

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2016

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morton Community Center on January 4, 2016, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

President Bunder called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Peter Bunder, Nick DeBoer, Steve Dietrich, Azeem Jha, Gerry Keen, Larry Leverenz, Gerald Thomas, and Norris Wang.

Absent: David Sanders

Also present were Mayor John Dennis, Corporation Counsel Eric Burns, Clerk Sana Booker, IT Director Brad Alexander, Public Works Director David Buck, Facilities Director Tom Clark, Police Chief Jason Dombkowski, Parks Superintendent Jan Fawley, Human Resources Director Diane Foster, City Controller Peter Gray, Fire Chief Tim Heath, WWTU Director David Henderson, Street Commissioner Doug Payne, and Director of Development Chandler Poole.

President Bunder noted that at Pre-Council the Council members were sworn in, and the Council Elections were held. Along with the election of Councilor Bunder as Council President, Councilor Dietrich was elected as President pro tempore, or Vice-President.

MINUTES

Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the December 3, 2015, Pre-Council Meeting, and the December 7, 2015, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Dietrich seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

President Bunder stated that the Council will not be reading the department reports; those will be on file in the Clerk's Office. He stated that we are accepting Council member's suggestions for service on one of the several committees for the City.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVES:

Councilor Keen reported that the last Mayoral citizen appointment to the APC is Tara Greene.

SPECIAL REPORTS: None

PUBLIC RELATIONS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Bunder stated that at the Pre-Council meeting, the Council discussed that the Controller would report as called upon by the Council, and there are no questions at this point.

LEGAL REPORT

Corporation Counsel Burns stated that this report is on file, and he answered questions from Council members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 47-15 (Second Amended) An Ordinance Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, Authorizing The Issuance Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds, Series 2016 (State Street Redevelopment Project), And Crediting The Proceeds Thereof To West Lafayette Community Development Corporation, And Authorizing And Approving Other Actions In Respect Thereto (Sponsored by President Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 47-15 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 47-15 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Richard Starkey (Barnes & Thornburg LLP) stated that this has been a long process to get to this point for the State Street project. He explained that where we stand today is that there are currently two bidders that have submitted bids. A grading system has been set up and the bids are being scored now. The bid is expected to be selected near the end of this month. From that point there will be a commercial close, which is basically getting the banks on board for the bidders, because the bidders are actually bringing the financing to the table. He stated that then there will be a financial close, which is expected sometime in May of this year. The bids submitted are both qualifying bids, so the scoring process will allow us to find which one will actually win.

Councilor Dietrich asked if it is all-or-nothing on those bids, or if parts of each can be taken.

Mr. Starkey responded that one company gets everything. He continued, stating that the ultimate paying agent for these bids is TIF, in both the Purdue TIF area and the Levee/Village TIF area. The Levee/Village has quite a bit of TIF available in it now, and the Purdue TIF does not. The Purdue TIF is backed up by the Purdue Research Foundation (PRF) line of credit that the RDC will have. The Levee/Village TIF is backed up by a tax back-up that is part of another ordinance being adopted tonight. He stated that the actual bond is a bit unique as we are not going to the marketplace and selling a bond. The bidders are bringing the financing to the table by the banks. He stated that what we have structured is the ability to hand the bond over to the Joint Board, which is a board consisting of three members representing the City and three members representing Purdue. The Joint Board holds the bond, and are entitled to payments under that bond for work completed by the bidder. That is financed by their banks. So, as they complete the work, the payments on the bonds go to the Joint Board, which are then assigned directly to the winning bidder, who can then make payments to their banks. He stated that it is a fairly complicated process, but it is one that works in this instance since we have the bidders bringing the financing to the table themselves.

Counsel Burns asked for confirmation that this first piece of legislation is approving the Economic Development bond.

Mr. Starkey responded that is correct. He stated that the next ordinance approves the tax back-up and the lease. He explained that a lease was needed in this situation because under Indiana constitution there is what we call a "2% debt limit problem." That is a problem exists when municipalities try to issue more debt than equals one-third of 2% of the assessed value of the municipality. He stated that was put into place back when the canals were built and a lot of cities were going bankrupt, so this limitation was put in. He stated that the lease is considered under case law, as interpreted by the Indiana Supreme Court, not to be debt. Therefore, the lease makes it so that this does not count towards the 2% debt limit of the City. The ordinance approved the lease between this entity that we have created, called the West Lafayette Community Development Corporation (CDC), and the Redevelopment Commission (RDC). The RDC makes

the TIF payments to the CDC, which in turn makes a lease payment to the Joint Board. That lease payment equals the payments on the bonds that are due, and count as a credit against the bonds. That is how the payments are made, ending up directly to the developer.

Counsel Burns stated that he thinks this lease structure has been used in the City for various projects, such as the Police Station. The property being leased in this case is the actual road.

Mr. Starkey stated that this structure is normally used for schools with school building corporations.

Councilor Dietrich asked that looking at the cap of \$78 million on the bond, why put the \$73 million in there as the first wave. He asked if we are not anticipating not using the next \$5 million, or what is the logic there.

Mr. Starkey stated that the \$73 million is what we anticipate using, and not more. However, if there are change orders, or if there are things needed being on the \$73 million, as in any normal construction project, then this would go back to the Council and the RDC to get authority to issue more than \$73 million, up to the \$78 million. He stated that we put it in there so we do not have to go through all the bond documents again, but it would come back for Council approval.

President Bunder asked if the CDC is a new entity or if it is a rebirth of an old entity. He asked who the responsible parties are for the corporation.

Mr. Starkey responded that it is a brand new entity.

Mayor Dennis stated that corporation was crafted just for one specific incidence – the State Street project. The representatives of the corporation are Sana Booker, Sue Scholer, and Jon Speaker. He stated that they had their one and only meeting.

Councilor Dietrich stated that he has another question about the \$73/\$78 million. He asked if the bond would be issued for \$78 million, and then held back, or would there be a separate \$5 million bond that may be different rates and terms.

Mr. Starkey stated that the bond would be issued with one or more series. The first bond would be \$73 million. If we need an additional bond in the future and get the Council's approval, we would paper it up with another bond up to the total of \$78 million. We have authorized \$78 million as far as the documentation goes, but the bond will be \$73 million initially, as Series A. If we need Series B it would come back for Council approval.

Councilor Dietrich asked if it would be sold as a separate bond or if it will already be tidied up.

Mr. Starkey responded that it will already be tidied up.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 47-15 (Second Amended) passed on second and final reading.

Ordinance No. 48-15 An Ordinance Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, Approving A Note Of The West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission And A Sublease Between The West Lafayette Community Development Corporation And The City Of West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, And Addressing Matters Related Thereto (Sponsored by President Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 48-15 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 48-15 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Mr. Starkey stated that this references a note, and that note is a note of the RDC to PRF for any kind of draw on their line of credit that backs up the Purdue TIF. When payments come due from the Purdue TIF, and there is not enough TIF there, there will be a draw on the line of credit from PRF. That note will be the promise of the RDC to pay back the PRF from Purdue TIF when and if available.

Counsel Burns stated that his understanding of the structure is that it will be paid off if the TIF is available. If not, it will not be paid off. So, it is dependent on the TIF. There is no obligation beyond the TIF in the Purdue TIF.

Mr. Starkey stated that is right and emphasized that it is just the Purdue TIF.

President Bunder asked for an explanation of the tax back-up.

Mr. Starkey stated that the RDC has the ability, with the approval of the Council, to issue bonds that have a special benefits tax back-up behind it. What that says is that in the event that the Levee/Village TIF were insufficient, they would have the ability to levy a property tax on all the property tax in the City, not just the Levee/Village area, to make up the difference. He stated that he would note that the Levee/Village TIF, as promulgated by Jim Treat, shows a coverage ratio in most years of over 200%. This means that there is \$2.00 of Levee/Village TIF for every \$1.00 needed to pay this bond and any other bonds that are outstanding from Levee/Village. There is a lot of coverage there, but this was done in order to give the financing people that the bidders are using comfort that the payments will be there if needed.

Councilor Keen asked if that is the only avenue of relief should we get to that point.

Mr. Starkey stated that there is also a reserve fund built into the bonds, which will be available for the payments, but it is really the only back-up. He conformed for Councilor Keen that it would not be open for renegotiation at that point.

Councilor Dietrich asked what happens to any additional money in the Purdue TIF if it should take off, as clearly the University is banking heavily on being able to establish that.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

Mr. Starkey stated that it is first used to pay back anything that the RDC owes on their note. After that it can be used for other obligations and projects in the area, but those obligations would be behind any obligations under this bond.

Councilor Dietrich asked if those would be City projects, and not University-controlled projects, and Mr. Starkey confirmed that is correct. Councilor Dietrich asked for confirmation that since this is a 50/50 operation, the extra amount would not go toward paying Purdue's obligation off faster, and Mr. Starkey confirmed that is correct.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 48-15 passed on second and final reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Bunder stated that we are going to try to come to an agreement to have two readings of the four ordinances under New Business.

Councilor Keen motioned to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance No. 01-16, Ordinance No. 02-16, Ordinance No. 03-16 as amended, and Ordinance No. 04-16 and to hear them all individually on two readings this evening.

Counsel Burns noted that this will require unanimous consent to do so, and then each of them on the second reading would require a two-thirds majority instead of a simple majority.

Councilor DeBoer seconded the motion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder stated that the rules have been suspended.

Ordinance No. 01-16 An Ordinance To Approve Blanket Bond Coverage For 2016 (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

President Bunder read Ordinance No. 01-16 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 01-16 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Counsel Burns stated that blanket bond coverage is merely a way of making sure that if anyone absconds with money, there is a bond there to take care of that. That is for various City officials and for those who handle money. A blanket bond is a way of getting a better rate. There is a \$750,000 total bond that would go against the various officers of the City who would be handling money if any losses would occur.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 01-16 passed on first reading.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 01-16 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 01-16 passed on second and final reading.

Ordinance No. 02-16 An Ordinance To Name Depositories For The City Of West Lafayette (Sponsored by President Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 02-16 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 02-16 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

President Bunder stated that the depositories are unnamed.

Counsel Burns stated that it would be any that the State authorizes. It is a very general ability to pick any financial institution that the State has already approved.

Councilor Wang asked who our current depository is.

Controller Gray responded that we have a number of depositories. Centier Bank is our main depository, and we also have Huntington, Lafayette Bank & Trust, and Regions Bank.

Councilor Thomas asked if Controller Gray has authorization to use whatever depository that he wishes, and Controller Gray responded that is correct.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 02-16 passed on first reading.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 02-16 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Councilor Dietrich stated that the State will do the vetting on these and then make an approved list. He asked if these are all brick and mortar financial institutions.

Counsel Burns responded that his understanding is that they are not. Some are used that are not at all institutions that someone can walk up and use.

Councilor Dietrich asked if we are just catching up or if the State is changing its list.

Counsel Burns stated that he thinks it is as easy as applying and have the qualifications and the ratings. He stated that he does not know if there is even a requirement to be in the State of Indiana. They just have to pass whatever litmus test the State Board of Accounts has to ensure they are sound financial institutions.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 02-16 passed on second and final reading.

Ordinance No. 03-16 An Ordinance To Extend The Time For Repayment Of Temporary Loans Outstanding From 2015 (Sponsored by President Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 03-16 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 03-16 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Counsel Burns stated that there is a proposed amendment available. The original ordinance has been amended to allow for an additional amount for the SAFER grant.

Councilor Keen motioned to amend Ordinance No. 03-16 by substitution. Councilor DeBoer seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

Councilor Dietrich stated that this ordinance is calling for an extension of \$116,000 for the next couple of months, and the next ordinance has a \$300,000 loan for the SAFER grant as well. He asked Fire Chief Heath to explain the necessity for the second one, and to also discuss the appeal the appeal for an extension.

Chief Heath responded that later this month we will submit a request to the federal government for an extension on our SAFER grant. He stated that Senators Coats and Donnelly have both provided favorable letters, which will be sent on to the grant administrator. He stated that we are asking for an extension of funds because we did not use everything that we were allotted. The grant runs out on March 20, and then we can ask for an extension for unused funds. He confirmed for Councilor Dietrich that it is for approximately \$300,000. He stated that we had a surplus because we had a hard time hiring people. During this grant period, three people have left for various reasons, and our hiring process with State approval takes approximately six months. That has slows us down and prevented us from using all of the funds available to us. He stated that we hope for the extension to use those funds, and he noted that this is not uncommon.

Councilor Dietrich asked if a letter from this Council would have any weight.

Chief Heath stated that it would be a great idea, and he would appreciate a letter from this Council. He offered to draft a letter for review by the Council that they would sign, and President Bunder expressed that he would be happy to do so.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 03-16 (Amended) passed on first reading.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 03-16 (Amended) on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 03-16 (Amended) passed on second and final reading.

Ordinance No. 04-16 An Ordinance Providing For Temporary Loans (Sponsored by President Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 04-16 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 04-16 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Councilor Dietrich asked if we should be worried that we are looking to borrow almost \$2 million from WWTU, and we are at the same time bonding an effort for Wastewater.

Controller Gray stated that the funds for this are from the normal funds that are collected for Wastewater, and he does not think there would be problems doing this.

Councilor Dietrich asked if we did not approve this if the \$2 million would not lessen our need to borrow on the other end.

Controller Gray stated that is correct. He explained that this is a cash-flow issue to help with paying off our loans as we get taxes from the County just twice per year. Revenue comes in from the Utility all throughout the year. As expenses come in we can utilize the Utility funds to pay off our expenses until the revenue comes in from the County. In response to a question from Councilor Thomas, Controller Gray stated that the revenue comes in June and December.

President Bunder stated that this is a fairly frequent occurrence, and Wastewater gets its money back in the end.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2016, CONTINUED

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 04-16 passed on first reading.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 04-16 on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

There was no discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 04-16 passed on second and final reading.

Resolution No. 01-16 A Resolution To Appropriate The Bureau Of Justice Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program Grant (Police) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 01-16 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 01-16 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

There was no discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jha	✓			
Keen	✓			
Leverenz	✓			

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Sanders			✓	
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 01-16 passed on first and only reading.

REPORT BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Dennis stated that we are establishing things as we go along, but this will be his opportunity to report anything specific to the Council and address any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor DeBoer noted that there is a new policy we are using with a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to speak at the end.

President Bunder stated that we will be tolerant this evening as we begin that policy. He also congratulated Mayor Dennis on his birthday.

► President Bunder noted that the Communications section may be where we hear from the Council Committees.

► Councilor DeBoer stated that there was an eminent domain that we enacted the last time around, and he asked if there is an update on that.

Counsel Burns responded that it is still in the appraisal process, so there has been no activity. He will report if any letters are sent out, which is the first action if there is an eminent domain, or condemnation taking.

Councilor DeBoer stated that there was a report in the *Journal & Courier* calling our City 37 out of 100 on our score for sexual orientation and gender identity, which is something he disagrees with. He stated that he wanted to ask Counsel Burns if he might prepare the City's understanding of the current law, and why we cannot move forward on changing anything about it, and where we are at in case we want to take any additional action.

► Councilor Wang complimented Parks Superintendent Fawley on the wonderful statue put up in the Celery Bog, and he stated that he has had neighbors compliment it as well. Councilor Keen agreed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► Councilor Bunder reminded that we are trying something new with a sign-up sheet to organize who speaks when, and he asked that everyone keep their comments to approximately two minutes. He stated that this is not meant to punish anyone; it is meant to try and organize our business a little bit better.

► Jan Myers (1909 Indian Trail Drive) stated that to follow-up on the issue of safety on Meridian, she has been dealing with safety information services for over 40 years, and the design of that street and Indian Trail are among the most unsafe designs there can be. A curve in a street and in a subdivision reduces safety, walkability, and visit-ability. She asked that we look more at grid patterns for new developments. Ms. Myers stated that every year a number of trees from the State nursery are made available free to the various State legislators and then given to the cities

that request them. Ms. Myers invited the Council members to join her to experience what it is like to have “roundfeet,” and noted that even under ADA there are different definitions of what is accessible by power wheelchairs and manual ones. Ms. Myers stated that she read in the newspaper that the City is likely to be staying in Morton Center for the next four years, and she stated that if that is true then the City is likely to be in violation currently because handicapped people could not use this facility, such as the women’s restroom and the turn on the ramp. She stated that everyone, even those in town, should be aware of what is going on with American Suburban Utilities.

► Zachary Baiel (124 Connolly Street), introduced his son Hieronymus. He stated that two minutes will be rough, and noted that Lafayette provides three minutes for their public to make comments. He stated that he is saddened to learn that the Council will no longer be reading the reports into the records as it is useful to hear the information. He stated that he loves civics and enjoys the democratic process. He stated that allowing the public to comment on agenda items ahead of a vote, as other government entities provide, is crucial to increasing and engagement in our civic institutions. He stated that some Councilors he has spoken to have stated that there is a desire for a quick and efficient meeting. He stated that it should be noted that a nuance in the definition of “efficient” is to eliminate waste. He stated that citizen engagement is at an all-time low, voter turnout is pathetic in Tippecanoe County, with 12.9% in the last municipal election. He stated that by restricting the right to publicly comment on issues you are depriving citizens of a formal mechanism to be on the record, so unless we view direct input from citizens as wasteful, then he does not see the logic in depriving the members of the public from speaking on each ordinance and resolution. Mr. Baiel stated that Councilor DeBoer brought up the human rights campaigns and the municipal quality index for West Lafayette. Mr. Baiel asked how many have read the score card and not just read the article. He reviewed some of the points that West Lafayette had and the items where the City received a zero.

► Chris Kulesza (1301 Palmer Drive Apt. 313), President of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), stated that the HPC is looking to get certified local government status, which includes writing new bylaws. He explained that this will allow us to receive more grant money from the State and more resources. He stated that right now we are only in the first phase of the historic preservation ordinance, and in September we will be moving on to the second phase of the ordinance, which deals with exterior changes.

► Dev Verman, Vice-President of Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG), stated that looks forward to continuing the collaboration between the City Council and PGSG. He stated that there is a picnic at the end of each of the semester, so the next one is the first week of April, and the Council members are invited to that.

► Thomas Kesler (479 Maple Street) stated that on the City Hall issue his vote is building in place. He stated that a perennial problem in New Chauncey is trash, including uncovered trash cans. He stated that another issue is parking, and stated that the streets in Hills and Dales are not built for the intense parking by students. He stated that his hobby of concrete collection continues, and he explained that this started in 2007 with a Clean Sweep event. Mr. Kesler stated that regarding Indiana’s public image, he stated that you could spend your time on the Council trying to sweat bullets making this place more attractive and it could go up in a puff of smoke with some of the things going on at the State House. He encouraged the Council to stay in touch with representatives in Indianapolis to express the needs of this community.

► Mary Cook (Harry’s Chocolate Shop, 329 West State Street, owner) asked for a compromise on the public comment. She stated that she does not come to these meetings with a preset agenda to speak. She stated that usually her comments come out of the work that the Council is

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doing, pro and con. She asked for a compromise of two and one-half minutes, and that when the buzzer goes off the commenters respect the time allotted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Keen moved for adjournment, and President Bunder adjourned the meeting the time being 7:38 p.m.