



NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Spalding called to order the New Albany City Council Meeting of August 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 West Main Street, New Albany, Ohio. Staff attending were City Manager Joseph Stefanov, Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly, Law Director Mitch Banchevsky, Finance Director Bethany Staats, Police Chief Greg Jones, City Engineer Ed Ferris, Community Development Director Jennifer Chrysler, Engineer Mike Barker, Public Service Director Mark Nemec, Public Information Officer Scott McAfee, and Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason.

Mayor Spalding led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

The following Mayor/Council Members answered Roll Call:

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|----------------------|---|
| Mayor Sloan Spalding | P |
| CM Colleen Briscoe | P |
| CM Marlene Brisk | P |
| CM Michael Durik | P |
| CM Chip Fellows | A |
| CM Glyde Marsh | P |
| CM Matt Shull | P |

Clerk Mason explained that Council Member Fellows let her know his flight connection was delayed and he requested to be excused. Mayor Spalding moved to excuse Council Member Fellows from the council meeting. Council Member Briscoe seconded and council voted with six yes votes to excuse Council Member Fellows from the meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Mayor Spalding asked if council had reviewed the proposed August 7, 2018 meeting minutes and had any changes. Clerk Mason stated that Council Member Shull gave her corrections on page 4 of the drafted minutes wherein the Little League Team was playing in their Little League tournament and the Joint Parks and Recreation Department would be celebrating their 20th anniversary. Clerk Mason made those changes to the original. Mayor Spalding moved to adopt the August 7, 2018 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Council Member Durik seconded and council voted with six yes votes to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

NONE.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Proclamations Congratulating New Albany High School Boys Tennis Champions
The parents of all of the proclamation recipients attended the presentations.



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Robert Cash - Mayor Spalding read the proclamation congratulating Robert Cash on winning the OHSAA Singles Championship in Boys Tennis. He presented the proclamation to Mr. Cash and shook his hand.

Devin Boyer - Mayor Spalding read the proclamation congratulating Devin Boyer on winning the OHSAA Doubles Championship in Boys Tennis. He presented the proclamation to Mr. Boyer and shook his hand.

Joel Nathan Jose - Mayor Spalding read the proclamation congratulating Nathan Jose on winning the OHSAA Doubles Championship in Boys Tennis. He presented the proclamation to Mr. Jose and shook his hand.

Dr. Jolie Brams – Mayor Spalding asked if Dr. Brams was present. No person came forward. Council determined that Dr. Brams was not present to speak. Mayor Spalding offered to hear her if she arrived late.

Morse Road Waterline Discussion – *Clerk's note. This was not an official agenda item.*

Pauline Merklin – 8407 Morse Road in Jefferson Township – addressed council about her concerns for the waterline being installed along Morse Road. She talked about the letter her husband sent to council about the work. Ms. Merklin said that her husband had been in communication with Dunrobin & Associates. She understood she and her husband were the only ones opposed to the waterline being built under their property. She thought that construction could happen on the other side of Morse, on the New Albany side, and without much tearing up of driveways because there was farmland over there. She also believed working on the north side of Morse would result in less damage to Morse Road. Ms. Merklin had spoken with a Dunrobin & Associates representative that morning and understood that the easement was a “done deal” and that they probably wouldn’t switch sides.

Ms. Merklin stated that the person on the north side of Morse didn’t ever say that construction could not take place there. Mayor Spalding asked and Ms. Merklin answered that Mr. Haegele owned the property on the north side. Ms. Merklin stated that she talked to Engineer Mike Barker and he told her that the surveying company said that Mr. Haegele didn’t want the waterline on his side of Morse. Ms. Merklin did not want the waterline on her side either. They would take 40ft of her land, tear up her driveway, interrupt a lot of things, and she lived near a creek. She understood that Mr. Haegele never said construction couldn’t be on his property or take that route. He told her he was not approached about that.

Ms. Merklin restated her concern that she was giving up 40 ft. of her land and, while she understood she still owned it, they could come on it at any time and do repairs. Mayor Spalding asked and Ms. Merklin replied that she and her husband were offered compensation. She knew her husband detailed how the compensation was calculated in his letter. It was not about compensation. They could offer her ten times that and it wouldn’t matter. It was a matter of principal. It was her and her husband’s land. She’d been out there almost 50 years and she thought that anybody would be concerned about this waterline. Also, nobody along that waterline had any access to it because it was a high pressure line. The residents were not allowed to tap into it. Other than the compensation, there was no benefit of any kind to the Merklins. Dunrobin & Associates said they would make sure her driveway was appropriate, but the driveway was fine as it was. Her husband put field tile in there that the installing company would have to somehow redo or replace. The waterline would have to go under the creek on her property. This affected seven residents, but she and her husband were the only ones objecting to it. If



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someone else didn't want it on their property and she and her husband didn't want it on their property, she asked council, "where do we go from here?"

Mayor Spalding thanked her for coming down to the council meeting. He noted that the City of New Albany had not done a lot of big sewer and water projects. The City of Columbus provided the sewer and water for much New Albany. The city was growing and would have to deal with more of these issues going forward. Mayor Spalding asked Engineer Mike Barker for an update.

Engineer Barker told council that, for the 36" water main project along Morse Road, there were six to seven property owners from whom private easements would be needed, two of whom were located on the south side. The majority of the impact was along the Morse right-of-way. The city had been working with the Franklin County Engineers office on the development of the water line plans. Early on, they considered a "cross-country" waterline alignment that would take a diagonal direction across open field. After evaluating the pros and cons carefully, the city decided that it made the most sense to follow Morse Road.

In order to have a 36" water main installed, there were rigorous access requirements, not only for the City of New Albany, but also for the City of Columbus, who would need to maintain the line. A cross-country alignment would make maintenance difficult. Additionally, not knowing where buildings would locate, the city risked installing a waterline it would later have to move. It was better to run a line around the perimeter of the land rather than through it. The city worked with the Franklin County Engineers Office to permit as Morse Road was in their jurisdiction.

Engineer Barker told council that the city was working closely with the installation contractor, in consideration of the residents in the area, to accelerate construction as much as possible, thereby minimizing the duration of the Morse Road closure. The city would be sending out letters to residents noticing a public information meeting on September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Letters would go out by August 24th. The public meeting would provide information about the construction schedule and duration. The city's construction contract allowed a 53 day closure of Morse Road which would happen two phases, one east and one west of Babbitt Road. The city was considering additional measures to shorten the closure, including paying the contractor a premium to expedite the process and extending work hours and work days. The city met with Jefferson and Plain Townships about construction plans. Fire, EMS, and residents would be able to access homes at all times during construction. The city was working through all of the details and would have a good plan and schedule to share at the September 11th meeting.

Engineer Barker told council that the city did approach property owners on both sides of Morse Road. The New Albany Company recently acquired some land on the north side of Morse Road that gave the city an opportunity to use an easement there. The Merklin's property had a culvert and construction could not go under the culvert. The city would have to go out and around the culvert on the north or south side of Morse. The conversations with the owner on the north side, Mr. Haegele, were tense and he was not in favor of granting an easement to the city. The city would follow up on August 22nd and ask Mr. Haegele directly and have that communication memorialized. Council Member Brisk asked and Engineer Barker answered that, if Mr. Haegele agreed to the easement, construction could take place on the north side of Morse Road. Mayor Spalding asked and Community



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Development Director Jennifer Chrysler replied that, as it related to the culvert, there was no difference in installing the waterline on either side.

When Dunrobin & Associates started acquiring easements, they approached land owners on both the north and south sides. The New Albany Company hadn't finished purchasing land to the north and most of the residents to the south had sold easements making it the more likely path. The city would be willing to purchase an easement from Mr. Haegele, move the project, and not disturb Ms. Merklin's property. Ms. Merklin said that, prior to any of this taking place, there was no indication as to what was going on. No information was provided. There were surveyors in her yard. Her husband asked them what they were doing. They said they were surveying for a waterline coming down Morse Road. The surveyor told Ms. Merklin's husband that the other side of the road didn't want it on their side. Maybe 2-3 weeks later, Dunrobin & Associates called her house saying they wanted to procure the right-of-way and that was the first the Merklin's heard of the impact it would have on them. Ms. Merklin said the communication and presentation were very lax. Having the meeting on September 11th was having the horse before the cart. Mayor Spalding told Ms. Merklin that the city could improve its communication and would be sure she was on the mailing list. He thanked her for coming down and bringing these issues to council.

David Haegele – 8100 Morse Road, New Albany – Mr. Haegele said that he had had a couple of conversations with Engineer Mike Barker. He stated he had never been approached by the company seeking easements and had never been given any type of compensation. He asked Mr. Barker specifically how far in on his property the construction would go. He said Mr. Barker told him it would be 20 ft. in one conversation and, in another conversation, he heard it was 35 feet. He wanted to know the actual distance. Mr. Haegele said that Mr. Barker told him someone would come out and mark off the area. That never happened. Those discussions happened 2-3-4 weeks ago. Mr. Haegele stated that he never said he was opposed to giving an easement, but there was an alternate route that would check all of the boxes for many of the residents out there. Especially since the water line wouldn't be used by anyone other than the developer. Mr. Haegele stated it was true that he sold farm land which gave The New Albany Company a straight line from Avis Road, along Morse Road, all the way across Babbitt Road, to Beech Road. That route would have no safety concerns for anybody. There wouldn't be a road closure necessary. Mr. Haegele thought it would be less expensive than to have to tear up a two mile stretch of Morse Road and replace it. Mr. Haegele stated he was concerned about school busses going through. At one time, three districts, Gahanna, Licking Heights, and New Albany buses went through. If he was a parent he would be concerned about that – a very dangerous intersection there. Also, if this project was started before Beech Road was opened, it wouldn't be very nice out there at all.

Mayor Spalding asked and Engineer Barker answered that the route Mr. Haegele proposed was, generally speaking, the "cross country" alignment that the city studied. The city considered how a future development scheme could be situated in the area, which was largely unknown. Engineer Barker added, that with development potential still happening along the south end of Beech Road and also along the east side of Morse Road near to Beech Road, there would likely be a need for some waterline in that corner. It may have been a cheaper option to go "cross-country," but when the city factored the cost of a subsequent line extension to the south, it was less expensive to track with Morse Road.



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Mr. Haegele told council he had not heard what the waterline project was going to cost. He said was told by a number of people, including the administrator Plain Township that he, Mr. Haegele, should not worry about this because New Albany income tax was paying for it. To him, it didn't matter, it was still taxpayer dollars that were not being spent appropriately.

Mayor Spalding clarified with Mr. Haegele that what he needed to know where the easement was going to go on his property, additional information as to the exact placement, how much right-of-way was needed, and what the compensation would be. Mr. Haegele agreed. Alternatively, Mayor Spalding understood that the city should know what the cost would be follow Morse Road on the south, on the north, or to go "cross-country" north of Morse Road, possibly through Mr. Haegele's former property. Mr. Haegele offered that going "cross-country" would eliminate the issues of going around the bridges and culverts, and the disruption to the school buses. Mr. Haegele said that one could see Facebook from the property he recently sold. It was a direct line. He said he knew that there was a sanitary sewer line coming at some time, he didn't know exactly where that was at, but maybe someone could enlighten them on where that was going. He heard it was going on the development property, so "why couldn't the waterline go there, too?"

Mayor Spalding solicited comments from council or staff. Engineer Barker told council that staff was working with the Beech Road construction contractor to expedite opening Beech Road as soon as possible. Staff expected Beech Road to be open no later than November 1st. Engineer Barker expected opening Beech Road would provide some relief to the situation on Morse Road. Mayor Spalding observed that the north end of the Beech Road construction was well underway and that it just needed to be finished up to the south.

Mayor Spalding thanked Mr. Haegele for coming to the council meeting, sharing his concerns, and keeping an open mind about the possibility of an easement. If Mr. Haegele would be agreeable, Mayor Spalding was sure the city would appreciate it and Mr. Haegele's neighbors would as well. Mayor Spalding appreciated his suggestion on the "cross-country" route and was sure the city would do more examination of the total cost of project, disruption to residents, future development costs and needs, and other limitations.

Mr. Haegele noted the area out there was pretty expansive. He had a couple neighbors convey to him a comprehensive plan which he had not seen. He understood a road would be built at some time from Babbitt Road to Beech Road, probably through his former property. He still farmed that land. If that was the case, that would be a great place to put the waterline if access was needed. He did not think it should be in the Merklin's yard because, if something should happen to that waterline, they would be flooded out. Mayor Spalding asked and Engineer Mike Barker answered that cut for the waterline would be 8 ft. deep. The 36 in. diameter water main would have about 5 feet of clearance above it.

Council Member Marsh asked what the situation was with the rock in that area. Mr. Haegele said currently there was drilling on his property to find out where the rocks were. Council Member Marsh asked if the engineers had made their decision because of the rock in the area. Engineer Mike Barker answered that, based on the depth of excavation, the engineers were not concerned about cutting through rock. Those considerations were more important for a sanitary sewer project where excavation was significantly deeper and the means and methods of construction could be affected. Council Member Marsh asked and Engineer Barker answered that the sanitary



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sewer line at Morse Road which Columbus was terminating at Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road was around 100 ft. deep. This water main cut would be around 8 feet deep to the bottom of the pipe.

Council Member Shull stated it sounded like the city had plan for the waterline and sanitary sewer line, but perhaps it had changed some. He asked if he or council could get an update of where the alignment was at this time. That would help him better visualize the "cross country" suggestion. Mr. Haegele added that his suggested route would be a quarter mile south of the Warren's Farm Market. He said that there was a recent purchase of about 30 acres that adjoined his property which would provide a straight line and avoid the bridges and creek. Mr. Haegele added it had been disturbing to a lot of the residents out there that there was no mention of this project on the New Albany website. The Rose Run project was on there, but under the projects for water and sewer, there was nothing.

Mayor Spalding asked staff, as part of pulling together information for the September 11th meeting, to also prepare a short update for council. He noted that the city tried to get out as much information as possible on the website and asked that staff start posting this as a project to assist residents.

City Manager Joseph Stefanov asked Mr. Haegele if he would be amenable to granting an easement, if it turned out that that was a viable alternative for the city, across his frontage. Mr. Haegele said he would have to consider it. He certainly didn't want Ms. Merklin to have to bear that when he had some vacant land that could be used. But that had always been a question in his mind. One of the maps that Mr. Barker gave him at one time said the line was going to run the length of his property. Then a new map came out and said the line would stay on the road until it got to the bridge and then it would have to go one way or the other around the bridge. Mr. Haegele asked on what day was it, what was going to happen. And he didn't know exactly what would happen once the construction equipment was out there. He said again he had not been approached by a company seeking an easement.

Mayor Spalding told Mr. Haegele he appreciated him keeping an open mind and the city would certainly reach out to Mr. Haegele, he assumed in the very near future, to make sure that Mr. Haegele understood the size of the easement, the location of the easement, maybe a bit more about the construction time frame, and what the compensation might be. Mr. Haegele asked, if he could, he wanted to convey to some of his neighbors when they would expect to get notice of the September 11th meeting in the mail. Staff and Mayor Spalding confirmed that mailing would go out that week. Mr. Haegele asked and was told that Jefferson Township would also receive the mailing.

Council Member Marsh asked and Mr. Haegele answered that he had not sold his house. Mr. Haegele said that he retained some acres and confirmed he was still a resident, he thought, of Plain Township, but he wasn't sure. Mayor Spalding thanked Mr. Haegele for coming out and offering support to this process and to his neighbors.



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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION: Community Development Director Jennifer Chrysler reported that the PC heard an application for conditional use of around 2,000 sq. ft. of office space in the Zarley Industrial Park. PC and staff had ongoing discussions about conditional uses in that industrial park. The Zarley Industrial Park was the only spot in the community zoned Limited Industrial (LI), which was the most expansive industrial classification the city had. There were a lot of multi-tenant buildings there currently, some tenants falling directly into the LI category. Office users had come and gone, all requiring conditional uses.

PC supported the city protecting the area's LI status. Staff had proposed a code amendment two to four years prior to make office use a permitted use in the LI district, as office use brought income tax revenue and added to diversity to the area. PC did not support that code amendment. Staff wanted to go through the Strategic Plan update in 2019, look at the LI zoning classification in Zarley Industrial Park, review the plans for upgrading the streetscape, and discuss with the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which included members of the PC and public, about what that area should be zoned. Law Director Mitch Banchevsky added that PC favored setting a ratio for uses, which would have to be done by council.

The application for 2,000 sq. ft. of office space was approved with strict limitations. If that user vacated, a new office user would have to reapply for conditional use. Mayor Spalding asked and Community Development Director Chrysler confirmed the Ohio Pork Council was the office user.

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD: No report.

ACHITECHTURAL REVIEW BOARD: Council Member Shull reported that the ARB reviewed two applications for Certificates of Appropriateness and Waiver. The ARB approved CVS Pharmacy's request to take down their existing signs and replace them with new signs reflecting a logo change. A waiver to hang a drive-thru sign was denied. CVS would put a sign on the ground which did not require approval. Three Minute Fitness, 160 W. Main Street, requested signage on the back of the Market & Main II building which was approved. A new door would be installed to make the business more ADA accessible. A hanging sign similar to Johnson's Ice Cream sign was approved for the center entrance of the building.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS: No meeting.

BOARD OF CONSTRUCTION APPEALS: No meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: No meeting.

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION: No meeting.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION: No meeting.



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CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION:

Mayor Spalding reported receiving some text messages from residents who were concerned about excessive speeds on Market Street. He was told an elderly woman was nearly struck by a speeding motorist. City Manager Joseph Stefanov told council that additional enforcement had already begun. Police Chief Greg Jones said officers had been out starting the week prior, made numerous stops, and he hoped that would have an impact soon.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-16-2018

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. O-10-99 PASSED MARCH 16, 1999, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY ORDINANCE NO. O-27-99 PASSED AUGUST 3, 1999, TO MODIFY THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT MAY BE FUNDED FROM THE BLACKLICK TIF AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE PAYMENTS FROM THE BLACKLICK TIF; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BLACKLICK TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT.

Community Development Director Jennifer Chrysler explained that this legislation would adjust the existing Blacklick TIF so that it functioned more like other TIFs in the community. The TIF's original list of projects were narrow in scope. The city expanded the list to include additional projects like roads, land acquisition, and easements, similar to other business park TIFs. When the original TIF was created, Abercrombie & Fitch was the easternmost boundary of New Albany and the city wasn't looking at expanding infrastructure further. The city changed a lot since that time. The TIF revenue sharing component was also amended to be more consistent with the TIFs in the area. The New Albany Company was the agreement holder for this TIF and was on board with the changes.

Council Member Briscoe ^{asked} and Director Chrysler answered that the TIF was expected to produce adequate funds to service the additional projects on the list. Abercrombie & Fitch had 2 million sq. ft. of distribution facility and about 1.7 million sq. ft. of office space. As their tax abatements rolled off, enough money would be generated over the balance of the life of the TIF to fund some of the projects. Sometimes the city combined revenue from multiple TIFs to complete selected projects. This project list included maintenance and repair to infrastructure, so as the city's infrastructure aged, this TIF could be a source of funds.

Council Member Marsh asked and Law Director Mitch Banchefsky answered that it was necessary to amend the document to add projects. Law Director Banchefsky stated the original list was broad, but didn't cover what was being currently proposed. Mayor Spalding noted that the City of Columbus wrote their TIF agreements to achieve the maximum amount of flexibility with those funds. He wanted to make sure that the city was being as open-minded about the projects as allowed by law. Being a small city, almost any project impacted the entire community. Council and staff discussed the nexus of proposed projects and other statutory obligations.



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Council Member Marsh asked and staff replied that the city had previously amended at least 2 TIFs, including the Village Center TIF. Director Chrysler told council that staff went through the full statutory notification process as required by the Ohio Revised Code.

Mayor Spalding opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, he closed the Public Hearing.

FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

NONE.

READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R-26-2018

Mayor Spalding read by title A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) - ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR THE STATE ROUTE 605 & WALNUT STREET INTERSECTION RELOCATION & ROUNDABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.

City Manager Joseph Stefanov described the location of the intersection which was outside of the city's municipal boundaries. The township, state, and county had primary jurisdiction, but it was directly adjacent to the city. When council approved the Pulte 55 & over residential development, there was a lot of discussion about improving the safety of that intersection. The city had been approached by the township several times requesting assistance with that crossing.

Council Member Marsh asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that the township had primary jurisdiction at this time. With the city's development immediately south of that intersection, there would be additional traffic in the area affecting residents. Council Member Marsh noted that the township trustees had discussed this intersection but had not procured funding to improve it. City Manager Stefanov said the city would get authority to work with the township, similar to its improvement of the intersection at State Route 62 and Central College Road. City Manager Stefanov added that the city line went through one corner of the State Route 605 and Walnut Street intersection. Council and discussed the exact city limits and whether Plain Township wanted the city's participation. City Manager Stefanov stated he would follow up with Trustee Ben Collins.

City Manager Stefanov described a grant through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). The grant had a long line, and it would be two to three years after submission of a formal application to find out if a project would qualify, and could be five years before the project would be eligible for funding. City Manager Stefanov noted that an area TIF project specifically listed improvement to the State Route 605 and Walnut intersection after The New Albany Company (NACO) was reimbursed for infrastructure it built that benefitted other residential subdivisions. It would take several years to reimburse NACO. It would also take several years to find out if the city had be awarded the grant. The timing could work out to apply TIF and MORPC funds together.



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The city submitted a preliminary application to MORPC and was approved to submit a more formal application for consideration. With council's approval, the formal application would go into MORPC's queue. City Manager Stefanov clarified that all the city was doing with this legislation was getting council approval to ask MORPC to accept an application for funding.

City Manager Stefanov told council that the city favored a roundabout at the intersection. Based on the cost of other roundabouts in the areas, staff estimated the cost at around \$2.5 million. That was a preliminary estimate and no specific plans had been considered as to location. Alternatively, council could consider a traffic light for that intersection, but the roads would still require realignment. The city anticipated a 40% cost contribution and potentially a 60% contribution through the grant. Council Member Briscoe asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that the city had not yet approached the township or county for contributions. The "local match" for a roundabout would be approximately \$1 million. Council Member Briscoe asked and City Manager Stefanov confirmed that the city was not on the hook for the local contribution at this stage. Council Member Durik asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that only the city was applying to MORPC to get this process to the next stage and had a letter of support from the county engineers.

Council Member Durik asked if the city could apply jointly with other entities to get more of a commitment from the other parties. City Manager Stefanov answered that, typically, one entity took the lead, but that did not preclude other entities from participating. City Manager Stefanov told council that Plain Township had a road budget, but a decreasing amount of township roadway. There could be an opportunity to partner with the township to use some of that road budget. Council Member Durik was not in favor of covering all of the local match, and the project shouldn't be solely the city's responsibility. Council agreed that partners should be found, but recognized that no commitments were being made at this time. Council and staff discussed the various stages, long time frame, and other variables of the applying for this particular grant. Mayor Spalding asked and City Manager Stefanov agreed to reach out to Plain Township to see if they would commit to make a financial commitment if the project was approved.

Mayor Spalding reminded council that, when the 55 & Older community was approved in the Schelppi Road area, a lot of the public came out to the many public hearings with concerns about the safety of that intersection. Council and Planning Commission made a commitment to do everything in their authority to try to improve the safety. City Manager Stefanov's request to apply for a grant opportunity was a part of that effort. It was responsible for the city to look for and take advantage of the available options. City Manager Stefanov told council he met regularly with Trustee Ben Collins and in one of those meetings, Trustee Collins brought up the township's road budget and the potential for the township and city to work together. Council Member Brisk noted this wouldn't be the first road project that the city funding outside of city limits but that had a major impact on New Albany residents. Council and staff discussed similar projects.

Council Member Shull asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that he would get the amount that NACO needed to be reimbursed from the TIF. Council and staff discussed the projects under that TIF and which residents benefitted from those funds.



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Mayor Spalding stated, as part of passing the resolution, council would ask that city staff make every effort to get Franklin County and Plain Township to formally offer their support.

Council Member Marsh stated that spending \$2.5 million on a roundabout was wasting public funds. He offered that an alternative would be to take rock from a nearby construction site, haul it to the swampy upper corner of the intersection, and extend the road over the back-filled area to straighten it out. Further, the city could install a traffic light for \$200,000 and save over \$2 million. Council Member Shull clarified that the grant could be applied toward either a roundabout or a signal and asked if the application could be more general. City Manager Stefanov replied that he didn't have the answer, but would find out. Council Member Briscoe understood that the application had to contain a dollar figure. City Manager Stefanov said that if he was able to adjust the title of the application to make it more general, he would do that. Council and staff discussed estimates for different solutions for the intersection. Council and staff further discussed the land ownership around the intersection. Mayor Spalding noted that this intersection was one of the identified "gateways" to the City of New Albany and talked about the city's efforts to improve those and make them notable to drivers.

Mayor Spalding opened the Public Hearing.

Anna Srba – 6837 Walnut Street, Westerville, OH – thanked the mayor for his statement about the aesthetic of the subject intersection. She noted that the intersection was dangerous. She observed that many New Albany residents used the intersection going to the ball fields and Metropark. The intersection supplied traffic to the city's maintenance yard. She noticed that the east, west, and south entrances into New Albany all had roundabouts which were aesthetically pleasing. There was nothing on the north end of the city. Roundabouts did not hamper the flow of traffic. There was quite a bit of traffic coming from the north, heading south on State Route 605. Ms. Srba did not want to see a traffic light in that intersection where there would be constant movement, back-stopping, and going. It was a nice, rural area, and a roundabout would help to preserve that.

She observed that the intersection near Council Member Marsh's property went from a traffic light to a roundabout. That intersection was dangerous when it was a four-way stop. She did not think a traffic light would make the intersection at State Route 605 and Walnut any safer. Council Member Marsh said that he lived next to a roundabout and he hated it. He had difficulty getting in and out of his driveway. He expressed the opinion that Ms. Srba's property was far enough away from the intersection to avoid that problem. Ms. Srba stated she was mainly concerned about the safety of the current situation would like to see a roundabout put in. Council Member Marsh stated that a roundabout would not be safer because she could anticipate cars driving 40-50 miles per hour past her place, which was currently his experience. Ms. Srba expected a roundabout to slow traffic down. Mayor Spalding thanked Ms. Srba for coming out and sharing her concerns and preferences with council.

Mayor Spalding solicited further public comment. Hearing no further comments or questions from the public, he closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Shull moved to adopt the resolution. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with five yes votes and one no vote (Marsh) to approve Resolution R-26-2018. Resolution passed.



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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance Committee: No report.
- B. Safety Committee: No report.
- C. Public Utilities: No report.
- D. Service and Public Facilities Committee: No report.
- E. Planning and Economic Development Committee: No report.
- F. Administration Committee: No report.
- G. Grants and Non-Profit Funding: No report.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- A. Council Representative to MORPC: No meeting
- B. Council Representative to Joint Parks and Recreation: No meeting.
- C. Council Representative to New Albany Plain Local Schools: Council Member Brisk stated she could not attend the school board meeting but did watch it on-line. She commended Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly and City Manager Joseph Stefanov who were present on the city's behalf. At the meeting, city staff went through the Rose Run construction process with the school board. Council Member Brisk was happy to hear the city would be changing out the crosswalk signs around Market Street and Main Street to manual push-button. She learned that the city would be recruiting people like environmental science teachers to take their students to clear out invasive species in the park. The superintendent had high praise for city staff and the work they'd done in advance of the Rose Run construction.

The school board was publicly encouraging families to use available buses and use the drop-off loops closer to where they lived. Buses were available to all K-5 children. For children in grades 6-12, if their family's driveway curb was more than two miles from the bus loop, they were entitled to a bus. School buses would have GPS systems so parents could get a code, track their progress, and get their child out to the stop or pick their child up in a timely fashion.

The school board stated that the preliminary results were in for the state report card and were very encouraging. Numbers were improving and the final report card would be out in September.



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Council Member Marsh asked and Council Member Brisk answered that, to her knowledge, there was ample student parking and no student had ever been turned down for a parking pass. Council discussed how the 2 mile figure for busing eligibility was measured.

- D. Council Representative to Plain Township: Council Member Marsh reported that the trustees were primarily concerned with obtaining funds for a new, \$500,000 ladder truck.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

- A. Mayor: Mayor Spalding reported that he was unable to attend Touch-A-Truck, but heard from many that it was a successful event and thanked everyone who helped pull it off. Council Member Shull attended and added that the helicopter, police car, and school bus were the most popular.
- B. Clerk of Council: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason polled council, who did not request a hearing for Griffin's Floral Design to transfer their liquor permit from their current location to 45 N. High Street. She also polled council to see who would be attending the New Albany Chamber of Commerce Annual Update luncheon on September 19th. She said she would follow up with an email to council.
- C. Finance Director: No report.
- D. City Manager: City Manager Joseph Stefanov reported that the Public Service Department had completed improvements to the basketball court at Planter's Grove. Mayor Spalding told council that it looked great and expressed interested in doing a dedication ceremony. City Manager Stefanov offered to set that up.
- City Manager Stefanov asked and council agreed that he could take a vacation the week after the meeting.
- E. City Attorney: Law Director Mitch Banchefsky reminded council that the Charter Review Commission would be meeting on August 30th.

POLL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE.

POLL FOR COUNCIL COMMENT:

Council Member Brisk commended Public Information Officer Scott McAfee and any additional staff who were working on the city's website. She was impressed with the links and features. It was a great improvement over the city's website when she started on council.

Council Member Marsh told council about his participation in the weekly Farmer's Market. He counted 874 adults who visited the market from the corner where he was set up. He reported the Farmer's Market was



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more successful this year than it has been in past years and vendors were complimentary about the administration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Spalding moved that council go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) to consider appointment, employment, promotion or compensation, discipline, demotion or dismissal of a public employee. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with six yes votes to go into executive session. Mayor Spalding stated that council reserved the right to take action afterwards. Council went into executive session at 8:11 pm.

Mayor Spalding moved that council come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with six yes votes come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council resumed the regular meeting at 8:27.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NONE.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments and all scheduled matters attended to, Mayor Spalding moved and Council Member Briscoe seconded to adjourn the August 21, 2018 Regular Council meeting at 8:27 pm.

ATTEST:

Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council

Sloan Spalding, Mayor

9/4/18
Date