually process anyone's payroll directly. Green asks if it would not alleviate some of the potential issues. Chief Burford responds it could and is aware they've been working with I.T. to figure out why they're having the trouble doing that. The Department submits their payroll by the individual to the Controller's Office and that is where they process the employee checks. Powell asks if this is only being discovered now, in August. Chief Burford replies apparently this has been a longing issue and was an issue even last year. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas. INTRODUCED.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

RES. 6-24 COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA RESOLUTION REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENT FOR GREATER MUNCIE INDIANA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC. (1704 E. Hines Street)

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

There is no one present to speak on behalf of the resolution but Councilperson Powell thinks that anytime they can support Habitat for Humanity they should. The rest of the Council agrees. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

RES. 7-24 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, Local #3656 AND ENCOURAGING NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE FOR THE 2024 YEAR.

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

Audie Barber states this has been an ongoing problem since last year and is glad to see the Council make a resolution on this but wants them to take a bite out of the apple and punish the Administration until we get something done. Straight and simple. They're passing the buck on down the road and these employees are still working their butts off without a contract. Anyone that has ever been under contract and continues to work without a contract can assure it is pretty much insulting. For them to keep giving dates and nitpicking this and nitpicking that, not giving a contract, kicking the can on down the road and saying they will have a meeting after the Council meeting. The meeting gets scheduled and then oh, something is going on so they aren't going to talk too much about it. This contract is expired already and is going to expire before it is even passed. Until the Council bites into that apple and holds this Administration responsible for this; he doesn't care if Democrat or Republican, get these guys a contract! They deserve it and work hard for this City for a little bit of nothing and it is not right. Get them a contract so they have rights where they can't just come in one day and the boss says, "you're fired" just because he can. It's not right. Hold this Administration accountable.

Councilperson McIntosh has seen this his entire life. As far as negotiations go, the Council has really tried. The Chair of the Finance Committee was not allowed to sit in on a meeting between our DLGF representative. While this Administration refused to let said President attend, the previous Administrations invited the President and Finance Chair to this meeting (during the July meeting) all 8 years of their Administration which is an epitome of lack of transparency which is what this Administration campaigned for. As far as taking that bite out of apple, he tried to do that in being transparent as he campaigned to do because he wants his community to know what's going on. The Council is doing everything they can. They are asking all the right questions but not getting the answers and if they do it is an under the radar type situation. He is putting it out there like that because he has been taking a lot of misunderstanding and it is getting to the point



that he doesn't know what is going on as far as misunderstanding. However, he is here today and announces for the record that his name is William B. McIntosh Senior. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> At-Large City Council member. City Councilman Harold Mason Jr, District #6, is to his right and they look nothing alike. This Administration, twice, has gotten them confused so they don't even know who the City Council people are. He doesn't look like Mr. McNeary, Dr. Woodgett or Mr. Foley (who are all sitting in the audience tonight). His name is William B. McIntosh Senior.

Councilperson Garrett expresses that daily the Council is collectively putting their minds together. They text and call each other daily to try to figure out what they can do to help. It is nonstop. There's a lot of things they can't do but then again there are some they can. With this, it is their way to try and take a bite out of that apple and they aren't going to stop. He has known people his entire life that still work for the City and he would literally take a bullet for Nathan Burgess who is a fantastic person that does nothing but give. He will not stop, and neither will anyone else on Council, until the AFSCME employees get what they deserve. Every last one of them.

Audie Barber, again, suggests the Council could stop all spending from the Mayor's Office until this is regulated. It doesn't matter what department it is from, stop all spending immediately and don't approve any more ordinances for appropriations until they get this contract settled. They were able to get all the other contracts settled so it's time to step up for these ladies and gentlemen that work their asses off for this City.

Councilperson Powell states she sponsored this because they strongly believe in the employees, appreciating everything they do. She personally feels that if you're going to sing the accolades of someone's work then you should compensate them appropriately. You do not give speeches talking about all your accomplishments and not give the people doing that work what they have earned. Unfortunately, this is about as strong as the Council can go referring to Mr. Barber's comments. There are no ordinances and they cannot force the Administration to negotiate otherwise this would have been a problem that would have been solved early on. This is an opinion and it puts it on record that this is how the Council feels and that any and all contracts that the Administration would negotiate should include this year. She hopes that her fellow councilmembers can support this and send a message to the Administration that they feel they need to get back into the negotiation room and settle 2024. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

#### **TABLED:**

ORD. 13-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE F FARMING ZONE AND II INTENSE INDUSTRIAL ZONE TO THE MHP MOBILE HOME PARK ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AS 2800 W. MEMORIAL DR., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

*6/3/24: Introduced*

*7/1/24: Tabled (no representation in attendance)*

A motion was made by Gullion and seconded by Powell to Bring off the Table and Adopt. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. MOTION CARRIED.

Debbie Arnold, Freedom Acres Community Manager, expresses they wanted to get the zoning taken care of because the mobile homes were put there prior to the 1973 zoning act. This is basically just zoning cleanup. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas. ADOPTED.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilperson Gullion mentioned earlier that no one from the Administration is in attendance of tonight's meeting. Most already know but the Administration decided to remove the option of live commenting during the meetings on the City of Muncie Facebook Page. They are allowing commenting on

the newly created City of Muncie Communications Page. However, on July 25 she sent an email to the Mayor and Michele Owens, Communications Director, and cc'd the entire Council requesting if it was possible to allow the live commenting during their own meetings because those are their meetings vs the Administration. At this point in time, she has still not received anything back. She adds that Councilperson Powell and Councilperson Selvey both responded to that initial email asking for the same. There has been absolutely no response to this point.

Councilperson Powell emailed Mayor Ridenour asking about negotiations because as looking toward building the budget, they definitely needed that piece of information if meetings had begun for Police and Fire. He informed her they had and that Councilperson Basham would be representing City Council. She asks Basham if he could inform the rest of the Finance Committee, comprised of all of 9 councilmembers, not necessarily the details but just the cost of what they would be looking for. Numbers are pretty tight so they need to somewhat have an idea of what the cost of the offer will be. She is aware some meetings are scheduled throughout August so requests he just send an email or however the Council Attorney thinks is best so that they aren't violating any open-door laws in that process. Councilperson Basham thanks her and advises he will.

Councilperson McIntosh refers to the Mayor appointing Mr. Basham as the City Council representative on negotiations and how he has the option to put as many as he wanted to on that Committee. He publicly volunteers and is asking to be put on the Committee with him.

Councilperson Selvey announces today being the first day for teachers at Muncie Community Schools and Dr. Chuck Reynolds did a great job this morning bringing them all together. She just wants to wish all the teachers, parents, and students a very healthy and productive year. The Council agrees.

Councilperson Green, on the same note, requests people to please drive carefully in school zones and be attentive to the school children. There has been a lot of close calls in years past and we don't want any tragedies. Please be careful now that school is back in session. President Dishman notes especially down by the old Concannon's building.

Selvey takes another moment to remind all the parents of the new state mandated cell phone policy. Students are allowed to bring them to school but they have to put them in their locker until the end of the day. Please don't give the teachers, administrators, or school board a hard time. This is a state law and it is nothing personal against anyone.

WaTasha Barnes Griffin, member of the Muncie Community Board of Trustees, states her term is through 2026 and she was nominated by the City Council. When they first started, she would come to meetings and provide a report when requested but notes she hasn't done that with this Council. She is in this space because their predecessors voted her in. She is available if there is something they want to know about proceedings at the school board level. She is here and happy to email them. President Dishman tells her she is more than welcome to come up anytime and report. Councilperson Mason asks what measures have been taken as far as the new cell phone law. They understand there being possible pushback but it is the law now. Griffin explains yes, especially with the high school level who can have their cell phones on them but cannot use them without teacher directive. We will see what happens as it unfolds. Middle school students will have to keep their phones in their lockers and elementary, of course, doesn't need to have them at all. It is a mandate that has to be followed so she will keep them posted.



Troy Watters, Beech Grove Cemetery Superintendent, wants to touch base on the request of having the budgets in early. He doesn't know if they took into consideration that some departments, like Beech Grove, have a board that goes over their budget and it was just really short notice. His part is done and he is ready to send a proposal to the board but their next board meeting isn't until next Tuesday, August 13. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer are going to meet tomorrow night and prepare it. He, again, asks they take that into consideration and didn't know anything about it until he and Councilperson Powell talked the other day and he was caught off guard because normally the budget process isn't until September. Councilperson Powell understands that and states the budget obviously will not be ready for Council review until it has been prepared by the Administration. While he wasn't provided this information, she has been requesting this information from Controller Wright since early spring. They wanted to get the budget done early in consideration of the 4 new councilmembers. Watters doesn't want to get into that but is just saying something like this he requests they keep in mind that he has a board to report to. The Parks Department does as well. There is another step to it and city ordinance and state code both say the board prepares the budget. It is going to work out for them and he is sure they'll meet early but if they would have had to wait until the meeting then that would have been another week. Powell apologizes Mr. Wright didn't inform him in a timely manner. He isn't pointing fingers at anyone just wanted to reference it in case they weren't aware.

Charlize Jamieson claims there has been a lot of good news here tonight and she hopes to piggyback on that instead of complain. A lot of progress has been made over the last decade when it comes to civil rights. Civil rights in Muncie applies to not only a certain segment of society but all of us and that's to include the LGBTQ+ community in Muncie. In doing a little research preparing for what she wanted to say tonight and it was 9 years ago (with some current councilmembers serving at that time) in 2015 we had a standing room only in response to the religious freedom restoration act or RIFRA that had been put out with quite an uproar. People packed this auditorium and the councilmembers voted 9-0 to support an anti-discrimination ordinance in the City of Muncie. She was in that audience and can say it was an emotional evening because it was going to impact so many people, many of whom have very silent voices. Some 4 or 5 years ago, this Council saw the need and appointed a member of the LGBTQIA community to the Human Rights Commission, an appointment that has been maintained to this date. Some 3 years ago, Council passed a resolution condemning the practice of conversion therapy in the City of Muncie by 8-1. The Human Rights Campaign who scores medium to large size cities across the nation scored Muncie with a score of 69 on a scale 100. That score was *raised* to 69 because of a lot of the aforementioned items done by Council. For the past 3 years, the City of Muncie has lit up City Hall in pink and blue lighting for Transgender Day of Remembrance. This past June, just a month or so ago, the City of Muncie lit up City Hall in rainbow lights in support of June Pride Month. She has to say that started in 2015 when Mayor Dennis Tyler and as part of the response to RIFRA had the tech team light up City Hall in rainbow colors. She didn't even make a phone call this time, just sent a text message to the City Administration and it was done like that (snaps finger). We've made great strides but we've got a long way to go. There are several educators here so in asking them what a 69 score is in their classes, the answer is barely a C. We can do better. Bloomington is showing the way with a score of 100 so they're perfect in that regard and it can be done. She just wanted to say thank you to this Council, past Administrations and the current Administration and people for showing that Muncie is not a city that stands for discrimination of any kind is welcoming to all citizens. Keep it up.

Joseph Romero loves the work this Council does and it has been a breath of fresh air since he came to Muncie. He wanted to provide an update referencing the work his team did last year with Christmas for the Homeless and helping the camps and things like that. A lot was said a little while ago about the agency cooperation and some really important stories were heard about families that are going to need housing. Thank God for that project. He is looking forward to seeing what happens with it. November and December



aren't too far away and what happened last year is going to happen again; the agencies are going to be full and the waiting lists are going to be long. A lot of the camps exist, some of which are no longer here today because sanitation needed to do their job and clean up some of the mess going on out there, and for good reason. It needed to be done. He warned many people that if they didn't take care of their lot, the lot will be taken care of for them. Unfortunately, the tents and wood-burning stoves go bye-bye along with the cleanups. Keep in mind Romero's mission was for people not to die, not to enable them to stay out there but to keep them alive during the winter. That challenge will occur again so he is asking for prayers and to keep in mind the work they do. They're looking for who is going to provide these people housing. When he says 'housing,' he is talking about housing for those that usually don't qualify for the low-income housing we all keep hearing about. We need the second chance housing, housing for felonies, people who've been evicted, etc. He is praying for that. He states the IRS has already approved his nonprofit and they are doing really good. Since going out to the camps he is now pretty much at the Robert Hunt Warming Center. People that aren't in a shelter usually go to the warming center when the Soup Kitchen is closed. He obtained permission to open it on Fridays after becoming acquainted with the Pastors of Main Street after Christmas for the Homeless (twice, one in the wood in the camps and another time at the warming center). He has keys and he meets people helping connect them to agencies and heads up, they are getting ready to do it again. Once a year, instead of having people feeling bad during the holidays, he loves to put hope in their pockets and bless them with a new blanket. He doesn't give out tents but verifies they are in dire need of a tent and are really homeless. He tries to help those with addiction problems too, being a teen challenge counselor having worked for residential programs that help people with life controlling problems. He knows all the drills and is hoping to get in touch with some of the wonderful people that presented earlier because he has done so much over the years to investigate the good and the bad in every agency. We have a lot of agencies and every time he goes to one, he will ask their definition of success. They can tell him about how many mouths they've fed or about how many beds they provide but what he wants to hear is how many people leave the facility and don't relapse? How many people reenter into society and continue to do well? We're only as good as we are as people. Every program has the challenges of maintaining staff, keeping them trained, and motivated. We all get overworked and know what it is like to need a vacation. He tells nonprofits to take care of their staff because they can get burned out too. With that, Christmas for the Homeless is coming up again. They will also have Operation Turkey which is their Thanksgiving version. They will be doing it at the warming center and believe it is going to be probably 3 or 4 times bigger than last year (as 125 people attended). It is the poor people in the neighborhood that know him, not so much the agencies yet but people that used to be homeless are finding him now to express they are still struggling. He had 5 food boxes to deliver just last week to a family of 5 kids whose car broke down. He did his research and investigated on what to do to help. People will tell him their stories and just cry. Some might've not known how they were going to feed their kids. He recalled posting the possible need for a nonprofit that does car repairs and remembers Susan Dillon telling him they have that in another state. He is concerned after noticing a lot of businesses in Muncie closing due to Covid that we have a lot of hungry people as well as people unhoused. He is doing what he can because that is just how he is wired. He wants to solve problems. If somebody has the solutions then they are who he is going to refer to. Creating the correct infrastructure is what is going to make the difference in Muncie and everybody knows it. He is still asking for prayers and support because he is just one guy. He and his wife run The Shepards Heart and Hands with only a few volunteers. Unlike a lot of the other agencies, they don't have funding or grants and are all 100% volunteers so no paid salaries. It goes straight through them when people contribute. They want to be a river, not a lake, with resources coming in and going out. The Ball State Dining Room Department recently reached out with the approval to start receiving in it which means he will need refrigerators and freezers. The more food comes in them the more people they can feed. They are feeding not just the homeless camps but what's been labeled as called "Church for the Homeless." Every Friday night,



Romero has a service at the warming Center that is filling up quick. People are coming for the meal and staying for church and prayer. It is a different kind of church because he is the "People's Pastor," accepting the ones that others reject. He wants to help connect resources and agencies. His phone number is (765)365-7787 and he will hand that number out to the homeless. God bless.

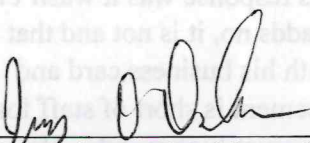
Cheryl Tietjens, W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, is here to ask that Muncie enforce their codes. She has a house at 1518 W. 13<sup>th</sup> and has taken pictures of the filth, overgrown weeds, and dangerous conditions of her immediate neighborhood. Disabled neighbors in wheelchairs and walkers as well as families strolling babies pass by her house but use the street because the sidewalks are dangerous with large cracks and crevices. 30+ years of tree growth in front of 1516 W. 13<sup>th</sup> have raised the cement and displaced the sidewalk. The tree was cut down by the City in 2015/2016 and the tree stump was never ground. There's a tree ordinance (ord. 12-10) that only requires a stump removal and grinding to a minimum of 6 inches but that hasn't ever been done and it has been 9 years. This minimum allowance stood in the way of the American Water main project in front of 1520 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and they dug out the whole entire tree at least 10 ft to proceed with the project. Ordinance 12-10, Section 97.10, and 97.13 cover public nuisances and the remedies. This was the second year in 2016 that she produced documentation regarding the lack of Code Enforcement without relief. She won't say the landlord's name but has been asking the City in particular to enforce the codes on the house located at 1516 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street for at least 9 years. The house rented for \$700 a month at that time but she doesn't know what it goes for now. The owner allows tenants to keep dangerous pit bulls producing feces in the area where the weeds grow 3 ft tall. In fact, they're 3 ft tall right now. She called the City to see if they would tag the property and take care of the problem. It has probably been maybe a month since but this has been a 9-year issue. Tietjens understands the woman that lives there now is low-income and disabled but has a battery powered lawn mower and there is no way that she can get through 3 ft of weeds. There's not only weed growth but also bushes in the front yard that have grown maybe 20 ft tall and made their way into the foundation of the house. The fact those trees cannot grow correctly would cause a hazard at some point because they may blow over on the house or get struck by lightning once they have grown tall. The fact it is growing into the foundation is, in itself, an unsafe housing issue. She would repeatedly turn it in making a report on it but it would never get resolved or taken care of. She would say the owner of the property has probably had 20 tenants live there since 2012. He will get the tenants in and expect them to clean up what was left from the previous tenant and then they don't do that and so he will get another set of tenants and it is the same thing but it never gets done. The same problem persists at the back of the house. There are several different trees that are growing up at the alley in the same situation; those trees are going to grow tall and become a danger or hazard. Underneath all that growth, weeds, and trees is a caved in shed foundation with vermin and animals going in and out. Again, that has never been resolved and it has been since the previous owner had possession of the property. She thinks the shed fell over or something happened that left the foundation there and then there's 2 or 3 bags of trash that are underneath the trees. The other property has problems too but at least they go out and mow their yard. She is asking the City Council to help her get this taken care of because it has gone on far too long. Councilperson Garrett advised this being in his district so he will take a drive past there and make sure it gets addressed. She adds that the lady living there will mow small sections of her yard at a time resulting in other overgrown sections so it will become a never-ending cycle. She has a friend that took photos and presented them to the landlord expressing the urge to get it addressed and his response was it wasn't his problem. He was referring to it being his tenant's problem but it's not. Garrett adds no, it is not and that is not how the code goes. She appreciates it. Councilperson McIntosh presents her with his business card and informs they will get it straightened out. President Dishman thinks Code Enforcement is short of staff for mowing and things like that because he has seen them out in his district mowing waist-high weeds. He recalled they tried to hire some people but there were some complications. They're working on it but have to

hire outside contractors to come in and mow. He recalled telling Steve Selvey, Building Commissioner, that the Council would try to provide more help with the weed control problem. He assures her it is not just her neighborhood but all over the City. If they would drag these landlords in to be heavily fined by the Judge then they would keep these properties up but they are just given a slap on the wrist and it rolls over into another same case situation. Tietjens isn't certain but maybe this particular landlord has an 'in' with someone because it is almost like he just doesn't care and doesn't feel like he has any responsibility. Dishman is sure that Garrett and McIntosh will help get this addressed. McIntosh states he is far too familiar as he has been dealing with the same thing next door to him for 15 years.

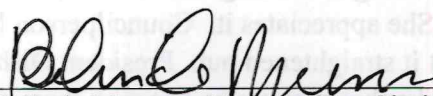
Audie Barber tells President Dishman lack of people is not an excuse and cannot be used for the City were to file an ordinance violation on him and he says he can't afford to address the issue then too bad. He is still responsible for it so that is not an excuse. This Administration is making the Council look like they're not even needed. There is only one person from the Administration here this evening and he is here at every meeting (referring to Troy Watters). The others only come when they need the Council. Council should put a stop to it and make them be needed every month and vote to table their ordinances so they have to be held accountable. He asks Councilperson Basham if he agrees. After receiving no response, he asks the rest of the councilmembers. Councilperson Garrett insists that all 9 members are doing what they can. Barber urges them to table the ordinances and hold them accountable for what they are doing. They don't care about this Council any more than the potholes out here in the roads. Look at the building next door; it has been 4 years paying on it with millions of dollars being paid but it is still not finished. He lives right down the road from the Crisis Center and not much is going on there either. They might mow but only when the weeds get about 2 ft high. Another project was started at the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street but who knows how far that one is going to get. There is yet another apartment project they are wanting to put in at the old Lincoln School but there isn't enough parking for the number of apartments they are wanting to put in so Council may want to keep an eye on that when it comes up for ordinance/variance. There is still a bunch of houses that have been built that are still sitting empty. He is begging the Council to please do something about this Administration because they just don't care. And now they've turned off public commenting during the meetings which is not right. These people can't make it to the Council meetings so to voice their opinion so they do it on Facebook and because somebody gets their underwear in a bunch, they just decide to not allow public comments because it looks bad on the Administration that is currently in office. Please, please, please get with the Council Attorney to see what they can do to hold the Mayor accountable for all of his ordinance violations. It's time. Or has he given up? Is he still our Mayor even? Is he even still around? Barber states half the councilmembers claim he won't respond to them. Is he still even in office? Maybe that is what needs looked into.

**ADJOURNED:**

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



Jerry D. Dishman, President of the Muncie Common Council



Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk of the Muncie Common Council