

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

AUGUST 6, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:15 P.M., 1ST FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

ORD. 14-18 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR MUNCIE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION.

Rebecca Meadows, Director of Finance with Muncie Indiana Transit System (MITS) states this ordinance is required by the state for the purchase of capital projects using turf monies. It is for the expenditure to buy six vans and one low-floor, heavy-duty hybrid bus.

ORD. 16-18 AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.

Sarah Beach, Director of Personnel for the City of Muncie states this ordinance is to ask the Council to consider money to fund the Employee Assistance Program that the city has by contract. This includes all the employee bargaining units and handbooks.

RES. 12-18 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF NEW REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS (NextGen BSU Townhomes, LLC).

No public comments made.

A motion was made by Powell and seconded by Polk to close the Public Hearing. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MEETING ADJOURNED.

REGULAR MEETING: 7:30 P.M., 1ST FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Doug Marshall.

INVOCATION: Given by Assistant Pastor Frank Scott Sr. with Christ Global Ministries.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION: Councilperson Ridenour states it is an honor to make this presentation tonight but his recipient will not physically be present. Someone is going to accept it in her honor. She was very excited about what the Council was going to give to her today. He also thanks Council President Marshall for this great opportunity for the members to rotate and recognize citizens of Muncie for what they have done. There are often people that you can recognize their impact, but many times there are people behind the scenes doing little things each and every day. That is really where success happens. Ridenour is a member of the Home

Savors of Delaware County Board. They do repairs, primarily for seniors, on low-income houses so people can stay in their homes. Many times, that involves ramps for those who have wheelchairs and other times it can be service repairs (furnace, plumping, heating, etc.) What Linda McDugle does for the board is answer every single call that comes in. Ridenour explains she keeps that phone with her 24/7. They are so appreciative of her taking those calls and information and to present it to the organization so that they can get the peoples repairs completed. They can stay where they live, where they love and where they want to be. He is proud to be a part of this organization.

Linda McDugle is the Home Savers voluntary secretary, which she has done for many years. She answers the phones and accepts the applications from the people needing home repairs or wheelchair ramps. She grew up in Muncie and received an Associate’s Degree from Ball State University in Education and Psychology. For many years she had a career in Indianapolis as an administrative assistant at several large companies. Unfortunately, what brought her back to Muncie was her mother passing away. She came to help and tend to her father.

In addition to volunteering for Home Savers, she is at Evette Christ Temple Church and helps with her neighborhood. Michelle accepts the award on Linda’s behalf.

Michelle says she is really pleased to accept the award for Linda. She helps their organization so much. They are very appreciative of her.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Alison Quirk	X	
Nora Powell	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Julius Anderson	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Doug Marshall	X	
Lynn Peters	X	
Dan Ridenour	X	
Linda Gregory	X	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Polk and seconded by Powell to approve the Minutes from the June 7, 2018 Special Meeting and the July 2, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MINUTES APPROVED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilperson Powell states the Finance Committee Meetings to meet with Department Heads in regards to the 2019 proposed budget will be taking place Monday, August 13, Wednesday, August 15 and Friday, August 17. She will get with the city administration and have them put that on social media and make sure the schedule is available to the public. Marshall asks if the meetings will be held in this chamber. Powell states that will be announced.

ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:

ORD. 12-18 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, DESIGNATING AN AREA WITHIN THE CITY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TARGET AREA.

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

Todd Donati, Muncie Redevelopment Commission, says this is the second reading regarding this ordinance. The Council has met the participants involved as well as having a map of the area. They would love to have support on this and he is willing to answer any questions anyone may have. Questions called.

Belinda Munson asks the location of the target area. Donati informs her it is in the Village Promenade.

Councilperson Gregory says last meeting there was an indication that this was in the Overlay District that would require additional standards for appearance and development. She questions if that will be in another ordinance that will come along later. Donati says this Overlay District is already in place and it stays in place.

A roll call vote showed 6 yeas and 3 nays, (Gregory, Polk and Ridenour). ADOPTED.

ORD. 13-18 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE BC COMMUNITY BUSINESS ZONE TO THE CB CENTRAL BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 801 W. JACKSON ST. MUNCIE, INDIANA.

A motion was made by Quirk and seconded by Polk to Adopt.

Ken Parson, 801 W. Adams, spoke regarding this ordinance last month. It is changing the zoning to use for mortuary purposes for the part of the area that they are going to keep. They have all of the details ironed out with the city about where the lines are. He believes they are ready to deed it to the city. He is willing to answer any questions anyone might have.

Marshall asks how long his business has been in Muncie. Mr. Parson responds since 1934.

Marshall asks if he approves of this ordinance. Mr. Parson responds yes, definitely. He thinks this will be a great thing to happen in their neighborhood.

Councilperson Quirk thanks Mr. Parson for working with the city to make this happen. She was driving by the other day and saw the gas station has already come down and progress has started. They are all looking forward to it.

Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

ORD. 14-18 AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR MUNCIE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION.

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

Rebecca Meadows, Director of Finance with Muncie Indiana Transit System (MITS) states she hopes the Council approves this ordinance. Again, it is for the purchase again of the turf expenditure for capital purchase.

Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

NEW ORDINANCES:

ORD. 15-18 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MUNCIE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FROM THE R-5 RESIDENCE ZONE TO THE BV VARIETY BUSINESS ZONE ON PREMISES LOCATED AT 1904 N. WHEELING AVE., MUNCIE, INDIANA.

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

Chris Hiatt, Key Enterprises 1716 N. Wheeling Ave, says this is an 'out' lot on the north end of some properties he has on the northeast corner of Centennial and Wheeling Ave. It is the only parcel that is not zoned Variety Business as a part of that assemblage. He has owned the properties for about thirty years. He would be remised to not acknowledge that it was a target to be rezoned through the course of that time. It has all been brought to attention by the expansion of Wheeling Ave that the city is requiring additional right-of-way. They are also establishing necessary curve cuts for access to various properties, including his. It has been a debate for several months but they have held a firm line and were adamant about establishing that access that dumps right into this residential property. That is the driving force that brought him to file for this rezoning, although it would have been a target at some point in time as development potential materialized.

Councilperson Dishman states this got a favor of recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Quirk asks for clarification if there is anything on the property. Mr. Hiatt confirms and states it used to have a red building there but he tore it down. Quirk asks if there are any actual intentions for the property. Mr. Hiatt confirms and says he is just wanting to establish it as BV Variety Business. He has a letter in support of this from the administration of Mayor Tyler because if they don't they will have to re-consider. Quirk asks if neighbors had any issues or concerns. Mr. Hiatt states some did come to the Planning Commission meeting to express their views. One had concerns of the line of firtrees there but Mr. Hiatt is doing nothing with them. There were some flooding issues as regards to Cromer Ave but it was further east.

Dishman knows and is working on that. He believes all the concerns were addressed and they got a unanimous approval.

Powell confirms the other properties are zoned to BV Variety Business. Mr. Hiatt states that is true and has a map of the development of the properties along Wheeling Ave and an ongoing growing of commercial investments can be seen. The city acknowledges with the expansion of Wheeling, they are only going to promote that development. He does not think any of the people that came to the meeting expressed concerns over the commercial development. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

ORD. 16-18 AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.

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

Sarah Beach, Personnel Director for the City of Muncie, says this ordinance is asking the City Council to consider an additional appropriation to fund a line item that has been in her budget forever but has never been funded. All collective bargaining contracts within in the city of Muncie along with a different section of employees who fall under the non-bargaining unit handbook, all of which have in its sections related to the Employee Assistance Program. That is

put in place to help employees when they are dealing with different issues that affect their job, for example, personal issues that affect their job performance. Why this line item has never been funded, she is not sure. She just discovered it in the last month and thought that it should be funded. Periodically, they do have different things arise with employment issues within the city that employees are required to do certain things. It has always been a challenge because there was no funding mechanism to pay for it. That is what she is asking for with this.

Gregory asks where the money is coming from. Ms. Beach states she assumes from the General Fund. Gregory states typically when they appropriate something there is a pool of money from someplace. Ms. Beach is not asking for a transfer of money. Gregory understands but currently there is no designated \$10,000 anywhere in the General Fund or anyplace else that is going to be used for this. Often, they have had local roads and streets would have a chunk of money that materializes that they end up having to have an additional appropriation for. Ms. Beach says the Personnel Department really doesn't have a funding mechanism in which she can say she charges people to submit an application of employment and she asks that money be put towards something. Gregory was just curious as to if they received a grant of some sort or how they went about it. Ms. Beach states no, they did not receive a grant. Questions called. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. INTRODUCED.

RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 12-18 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF NEW REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS (NextGen BSU Townhomes, LLC).

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

Todd Donati, Muncie Redevelopment Commission, says this is the Confirmatory Resolution in which the Council has already approved the Declaratory which was Res. 11-18. This just allows this particular development to go forward and to be tax abated on that particular property. Even though it is in the target area, anybody that comes forward in the future would still have to come before the Council with a resolution to approve their tax abatement. This doesn't automatically go into effect. It eliminates one step which the target area has already been created. Donati references back to the photos of the townhomes and the one already built on Martin St. They plan to start development and will be ready by next school year.

Marshall says he did drive by the area and that they are nice townhomes.

Anderson would like to confirm Ball State is in agreement with this. Donati states the university supports this, in fact, they encourage it. Donati deals with them on a regular basis and actually the original zoning for the area was much broader and he cut that back to just the vacant lots that are currently in place. That way, the focus is only on that area for right now.

Andrew Dale, 2609 W. Petty Rd, adds the university approves the concept of creating the townhomes because they want that but not necessarily encourages tax abatement. He wonders if it is a normal practice to abate taxes for profit entities or residential units. Donati says the purpose of a target area is to create revitalization. Right now, there are vacant lots. These are multi-family units. The investment is trying to be made back into the community. It encourages

people to make those investments because these are, in-fact, million-dollar units. We are not singling any particular person out and anyone can come apply for them.

Anderson asks who owns those lots. Donati answers it is a company called P Shaw Property Realtors. Anderson thought Ball State owned them. Donati replies he can not get into the legal details because he does not exactly know but they do make certain investments and acquire property around the campus for this purpose.

Ridenour asks if Donati in his negotiations with NextGen, offer a three or five-year abatement. Donati states they offer what is available to them or what they request, if it follows their qualifications. In this particular case, it is a ten-year abatement on real property. Keep in mind, that is not 100% for ten years. It is 10% a year that it is recaptured by the city until it is down to zero. So, at five years, you're getting 50% of the investment back in. Also, this is a TIF area so it would be captured there and reinvested back into the area for revitalization.

Dishman asks if they still pay the taxes, what they currently are. Donati confirms and states that if they had a building that was taken down and if it was within one year, they would still be responsible for those taxes. It is only an abatement to the improvements to the area. After the first year, they will pay 10% of the original or expected taxes based on those increments. The land will always be paid because it was there. If a house was torn down it has to be off the tax rolls for at least a year. It is a gain because there is nothing there except land and an investment for more activity in the Village area. Questions called.

A roll call vote showed 6 yeas and 3 nays (Gregory, Ridenour and Polk). ADOPTED.

RES. 13-18 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE NON-BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.

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

Sarah Beach, Personnel Director for the City of Muncie, is here to bring forth the employee handbook for the non-bargaining unit employees with the city of Muncie. There are several different classifications of employees. There are two different public safety collective bargaining agreements, the civilian collective bargaining agreement and then this which is the employees who do not fall under any of those contracts. The reason it is being brought forth today is because this handbook has not been updated since Dan Canons administration (close to twenty years). With the recent contract negotiations that was presented to Council recently, they felt this was a good time to go ahead and update this handbook for those that do not fall under any of these classifications.

Anderson thanks for this because often employees ask him certain questions in which he has no idea. Now, he has something he can converse with people on. He can see the progress in the handbook from what it was and is elated to get this passed.

Ms. Beach thanks Councilperson Anderson and states that if passed, it will be posted to the city website and also be updating several policies. That will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

Ridenour asks if there is a way they can know what was updated from 2001. Ms. Beach states they updated the nepotism and policy under 'Ethics and Employees.' They updated the 'Equal Opportunity Policy' and some language within the classification of employees that fall under this. They have updated the longevity because that was also taken care of with the ASFCME employees. They have updated some of the language with extended sick-leave, the vacation schedule and some of the information within the sick-leave policies and benefits. They added a

section regarding 'Outside Employment While on Approved Sick Leave.' If anyone ever has any questions about anything that is coming before them, Ms. Beach is always available. Powell asks if this will give the non-union employees the same benefits and protection that the union employees have. Ms. Beach states the non-union employees have always had the same benefits as the union employees. The Council might want to check with their legal counsel on this but she does not believe they can legally have separate groups of people within governmental employee status that have different benefits. That could be a lawsuit. They have always had the same benefits as the union employees. They just do not have a bargaining unit to represent them. Powell asks how many employees this will affect. Ms. Beach states about forty employees. One of the questions that did get brought up was if this would qualify for the people that are a department head or appointed person within the city government. While they do get some of the benefits under this, they do not receive all of the benefits of this. There are ordinances that are given through City Council but limit some of the stuff they can get. She just wanted that to be clear. Anderson follows-up with Ridenour and state to highlighting the new or changed sections of the handbook so people can easily see what is new or is now different. Ms. Beach states the current version of the contract can be seen as it is right now online and can be compared line by line. One of the big differences is it doesn't have Dan Canons signature on it. That should be a red flag that this is changed. Questions called. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADOPTED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Belinda Munson, 2701 W. Birchwood Dr. Muncie, inherited Munson Motors Car Lot off of Wysor St. The reason she is here tonight is to complain about the Muncie Inn. There is an element there that seriously needs to be addressed. There is drug-dealing going on there which spills over around the corner and throughout the neighborhoods. There is prostitution going on there and she has a rental in the area so her tenants tell her that they see this go on. When they walk their dogs, they can see people in the parking lot of the hotel flash their lights and within a few seconds, someone pops out and walks around to her lot or the empty laundry mat. They are dealing drugs on her properties. She has talked to all the neighbors and neighborhood association. Everyone is pretty much aware of it. There is a lot of good things going on in that area. Elm St. has brought in a high-end restaurant, along with Cornerstone and MADJAX. It is making the area very popular for younger people, but, there is a criminal element. These people that live in this hotel use that corner gas station as a grocery store. There is also a homeless camp, which she found out from talking to the Greenway, living between their building and the park. The reason this has always been a problem was on July 5th her business was broken into from somebody related to the homeless camp or the hotel. They stole her mower. McGuff Roofing saw someone driving her mower down the Greenway. They pulled it off to the side where the homeless camp is. It can be seen very clearly where the paths are. The railroad would have gotten rid of those people but they do not own that ground. The city does and something needs to be done. She encourages the neighbors to come and speak or write or call the Council. She had a meeting at her business to discuss this problem. Talking about

revitalization, that area could revitalize. It is close to downtown and would make the downtown area much more appealing. Something needs to be done. Quirk asks if Mrs. Munson has had a chance to speak with Police Chief Winkle who just so happens to be standing at the rear of the auditorium. She replies that and she has talked to Officer Winkle as well. When her building was broken into, of course, the police were called. Her alarm was off because the power was shut off so she had to lock the power boxes. When they reset the alarms, the cops came. There was a prostitute in between the building that used to be the laundry mat and the old gas station that had build a shanty and lived in-between the two buildings. They watched the guy that owns it tear out a mattress that she had put down along the buildings. She could be seen popping out from the business every so often and get picked up on the street. Her tenants say they see the prostitutes pop out between the houses. It is like the guys that are calling know where to physically pick them up. They just run in between houses in the Washington Street area.

Marshall adds that the Building commissioner is trying.

Belinda states the hotel says it is under new ownership but it is the same man. He had just changed the name of the business.

Quirk asks about the people from the Greenway and McGuff. Belinda states yes and there had been vandalism. The windows were busted out at the laundry mat. Jones Locksmith has drug deals going on in their parking lot. The new business sees kids that live in the hotel running around at night. They are vandalizing. Her personal experience is a break-in. The area could be cleaned up especially since there are so many good things coming there.

Ridenour thanks her for making it aware and maybe the person that is doing something about it is her.

J.P. Hall, 2501 Twickingham Dr., is here to talk about the former Halteman Pool Club property located in the Halteman neighborhood. The pool closed a little over a year ago and as a result, the club gave the property to the city of Muncie. Shortly thereafter it was disbanded and the property had been sitting there for over a year somewhat neglected. He is here to bring this issue before the Council and request some action. As a result of the property being donated to the city, they soon found out there was three years of back taxes due on it. Currently, there is around \$17,000 owed on the property. It went into tax sale and is now in this limbo state. What he is hoping might happen is that the city will see the values of this property and retain control of it. Come September 28th (if no action is taken) they do not know what will happen. This could be negative for the neighborhood, north side and the city of Muncie as a whole. Short term goals would be convincing the city to perhaps regain control. Control is urgent. Long term goals, he thinks the Neighborhood Association (which he is also an officer in) will work with the city to find a positive solution for this property. It is over six acres and could be a great community asset, not just for the neighborhood, but for the entire north side and Muncie as well. He points out that there is not a public park on the north side, minus Morningside Park, which is well over four miles away. The children of the neighborhoods in that section of the city do not have a public park to play in. There is a need. The Neighborhood Association had a meeting last month

and over sixty residents attended. It was unanimous that the people in this neighborhood and other neighborhoods all support some type of public amenity. They think this is an economic development project. The retention and control of this property and making it a positive attribute to the north side will at least maintain property values. That would be beneficial for the tax rolls.

Polk asks the entire audience that if they are here tonight in support of Halteman could they please stand up. (2/3 of the audience stands)

Lisa Goodpaster, 1800 Northfield, is also here to address the Council about the pool property, specifically, parcel 4205 N. Lancaster and 2600 block of Lincolnshire. Parks and recreation services such as playgrounds, schools and other recreational facilities are often cited as one of the most important quality of life factors in surveys of how livable communities are. Parks provide intrinsic, environmental, esthetic and recreation benefits. They are also a source of positive economic benefit. Just like water, sewer and public safety are considered essential public services, likewise, parks are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of a livable community. An increase in private property value due to the proximity to parks in turn increases property tax revenues and improves local economies. Quality parks and recreation are cited as one of the top three reasons that businesses cite in relocation decisions. Communities with a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment become very desirable locations for businesses to relocate. Parks and protected public lands are proven to improve water quality, protect ground water, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetated buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together. Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in the community. They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given community. Parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are. A fun safe playground and recreational environment stimulate children's minds and allow for their cognitive, physical and social development. Outdoor play areas provide children with rich opportunities to grow, learn and develop. She speaks as a childhood resident of Halteman as well and can remember going to the pool.

Rachel Hunt, 3911 N. Redding Rd., is the Treasurer of the Halteman Village Neighborhood Association. She spoke to Chip Alexander who is the one that wrote up the quick claim deed for the pool. When we wrote it, he was told by the city and the Mayor that it was their intention to make it a park. The city paid the current year taxes on the property so there really is only \$17,000 owed on it. the park was well used before and fell into disarray when the pool closed. It would continue to be used referring back to the sixty people that came to their meeting. It was very unanimous that they miss the park and want it to be there. There is not a park on the north side other than Morningside. That is a ways away. She would say that Halteman is a

middle-class neighborhood and is the newly-wed or nearly dead neighborhood. She has young kids but would not consider herself either or. It is a neighborhood on the brink. It has a great location, near Ball State and is within biking distance. This is a neighborhood that can attract families to stay in Muncie, rather than move to Fishers or Noblesville. What people are looking for is parks and playgrounds for their kids. If those neighbors lose this after they already lost their neighborhood school, a lot more growth and development is going to be missed out on in this very large neighborhood in Muncie. She urges the convergence of the city to improve this area. This will be used and draw people into this side of the city.

Mike Sullivan, 2615 W. Purdue, says when in doubt, listen to an old man. He has three points he would like to make. Number one, he encourages each of the Council members to read the Michael Hicks article in the Sunday Star. The jest of the article is that cities like Muncie are the calm primarily because we are not investing in middle-income communities. Middle-class people are leaving because the city is not investing in infrastructure and amenities that are attractive, the very things that were just described by Todd Donati. It requires a minimum investment for a payback that is much, much larger than what is being opposed by abatements and Donati's projects. He is not criticizing that, though, there is a place for that. Do not lose sight of the fact that the declining population of Muncie is tied very much to the opportunities and perceptions of the middle-income population. That is a tough lift for Democrats. He understands that. Think of the welfare of the community of the city at large. We are in a cycle of decline. Number two, he and his wife have lived here for forty-five years. From 1980-1984, he served on the Muncie Park Board. During that time, they were able to open up Tuhey Pool, by renovation, partnership with the Federal Government state grants, and cooperation of Alan Wilson. It was thinking outside the box. What they did, was they were able to partner with Muncie Community Schools to form a cooperation with the city, school district and the Park Board. They were able to open Tuhey Pool, renovate Westside Park and have full staff in Ross and Buley Centers. That was by thinking outside the box, again. Number three, he has been associated and involved with three different Neighborhood Associations and this Neighborhood Association is being led by energetic, young, ambitious families. They have made an investment in this community. He closes by thanking Marshall for the good things he has done, including recognizing good citizens of this great city.

Marshall asks Polk to advise the public of how much investment the Mayor has placed into the Halteman pool area. Polk believes it was \$10,000 to run a program for the tail end of the summer. He wants to say it was 2013 or 2014. Due to the condition of the pool, more specifically the pump from 1962 that quit running three days into the program, it sat empty until it was fixed for the next year. He believes that was the last year it was operating. Marshall says Mayor Tyler has made a \$10,000 investment for the pool. Polk confirms, yes it was done pertaining to that specific program for the pool.

Ridneour would like to ask the other members of the Council to seriously consider their Health Insurance fund. They all receive health insurance but only two of the nine members take and use it. They have pulled \$65,000 out for other purposes but he thinks it would be a great gesture on their part to pull the funds out of Health Insurance for City Council members and make sure that those taxes get paid. Hopefully, with the collaboration that J.P. and others talked about, maybe they can come up with some solutions and maybe next year take the Mayors investment, the Council's investment, the Neighborhood Association's hard work could make this work. He would like to encourage all of the Council members to consider that for maybe next month.

John Quirk, City Attorney, knows quite a bit about the Halteman Village project or pool. In fact, he is the one that worked with Chip Alexander to not only transfer the property but other things. What he would like to do is inform the Council that the Mayor is willing to work with the Council if the Council is willing to work with the Mayor with regard to doing something regarding Halteman pool. There has been a little bit of misinformation this evening. What has actually happened with regard to the pool is that on two separate occasions the Mayor has provided financial support for the pool to keep it open. He believes it was open probably because the additional two years when the board then decided that due to the lack of support in the neighborhood and lack of people paying their memberships that they decided to close the pool. There was still financial help given to the Mayor and still additional financial help that was available, however, the board made that decision to close the pool due to lack of interest and paid memberships. Since that time, the taxes have been paid, up to the tax sale which was September of 2017. It was sold. The tax certificate goes to the new owner September 28, 2018 he believes. The property was purchased for \$16,400 and some odd change. In order to redeem that property, they would obviously have to have that \$16,000 paid as well as some additional taxes for this year, interest due to the purchaser as well as possible additional fees. The minimum price would be \$16,400. The Mayor has stepped up in the past on two separate occasions to help with the pool. They just didn't have the membership so the board decided to close it.

Quirk asks to reiterate what he said in the beginning, the Mayor is willing to work with the Neighborhood Association and the Council. Attorney Quirk agrees although they are running against the deadline of September 28, 2018 to take action.

Marshall states this is the thing that scares him; Catalina is by that area.

Polk states it is actually three miles away.

Marshall states it is still competition. The Council gets beat so much for trying to help out against that.

Polk states it is not a pool. The pool is so beyond repair and all they want is a park. Polk has no parks in District #4, what so ever. It has ten precincts and is the largest district in the city. They have zero parks and now that Mitchell Elementary was taken away, he does not know what is

going to happen. There might not be any playground equipment this time next year. Not one kid out of 800 homes in that neighborhood association has somewhere to play. How long are they going to stay there? They will stay there if there is something there to attract them. That is what needs to be looked at. Like Mr. Sullivan said, the middle class is what is supporting this city.

Marshall believes everyone has an opinion and that is just one persons.

Polk states everyone contributes but that is where the bulk of the property taxes are being paid.

Marshall thinks the Council is drifting off subject so this discussion is going to be saved for another day.

Joe Winkle, Muncie Police Chief, is well aware of the hotel situation. The second floor of the hotel has already been shut down. The Building Commissioners Office is trying to work through the codes to try to get enough and charge it as a Public Nuisance. Progress is being made, it just does not happen overnight. The second thing is that the metal detector and scanner equipment is here but the problem is they need someone to come and measure the correct proportions to set it up. They have called and are working on getting someone here and once that happens, it will be up and running. It should be ready by the next City Council meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Doug Marshall, President of
The Muncie Common Council



Melissa Peckinpaugh, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council