

April 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Spalding called to order the New Albany City Council Meeting of April 1, 2025 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, Law Director Benjamin Albrecht, Finance Director Bethany Staats, Deputy Director of Finance Morgan Joeright, Police Chief Greg Jones, Public Service Director Ryan Ohly, Deputy Public Service Director Steve Mayer, Economic Development Manager Sara Zeigler, Planning Manager Chris Christian, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Josh Poland, and Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason.

ROLL CALL:

The following Mayor/Council Members answered Roll Call:

Mayor Sloan Spalding	P
CM Marlene Brisk	P
CM Michael Durik	P
CM Chip Fellows	P
CM Kasey Kist	P
CM Matt Shull	P
CM Andrea Wilttrout	P

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Council adopted the March 18, 2025 minutes by consensus.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

NONE

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Martin Combs, 6288 Callaway Square West, expressed appreciation for New Albany-Plain Local School District's Superintendent Michael Sawyers, Plain Township Fire's Chief Connors, New Albany City Council members, and City Manager Stefanov. Mr. Combs stated that the proposed bus facility, with 69 bus parking spaces, would have less usable space than the current facility, which had 80 spaces. He proposed the school district's bus fleet was one of the biggest polluters in the city and mentioned surrounding school districts' electric, propane, and compressed natural gas-powered buses. He referred to a conversation with Superintendent Sawyers about electric buses, stating that there would not be enough room or electricity at the proposed facility for a future electric bus fleet. Plus, there was the problematic gas line under the facility. He had a degree in logistics, with 40 years of experience in transportation, building freight terminals in the transportation industry, and pointed out many inefficiencies with the proposed facility. These buses left twice a day, so every inefficiency had double the impact. For a facility that would be there forever, to not know one could accommodate and adapt – he was sure the architects could shoehorn something in, but there was not room.

Dr. Sandra Solano, 6219 Callaway Square West, stated she was a physician specializing in preventive medicine and public health, with over 30 years of experience. She was the Director of Research and State Registrar for the Ohio Department of Health, the Director of Research for Ohio Medicaid, and a policy advisor for the Governor's office. Public health decisions required risk analysis for the community

April 1, 2025

collective well-being. It was not enough to say that diesel emissions from the bus depot would meet regulatory limits. Factors, such as who was the most vulnerable, how pollutants disperse, and if even acceptable levels of exposure had health consequences for vulnerable populations, needed to be considered. New diesel emissions had reduced toxicity, but did not eliminate harmful pollutants. A study done by the University of Michigan found that emissions from school buses, after the implementation of new technologies, were only reduced by 10-15%. The California Air Resources Board had mandated stricter school bus emissions standards to be implemented by 2027. The EPA stated that diesel exhaust could expose children to pollutant levels 10 times higher inside the school buses, contributing to inflammation, reduced lung function, and increased asthma attacks. They had also introduced greenhouse gas phase 3 regulations for heavy duty vehicles, including school buses, to reduce CO2 emissions by 2032. The evidence was clear that diesel emissions were dangerous.

Dr. Solano stated she was involved with an Ohio State University College of Public Health research project examining exposure levels specific to their community and invited council to consider partnering with them for informed decision making and the ability to contribute research with the potential to benefit other communities. Medical research found that even lower levels of PM2.5, fine inhalable particles, increased mortality risks for older adults. A nationwide Medicare study found that a small increase of just 10 micrograms per cubic meter, or 10 parts per billion of ozone, was associated with a 13.6% rise in mortality, especially among men. The EPA standard was 35 micrograms per cubic meter. They needed to understand how much of their community would be exposed to 10 micrograms per cubic meter, due to the bus depot. It was not their responsibility to prove it was dangerous. There was a toxic agent with a known dispersion pattern and a highly susceptible population. She thanked council for their dedication to the community.

Mayor Spalding thanked Dr. Solano and asked how far away from a facility like this would be a safe distance. Dr. Solano replied that she could not answer that question as they needed to study wind patterns, temperature, and heat dome effects. One of the highest air quality alerts the previous year was in New Albany. This area was susceptible to heat dome effects due to the geography. She was hoping the university study would help answer that question and determine what actions might mitigate the exposure.

Mayor Spalding noted the vehicles on SR 161 every day, 1 mile away from Nottingham Trace. He asked and Dr. Solano replied that, according to air quality indicators within the past year, auto emissions were unsafe on certain days, with exposure being more than 35 micrograms per cubic meter. The construction of the bus depot next to their community would add to the cumulative effect.

Mayor Spalding asked and Dr. Solano replied, through the Leadership New Albany program, she learned residential and industrial areas in New Albany were divided by a county line. She suggested placing the bus garage in the industrial development area with a smaller population risk. Mayor Spalding observed the school district would have to purchase that land outside of their school district and at a substantial cost, as commercial land value was much higher.

Council Member Wilttrout stated her children utilized the school district's buses. The buses idled outside the intermediate school for 15-20 minutes, 3 times a day. She asked and Dr. Solano answered that she felt this was dangerous. Dr. Solano referred to the University of Michigan study which found a 10-15% decrease in particles resulted a significant improvement in children's respiratory health. School attendance had

April 1, 2025

improved for all students, not just children with asthma. Council Member Wilttrout asked and Dr. Solano confirmed she had shared this information with the school district and Superintendent Sawyers.

Troy Johnson, 6357 Callaway Square East, recalled a statement by Superintendent Michael Sawyers that school buses were turned off when parked in front of the schools. Mayor Spalding had witnessed buses both idling and turned off while waiting and guessed it was dependent on the length of time the bus would be there.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): No meeting.

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD: No meeting.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB): No meeting.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA): No meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD (SAB): No meeting.

IDEA IMPLEMENTATION PANEL: Council Member Wilttrout reported that the IDEA panel reviewed and approved 5 new Community Connectors. They were still seeking additional Community Connectors.

CEMETERY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD: No meeting.

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION: No meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Spalding reported he and council receiving emails in both support of and opposition to the bus and fire station.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

NONE

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-10-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 140 ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL AND JOINT PARK DISTRICT” OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY.

City Manager Joseph Stefanov stated, about 1 year ago, the Joint Park District (JPD) approached him and Police Chief Greg Jones specifically about dogs in parks, but also swimming in ponds, fireworks, and traffic around fields. They reviewed the city’s code and determined there were significant enough changes needed to fully replace the code. City Manager Stefanov, Police Chief Greg Jones, and Law Director Ben Albrecht worked with JPD over the course of a year to draft the proposed code. Proposed changes included requiring approval for fireworks in the park and swimming in the park ponds by the city manager and park director, and requiring

April 1, 2025

unleashed dogs in parks not under the control of their handlers to be subject to city enforcement. The proposed code would also give the city authority to regulate golf carts in non-permissible areas and extend the city's regulations against camping in parks to the JPD facility at Bevelhymer Road. Thompson Park would not be governed by this code as it was in the city of Columbus.

Council Member Shull stated, as the council liaison to the JPD, that the JPD had been looking forward to these code changes for a long time. Code alignment for dogs and golf carts was important.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 15, 2025 council meeting.

ORDINANCE O-11-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION OF 29.8+/- ACRES FROM PLAIN TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY TO THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY.

City Manager Joseph Stefanov stated the city permitted Expedited Type 1 annexations which allowed the parties to apply the standards of traditional annexation, but expedited the process. The Franklin County Commissioners approved this annexation petition. The property was in a commercially zoned area and would be incorporated into the southern portion of city's business park between Babbitt and Beech Roads. There was no specific project for this site, but the city anticipated it would be an attractive property for further commercial development.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 15, 2025 council meeting.

ORDINANCE O-12-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE 194.6 +/- ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF BABBITT ROAD, WEST OF BEECH ROAD, AND SOUTH OF WORTHINGTON ROAD FOR AN AREA KNOWN AS THE "GANTON PARKWAY SOUTH ZONING DISTRICT" FROM ITS CURRENT ZONING OF AGRICULTURAL (AG) AND LIMITED GENERAL EMPLOYMENT (L-GE) TO LIMITED GENERAL EMPLOYMENT (L-GE) AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY AND THE NEW ALBANY COMPANY LLC, C/O AARON UNDERHILL, ESQ.

Planning Manager Chris Christian stated this was a rezoning application. He briefly described the city's rezoning process. Both the Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord and Planning Commission (PC) recommended approval of the rezoning. The rezoning would serve as an expansion of the New Albany business park. Most of the surrounding area was already zoned for commercial uses. There was additional property pending annexation that would be included in the rezoning. The city partnered with the applicant to make sure there was a comprehensive list of standards that applied to this property consistent with adjacent commercially zoned areas. This zoning text allowed the same list of permitted uses, conditional uses, and prohibited uses, and contained similar development standards as the surrounding area. The zoning text had right-of-way dedication requirements for Ganton Parkway, future extensions of Ganton Parkway, and Babbitt Road improvements, consistent with strategic plan. The city was developing street improvement plans for Babbitt Road and Ganton Parkway extensions. The city and The New Albany Company committed to notifying neighbors on Babbitt Road by mail when the Final Plat application came before PC and council. They city also agreed to meet with neighbors once development plans for the rezoned area were known to answer more detailed questions about screening, mounding, and landscaping along the frontage of Babbitt Road.

April 1, 2025

Council Member Fellows asked and Manager Christian answered that the zoning text only applied to the part of Babbitt Road shown on the map.

Mayor Spalding asked and Tom Rubey, Development Director for The New Albany Company, responded that the parcels would be combined and marketed together.

Council Member Durik asked and Manager Christian answered that parts of Babbitt Road belonged to New Albany and parts belonged to Plain Township. Council Member Durik questioned the work and cost of improving the parts of Babbitt Road that didn't belong to the city. Why would the city improve Babbitt Road down to Morse Road if the city didn't own it? Manager Christian responded he would provide a broader map and address that question at the ordinance's second reading.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 15, 2025 council meeting.

ORDINANCE O-13-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE THE IMPROVEMENT TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, EXEMPT 100% OF THAT IMPROVEMENT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION, REQUIRE THE OWNERS OF THOSE PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE APPLICABLE PORTION OF THOSE SERVICE PAYMENTS TO THE NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE EASTLAND-FAIRFIELD CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF THE REMAINDER OF THOSE SERVICE PAYMENTS, SPECIFY THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT THOSE PARCELS, AND APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF ONE OR MORE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENTS.

Economic Development Manager Sara Zeigler stated this ordinance amended the Oak Grove II Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district to include approximately 29.8 acres currently being annexed and rezoned. The TIF was classified as "non-school" which meant that it did not negatively impact the New Albany-Plain Local School District or the Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools. The purpose of the TIF was to capture the incremental increase in the value of the land and improvements to contribute toward qualified public infrastructure and public projects. The city had entered into a supplemental agreement, frequently called the Metro Park Agreement, with Plain Township regarding township funding.

Mayor Spalding appreciated the cooperation from Plain Township and the school district to support this project. It was an important parcel for the school district to see growth opportunities.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 15, 2025 council meeting.

ORDINANCE O-14-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE LIMITED WARRANTY DEED FOR THE PARCEL KNOWN AS 095-111648-00.000, LOCATED GENERALLY AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BEECH ROAD AND MILLER ROAD FROM AMAZON DATA SERVICES INC AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A RELATED AGREEMENT.

April 1, 2025

Economic Development Manager Sara Zeigler stated this ordinance accepted 22 acres from Amazon Web Services (AWS). AWS was dedicating the land, subject to restrictions in the limited warranty deed, which generally obligated the city to use the ground for a public purpose. The ordinance further authorized the city manager to enter into a related agreement that would more fully describe the permitted uses for the property, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the conditions of approval for the AWS air quality permit.

Council Member Fellows asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that the subject land was developable by AWS.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 15, 2025 council meeting.

READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION R-08-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH JERSEY TOWNSHIP TO FACILITATE THE ANNEXATION OF PARCEL NUMBERS 037-111510-00.005, 035-106770-00.000, and 035-108372-00.000 WHICH COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY 17.49 +/- ACRES.

City Manager Stefanov stated the subject 3 parcels were unincorporated islands surrounded by the city. The city tried to annex islands when the owners were agreeable. One parcel contained storage units and the owner expressed interest in redevelopment of his parcel to get access to public utilities. Jersey Township, Licking County, and New Albany were working to eliminate islands to make infrastructure maintenance simpler. The city had a road maintenance agreement with the county which required the city to maintain the right-of-way. This annexation agreement would help to close the gaps. As an example, a traffic crash in front of an unincorporated parcel could not get New Albany Police Department service without permission of the Licking County Sheriff's Department. Cleaning up the boundaries helped to provide seamless service for the public.

Council Member Shull asked and City Manager Stefanov answered that other "islands" were not being annexed because the city hadn't been approached by the owners for annexation.

Council Member Shull asked and City Manager Stefanov replied that the property would annex into the city under Agricultural (AG) zoning and then be rezoned. Any redevelopment would have to go through the city's boards.

Mayor Spalding opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no 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 7 yes votes to approve Resolution R-08-2025.

April 1, 2025

RESOLUTION R-09-2025

Mayor Spalding read by title A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE, BID, AWARD AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDERS AVENUE, SECOND STREET, THIRD STREET, CHERRY ALLEY, HAWTHORNE ALLEY AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH NEW ALBANY TOWNE CENTER LLC AND AMER AMAL TRUST

Deputy Public Service Director Steven Mayer stated council approved a development agreement between Amer Amal Trust and Mershad Development in December of 2024. The property owner then received approvals from city boards. E.P. Ferris & Associates finished the design of the streets and alleys. The site was unique, in the historic Village Center. The development agreement obligated the property owner to dedicate to the city, at no cost, all the necessary right-of-way for streets and alleyways for the project, which equated to 40-50% of the overall site. Staff met with EP Ferris and CTL Engineering, Inc., along with the property owner and their team, to coordinate construction on the small site. This legislation was for phase 1 which included all underground utilities - storm, water, hydrants, and conduit for private utilities, streets, and base concrete. Phase 1 also included High Street improvements at the Founder's Avenue intersection. On-street parking was being rearranged and new pedestrian crossings with striping and beacons planned. The city would work on phase 1 during the summer while school was not in session. After the city's work was complete, it would turn over the site to the developer. This phased approach made sure final improvements, like sidewalks, wouldn't get damaged during construction. Installing underground infrastructure up front also meant the site stayed cleaner. Phasing would result in quicker construction with fewer teams on site. This legislation included authorization to amend the development agreement to allow the city to install additional underground stormwater retention under a portion of the private site. The city would pay for and construct the underground storage, and the developer would maintain and own the infrastructure in perpetuity. The city intended to put this project out to bid in May and start construction as early as June. The city's phase 1 should finish around November of 2025. Then, the developer would likely start construction on west side and work their way to the east side. Based on the developer's construction schedule, they would finish their 3 buildings in spring of 2027. Then, city staff would get council authorization for phase 2 which would include curb, sidewalks, bricks for streets, and landscaping.

Council Member Fellows asked and Deputy Director Mayer answered that the sidewalks couldn't be widened towards the buildings due to space constraints. There would be a curb bump-out with additional brick space – adding pedestrian walking space where on-street parking was being relocated. City Manager Stefanov stated, when the current infrastructure was installed in the early 2000s, the city had widened back to the right-of-way line.

Council Member Shull asked and Deputy Director Mayer replied that the city was in talks with the North High office to move some on-street parking to the north and south sides. There should be no net loss of on-street parking.

Council Member Wiltout asked and Deputy Director Mayer confirmed that lost parking spaces would be replaced by other spaces and most of that would occur on the east side of the site due to the new intersection being installed.

Council Member Durik asked how the street network, with the new Market Street extension, would work. Deputy Director Mayer described how the new Hawthorne Alley would connect from Cherry Alley to US 62. The alley would be asphalt and thinner, like an entry drive. The base concrete for it would be installed in phase 1. To be the least impactful to the Market Street extension project and keep construction traffic off High Street, the city would use Hawthorne Alley as the primary construction access. Second Street and Founder's Avenue were also entry points for the site. Hawthorne Alley would provide a new connection to the New Albany Exchange building and

April 1, 2025

connect the street network within the Village Center. The city and its partners talked about construction timing and felt Hawthorne Alley could be installed without impacting the Market Street extension construction happening around September to December of 2025. City Manager Stefanov added that Third Street would be reworked to vacate a current egress and open up more land for development. There would be alignment from Hawthorne Alley to a driveway on the north side of the eye doctor's building, creating a 4-way intersection and providing access for that building and the church.

Council Member Durik asked and City Manager Stefanov stated he would need to check the plans to see if a traffic light was planned for the Hawthorne Alley/US 62 intersection. He believed there would be a mid-block pedestrian crossing with beacon flashers. There would be a traffic signal at Third Street. The idea was to get people to cross at the intersection of US 62 and Third Street or US 62 and Market Street.

Council Member Shull asked and Deputy Director Mayer answered, based on council's comments in December of 2024, staff revised the project plans. There was planned parking on both sides of Second and Third Streets. Parking was removed from the northern side of Founder's Avenue. Staff understood that council wanted 2-way traffic along the entirety of Founder's Avenue. Parking would only be permitted on the south side of the project to ensure there were 2 lanes of unimpeded traveling across Founder's Avenue. There was a small bump-out with some parking near Dublin-Granville Road, but those spots would not affect traffic flow. The on-street parking numbers were included in the developer's plan, approved by the Architectural Review Board. Council Member Shull expressed concern that spots would be used by residents. Deputy Director Mayer stated the project included parking lots behind the commercial building under the residential building. He believed all project parking was being handled off-street.

Council Member Wilttrout asked and Deputy Director Mayer confirmed the on-street parking was public.

Council Member Brisk recalled the required amount of parking for these units included some on-street parking. However, the reviewers believed there was more than sufficient parking for residents off-street. The residents could still try to park on-street. That's why there was a discussion about limiting on-street parking time.

Council Member Fellows asked and Deputy Director Mayer confirmed that 1 nearby house was slated to be demolished. Another house was not part of the project. The entire section of Cherry Alley to Main Street would receive new curbing and improved alley access. The city would work with property owners to mitigate impacts. Council Member Shull noted the house marked to be demolished was dangerous. Manager Christian stated the city would try to expedite the demolition with the developer. Council Member Kist asked and Manager Christian responded the demolition was approved with overall project in February.

Mayor Spalding asked and Deputy Director Mayer answered the underground stormwater storage would primarily be located under Founders Avenue. A portion would be under site parking lots. There would be a cut into High Street to tie in the storage to the overflow which eventually led to Rose Run stream.

Council Member Wilttrout asked and Deputy Director Mayer replied there was underground stormwater storage under the Heit Center parking lot. Mayor Spalding recalled it was very expensive, typically not a first choice. Council Member Wilttrout had never encountered flooding in the Heit Center lot.

Council Member Fellows asked how the underground storage design mitigated the impact on Rose Run stream. Deputy Director Mayer responded that the engineering team made stormwater calculations and created a stormwater plan to meet requirements, thus the underground chambers. City Manager Stefanov stated the city

April 1, 2025

was not permitted to increase volume of discharge into stream above its current condition. The requirement was to retain water on site and meter it out.

Mayor Spalding asked and Deputy Director Mayer replied that the construction phases and sequencing shouldn't delay the project's opening. Staff engaged in bi-weekly meetings with the owner and construction team on timing. Staff expected phase 1 to be done by November of 2025, if not earlier. The developer would take over the site and build all 3 buildings, finishing up in spring of 2027. The final city work would take 6-9 months. Public and private construction should be completed by the end of 2027.

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

Mayor Spalding moved to adopt the resolution. Council Member Wilttrout seconded and council voted with 7 yes votes to approve Resolution R-09-2025.

RESOLUTION R-10-2025

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT AND A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MONTAUK INNOVATIONS, LLC, AND MAKING RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS

Economic Development Manager Sara Zeigler stated this resolution authorized the city manager to execute a first amended and restated Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with Montauk Innovations, LLC. Montauk Innovations, LLC's parent company was Google, LLC. The agreement provided for a 100% real property tax abatement for 15 years. The project included the construction of 1 data center totaling 275,000 square feet. The company intended to purchase 84.7 acres at the corner of Jug Street and Harrison Road. The expected project investment was \$500 million. The project was expected to begin in December 2025 and be completed by June 30, 2027. The benchmarks for compliance in the expansion area would be measured according to the standard formula for this specific building type established by the city and previously approved by council.

Council Member Kist expressed concern about the data center receiving power as other companies were building powerplants due to AEP Ohio limitations. Would there need to be an alternative power source?

Scott Ziance, Attorney with Vorys Sater, Seymour, and Pease representing Google, thanked city council and staff. His client was working with AEP and was cautiously optimistic that AEP would be able to service this additional site. Google had a long relationship with AEP and this was just 1 more building.

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

Council Member Durik moved to adopt the resolution. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with 7 yes votes to approve Resolution R-10-2025.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

NONE

April 1, 2025

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- A. Council Representative to MORPC: City Manager Stefanov reported one the successful MORPC State of the Region Annual Meeting. The keynote speaker talked about the importance of housing to the ongoing success of the region.
- B. Council Representative to Joint Parks and Recreation: No report.
- C. Council Representative to New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS): Council Member Kist reported the school board heard public comment about the proposed bus garage. The board was updated on English Language Arts for K-5, AP and CCP course offerings, and the effect of the US News and World Report rankings. Superintendent Michael Sawyers provided a campus master plan update. The new building was still scheduled to open for the 2027-2028 school year and would hold all-day Kindergarten and Grades 1-2. A new bus/delivery lane off Fodor Road, south of the current entrance, was proposed. There was discussion of the baseball fields not going to the Ganton Parkway site. The board was working on the Bevelhymer location. The board reviewed concept drawings for the tech hub and the middle school stadium.
- D. Council Representative to Plain Township: Council Member Durik reported residents spoke about the proposed joint bus and fire facility. The township approved permanent appropriations. They also approved joining MORPC's Sustainable 2050 program. The township approved a new pool concessions vendor, 365 Midwest Concessions, same as New Albany Parks & Recreation.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

- A. Mayor: Mayor Spalding reported attending 2 Innovate New Albany TIGER Talks. He helped host a discussion around artificial intelligence and its applications to municipal government. Josh Hoffman, JobsOhio, and Economic Development Manager Sara Zeigler, gave an update on recent economic development wins for Ohio and outreach to smaller business. Mayor Spalding was impressed with city and Brick House Blue staff. He recommended attending a TIGER Talk and touring the facility. Barry's Bagels was not yet open. Manager Zeigler stated the franchisee was working with the county for the health permit.
- B. Clerk of Council: Clerk Mason told council she would be sending out the Community Grants criteria and application updated for 2026 to the council subcommittee members for their review. Council Member Brisk asked Clerk Mason to hold the applications for further council direction. Council agreed to discuss this item at the next council meeting. Clerk Mason relayed Community Programs Administrator Abbey Brooks' interest in having a "flock of eagles" in the Independence Day Parade and displayed a photo of the inflatable eagle costume. Council declined the costumes for themselves, but would think about other groups to suggest.
- C. Finance Director: Finance Directory Bethany Staats reported attending the New Albany Community Authority (NACA) meeting where funding was approved for 2025. The next step was to wind down NACA after receipt of the funds. Mayor Spalding asked for a report about the wind down and consolidation when it happened. Director Staats stated that The New Albany Company President and

April 1, 2025

CEO Bill Ebbing was present at the meeting and thanked the board for its service over the years, as well as the city.

D. City Manager: No report.

E. City Attorney: No report.

POLL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

POLL FOR COUNCIL COMMENT:

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments and all scheduled matters attended to, Mayor Spalding moved and Council Member Kist seconded to adjourn the April 1, 2025 regular council meeting at 7:53 pm.

ATTEST:


Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council


Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor

15 APR 24
Date