

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

**REGULAR MEETING:** 7:30 P.M., 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CITY HALL AUDITORIUM.

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

**INVOCATION:** Given by Brian and Jennifer Bell.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:** Councilman Smith recognizes Brian and Jennifer Bell for the month of February. Smith explains this award is (especially) special to him as he was a part of what Brian and Jennifer started back in December of 2015 which is Road to Redemption. Brian and Jennifer are dear friends of his. This is so personal to Smith to share but his youngest son, Jason, is currently in his fifth rehab center and 63 days clean and sober. He is so proud of him. Brian and Jennifer helped get Jason to treatment on three separate occasions and this is his fifth which they are praying that this one takes hold. Smith personally knows that these two dear friends of his save lives through Road to Redemption. As co-founders, so far, they have taken or been responsible for over 600 people going to treatment since December of 2015. They have touched over 5000 kids. Including families, they have reached and had an effect on over 20,000 people in our community. So, in essence, they have (since December of 2015) been responsible for three people a week going to treatment. That's tremendous and they didn't do this by themselves, they did it with a staff of a lot of people. When you go to a meeting at Road to Redemption, there may be as many as a hundred people at the big (family) meeting on Thursday. Tuesday is the individual meetings. They had the help of a lot of people that work in the kitchen, help set up, help tear down and clean up. Those people also watch children in the nursery so it is kind of a big operation. The most important thing that they do at these meetings is to celebrate success, just as his son, Jason, was celebrated tonight. Brian and Jennifer work in the Drug Diversion Court, help in getting people set up with medical insurance so they can go to treatment and it be paid for, Hepatitis A vaccinations, Surrender to Freedom, Beyond the Bade and tons more throughout the community. Smith considers it his honor to continue what previous District 1 Councilman Marshall started, which is the Citizenship Recognition Award for

the City of Muncie. Smith reads the plaque, “presented to Jennifer Bell and Brian Bell, Road to Redemption, thank you for all your generous commitment of time, support, and inspiration to the City of Muncie.”

Brian Bell explains they appreciate this so much and especially appreciates the standing ovation and how awesome that was. This has been a long haul for him, individually, as in October 25, 2012, he was homeless, sleeping in a storage unit behind the Macs on Madison. It was smaller than any jail cell, including the Delaware County Jail, which he spent a lot of time in. By doing what God’s will is, that meant he had to get to the depths of losing everything for his life to change. In that, he got to know what God has in store for him. He just went on to the next right thing, whatever that is or isn't. So, when Brian got out of the hospital after being in a coma, not expected to live, his family still had boundaries and informed him he could not stay there with them. Those are the boundaries that actually helped save his live. That is when he went to the Muncie Mission. It was the start of Brian doing something peaceful and moving his life forward. Doing the next right thing got him to the next point which was working. He actually started working in the same court he was sentenced in, with the same judge and prosecutor too. Today, Brian’s entire criminal record has been expunged. It is incredible what God can do. With all of that, they continue to try to help people and they try to tell people to just do the next right thing. Brian’s son gave him the advice that when you have white tennis shoes on, don’t step in a mud puddle. Take your life back to being that simple, and things will change. He started doing that and got his relationship back with Christ, which was the most important thing. Brian refers to his beautiful wife, Jennifer and states that she has been so supportive, positive and has been such a rock for him. He has received his Associates degree in Human Services, as well as Addiction Counseling. Right now, he is working towards his Bachelor’s. He hopes to one day, be the Probation Officer in the same court that he used to be in and get sentenced in. Referring back to his wife, whenever he wanted to quit, she said that they will talk about it at the end of the week and urged him to keep going. She is a Professor of Nursing at Ivy Tech and Brian has watched her do work full-time while seeking an accelerated Master’s degree at Indiana Wesleyan. She graduated with honors.

Jennifer Bell states as a nurse and a teacher, that's her job, to make people in her life happier. Her and Brian came together, not only as husband and wife, but as a team, to help this community. One of the big things they wanted to do was also help a family. That is a big difference with their group is that they are here for the family, as well as that person in addiction. They are going to continue to do that, teaming with Mac Hines at Big Time Barbell. If not familiar with them, go to their website to take a look into that. Meetings are held there every Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. That is

where they (Brian and Jennifer) are as well. Anyone can give them a call or check out their Facebook page if they need help, whether you are the person in addiction or a family member is having struggles with addiction, Road to Redemption is there. Brian adds 24/7, call and get that individual into treatment. They will make sure that it is a one-stop-shop. If they can get it to where the individual has no other choice other than to do the right thing, they have seen it personally and there is nothing better. There was a nine-year-old little girl that showed up to one of their meetings a few years back, crying. The little girl came up to Brian and Jennifer to give each one a hug and told them “thank you for saving my mommy’s life.” Those are the moments when you know families are being healed. They are glad that they get to keep doing this and keep on doing the right thing.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Aaron Clark	X	
Richard Ivy	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Ralph Smith	X	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Ray Dudley	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Anitra Davis	X	

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Robinson to Approve the Minutes from the January 6, 2020 Regular Meeting as well as the Minutes from the January 15, 2020 Special Meeting.

A roll call vote showed yeas and 0 nays. MINUTES APPROVED.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** President Polk explains that due to having a meeting tomorrow evening, (and at not fault to the council or anyone else’s, it is just how it played out) an appointment needs to be made to the Muncie Police Merit Commission.

A motion is made by Smith and seconded by Ivy to appoint Jason Rogers to the Police Merit Commission.

Jason Rogers states that 21 years ago, he was a young, local guy that wanted a job at the police department. He had a great experience with the Police Fire Merit Board (as they were joined back then) and he started a great education for him with the officers of the Muncie Police Department. With this, he feels like he can give back out to the young people today, what all he learned back then. He has spoken with the President of the FOP and the Police Chief and he is very much looking forward to working with them in this capacity.

Councilwoman Davis asks that before they vote on this, if the Union President, Officer Deegan, can come up and explain what the make up is of the Police Merit Commission, just so everyone can understand.

Chris Deegan, 821 S. Butterfield Rd, FOP President, states the makeup of the merit commission under Title 36, which is the Indiana statute that merit commissions follow, is there are two positions that are appointed by the Mayor that have to be of opposing political parties. There are two positions that are chosen by active department members that have to be of opposite political parties and then there is one that is chosen by city council, which is not stricken to Democrat, Republican, Independent, it is whoever they feel is the best person for the job. The only caveat to that is there can't be more than three of the same political party sitting on the commission. Basically, there can't be a supermajority. It can't be 4-1. It has to be 3-2. Davis asks the political make up. Deegan states the police department just completed their election on Friday. There is one Democrat and one Republican. The mayoral seats are two that remained from the old commission because they are in the middle of their terms. One is identified as a Democrat, the other is an Independent. Then, there is the city council appointment, which is the vacancy they are trying to fill right now. Davis thanks him. Polk asks if there any other nominations. Polk declares nominations closed. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. MOTION CARRIED. Jason Rogers is appointed to the Police Merit Commission.

Council President Polk goes on to explain another appointment that needs to be made tonight are actually three appointments to the Muncie Land Bank Board of Directors. Robinson asks for clarification if they are going to do these the way they have in the past where they nominate all three members and then take a vote on it. A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Dudley to nominate Brad King to the Muncie Land Bank. A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by to nominate Marta Moody to the Muncie Land Bank.

A motion is made by Davis and seconded by Clark to nominate Heather Williams to the Muncie Land Bank.

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Smith to nominate Isaac Miller to the Muncie Land Bank.

A motion is made by Clark and seconded by Ingram to nominate Josh Taulbee to the Muncie Land Bank.

Polk declares nominations closed.

Brad King, Historic Preservation Planner and Environmental Review for the office of Community Development, is an original board member serving since 2017, when the Land Bank was first established. Once the board was established, they looked into getting a grant consultant to come in and get them up to speed on policies and procedures that are common to land banking under Indiana state law. They brought in experts from Ohio, who wrote the golden rules (basically) for funding and operating land banks and caused land banks to operate in at least fifty different locations throughout Ohio. They had them come in and bring them up to speed, capacity wise and move towards getting more funding to hire a legal attorney and executive director. King, personally, has been advocating for land banking for a decade, within Muncie. He was a part of the Land Bank Task Force around six years ago when they could not form a Land Bank as a municipality, only counties could. He helped create the Investment Committee to try to help the MRC deal with residential properties. That, though, did not work like a Land Bank and didn't have the flexibility the Land Bank does. In 2016, the law was written by Tim Lanane that allowed a municipality to create a Land Bank, along with guides and flexibility for moving blighted properties into redevelopment.

Isaac Miller is excited to be a nominee for the Muncie Land Bank Board. He is a Muncie local, through and through, born in Muncie and graduating from Burriss in 2016, possibly with some children of current sitting members of the council, referring to Polk. After he graduated from Burriss, he went to Ball State and graduated with his Master's degree in Political Science and Government. He is currently a grad student at the O'Neill School for Public and Environmental Affairs at IU. That is the top program in the country and it is all online hybrid so he is able to work and live here in Muncie but continue his education. He is currently employed as the Chief Deputy Clerk at the Delaware County Clerk's office under Rick Spangler. That position helps people like the members of the council fill out their paperwork to file candidacy to run for office and making sure that the elections are fair, as well as open and honest. Miller states he loves his job and what he gets to do. On top of that, his reasoning for wanting to be on the Muncie Land Bank Board actually goes back to his undergrad days. His minor was in Urban Planning and as a junior in college he walked into Dr. John West's' class titled Muncie Land Bank class.

Mr. West did tell Miller to tell the council that he did get an A in the class. The entire focus of the class was primarily on research rounding the Muncie Land Bank, as well as land banks in the region. So, he has a lot of experience in the area and it is an issue he is passionate about and that our community needs. He states he is excited to be a small part of the solution and would be honored to have their vote.

Josh Taulbee, states he is also a Muncie guy, through and through, attending Central High School and Ball State University and currently works at the Delaware County Auditor's office, in the tax sale department. They usually deal with properties like this and that is his job in which he does day in and day out. Specifically, last year, they took a more aggressive approach in trying to solve it. He did four sales which is unheard of and got very familiar with these properties through the process. He feels he would be a good fit for this board.

President Polk calls up Marta Moody and Heather Williams which are not present. Robinson states that Heather Williams is actually at home with a sick child this evening.

A roll call vote showed 8 votes for Brad King  
(Dudley, Davis, Robinson, Ingram, Smith, Ivy, Dishman and Clark).

A roll call vote showed 8 votes for Isaac Miller  
(Dudley, Polk, Robinson, Ingram, Smith, Ivy, Dishman and Clark)

A roll call vote showed 7 votes for Marta Moody  
(Dudley, Davis, Polk, Robinson, Ingram, Smith and Dishman)

A roll call vote showed 3 votes for Josh Taulbee (Polk, Ivy and Clark)

A roll call vote showed 1 vote for Heather Williams (Davis). MOTIONS CARRIED.

Brad King, Isaac Miller and Marta Moody are appointed to the Muncie Land Bank Board of Directors.

President Polk would like to recognize all of the students from Mrs. Julie Snider's Muncie Central Government class. (The students stand for applause.) Polk explains that this is the second or third year that Mrs. Snider brought her students to Muncie City Council meetings and recalls the first year, it being optional extra credit but now, it is mandatory and has become a part of the class. He believes they will be speaking to the council later on in the spring.

Councilman Ingram would also like to recognize someone, a council intern, Cassidy Dishman. She is a Delta High School senior and is the starting guard on the girls' basketball team. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and this summer, enlisting in the United States Coast Guard.

Councilman Robinson invites to the podium the Executive Director of Shafer Leadership Academy, Mitch Isaacs, who is going to talk about a Transparency in Government Summit that Schafer, Muncie Action Plan and the Bowen Center for Ball State did back in September. Mitch Isaacs states in September 2019, Muncie Action Plan, Shafer Leadership Academy and the Bowen Center for Public Affairs organized a Transparency in Local Government Summit. Over 50 people from different parts in the community came together to explore solution focused and non-partisan solutions to create a more transparent local government. He knows some people that are on the council were there that day as well as some members of the audience that were there. He would like to briefly share some of those solutions. The group actually came up with fifty ideas on how government can be more transparent but they are only going to share the top ten. One of the commitments they made to the participants that day was to share these suggestions with their local officials. Dr. Chip Taylor, the Managing Director with the Bowen Center for Public Affairs, will present the first five of the top ten and then Amy West, Director of Education at Cornerstone Center for the Arts, will present the second half of the top ten.

Dr. Taylor states the top five are: utilize an open government financial transparency portal, publish the ordinances and resolutions that elected officials see (as they are filed), create a Chief Information Officer, provide greater transparency regarding the use of county and city TIF districts and provide recidivism data to see if programs are working (like jails, drug programs and childhood programs).

Amy West continues: create a county and citywide strategic plan, reframe public documents with citizen friendly language (avoid acronyms), publish a Muncie Week in Review newsletter allowing a window into the city government, develop a common master calendar of meetings published to the internet, develop an online repository for all public documents and an honorable mention is to set up neighborhood-based meetings where possible proposals, programs and things of that sort will have the greatest impact to residents. That is why after five years, the Muncie Neighborhood Idea Conference continues to bring neighbors and leaders together from all corners of Muncie to advance the grass roots of work in neighborhoods. If never attended, now is the time. In addition to all the workshops and panel discussions about our schools, this year, the Idea Conference will host the first State of City with this administration. The Idea Conference is a collaboration between the Muncie Action Plan, Shafer Leadership Academy, Building Better Neighborhoods, and the office of Community Engagement. This Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is at Ivy Tech's beautiful new

Fisher building. Please register today at [muncieneighborhoods.org](http://muncieneighborhoods.org) and by the way, it is all free.

Councilman Smith has one more thing he would like to mention. As new councilors, they get into a lot of what may be considered “old hand” but he asks that members of the Street Department that are present to stand and be recognized. Smith states everyone in this city has had a huge issue with potholes. On Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Martin Luther King weekend, he received a call about Jefferson Street between 21<sup>st</sup> St and 22<sup>nd</sup> St that had about ten to twelve potholes. This person had been calling for three years to get her street fixed. Smith went out and looked at it on Saturday and after, got on the website and reported the potholes, knowing that no one would even look at that until Tuesday morning. Tuesday morning at 7:06 a.m., Smith gets an email and his complaint is being looked at. At 7:36 a.m., he gets another email that the work has been completed. That is after a three-day weekend. He wishes to recognize Lesley Swolford, Jeff Mooneyhan, Austin Holding and Greg Herron. Smith appreciates what they do and tells the Mayor that the website is working on reporting potholes. Great job to the Street Department for getting that done.

Yvonne Thompson, Director of the Muncie Human Rights Commission, is pleased to be on the MLK Dream Team. This past Saturday, they had what is called the Black History Month kick-off which had a wonderful turnout. It was very uplifting and there was enthusiastic participation by students from both Delaware County and Muncie Community Schools. Tonight, it has been tradition to have the winners read their essays. David Miller, a third grader at East Washington Academy, was the winner of the elementary school division. The title of his essay, “Ruby Kept Going to School.”

#### *Ruby Kept Going to School*

*Ruby Bridges was very kind and six years old. The year was 1961 and Ruby was being sent to a new school in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was called the William Frantz School. It was also the first time that the schools were no longer segregated meaning that all children can attend the school and not because of the color of their skin. Her mother wanted Ruby to go to a school to get the best education and it was closer to home. Ruby’s kindergarten was fine but it was a long way from their house. Everyday when she was walking towards the Williams Frantz School, people gathered and said bad words and mean things to her because her skin was black. People didn’t want a U.S. black child to go to school with white children. Special policeman called U.S. Marshalls helped Ruby get there and stay safe. Ruby kept going to school. One day, Ruby stepped up and spoke*

*out. She prayed for the protestors that God would forgive their sins because they didn't know what they were doing and saying, but Ruby kept going to school. There were no other children in her class as their parents stopped letting their white children go to school there but Ruby and her teacher, Miss Barbara Henry, still found ways to play and learn. At recess, they would push all of the desks in the room out of the way so they could jump rope. Ruby kept going to school. It was hard for her family because her dad lost his job at a gas station and they were no longer allowed to shop at the grocery store. Her grandparents lost their shared-crop farm too but Ruby kept going to school. Some of the neighbors would help them by watching their house so no one would sneak her out. They would also help Ruby go to school in the morning. There were four children in the family and at the time, Ruby was the oldest. The Marshalls would look for any sign of trouble before leaving. One of the neighbors had his own house painting company and offered Ruby's dad a job and her dad said yes. Ruby kept going to school. Ruby wasn't trying to be a hero, but she was. She kept going to school, no matter what people said or did. Eventually, Miss Henry had to leave the school because the principal asked her to lower Ruby's grades but she refused because he was white. She moved back to Boston and had children but Ruby didn't see her again until years later. Today, we still hear about Ruby Bridges and her school. Ruby's job is to teach kids about segregation and how to be kind and fair to others. Ruby didn't say much when she was young but she has made a huge impact on schools and teachers have let their kids learn about her. Learning about Ruby Bridges has helped me know that no matter what people say about me, I am going to have a good life. I love learning more about Ruby Bridges and I hope you like learning about her too.*

Councilman Robinson tells David's mother, great job and Polk commends him for an outstanding job. He expects to see David sitting on the council and in his President seat in just a few years.

Thompson continues and introduces the first-place winner from the middle school division, Maria Drollinger, who is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Delta Middle School. The topic of her essay is "Step Up."

### Step Up

*American novelist Brad Meltzer once said, when you believe in something, fight for it and when you've seen injustice, fight harder than you've ever fought before. Some things are definitely worth fighting for. I've had to fight for things already and I plan to be an adult who stands up for what I believe in and fights if necessary. I've heard of many injustices going on, such as teachers not getting paid enough, police brutality, racial issues and I, myself, have attempted to show where I stand. I reposted posts on social media that talk*

*about injustices and I have talked to my friends and adults about injustices, as well. Slowly, I am trying to help resolve some of the issues here in my city, state and even my country. Injustices effect everyone, no matter your age or place in society. Some people gain a lot from it but most people lose things because of injustices. If you see an injustice happening in your area, you can speak up about it. Anyone can help better the world and help better the way that people are treated in this community by standing up to it. One of the many ways you can stand up and speak out about an injustice is setting an example. Making changes in your own life can help others see about how you feel about something clearer. Once people know how you feel about injustice, they'll choose whether to stand by you or not. You can also make an injustice known by talking to people that you know or getting out on social media such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook or even YouTube. The more people who hear and notice what is going on, the more it will spread. The more aware people are of injustice, the higher chance you have of it being stopped and resolved. Although, social media is a really big platform to make injustices known, its algorithms are not reliable enough to make sure that you have the attention needed. Therefore, you are going to need more than a phone to step up. You can start a campaign or make flyers and post them around your city. Anything to get others to read, hear, see and just notice the way that others are treated in your city, state or even your country is unfair and cruel. Prepare yourself for backlash, not everyone is going to agree with how you view something and you will get hateful comments. It may be online or it may be in person. You can get anything from assertive or aggressive comments to death threats. That is why you should learn to protect yourself from such hurtful words. Stick to where you stand and don't let other people's use get in the way of your own. Most importantly, do not give up. it isn't going to be easy. It will take a lot of time, effort and even money. Many people may do whatever they can to either help you or tear you down. You shouldn't give up for what you know is right. It may take as little as a month or it may years but you can help and you can succeed. Age, gender, religion, race, it doesn't matter. You can step up to injustice. Any effort is good enough. You can make your home, city and state better.*

Thompson introduces Maria's parents and wants to say again, great job parents. The council commends her. Thompson thanks all the winners and the very wonderful support from Mutual Bank, Minnestrista, who has hosted this kick-off for years, MCS and the Muncie Public Library. They appreciate their support and again, thank you to the awesome winners. Robinson thanks Thompson for the work she puts into that.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:** President Polk explains this is something new that they are going to be doing, going forward, to give the council a chance to listen to the department heads, as well as the Mayor.

Dan Ridenour, 207 N. Winthrop, Muncie Mayor, states yes this is something he wants to start. Beginning with the Mayor's office, he explains that they have had their first "Dream with Dan," as he made the commitment that they would go out into the community every month for the community to come out, get information and ask questions. That occurred this past week at the Muncie Civic Theatre and will be spread all across the city in different locations so please look on the City of Muncie Facebook page for that list. He does not know it of the top of his head but does know that they will be at Union Missionary Baptist Church in February. Along with that, one of the other campaign items that he wanted to follow through on was that it was very important for the City Administration and Department Heads to get to know the council, give the council an opportunity to hear what was going on within those departments and give an opportunity to see the budget items year to date. Starting with the Mayor's office, (who, yes, has his own budget for the for his own office) he has a report plus a budget year to date that he would like to present to the council. Going through the report on some of the positives that he has noticed inside the Mayor's office is the leadership team has been very positive. They're very engaged, very excited and they're trying to make a difference. Mayor Ridenour wrote down "motivated" and "energized." They are seeing that with not only with the leadership team but the employees too. He has been really pleased that the employees have been very excited. He gets texts every day from different departments saying that they appreciate what's happening with the leaders in those departments. As he earlier mentioning, they already set up the "Dream with Dan 2.0" events. The inventory inside the Mayor's office is complete so there has been a list established that shows exactly how many boxes of paperclips, pens, notepads, paper and everything that they have. The purpose for that is if a department is short, rather than ordering, if they have ten boxes of paperclips, they can hand a box out to someone else that needs them and they want to do that with all of the supplies. It will help in the future, as well. In the second week of the administration, Mayor Ridenour had a meeting with Jason Rogers with DCEMS and David Miller, the Muncie Fire Chief, to begin that process of healing and figure out a solution for DCEMS and Muncie Fire-Based EMS. They are working on that process and he believes the other two have met on their own. In addition to that, and they are continuing that process. As far as the 911 Board, he has a meeting with the Commissioners this week so that begins the process of seeing what they can work out there. In the first week, they had a meeting with Delaware County's Economic Development Director, the Chambers Economic Development Director and

the City's Economic Development Director, David Smith. We (those previously listed and the Mayor) all need to work together and are going to make that happen. Those are the positives. Some future considerations that they have is due to the fact that there were some negative balances on some accounts at the beginning of the year. A couple of those were resolved in January, so, there are fewer negative balances but they're working all that out. The process was not as fast as he would like because day to day issues are happening. They will, however, work through all those issues and continue to communicate with the council. Also, he just wants them to be aware that all three of the bargaining units will have negotiations coming up this year so the Finance Committee (consisting of Ivy, Clark and Robinson), either all three or only one, will be involved in that process when that time comes. Mayor Ridenour continues on that the next document he provided is the budget, year to date and asks if there are any specific questions about anything he has covered or anything going on inside the Mayor's office because he would be happy to answer those. But first, (and he wanted to do this first) he wanted to let the council and the public know what other offices they are seeing tonight. There will be four offices presenting tonight since there were none done in January (the meeting was so quick after he took office that he just didn't feel like it would be fair). So, tonight there will be four but generally, there will be two or three each month. Tonight, it will be the Mayor's office, the Human Rights office, Human Resources and Animal Control. In March, it will be Community Development, the Controller's office and Communications. In April, it will be the Parks Department and the Police Department. In May, it will be the Street Department and the Building Commissioner. Finally, in June, it will be the Fire Department and Economic Development. Then, they will be presenting over again so Human Resources and the Mayor's office will present again in July and then it'll be just two or three each month, so on and so forth. Ingram asks if that list can be emailed, as well. The Mayor confirms that yes, they can do that. He jokes that he is a little old-fashioned and still has hard copies. There has only been one month so far but if there are any questions on the financials from the Mayor's office, he would be happy to answer them.

Yvonne Thompson explains she has been Human Rights Director for twelve years so serving under three different Mayors. She was asked to be here tonight and asks if there are any questions regarding the budget for Human Rights. She can inform them of what they have spent so far, in training, fees and travel, in which, there has been no travel.

Councilman Smith asks if she has a document of that like the Mayor provided them for his office. Thompson replies she just has her copy of a Budget Performance

Report. Ingram suggests that if they are going to get this kind of opportunity to ask questions, maybe give the information to them a little bit earlier. The Clerk obtains her copy to make copies for the council.

Councilman Clarks asks if she would not mind to maybe share a little bit of information about her office for them and the public to know. Thompson states they have been quite busy between January and now. If anyone participated in any of the MLK activities, their office was a sponsor in those particular activities. They try to help get the information out to the public on what's going on and what takes place on that particular day. On that weekend, the MLK Citizenship Awards were given out and there were about 128 students that received certificates for being a good leader and being an outstanding student in their classes and Human Rights helped sponsor that. As a matter of fact, she would like to thank the Human Resources office, as they are the ones that put the certificates together. Again, they helped with Minnetrista's Black History kick-off. What they have done so far as expenditures for the month of January was help put together and print the different programs that were made for the MLK event and also for the MLK Citizenship Award.

Councilwoman Davis wants to commend her because even before she knew her, she's came across people with issues through her full-time job and called Thompson, which, was able to assist them in getting their needs met. She appreciates everything she does in her office. Davis asks about the Human Rights Commission because there are a lot of boards that she is not sure about and asks how many people the Board is comprised of. Thomson answers nine people and it is structured very differently. It is structured by representation from the education field, representation from the black community, representation from whites, representation from the disability community and they also have representation from the LGBTQ community. It is not necessarily made up of parties. The Board is to be unbiased, as well as the Human Rights office which has to be unbiased on any decision they make. They are an organization that is structured under the City of Muncie Codes of Ordinances. The Muncie Human Rights Commission has been organized since the 1980's and was put together because of discrimination in the housing field. They also deal with discrimination in the workplace, disability and veterans, as well. Their ordinance was updated in 2011 to reflect the additions of those that may have certain sexual preference or are gender based. Human Rights does not work on or investigate age, in which, those particular complaints get sent over to the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. They also work very closely with the FBI, Department of Justice, Department of Education and Housing and Urban Development. A lot of times, if someone comes to their office, they can direct that individual and help them put together their complaints, free of charge. That is what they

are there for. She wishes to add that the Human Rights budget has not been under any scrutiny. The council is glad to hear that.

Nancy Larson, Human Resources Personnel Director, states the number one thing she would to say is thank you to Thompson forgiving Human Resources credit for making those certificates but it really was Alvin Jones. They appreciate all the work that he does. Something that she felt very strong about when she first took this position was making sure employees feel valued. When she went into the office, she realized that they have someone that's in a wheelchair and an entry door that is on a gated entry with a (kind of) bump that Jones would have to go over in the wheelchair. So, they were able to work with the Building Commissioner to get that removed and that employee was very thankful that he felt valued. In that, they are trying to make sure that they are ADA Compliant. Another thing that they are working on in HR is transferring some of the files to database, so trying to go paperless. It is a process as they are working alongside data processing to make sure they have a secure source and are currently moving forward. One of the goals that she has for Human Resources is creating a SOP or a 'standard of operation' for the department. She urges every department to obtain a SOP. It is just to help ensure that they are following procedures and following the law of that is in place. If someone is missing, and you have to move forward with some paperwork, then you have the procedures in front of you to do so. Jase Crehan is the Communication Director and he decided that city employees needed new city badges and try to be a little more professional. They are really proud of that (Larson shows off her badge). She presented the budget to the Clerk to pass out and asks if there are any questions about that. Councilman Robinson comments he was actually provided with a copy of the Human Rights budget but she can email them what she has so they can take a look at it. Larson states she will do that. Robinson adds that going paperless is quite the task so he applauds her and her staff for taking on such a monumental task. Larson adds that they are working with Ball State on getting interns this summer that will be able to help them. Councilman Smith clarifies that it is just her, one other person and a part-time person. Larson confirms, that is correct. She adds that they do not have all the answers. Smith states it is a lot of work for two and a half people. Larson says she has an amazing staff.

Ethan Browning, Animal Control Director, 901 W. Riggin, has some reports and a budget year to date to present to the council. He thanks for the opportunity to report the current status of the shelter and animal control. They had a great start to the year. He has a wonderful team and he is very fortunate to have very passionate and

dedicated individuals that make everything possible. Staff morale has definitely improved and they definitely, genuinely want to do a good job. They take initiative to clean and organize several areas that had been a little unkept and taking pride in the shelter again which makes a big difference. They have had kennel drains cleaned, which has resulted in a more sanitary and pleasing environment for the dogs, public and staff. He has made four new hires for part-time Cat Caretakers. Those individuals have been able to fulfill their desires to work with animals and they are each bringing their own unique talents and strengths to the department. Right now, he is focusing on hiring and retraining. A local vet clinic and vet tech offered to provide training classes to the staff so they could be more knowledgeable and more efficient in what they do. These are all great signs that they are moving in the right direction but they do have many hurdles that they won't even navigate this year, this includes some budgetary challenges that he wishes to make the council aware of early in the year. As it can be seen by the budget year to date, there are several line items that are over, according to goal. First off, they are only budgeted \$5,000 for Building Maintenance for the year and that has already been spent on last year's bills. The roof is in critical condition and presenting a very dangerous environment, currently leaking into the light fixtures. Browning spoke with the construction company that did their renovations in 2017 and they said it is the original roof from when it was a jail and a juvenile center so it has not been repaired or replaced in many years. It is causing toxic black mold throughout the shelter which is obviously unhealthy and potentially dangerous for the public, staff and animals. Browning has received three quotes in repair and replacement. One company would not even quote for repair, as they believe the shelter would continue to have problems and waste money. His lowest quote was \$33,000, his middle quote was \$39,000 and his highest quote was \$69,000. He has provided all of those quotes along with some pictures. He believes in the Mayor's mission to not go over budgeted amounts, however, that is impossible with their current budget. The previous administration ran in the red as the norm. For example, the shelter moved from Gharkey to Riggin Rd. in 2017. That move was from a 5,000 square foot building to a 17,000 square foot building but the budget does not reflect adequate funding for their electric bill, maintenance, water, chemicals, institutional medical, uniforms or full-time or part-time labor. Browning is budgeted \$36,000 for a Part-Time Director, but they are unable to fill the position, as they need the funds for other areas. This is a 24/7 department. They respond to emergencies and assist the police department and citizens with bite cases and dangerous animals, all around the clock. This shortfall does not just affect him. Dog Caretakers are responsible for 50 to 75 dogs per person, each work day. Cat Caretakers are responsible for 100 to 150 cats per person per work day. These are part-time

positions that often go over their 28 hours per week due to sickness, emergencies and limited staffing. They still went grossly over the part-time budget last year. The Muncie Animal Shelter services a population of approximately 100,000 residents, all of Muncie, incorporated Delaware County and are in several contracts with Yorktown, Selma and Daleville. They have six Animal Control Officers so breaking that down makes a ratio of 20,000 residents per every one Animal Control Officer. Again, this is a 24/7 department. Their response time and efficiency to those calls suffers due to that reason and they also go over their overtime budget. The staff suffers from burnout and compassion fatigue often because they are such a small staff and have such a huge workload per person. Lastly, he wanted to speak on Res. 6-20. A little background information, they are only budgeted \$30,000 for Institutional and Medical. They actually spend approximately \$160,000 a year on institutional and medical needs. This is due to their mission to mainly decrease pet overpopulation while meeting the standards of care required in the no-kill ordinance. They spay, neuter and vaccinate all adoptable animals as well as provide medically necessary treatment for all animals suffering from treatable injuries, illnesses and parasites. Browning has included a detailed breakdown of those medical costs. He thinks the council will be surprised to find the amount per animal on just some of those basic medical services that are required. This is the reason for Res. 6-20 which is asking to move the \$70,000 from the Veterinarian line item into Institutional and Medical. That money was intended for the department to hire an in-house veterinarian that would perform those same services that are being performed out of house, but, they have not been able to hire one for that amount. The previous administration moved the money and spent it on Institutional and Medical last year, but Browning wants to handle it correctly and ask for permission before they proceed. With that being said, he plans to work with the Controller and Mayor Ridenour to create an actionable budget for 2021, that he hopes the council will consider later in the year. The budget, year to date, has been presented and Browning is willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

Councilman Robinson comments this is, unfortunately, all bad news. He will say that he has toured the shelter on multiple occasions in the past couple of years, as his little "puggle" came from the shelter so there is a big piece of his heart for it. Unless you have toured that shelter, you can't truly appreciate the work that Browning and his staff do for these animals. It is nothing short of incredible. He commends him and his staff for doing what they do and with limited resources.

Councilman Smith has a few questions regarding Animal Shelter Control being budgeted at \$28,555 and asks if that is for all six people. Browning states he has been discussing that with the Controller and they are still trying to work out what they had

coming out of each line item. That is inadequate as he believes there are four people coming out of that line item, some of which are actually office staff. Smith asks if that is part-time, also. Browning states part-time budgets are coming out of Part-Time and Animal Shelter Control but they do need to be sorted out appropriately. Smith asks about the Animal Shelter Drivers, also, which is budgeted over \$90,000. Browning explains there is actually three people's salary coming out of that, which are full-time Animal Control Officers.

#### **ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED:**

ORD. 2-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DEPOSIT RECIPIENT ACCOUNTS FOR ORD. 44-19 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE.

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Dan Ridenour, Mayor of Muncie, 207 N. Winthrop, states this was introduced last month and what has been discovered since that time is that there has been an account that was created in 2019, Fund 114 and that the previous Administration had put the ambulance funds/EMS dollars in that fund. That had continued and is now sizable and so the plan was to close it out. There were discussions with State Board of Accounts which felt like it should be brought to the council because it was not created by their approval and therefore, really shouldn't be there. It was recommended to bring this in front of the council and so Mayor Ridenour is just (kind of) wanting their guidance. The original ordinance says to split the funds; however, this was at the wishes of the previous council. It said to put 50% into Fund 101 and 50% in Fund 104 but 100% has gone into Fund 114, which does not exist. Mayor Ridenour explains they will do what the council wants, wherever they want those funds. He will say that it is a lot easier to track the EMS dollars if there is just one account. It is not an authorized fund at this time, so, the council would need to create that fund for them to continue in that method. There are some EMS expenses that have not been inputted so guidance of the council is needed on whether they want the City to utilize Fund 114 or what the other procedures are.

Councilman Robinson states he spoke to the State Board of Accounts last week and left a message. This afternoon, he received a phone call to return that message he originally left. The gentleman that he spoke to did indicate that Fund 114 will be legal if the council approves that retroactively to January 1<sup>st</sup>. From Robinson's standpoint, he thinks no matter how Fire-Based EMS came about, no matter how they feel about it, it's here. Robinson states it is his hope and he believes it is the council's responsibility to do what they can to make sure that that program is successful. He feels that is their responsibility. He doesn't know where to go, from here, with this but recalls the council meeting in November and agreeing on the 50/50 split. If he remembers, and the Mayor can correct him if he is wrong, as he was a sitting councilman at the time, that the 50/50 was pulled out of thin air. Robinson does not believe there were any numbers behind

that. He doesn't know if 50% will cover what the fire department is going to need for this service to make it successful. He wants to see this succeed. Mayor Ridenour can give his thoughts as well as the Fire Chief is welcome to come up as well.

Mayor Ridenour explains if the city puts 50% in various accounts, it is not going to balance out. But, that is entirely up to the council. It can go into Fund 104, it can go into Fund 101, or it can go into Fund 114. However, the council wants it done is what they will do to make the accounting work. Mayor Ridenour believes it's easier accounting if it's in Fund 114. But, they are here to serve at the council's pleasure on this item. They just want it done properly.

Councilman Ingram asks for the Mayor to define 'sizable' as in the sizable amount has been accrued. The Mayor responds it's \$202,000 that has gone into it. They did pay \$16,000 worth of expenses from 2019 but not any of the 2020 bills they've received. That is another reason they want the guidance from the council. Ingram states there is still not any concrete numbers to go off of to make a decision on how this should be split or if it should be split. He does think it would be a lot easier to keep track of the 114 Fund and would suggest that the only thing that should be allowed to be spent from that account is EMS funds only until they figure out these numbers and decide what amount should go where. Mayor Ridenour states as it stands right now, 100% of the dollars that have gone in are EMS receipts and 100% of the dollars that have gone out are EMS expenses. No 2020 expenses have been paid. Ingram continues, he has been keeping track of this a lot and it's been one of those things he has been paying a lot of attention to because he feels it is their duty to make sure that if this City is going to run a Fire-Based EMS that it should the best possible service to provide to citizens. One of his concerns is that (and he probably hasn't asked the right people) to find out the overtime charges that the department is actually going through at this point and paid up to this date. That information would top off a lot of the research he has been doing on his own.

Mayor Ridenour replies, there has been two pay periods for the fire department, this Friday being the third and he is sure they can com up with those numbers. The challenge of putting payroll in there is if somebody is working Monday as a firefighter, Wednesday on the EMS team, Friday as a firefighter and then Sunday on the EMS team, how would they separate the overtime. He does think that they can clearly put all the other EMS expenses in there but doesn't want to figure out how to add additional staffing and try and separate all that out on the payroll side.

Ingram asks if keeping Fund 114 would keep that easier. The Mayor answers it would make it easier.

Trent Conway, City Controller, 717 W. Cromer Ave, agrees with Mayor Ridenour. Keeping it in one account is going to make it a lot easier to keep track of to really give them the visibility to the activity that EMS has going on. At a point in the future, if the council decides to split that money up between Fund 101 or Fund 104, they can, but like

the Mayor said, whatever the council wants them to do, they will do. Ingram recommends that they Table this ord. 2-20 until they can legitimize Fund 114 and he would like to keep that solely for EMS to use to pay for the things they need to. This way, the council can get some concrete numbers on where exactly the city stands with this. Conway adds that currently there is about \$137,000 in bills that are waiting to be paid out because they don't have access to the funds because there is no appropriations and that fund is not established. So, that's the big reason they are asking so they can move forward and get these bills paid and not have vendors shutting off service.

Dudley is in favor of Ingram's suggestion and asks what needs done to legitimize that fund.

Clark asks if their legal counsel, Dan Gibson can give insight on what they should do referring to previous Ord. 44-19 on where the money should be going in the meantime, if they do Table it. Also, if it would be in the council's best interest to Table and then allow Fund 114 to be created over the next couple of months.

Dan Gibson, Legal Counsel, states with respect to Fund 114, there are two issues. One, there would need to be an ordinance to create it and then need to appropriate money to be paid for out of that account, which requires an extra step of a Public Hearing. At this point, they had already spoken on the issue last year when the former council adopted the ordinance requiring this money to go into Fund 104. That ordinance was set up several years ago and was done properly wear it defines what money goes in and what that money can be spent on. In terms of where these bills are to be paid from, Gibson is not really sure. He is not really sure that EMS is a separate department, it is just a part of the fire department expenses, so he is sure (perhaps) there is some line items in the meantime that can be paid and some of these expenses can be paid out of the budget that is currently approved. In terms of Fund 114, the council is looking at a new ordinance and an additional appropriation, whereas the money that is currently there now could perhaps be put back into Fund 104 as just an internal accounting procedure and certain fire department expenses that can be paid for out of Fund 104 that could be paid for up to the appropriated amount of (what he believes to be) \$400,000. That is based on the budget from last year (2018) that they reverted back to for 2020.

Councilman Robinson asks that they can amend this to be 100% into Fund 104. Gibson confirms that is already what is being done. Robinson thought 100% was going into Fund 114 right now. Fellow council members confirm but Clark adds that it is not following last years budget, though. Clark continues, tabling it will be ideal and if the Mayor or Controller would like to create the Fund 114 and then the council will readdress this, two months down the road when that line item has been created. Clark understands Ingram's concern about the money that is coming out of it, though.

Gibson, again, wishes to make it clear that the ordinance requires the funds are to go into Fund 104 but for some reason it has not been happening. He does not think

that prevents the Administration now from simply internally accounting and changing that back to Fund 104. In the meantime, expenses need to be paid. As it stands right now, the ordinance requires it all to go into Fund 104. Clark confirms that Fund 114 would need to be reconciled and all that money would need to be put into Fund 104.

Councilman Ivy states it seems to him that Fund 104 should be receiving the money to allow the City of Muncie to actually do business and take care of outstanding invoices. It seems like they are making a lot of noise about accounting simplicity, like their legal representation said. The moving of that money is an internal thing. Ivy adds that he does not want to tie the hands of the Mayor to where he can't do actual City business and accrue 2% increases on the monies because of not being paid in due time.

Audie Barber, tax payer of Muncie, states that like what was said by legal representation, in November, the previous council voted to put all of the money (100%) into to the Fund 104. He feels that if there is an issue with that then the council will have to maybe go back and look at the ordinance and change it. As far as right now, Barber believes that all of the money needs to go into the 104 Fund so the City can pay their bills for EMS and fire.

Mayor Ridenour hates to throw another curveball but he thinks the amount the City is appropriated for is \$400,000. Last month, the council approved \$379,000 for fire department turnout gear. Currently, that has not come out but if that does come out, there still won't be appropriations to pay the \$130,000 and some expenses that are owed. Therefore, the City might hold off on the \$397,000 if they get the bill but the Mayor does not know if that's due. Chief Miller, from his seat, states they have not received the bill yet. The Mayor confirms they have not received the bill yet. The State Board of Accounts just felt it should be brought in front of council because they felt closing an account that didn't exist might be questionable. The administration didn't want to do anything questionable so if the council determines that they want to, they would need to vote down or Table it. The city can go ahead and move it to Fund 104 as long as the council gives permission to do so. The City will then do an additional appropriation that will add to make sure there are funds in addition to the \$400,000 because most of that will be gone once the bill for the turnout gear comes in.

Councilman Ingram asks if there is money deposited in that yearly, as well. The Mayor replies yes, but only \$400,000 was the amount appropriated to spend. Ingram asks if that deposit has been received for this year. The Mayor answers they received \$200,000 of it, so half. Ingram asks about the other half. The Mayor states six months from now. He confirms that there is more than that in the account.

Councilman Smith confirms that the Mayor is needing the council to legitimize Fund 114. The Mayor states they can do it that way or maybe the council can do a voice vote that says it is okay for the City of Muncie Administration to move the funds into Fund 114 because it doesn't exist. Mayor Ridenour is just trying to follow what the State Board of Accounts said that they needed to do.

Gibson, from his seat states he does not believe furthermore is necessary.

Mike Whitted, President of Muncie Firefighters Local #1348, just wanted to echo the comments that Mayor Ridenour had said and he appreciates the council taking the time to study this, referring the money that is going in and coming out. It is going to vary from month to month on months where there is good collection return and months where there isn't. Looking at one or two months snapshot is not going to give a very good look at what this is so again, he appreciates them taking the time to study this before making a decision. He is willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

Andrew Popp, 4000 N. Piper Ave, Muncie, states he is a "nagger" of Fund 114 and believes he has spoken with five or six of the sitting council members now about this fund. He thinks it is important to run the City similar in fashion to how we run our households. This money is budgeted to go into an account, as the council representative has said and bills are due to be paid out of the account. He thinks, as a citizen, he would appreciate the City paying bills in a timely manner out of a fund that is legitimized. Questions called.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Robinson to Table.

A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. TABLED.

Polk clarifies that it will stay active for six months and if it is not brought off the Table by then, the ordinance does automatically die.

ORD. 3-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BIDDING PRACTICES FOR PURCHASES ADDRESSED IN SECTION 38.06 OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE CODE.

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Dan Ridneour, Mayor of Muncie, explains this ordinance is important to him. They, in the City departments, are already operating under this but the reason it is important is so that future administrations down the road will also operate under this. What it does is put a step in place that slows down quotes and purchases without letting the Controller and or the Mayor know, for amounts over \$5,000. It's just a way for them to decide if that is really something really needed or if it is something really wanted. The council and him, as Mayor, all want to be good stewards of the taxpayer's funds so he is very hopeful that the council will approve this ordinance today so that it's becomes a standard operating procedure with future administrations, as well. Questions called.

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

ORD. 4-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SEC. 50.01 OF CHAPTER 50 FOR THE MUNCIE CITY CODE ENTITLED "SANITARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHED."

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Dan Ridneour, Mayor of Muncie, 207 N. Winthrop, explains this was what the Administration thought was the next step to getting some reason into The Sanitary District and operating with the publics funds. They have since discovered that even though the state statute clearly says that one Commissioner is the Civil Engineer, the other

Commissioners are appointed by the City Executive and even though in 2012, the previous Mayor brought Commissioner Cline on the Board as the City Engineer and a member whose term was not up resigned because that is what the law says. The Muncie Sanitary District has refused to seat Mayor Ridenour's City Engineer rightfully on the Muncie Sanitary District Board. After receiving communication from them in letter form that they were not going to resign, that resulted in the Mayor to start a legal action against The Sanitary District that will have a third-party judge determine what the law says. The Mayor thinks it's very clear. Mayor Tyler actually agreed in 2012 and the new Mayor is very confident that that will take place. However, he asks that the council Table this so that the court can do its job first, before they go to increasing in the size of the Sanitary District Board.

Councilman Robinson states he was incredibly disappointed with the Sanitary Board meeting that he attended last Wednesday when no public comment was taken. From his understanding, the Sanitary District's Board doesn't want to speak about the lawsuit, can't speak about the lawsuit and he respects that. However, Robinson thinks it's the job of that board to hear concerns of the citizens and he hopes that they will moving forward.

Councilman Ingram refers to a letter placed in his mailbox from the Muncie Sanitary District that is three pages long and has some other pages that he did not see what the use was for. In the short time he has had to read it, he has a question referring to previous Mayor Tyler using that same statute to put Mike Cline in as City Engineer in 2012. He states the letter claims that the District cannot find any record of Mike Cline being paid as the City Engineer and that wasn't the way they got him in. Mayor Ridenour requests that everyone go back and look at the July 18, 2012 Star Press. It says that. They did attach a copy with the lawsuit. There was another article a couple of weeks later when the then Muncie Sanitary District did what the legal law required them to do, which was step down, even though their term has not expired because the law says one Commissioner is the City Civil Engineer. The other positions are appointed by the Chief Executive. Ingram agrees with Mayor Ridenour. He was just assuming that these letters are going to be put out and made public. The Mayor would assume so and states he is not going to try the case here, tonight, and that he will let his attorney do that. He thinks it is pretty clear and just asks that the council Table it until the court can do its job first and then the city can take the next steps. Mayor Ridenour continues that they're going to be multiple steps that the council and the Mayor, as an executive, will have to do to right this ship. Ingram assumes the Mayor has not received one of those letters, yet. The Mayor states he has not, yet, but that doesn't mean it's not in an email or maybe upstairs in the office.

Councilwoman Davis states she knows in meeting with the Mayor and speaking with him that he is about integrity. She knows that anybody on his staff for anybody that's has dealt with him on his campaign, he would want to make sure that they watch their language and what they say because they (kind of) represent him. Davis states the woman listed in some of this information is speaking very vulgar and she would just make sure that he speaks with her because it can ruin his reputation because she represents him, in a lot of settings. She suggests she would definitely have a conversation and will gladly provide a copy of it. Basically, this woman posted something on Facebook and she's a representative

of the Mayor and her husband is actually an employee of the Mayors. She just does not want him to be deemed or looked upon in a bad light because of something she said. Mayor Ridenour states he certainly does not hold other people accountable for the actions of a different person so he would hope that the public would not hold him accountable for what someone else says. He wants the public to hold him accountable for what he says, please. The Mayor appreciates her comments.

Ingram states another thing on the "laundry list" of stuff that the District is claiming the Mayor has said and done is that he plans to sell The Muncie Sanitary District to a private entity. Mayor Ridenour responds that he has no plans to The Muncie Sanitary District. He is aware of many cities, like Westfield, that have sold their utilities but that that is not what this is about. The people elected him and they elected all of the sitting council members to stop the corruption. The overwhelming majority of the employees at The Sanitary District are good, honest people and they deserve to work for people who are good, honest people. He has received many comments from Sanitary District employees saying please continue what you're doing. That's his job, to do what he can to stop the corruption. Ingram states he does support him on this endeavor.

Andrew Popp, 4000 N. Piper, states he was at the same meeting that Robinson, Smith, Ingram and Davis were at. He states that Councilwoman Davis deserves a public apology for what happened. It has nothing to do with the fact she is a city council member. Davis was there advocating for her neighborhood and he won't requote him (Bill Smith) because he thinks it was hypocritical but her attitude was just fine and that was very disgraceful. Popp apologizes on their behalf and appreciates the fact this was brought up to be Tabled so proper legal action can take place. He also thinks that that can be used as a tactical move to get control of the Sanitation Board, (as it is the biggest black eye in this city and the number one speaking point during campaign season for most, if not all of the council members and especially the Mayor) is reigning that in. He was going to ask that this be Tabled, not knowing that the Mayor was going to do it, as well. Davis responds that Mr. Smith did send her an email, apologizing, that very same day. She believes it was a little late, but, he did do that and she appreciates it.

Kristopher Bilbrey, 318 N. Meridian St, Winchester, Indiana, states that he agrees with everything that is happening here. He thinks that the citizens of Muncie need to let Muncie Sanitary District Board know that they do not have the confidence of the citizens of this community. The Sanitary District Board is completely out of control and out of line. He definitely stands behind the Mayor's attempt to do what he is doing and this councils position on trying to help him. Bilbrey suggests before he would look at adding any other people to the board (and he understands the lawsuits going on) creates a little concerned that a step might have been missed. He is not an attorney so he is not trying to say that he knows better but his issue is with the actions that Mayor Tyler either took or didn't take; Bilbrey is concerned that Indiana code 36-9-25-5 has been overlooked which says "a (Sanitary District Board) Commissioner may not be removed from office except upon charges preferred before the municipal executive and a hearing held on them. The only permissible reason for removal are neglect of duty and incompetence," which he is 100%

sure that this Administration can show that the Board has been neglectful of duty and incompetent. Bilbrey continues, "the Commissioners must be given at least 10 days' notice time and place for the hearing and the opportunity to produce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. All testimony should be given under oath and the Municipal Executive (Mayor) shall put his findings in writing and submit them with the Clerk." So, what this is saying here and from everything he has heard and have even had people that's been kind of an intermediary between him and previous Mayor Tyler. What he is saying there is if someone were to approach it this way, it sounds like the City of Muncie could offer a letter (certified or otherwise) to the Muncie Sanitary District Board advising them of a hearing and after 10 days, that hearing could be held here, where the Mayor would be the presiding officer, he presumes the City Attorney's would offer up the city side and then the Mayor would get to write his findings out and submit them to the Clerk. At which that point, the Mayor can remove all three board members and then appoint the three board members that he would want. He wouldn't have to go about appointing five board members or have to go to court because what would happen is, at that point, (of course assuming) those three board members would appeal that. They would then send it to court and the judge would have uphold that. Bilbrey's fear is when this goes to court under what the lawsuits currently in place, when the judge takes a look at all this and reads statute 36-925-5 that states a Commissioner may not be removed from office supply except for the chargers preferred but that has not happened. He thinks that they're missing a step and he would at least have somebody take a look at this before they go forward. A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Clark to Table. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. TABLED.

ORD. 5-20 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA ESTABLISHING SEPARATE POLICE AND FIRE MERIT COMMISSION LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND.

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Dale Basham, President of the Fire Merit Commission, states as he indicated in last month's meeting, in 2003, they divided the Fire and the Police Commissions but they neglected to divide or to separate the line items. This ordinance allows them to move forward as two separate commissions with their own line items.

Brian Jackson, FOP Vice-President, 21 S. Butterfield Rd, states he wishes to recognize the fact that this should have been done a long time ago. The commissions agree that it should be split and split 50/50. The other question he has about the account, unknown if it is for the council or the Controller, is if it is a non-reverting fund. In looking at the 2019 budget, last year the amount was \$34,590, in which \$24,600 was spent. He then asks if that \$10,000 is to be carried over to this year's budget, as well, and be split equally or has that \$10,000 disappeared and is it \$34,590 amount being split.

Trent Conway, City Controller, states this is part of the General Fund so it is a non-reverting fund. He would also like to point out that as this new account is created, they will also have to add appropriation to whatever the council decides. If they want to split it 50/50, they can do that, as well.

President Polk states this, right now, is just to get it to where it is separate. It's not about inputting it 50/50 or any additional appropriations. That will need to be in a new and different ordinance or resolution.

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

**NEW ORDINANCES:**

No new ordinances filed.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

RES. 6-20 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN THE ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2020.

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Davis to Adopt.

Ethan Browning, Animal Control Director, states he spoke on this resolution earlier. It is to move the \$70,000 from the Veterinarian line item into Institutional and Medical, which is where they spent the money last year.

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

RES. 7-20 A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO SEATING THE CITY ENGINEER ON THE MUNCIE SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD.

A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Dudley to Adopt.

Dan Ridenour, Mayor of Muncie, states he thinks he spoke his peace on the last ordinance. He just was hoping to get the council to publicly say that they believe that the City Engineer should be placed on The Muncie Sanitary District Board and that one person should resign. That is what this resolution is merely the council offering their support of that statement.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:** President Polk reminds everyone about the resolution passed in 2008 stating there is a three-minute time limit to speak.

Audie Barber, taxpayer in the City of Muncie, just wants to ask regarding the Fire-Based EMS due to being told today by a gentleman that MFD firetrucks are being unmanned to man ambulances. He wants to know if this is a true statement or not because he was told by Jason Rogers that MFD firetrucks are being un-manned and the firemen are going from the fire trucks to run the ambulances. Again, he just wants to make sure that that is not the issue. Councilman Ivy asks if he heard Barber correctly and that was Jason Rogers that said this. Barber states that is correct. Ivy asks if he is still here. Barber states he was told this at a Commissioners meeting today. David Miller, Muncie Fire Chief, confirms no, they have not shut down any engines or trucks to run the ambulances. The ambulances are running with their personnel and so are the firetrucks. They have not shut any firetrucks

down. Barber did not believe that was going on but just wanted to know for clarification and states he was lied to today.

Andrea Stachurski, a resident of Riverside Ave, is here to speak on behalf of the residents S. Riverside Avenue. She thinks Smith is aware of what is going on along with Mayor Ridneour who has been present at some meeting with FlatLand Resources. She mentions seeing Phil Tevis in the back row, also, from FlatLand. This is all regarding the Riverside Jackson Trail. It is in the process of continuing to be planned on behalf of FlatLand Resources. She would also like to say she thinks there is a misconception on the majority of homeowners on the south side of Riverside. It is not necessarily the intent on stopping the forward progress on the city. They certainly understand the interest in building a connection to the hospital and the university and having pedestrian and bike pathways present, along with all the work that's gone on to build those programs. She thinks the majority of citizens just also want what's best for our city. In their first meeting with FlatLand on October 9, 2019. The neighborhoods issue is an art issue (if you want to call it that) isn't even necessarily with FlatLand who was solely selected on behalf of the Delaware County Advancement Corporation to work on this project, are more questions to the city. They have expressed these questions since that first meeting which was approximately four months ago. As far as drainage on the street, there is quite a bit of flooding and in receiving this money from the state, they certainly want to use it in the best manner it can be and not spend a bunch of money on a project that's just going to have a bunch of issues that the city then has to take on with budgetary issues and safety issues. Stachurski thinks the next step in that (and Mr. Tevis could speak on that) was a meeting with the Sanitary Department and when she talked to Phil on the 28th, that still hadn't happened. She doesn't know the steps required with that but she thinks that would then become an issue with the city. The safety of the Riverside-Jackson intersection is a very big (what she would think) liability to the city. She believes it's was just proposed that they put a 3-way stop in there which she believe the cost of that would fall under the city. Also, the neighborhood was never really given an explanation of why they think a trail is appropriate versus a sidewalk with a curb to provide extra safety. She knows there is an extra buffer a distance away from the road, required of a trail, which is a safety measure. That has never really been explained and that was a city decision. She knows the former Mayor granted this land, which is city land, of the 40-foot right-of-way off of Riverside. She thinks he unilaterally made that decision, assuming he had the power to do. Then gave that to the Delaware County Advancement Corporation who then hired FlatLand to do this project. Again, the neighborhoods issue is not really with FlatLand, it is with the city. They do not really know the reasoning and think this may be the best choice and again, all these budgetary issues would come on the city and their request would be if they could have the city explain their side of this because it's not a FlatLand issue anymore, it's becomes a city issue and no one from the city ever spoke to this issue.

Polk recommends her getting in touch with the Mayor. Stachurski states she did send an email to his office and got a response quite quick. Also, they deferred her to the next meeting with FlatLand but she has already spoke to Mr. Tevis and they do not know

when that is yet. Again, she thinks their questions are not with FlatLand. Robinson asks for her to stick around after the meeting, in which she responds yes.

Mike Whitted, President of Firefighters Local #1348, wishes to address something that's been proposed to him and he is sure some of the council on why Muncie firetrucks are still running with the ambulances when the Muncie Fire Departments running the EMS. First, he wishes to say that Muncie firefighters are doing an outstanding job with the EMS. It was something that was kind of dumped in their lap at the last minute. They've really stepped up and they're working their tails off to provide a top-level service to the citizens of Muncie. In addressing why a firetruck is still going, Muncie firefighters don't pick and choose what runs that they go on. It starts at dispatch. When somebody calls in with a problem, the dispatchers (doing the best job they can) have key words that they listen for. MFD is only responding to ALS (Advanced Life Support) which is the heart attacks, the stroke and the traumas, it is the bad things. But, if somebody calls in and says one of these keywords, it triggers an ALS response which means an ambulance, a paramedic and a firetruck is going. If a firefighter when they get on the firetruck and realize it's not a life-threatening situation, they will disregard and leave. But, if it's a true ALS emergency, it's all hands-on deck. When you are working a code on somebody, you need everybody there. You're pushing drugs, you're doing CPR, you're running an infibulation, you're starting an airway, it is a lot more than what two people can do. It's like an insurance policy for your loved ones. You want them there, he is sure all of the council has loved ones and if they were in trouble, they would want as many people there to help them. Basically, they are only supposed to be going on the ALS runs. If they want to try and limit some of this, start educating the dispatchers and getting maybe a little more leeway on using some common sense on whether or not to trigger an ALS or not. He hopes this help answer some concerns on that but is willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

Councilman Dishman wants to commend the fire department for all they do because he has seen those ambulances running all over town. He gets up to go to work at 4:00 am and he sees them going down Walnut St. Whitted adds they are running a lot. Dishman adds that he really appreciated that and he knows it is making money but the most important part is it is saving a life. The money can always be replaced but a life cannot. Councilman Ingram states he is a total supporter of Fire-Based EMS and he is trying to make sure this is going and succeeding. He then refers to only responding to ALS calls with the firetruck. Whitted replies they are only supposed to be. When the tones go off and it says engine 6, engine 5, go to this location, they don't question it and go on those runs. Ingram asks how many ALS certified firefighters the city has. Whitted responds they probably have only two or three pair of medics, it's more for the manpower. They're not bringing in any higher level of EMS there, it's just three extra set of hands, basically. Ingram asks if the respond to calls for Delaware County, as well. Whitted states they're supposed to but he does not know how they have set it up. From his understanding, Delaware County is operating in the red zone there around Ball State and MFD is still responding first responders there. This is the same thing they did when they were providing all of Muncie.

Councilman Smith would like to say to the Mayor that the council appreciates the opportunity to go to new council member training. It was outstanding and he believes they are going to order the books for the remainder of the members that didn't get the opportunity to go. They had the chance to sit down with Mr. Whitted and really break bread and Smith thanks him for taking time out of his very busy schedule. Whitted thanks them for attending and recalls meeting with three of the council members, talked about EMS and informed them that he is an open book so they can ask away. He intends to do the same with rest of the council, as well.

Elizabeth Edgell-Herbert, P.O. Box 4104, Muncie, recalls she spoke last meeting about the Civilian Review Board that she was wondering if it could get started here. She also just sent an information packet this morning to all of their emails. However, she saw that some of them are still do not have the individual names in them and just say "district1" or "atlarge1." She asks if they could all just check their emails and make sure they get that. If any of them have any questions, she put a presentation, some speaking points and an example of a good ordinance that can be adopted for this.

Kevin Kennedy, representing a recovery program called Smart Recovery. It is self-management and recovery training. It has got a digital platform where it's actually useful to anyone who has a phone. It provides them with chat rooms and psychological and psychiatric forums that they can actually interact with different professionals online and be able to get some answers in the immediate sense. What they're doing is they have introduced it this year and he is now conducting meetings in the three different libraries on Sundays and Tuesdays at every week. What he also wanted to emphasize is that he is currently now a resident of Muncie and moved here from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. People have asked him why and says because he is in the recovery training as a facilitator. They have already established about eight meetings down in the Indianapolis area, the three here in Muncie and he is working on his forth and two more up in the Fort Wayne area. That is why he chose Muncie because it's an intermediary city that he is, of course, getting used to. He just moved in here in August and he is just basically busy introducing himself. He has a few handouts that is a brief overview of what they do and wishes to hand that out to the council. He is more or so looking for the support from the City of Muncie in order to help maintain this because it is a very good program. Mr. Kennedy came from a VA Medical Center in Pennsylvania and it was very successful, particularly with PTSD folks and drug addiction. He states he is a vet himself and he and four of his brothers served in Vietnam together. He jokes he was one of thirteen so they were undependable. This was based with the VA, originally, but with the general community, he thinks it is very beneficial, as well as it is for veterans in the whole prospect.

Andrew Popp, 4000 N. Piper, jokes about sending him a Christmas card for how many times he has stated his address but was reached out to, just today, by a Facebook group that is working with the Delaware County Commissioners and with the Sheriff. Delaware County

2A Sanctuary is attempting to get Delaware County listed as a sanctuary county and they know that he is frequent at the City Council meetings and have working and speaking relationship with several of the council members and that he is willing to come up and speak. He did forget that there was a 3-minute time frame in place to speak because he was going to read the ordinance but he will be sending it to the council tonight. He, also, will try to schedule a meeting with Mayor Ridenour, just so he has a heads-up, to get this in front of him. What they are trying to do is, in lieu of State bill 203 that was presented before the Indiana State House of Representatives, ultimately sent to committee and appears to have been sent to its grateful deaths, that they are trying to prevent further action, having second amendment rights being infringed so nothing is currently out there. It has to been said that bill will try to be reintroduced and re-presented. They are working throughout the state of Indiana with other several groups involved and getting his done. Popp recalls speaking with several of the council members about getting this done. Actually, a couple of council members are in this group. So, he will try to get that out there and sit down with the Mayor to try and get an ordinance done for the city, ultimately move to the county and then further on. Popp is willing to answer any questions anyone may have about Delaware County 2A, Steve Stark and himself will be sitting down next month to have a (hopefully) large slideshow presentation, if they can get an ordinance together and sent before council. He is willing to answer any questions, tonight, as well.

A motion is made by Dudley to move the council meeting time to 6:30 p.m., instead of 7:30 p.m. Polk believes that would take a change in the ordinance of that chapter in the codebook. Smith asks what ordinance and what code. Polk does not have them off the top of his head but that will be something the Clerk could research and email. The clerks confirm. Polk adds that once that information is received, they could put together an ordinance to amend that. Robinson jokingly asks Dudley if he is tired. Dudley jokes back he can't imagine how Ivy feels. Ivy then jokes he has been asleep twice.

A motion is made to adjourn and seconded but Jason Rogers approaches the council and asks for a moment. Polk states yes.

Jason Rogers, 210 S. Jefferson St, Muncie, wishes to address a comment that was made that he lied to Mr. Barber. Rogers states he is full of misinformation and he stated also that Delaware County was servicing Madison County with ALS, today at a Commissioners meeting, which isn't true. What Rogers states he told Barber was is if the city is using firefighters to staff their ambulances and are paying overtime, they are not doing it less expensively than Delaware County EMS. The reason being is the city pays firefighters more. So, the only way they can run this service is put more firefighters on for a cost less than what is being paid for overtime or shut down firetrucks to run ambulances. Rogers claims that Barber is misconstruing what Rogers told him and Barber has told this council that Rogers has lied to him and Barber is lying. Rogers adds that is really upsets him. Rogers states he came here to help serve his community. Rogers actually left and claims in an act of

cowardice, Barber stood up and called him a liar while I was gone. Barber exclaims from the back of the auditorium that Rogers is a liar. Rogers states that he doesn't appreciate that and he won't stand for it. Rogers states that is the reason he came back to clear what he said. He closes by thanking the council for the time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Ingram and seconded by Robinson to Adjourn. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. ADJOURNED.



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Brad Polk, President of  
the Muncie Common Council



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Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk of  
the Muncie Common Council