



Council Minutes – Regular Meeting

December 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Council Member Shull called to order the New Albany City Council Meeting of December 19, 2023 at 6:37 p.m. at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 West Main Street, New Albany, Ohio. Staff attending were City Manager Joseph Stefanov, Law Director Benjamin Albrecht, Finance Director Bethany Staats, Deputy Finance Director Morgan Joeright, Administrative Services Director Adrienne Joly, Police Chief Greg Jones, Public Service Director Mike Barker, Development Director Jennifer Chrysler, and Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason.

Council Member Shull led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

The following Mayor/Council Members answered Roll Call:

Mayor Sloan Spalding	A
CM Marlene Brisk	A/P – <i>arrived at 6:41pm</i>
CM Michael Durik	P
CM Chip Fellows	A
CM Kasey Kist	P
CM Matt Shull	P
CM Andrea Wiltrout	P

Clerk Mason reported that Mayor Spalding was absent due to travel and Council Member Fellows was absent due to illness. Both requested to be excused. Council Member Shull moved to excuse Mayor Spalding and Council Member Fellows from the council meeting. Council Member Kist seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to excuse Mayor Spalding and Council Member Fellows from the council meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Council adopted the 11/21/23 meeting minutes and 12/5/2023 meeting minutes by consensus.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

NONE

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Healthy New Albany Update - Patty McClimon, Healthy New Albany Board Chair and President, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, talked about working with City Manager Stefanov on Healthy New Albany’s (HNA) strategic plan for the future. HNA existed to create and augment a culture of health in the community - which had evolved into 4 lanes around nature, nourish, movement, and knowledge. She credited Dr. Phil Heit for creating the Healthy New Albany Walking Classic which was coming up on its 20th anniversary. Proceeds from the Walking Classic largely funded HNA, plus a sponsorship from The Ohio State University (OSU). COVID changed participation in the Walking Classic.

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The event had 1,500 participants in 2023 and was growing. HNA Executive Director Angela Douglas had announced she was stepping down. HNA was growing its most popular activities, the Farmer's Market and the New Albany Food Pantry which serviced 1,200 individuals in greater New Albany area. The pantry needed a bigger space. HNA was developing nature programs for Taylor Farm park. HNA was requesting the city help them launch a long-term plan, including a 3-year rent holiday, to allow HNA to recruit a new director and finalize plans for both the Food Pantry and Taylor Farm Park.

Council Member Kist understood HNA held a planning meeting right after council's December 5 meeting. He asked what was the strategic plan and how the 3-year term factored in.

Chair McClimon responded that the board considered HNA's 4 lanes and wanted to be thoughtful about what would and would not continue. HNA hadn't publicly announced any changes and she would prefer not to because some constituents were not yet aware. She stated any rent holiday would be generous. Allowing HNA to have cash would help them recruit an executive director, winnow down programming, and clarify their lanes. They had been hosting senior programs in the HNA space without compensation from the city, but had good faith in the partnership. The rent holiday would assist with that, and would support the nature programming and longer-term capital campaign around Taylor Farm and the pantry. The capital campaigns would last more than 1 year.

President Pro Tem Brisk said council was trying to figure how 3 years would play out versus 2 or 1.

Chair McClimon stated, in 3 years, HNA would be clearly sustainable in defined lanes, very much nature and nurture, probably less knowledge, as they looked at levels of participation and where there was financial viability. They were looking at 3 years because of the executive leadership transition taking 6-9 months to bring someone on board. Launching and completing a capital campaign would take at least 18 months, maybe longer. Then, they would be in a position to not need the rent holiday.

Council Member Shull noted that council considered applications for grant money on a yearly basis so council would have a touch point. He had been leaning towards a 1-year rent holiday and reconsidering after each year. He asked Chair McClimon for her thoughts on that.

Chair McClimon stated she was grateful for any city support. HNA saw the city as long-term partners. A 1-year term would cause HNA to focus on the next 12 months rather than long-term sustainability with a new executive director who would not have been in place long enough to help. 3 years would get them into their capital campaign and working with the city around Taylor Farm. A year-to-year rent holiday would create financial uncertainty that HNA would have to overcome each time, possibly with different council members. HNA wanted to be thoughtful for the city as it continued to grow instead dealing with the uncertainty of whether or not they could afford the Taylor Farm capital campaign.

President Pro Tem Brisk asked if the goal was to make decision about a Taylor Farm move. Did HNA think that could be done in 3 years? Chair McClimon replied that the board could make a stronger commitment on that once they completed their capital campaign.

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Council Member Wilttrout asked and Chair McClimon answered that the board could give council regular updates to talk about the progress. Council Member Wilttrout suggested every 6 months. Chair McClimon was happy to come back to council or meet individually. She had talked to City Manager Stefanov about the city’s participation in HNA’s improvement process.

Council Member Wilttrout asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that the rent holiday would benefit HNA around \$50,000 annually, depending on the utility bills, property taxes, and building maintenance.

Council Member Kist asked and Chair McClimon confirmed that the Senior Connections programming and the food pantry fit into 1 of HNA’s future lanes. She reminded council that Senior Connections was hosted in the HNA facility, but run by city. HNA would continue to support that.

Council members thanked Chair McClimon for coming out.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION: President Pro Tem Brisk reported that PC approved a Woodhaven model home garage with 2 8-foot wide bays facing forward. The garage was mostly built and originally planned for a double garage door. They couldn’t fit the 2 9-foot bays in the space. The application was approved for the model only.

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD: No meeting.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD: Director Chrysler reported that the ARB approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for 6 new townhomes on Richmond Square. This was the final phase of the development. The application was approved with conditions.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS: No meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD: No meeting.

IDEA IMPLEMENTATION PANEL: Council Member Wilttrout reported that the Panel discussed the Diwali celebration which had 700+ attendees. The Panel supported holding the event in 2024 and may move it earlier in the calendar, possibly on October 26. The Panel discussed the Soup for Supper event on February 7 at the Heit Center event. They were looking for people to make and share soup with the community. The Panel talked about a Women of New Albany program, likely in March, possibly a lecture/discussion format. President Pro Tem Brisk noted they didn’t have a venue yet. The soft concept for the Women of New Albany event was: “Who are the women of New Albany?” There could be a speaker and a panel discussion about those experiences and how support one another. Council Member Wilttrout reported that the panel talked about the neighborhood ambassador program likely launching at the Soup for Supper event.

CEMETERY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD: No meeting.



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PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION: No meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION:

NONE

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-106-2023

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION OF 9.9+/- ACRES FROM PLAIN TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY TO THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY.

City Manager Stefanov stated this was the Oakland Nursery property. The property to the south of the site was privately owned and unincorporated. The 9.9 acre subject property was covered by an existing annexation agreement with Plain Township entered into on February 26, 2008. Since the property was in Franklin County, there was no need for a road maintenance agreement and the city already had maintenance responsibility for the roads in that area. The Franklin County Commissioners approved the annexation petition on September 26, 2023. The 60-day waiting period had been met.

President Pro Tem Brisk opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, she closed the Public Hearing.

President Pro Tem Brisk moved to adopt the ordinance. Council Member Wiltrout seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Ordinance O-106-2023.

ORDINANCE O-107-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Finance Director Bethany Staats stated this legislation authorized final appropriation amendments for the 2023 budget. The purpose was to eliminate negative account balances and ensure the appropriations followed Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requirements. Amendments were detailed in the Legislative Report. After the first reading, 2 adjustments were made. The first was to decrease General fund transfers out because of not proceeding with a planned 2023 transfer to the Capital Improvement fund. Instead, council chose a similar transfer in 2024 to the newly created Village Center Capital Improvement fund. The second adjustment was an increase in the Builder's Escrow fund due to the increased activity related to private development. Section 2 authorized the finance director to make transfers between budget lines and departments within each fund and to restore any appropriation decreased by this legislation. She could not transfer budget or appropriations between funds and could not increase appropriations. Section 3 was the \$100,000 contingency appropriation, if needed. Section 4 referred to the zero balancing funds where appropriations had to match receipts. Section 5 authorized her to reduce any appropriations to ensure compliance with the ORC.



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President Pro Tem Brisk opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, she closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Shull moved to adopt the ordinance. Council Member Durik seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Ordinance O-107-2023.

ORDINANCE O-108-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 181 “INCOME TAX” OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY, OHIO’S CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance Director Bethany Staats stated this legislation amended city code chapter 181 to include or modify existing language as required by Ohio House Bill 33, adopted that summer. The specific changes were attached to the legislation. The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) provided model language to address the updates which was in Exhibit A for the first reading. The legislation and exhibit were revised for the second reading to show the specific New Albany code section amendments. Some language in House Bill 33 required amendments that the city had already incorporated, primarily related to age requirements and some net profit allocations. Code updates in Exhibit A included language regarding: net profit allocation for remote workers, the net profit filing extension due date, correspondence, the late filing penalty, and the municipal net profit tax state filing opt-in. The ordinance contained emergency language to waive 30-day referendum period to meet the state’s end-of-year requirement.

President Pro Tem Brisk opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, he closed the Public Hearing.

President Pro Tem Brisk moved to adopt the ordinance. Council Member Kist seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Ordinance O-108-2023.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-109-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-10-99, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. O-27-99 AND ORDINANCE NO. O-16-2018, TO EXTEND THE EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FOR THE BLACKLICK I TIF AREA FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance Director Bethany Staats stated this ordinance amended the Blacklick TIF ordinances by extending the tax exemption for another 20 years. During the 135th General Assembly, within House Bill 33, Ohio’s tax increment financing (TIF) law received substantial changes, including a new ORC section which enabled a TIF to be extended up to 30 years. Director Staats described how TIFs worked. New Albany’s TIFs were generally “non-school,” meaning the school received the money they would have received without the exemption or the city had a separate compensation agreement with school. Under the new state law, a legislative authority could amend an existing TIF ordinance to extend the exemption on the improvements

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to the designated parcels. To qualify, either \$1.5 million must have been collected in annual service payments or pilot payments or the legislative authority had to project that amount of pilot payments would be collected. The ORC also required years 31-60 to be treated as non-school. The new state law also contained time frame requirements. The window to extend an existing TIF was limited to calendar year immediately following the first year the TIF collections exceeded \$1.5 million.

The Blacklick TIF ordinance was adopted in 1999 to provide infrastructure improvements to support economic development. The TIF area consisted mostly of Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F) owned land. The original TIF was set to expire in December of 2029. The area was also subject to a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) agreement through which A&F was receiving a 100% abatement on each improvement for 15 years. A&F had multiple buildings on campus and those buildings were divided by different square footage. The abatement was rolling off in phases. The abatement for the first set of 11 buildings expired in 2016. 2017 was the first year the Blacklick TIF received pilot payments related to improvements. As abatements for other buildings expired, the pilot payments had increased and exceeded the \$1.5 million-dollar threshold. In 2022 and 2023, the collections were \$2.1 million and \$3 million. These collections were received prior to distributing the revenue to New Albany-Plain Local School District, the Eastland Joint Vocational School District, and Plain Township for fire and EMS services. This particular TIF agreement was not set with the county as a non-school TIF, so they didn't provide that revenue directly to the schools. The city had a separate agreement that allowed revenue sharing on the buildings only and kept the revenue on the land for projects. In 2018, the Blacklick TIF ordinance was amended to update the list of potential infrastructure improvements. Upon review of the amended list, staff recommended this 20-year TIF extension, making the 2049 the last year. Notices for this ordinance were sent the New Albany-Plain Local School District and Eastland Joint Vocational Schools as required. The extension of the TIF would allow New Albany schools to continue receiving pilot payments in the amount they would have received without the extension. It would not negatively impact other property tax collections. In order for the legislation to meet the new law's timing criteria, this ordinance included emergency language to waive the second reading and 30-day referendum period. House Bill 33 allowed 2023 to be the "catch-up year" to account for any TIFs that met the \$1.5 million prior to the 2023 calendar year. After this, the city could only extend a TIF during the calendar year in which the TIF collected or was projected to collect the \$1.5 million.

Council Member Wiltrout asked and Director Staats answered that this was considered a tax exemption, but the taxing authority still charged the entity. It was called "payment in lieu of taxes" and the money was diverted to the city and schools. Money that would normally go to the county was diverted to New Albany, the schools, and any other entities that got millage. House Bill 33 allowed the city to add 30 years to an existing TIF district. This extension was for 20 years after she and the city manager looked at the improvements, considered the 5 years left on the existing TIF, estimated collections, and determined how much debt could be issued. The city generally issued 20-25 year bonds for infrastructure improvements.

Council Member Wiltrout asked and Law Director Albrecht confirmed this ordinance met the emergency criteria for legislation.

Council Member Kist asked and Director Staats confirmed the Blacklick TIF was the only one that fell into the catch-up category. Staff reviewed all the city's commercial TIFs. The Oak Grove II TIF overall garnered

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more funds, however the county recorded those TIFs in different districts. The original Oak Grove II TIF ordinance, including all of the collections by the city, schools, and other entities, collected \$1.2 million. It would probably hit the \$1.5 million threshold in 2024. The Village Center TIF could also hit the threshold soon. This particular legislation referred to the commercial side of development. For residential TIFs, there was a separate process and no specific timing or revenue minimum requirements.

Council Member Shull asked and Director Staats answered that if the Oak Grove II TIF met the threshold in 2024, the city would have to adopt the legislation for the extension in 2024. If the city didn't do it in 2024, it would miss that opportunity.

President Pro Tem Brisk asked and Director Staats agreed that if the Oak Grove II TIF collections hit \$1.5 million in June, the city could start extension process. The city would have estimated amounts once the January and July tax bills were released. The city could pull out the values of the total payments to make projections.

City Manager Stefanov said one consideration for the extension was the number of remaining capital projects in the district. Regarding US 62, the city had talked for years about future improvements to the intersection of US 62 and Central College Road, covered shuttle stops, and other outstanding projects that could utilize this TIF fund. He didn't anticipate making TIF extensions a regular practice, he wanted to make sure there was adequate justification. Another factor to consider was the wellbeing of schools and township. This extension would not negatively impact either of those.

President Pro Tem Brisk asked and Director Staats responded that, if the city couldn't come up with qualifying projects, the city could terminate the TIF early.

Council Member Shull agreed with City Manager Stefanov that Central College Road/Kitzmilller Road/US 62 area definitely needed to be looked at again. For this piece of legislation, the extension made a lot of sense.

President Pro Tem Brisk moved to adopt the ordinance with the included emergency provisions. Council Member Wiltrout seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Ordinance O-109-2023.

ORDINANCE O-110-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE 12.737+/- ACRES OF LAND LOCATED TO THE NORTHWEST OF AND ADJACENT TO THE INTERSECTION OF NEW ALBANY-CONDIT ROAD AND NEW ALBANY ROAD EAST, FROM INFILL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (I-PUD) TO LIMITED GENERAL EMPLOYMENT (L-GE) FOR AN AREA TO BE KNOWN AS THE "NORTH CITY BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT" AS REQUESTED BY THE NEW ALBANY COMPANY, LLC C/O AARON UNDERHILL, ESQ.

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Director Chrysler stated this legislation regarded a 12.737 +/- acre parcel. This rezoning would revert the property back to its prior Limited – General Employment (L-GE) zoning. The site was zoned L-GE until 2021, when Cornerstone Academy rezoned it to Infill Planned Unit Development (IPUD) to construct their new school campus. Since that time, Cornerstone Academy received conditional use approval from the Planning Commission to operate their middle and high schools at the NACOT 1 and NACOT 2 buildings. The New Albany Company, the property owner, subsequently requested to rezone the 12.737 acre property back to L-GE. The same permitted and prohibited development standards were in this zoning text. The proposed limitation text included all of the same development standards as the previous L-GE text. The text additionally contained a few improvements and clarifications learned from the Cornerstone rezoning regarding the gas easements and leisure trail along the north side of the site. The Rockyfork Blacklick Accord recommended approval at their November meeting. The PC approved this rezoning at their December 4, 2023 meeting. This rezoning matched the city’s strategic plan recommendation. Aaron Underhill, attorney for applicant, was present to answer questions.

President Pro Tem Brisk set the ordinance for second reading at the January 2, 2023 council meeting.

READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION R-54-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE 2014 LEASE AGREEMENT AND 2023 AMENDED OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH HEALTHY NEW ALBANY.

City Manager Stefanov referred Healthy New Albany Board Chair Patty McClimon’s presentation earlier that evening. The city’s partnership with Healthy New Albany (HNA) was originally based on their outfitting of the space and them offering programs to residents. Those programs originally included senior connections, funded by the city, but which the city had since integrated and was operated by city staff. The city had been able to increase its investment in and expand senior programming. This legislation would provide a 3-year rent holiday to HNA to let them reorganize and reconfigure their programs. It also provided a clearer set of expectations and rules for the city’s access to the HNA space. Existing operating agreements limited city access to a smaller part of the building. This legislation would grant expanded access for more days and times. The city would work with HNA to obtain capital grants from non-profits to support the restoration of the Taylor Farm homestead, contemplated as part of the Taylor Farm phase 3 development.

Council Member Shull said he originally thought a 1-year term was better. After listening to HNA Board Chair McClimon, looking at the 3 years going past a municipal election year, and considering her agreement to an annual or biannual report to council, he was supportive of the agreement.

Council Member Kist said HNA was synonymous with the city’s core mission. He was comfortable giving them adequate runway to make it work.

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Council Member Wilttrout said HNA did a lot of important work and the posture of their request, given they were willing to be transparent and working to be self-sustaining, made her comfortable with the 3-year term.

President Pro Tem Brisk concurred. She was initially concerned about a 3-year commitment without further information, but after conversation and the presentation, she thought that HNA would be making a lot of changes and doing a lot of work. As the city’s partner, they deserved the benefit of the doubt. She agreed that regular reports would keep communication lines going.

President Pro Tem Brisk opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, she closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Wilttrout moved to adopt the resolution. President Pro Tem Brisk seconded. Council Member Durik recused himself as a member of the HNA Board. Council voted with 4 yes votes, with 1 recusal (Durik), to approve Resolution R-54-2023. Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION R-56-2023

President Pro Tem Brisk read by title A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.

Council Clerk Jennifer Mason stated, in August of 2023, council adopted Ordinance O-79-2023 establishing the Hamlet at Sugar Run Community Entertainment District (CED). Council also adopted Ordinance O-81-2023 requesting the Board of Elections to submit the question of whether the sale of beer and intoxicating liquor would be permitted within the boundaries of the Hamlet at Sugar Run. Ordinance O-81-2023 was submitted to the Franklin County Board of Elections on November 14 and ballot language was finalized on November 17, 2023.

After submission of the ordinance, the Franklin County Board of Elections responded indicating that the area containing the Hamlet at Sugar Run CED was not completely “dry,” but rather mostly “wet.” The applicant submitted that the hamlet’s “wet” status meant that the ballot question was no longer necessary. The applicant was requesting that council adopt this resolution to rescind Section 1 of Ordinance O-81-2023 and withdraw the ballot question. The city had to file this resolution by December 20, 2023 at 4 pm to withdraw the ballot question from the March 19, 2024 ballot. Staff did not take a position on this resolution. Tim Bechtold, attorney for the applicant, was present to answer questions.

Tim Bechtold stated that the information that area was mostly “wet” wasn’t received until after the previous ordinance had been adopted and submitted. This resolution was the only way to get it undone. He requested that council pass the resolution so the city wasn’t holding an election that wasn’t necessary.

Council Member Durik asked and Mr. Bechtold confirmed that, according to past votes, the CED area was all wet. Mr. Bechtold said the Sugar Run CED area was included in Precinct C in 1996, which was the

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information they were missing. Council and staff further discussed the current and historic voting districts around those parcels.

President Pro Tem Brisk opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, she closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Kist moved to adopt the resolution. Council Member Durik seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Resolution R-56-2023.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- 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. Hotel/Motel Bed Tax Grant Committee: No report.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- A. Council Representative to MORPC: City Manager Stefanov reported he was nominated for another 1-year term to MORPC's executive committee. MORPC's executive director reported that both MORPC joint mass transit applications were approved by the federal railroad administration, including the 3C and D route. The Pittsburg to Chicago, with stops in Lima and Fort Wayne was also approved. They were eligible for federal funds to study route feasibility. Also included for future planning were routes from Detroit to Cleveland and Chicago to Washington, D.C. Further study would take 18-36 months. MORPC would form a committee to study the details. The next phase would be 100% funded through a federal grant. MORPC launched its Drive Investment Portal which would assist local governments getting information on available grants. MORPC stated they reduced the waiting time for residential services for home weatherization and repair by around one-third. MORPC was accepting applications for their annual internship program. New Albany was hosting MORPC's northeast regional area meeting at the Church of the Resurrection on January 31, 2024. MORPC's Annual State of the Region event was scheduled for March 15, 2024. Council members would be invited to attend. MORPC was involved in a regional water study to attempt to develop a comprehensive integrated regional water and sewer utilities plan around greater Columbus, including Licking and Delaware counties. MORPC's Metro Transportation

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Plan was under review. A draft was due by February, there would be a March open house, and adoption was planned for May of 2024. To be considered for federal and state grants, a project needed to be listed on this plan and meet certain MORPC-established criteria. Projects were rated for consideration.

- B. Council Representative to Joint Parks and Recreation: No meeting.
- C. Council Representative to New Albany-Plain Local Schools: Council Member Kist reported that the board talked about Senate Bill 288, known as Aaron’s Law, regarding sexual abuse prevention. There would be programming and the school had sent notifications to parents. Parents could opt their kids out. The board discussed the student survey which garnered an 88% response rate across 1-12 grades. Overall, students felt accepted and that school was a meaningful experience. One could see results on the school district’s new website and dashboard. This was School Board Member Phil Darrow’s last meeting after serving for 8 years.
- D. Council Representative to Plain Township: Council Member Durik reported that Maplewood Cemetery participated in the Wreaths Across America program. The Boy Scouts of America, many volunteers, and several members of council, placed wreaths on veterans’ graves. The city paid part of the cost so that every veterans’ grave received a wreath. The township met and reviewed the fire department’s strategic plan. The township looked at numbers of runs and 3 categories of response times. Generally, township fire department response times met normal standards. There were longer response times for a few harder to reach areas to the north, mainly because of traffic. There was discussion about the need for a substation location. The township discussed increase volume for EMT calls to assisted living and the increased pressure on the fire department. The township approved the appointment of Ron Grossman as the township SWACO board representative. The township discussed their existing cemetery master plan, primarily for landscaping, but including plans for a columbarium and ash garden. They contacted OHM Architectural Design for new master and building plans. The township declared the property at 10998 Johnstown Road a public nuisance due to yard debris and for setting the yard debris on fire. The owner was facing action to clean it up.

Council Member Kist said the boy scouts did a fantastic job at the Wreaths Across America event. He learned that 580 veterans were buried there. The scouts read every name, rang the bell, played Taps. The event was well organized. Council Member Durik added that township was one of 600 communities hosting this event. Council discussed the event timing and the company that produced the wreaths. Council Member Kist heard the timing was related to the holidays. Council Members Kist and Durik recounted talking to grateful family members. Council Member Shull noted that the New Albany Boys Baseball team came out and helped. Council Member Durik stated there were 2 fire trucks and crews present. Council Member Wilttrout credited Township Trustee Mollard’s efforts and said it was a great event.



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REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

- A. Mayor: No report.
- B. Clerk of Council: Clerk Mason reminded council of their January 2 organizational meeting. She would be sending out emails about council rules updates and board and commission liaison assignments. She requested that council reconsider the council rule limiting gifts to \$25 limit which amount dated back to at least 1997.
- C. Finance Director: Director Staats introduced new Management Analyst Ethan Barnhardt. He would be primarily working on economic development-related items.
- D. City Manager: City Manager Stefanov asked, and was granted approval, for using up his vacation days through the remainder of the year. He designated Director Chrysler as the acting city manager.
- E. City Attorney: No report.

POLL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

POLL FOR COUNCIL COMMENT:

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Pro Tem Brisk moved that council go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) for discussion regarding employment and compensation of a public employee and pursuant to New Albany Charter Section 4.03(E) for economic development purposes. Council did not expect to take action after. Council Member Kist seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to go into executive session at 7:54 pm.

Council Member Kist moved that council come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council resumed the regular meeting at 9:01 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NONE.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments and all scheduled matters attended to, Council Member Shull moved and President Pro Tem Brisk seconded to adjourn the December 19, 2023 regular council meeting at 9:01 pm.



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ATTEST:

Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council

Sloan Spalding, Mayor

Date