

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2008

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on March 3, 2008, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Dennis called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Bunder, Burch, Hunt, Keen, Roales, Thomas, and Truitt.

Also present were City Attorney Burns, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Assistant Director of Development Grady, City Engineer Buck, Public Works Director Downey, Fire Chief Drew, Police Chief Dombkowski, and Parks Superintendent Payne.

MINUTES: Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the January 31, 2008, Pre-Council Meeting, and the February 4, 2008, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Truitt seconded the motion, and the motion passed *viva voce*.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS:

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY: Councilor Bunder presented this report.

Mr. Mayor, I'm delighted to report that this month I have the Wastewater total flow, average flow, and combined sewer overflow numbers at my disposal. But I won't read them; I'll just hand them in to the Clerk. As for sanitation, many of you have read in the newspaper that we have begun a conversation regarding trash pickup rates in West Lafayette. The last Mills budget, the 2008 budget, included an increase in trash fees. That fee was not acted upon, either by the last Council or by this current Council, so each month the City budget moves a little more out of whack. We are beginning the conversation regarding trash fees in West Lafayette. You can participate in that conversation as you sit here tonight. When we come to some bit of business that you don't find particularly interesting, I would like you to consider this question: If that pile of leaves in front of your home each fall is one of the following: A road hazard that should be recovered by the Street Department; trash that should be picked up by the Sanitation Department; an environmental hazard that violates our IDEM sewer permit and so is a problem for the Wastewater Utility; or all of the above. Your answer will, in fact, help determine your rate. What do you think those leaves are? So the conversation begins. There is good news and bad news on our streets. The good news is I can report that the department has received its allotted amount of salt for the 2008 season. Let it snow. We're ready. I guess the bad news for our streets, as reported in the *Journal & Courier*, that there is a delay again in US 231. I would remind us all that the City's highly planned much of our Wastewater plan depends on that road being built, and so that it's of some concern to us. I believe it presents an opportunity for this administration to exercise some leadership, both in dealing with the Republican County Council and with the Republican Governor who has visited us several times to celebrate the economic development that's taking place in the northwest corner of our City. The road that is meant to help serve that development currently dead-ends in a gravel pit. It is important for us. And perhaps we should also question closely all State Assembly candidates. It is important for

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us to find a way to move that project ahead. Otherwise, our north-south roads will start to choke, and that would be bad for our streets. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE: Councilor Keen presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm going to be brief. The West Lafayette Fire Department and the Police Department both participated in a variety of training exercises over the last month. Those reports will be on file. The only thing I did want to highlight in the Police Department is that they have launched a new RAD for Kids program. That's the Rape Aggression Defense program for children. It's for parents and their children to participate in that. That, hopefully, will be as good a program as the regular RAD for Women program. Other than that, I don't know—was Jason [Police Chief Dombkowski] going to do his presentation now?

Mayor Dennis said he'll do it a little bit later.

Councilor Keen said okay. That concludes that report then.

PURDUE RELATIONS: Councilor Roales presented this report.

I'll just touch on what Councilor Keen said. A couple weeks ago when I receiving a tour of the Police Station with the Chief, I ran into an officer who was very enthusiastic about that kids program that he just mentioned. It sounds like a very great program and it sounds like a good use of our funds and our officers' time. I'm very positive about that, and the officer was very excited about it. That's a great program. On Purdue relations, Amy McManama, the vice president of Purdue Student Government, was expected to be here tonight. She may be not informed of the time change or maybe missing that, so if she comes a little bit later, we'll try to feather that in. A couple events going on on the Purdue campus. The Boiler Advancement Program has been introduced. This is a major program that would add a \$20 student fee to each student's tuition. And that, in aggregate, would produce about \$1.6 million a year that students could decide how they spend, whether that's on new concerts, whether that's on new, you know, job recruitment fairs, whether that's on, you know, new student engagement activities. And I think that has potential to be a positive impact on the quality of life of the students in our community and obviously a major vote for students on Purdue Student Government's campus. That comes up in conjunction with Purdue Student Government elections which are coming up right after Spring Break, which, of course, Spring Break starts this Friday. So a very active time through March for Purdue's campus. The Strategic Plan—the planning process is continuing, so I encourage the Councilors to look at the dates and opportunities to provide input in that. I know our Mayor has had the opportunity to provide input on that, and it's a great, you know, connection between Purdue and the West Lafayette elected officials. So, again, lots of students are looking forward to summer internships and graduating and going on. I'm receiving a lot of reports of strong recruitment and, you know, robust recruitment from our community, lots of students securing high-paying jobs, and I know there's a job fair sponsored by the Research Park tomorrow, so a lot of the economic development work that we're doing here on the Council and that we're assisting with, we're seeing with the EDS move into our community, is working in conjunction with Purdue students, and that's really nice to see. So know that our efforts here are not going to waste, that those are helping Purdue students to obtain high-paying jobs in our community. That sums up the report, and, again, if Amy [McManama] comes in later in the meeting, we'll find an appropriate time for her to present her report. Thank you.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Councilor Hunt presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Riverside Skating Center just completed a successful season. 66 children enjoyed the public skating lessons. The fifth annual Dare to Bare where you skate in your swimsuit was February 8. There were 116 brave souls. The grade school basketball

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program was completed, and 104 children in second through fourth grade participated, and there were nine West Lafayette eighth graders, boys and girls, who volunteered as assistant coaches with extremely good attendance. So that was appreciated. Applications for summer employment are being accepted with the Park Department. Global Fest will be held at Morton Community Center on Saturday, August 30. The next Park Board meeting is March 17 at 4:30 in City Hall. That concludes it. Thanks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Councilor Thomas presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. There were two significant announcements last month regarding the Purdue Research Park. The first announcement was global technology giant EDS has located their software solutions center here in the Purdue Research Park. They will employ approximately 200 employees. Average salary will range around \$50,000. They have plans to build a yet-to-be constructed facility in the Park by 2008, which will again house their operations. The second announcement was made by MedInstitute. They have opened the company's research and development center here in the Research Park. They've taken over the building that used to house Great Lakes Corporation. Again, they look at increasing their employment to more than 250 by 2011. That concludes my report.

Mayor Dennis said great news for West Lafayette.

PERSONNEL: Councilor Burch presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. On February 12, Diane Foster, our Human Resources Director, and I attended a monthly meeting of TARA—that's the Tippecanoe Area Human Resources Association—at the Best Western hotel. Mr. Dan Ritchie, co-owner and personal trainer of Miracles Fitness, spoke to the group about fitness in the workplace. Mr. Ritchie gave examples of exercises one can do at one's desk. He also mentioned doing the stairs whenever possible. He spoke about balancing calories in, calories out, reminding us to be as physically active as possible. Diane is considering asking Mr. Ritchie to give a presentation to City employees. I would also like to say that Jami Ade has joined the Mayor's Office as our receptionist, and we would like to welcome her aboard. That concludes my report, Mr. Mayor.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Councilor Truitt presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Budget and Finance Committee will be meeting again on March 10 at 5:30 p.m. here at City Hall, so we encourage all individuals that have an interest in that to attend this lively, fun meeting. We also have in front of each of our seats the monthly cash transaction report for your review, as well as the Wastewater Treatment Utility balance sheet. I appreciate Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes] and whoever else put that together. I appreciate that. That concludes my report.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE: Councilor Keen presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We did meet on the 20th of February, and most of what I'm going to talk about will be covered under Ordinance No. 9-08, which will be later on this meeting. We'll talk about it then.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Appointment to Human Relations Commission.

Mayor Dennis said there are actually two announcements. The first one is we have an opening in our Human Relations Commission. We had a rather unfortunate vacancy due to a death in late January. The Human Relations Commission, for those that don't know, is a group that conducts investigations in regards to alleged misdoings on the part of employers and, in some

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cases, employees in the community. It's a very, very viable resource for the City of West Lafayette. I have a very highly qualified individual who is stepping up to fill the vacancy. His name is Zarjon Baha, and he's got a very lengthy résumé. He is currently a professor at Purdue. His background is a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University. He got his M.S. in Civil Engineering at Purdue University. He's also got his B.S. at Kabul University in Afghanistan and Washington University. He is very highly qualified and very motivated to participate on this particular committee and provide service to this community. So I would like to go forward and nominate Zarjon Baha for that particular position. I'll ask for a motion confirming the nomination.

Councilor Keen made the motion to confirm the nomination of Zarjon Baha for a position on the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt, and the motion was adopted by voice vote.

Departmental Presentations

Mayor Dennis said another item under Public Relations is this: I believe very strongly in the community understanding basically the functions of their local government. In that end, I've asked each department head, at a Council meeting, to make a presentation to the Councilors, because we've got several new Councilors on board, as well as the public to sort of identify what they do, what their areas of responsibility are, and kind of what the service is and their philosophy of service is to the community. I'm not doing every department head tonight. We're going to do one per month until we get them all taken care of. The one who's going to lead off the presentations is Chief Jason Dombkowski with the West Lafayette Police Department.

Police Chief Dombkowski said thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll make it short. Hopefully it's a short presentation in PowerPoint. We'll just go through some of the functions that we do at our Police Department and the makeup of the Department itself. The first slide we have here is our Police Station was built in 2003. It's a state-of-the-art facility, and it was really built on a 25-year plan to accommodate our needs and the citizens' needs. We do a lot of programs out of that building that are not only functions of the City, but we cooperate with other government entities in that building that I'll go through those in just a few slides. The makeup of our PD is 48 sworn officers, as you can see, 31 civilians. Basically that makeup right there serves our community of 29,000 residents and, at times, 39,000 student population at Purdue. The point I wanted to make there is our personnel costs. 87% of our overall budget for 2008, and I wanted to point out how large that is of some of the things that we're tasked to do and asked to do, and how much resources are left for us to accomplish those goals. This is our department organizational chart structure that was new this year. We did a little bit of reorganizing at the first of the year, and it's a little bit hard to see, but it's basically four divisions that we'll get into a little bit further. It really doesn't tell you all that much unless you assign personnel and faces a bit to them. That is our structure that we operate under for this year. Again, a Captain of each division, and then the red area is our Criminal Investigation Division. The other Captains are Data Management, Special Services, Patrol, and then our Captain on Special Assignment, and that red area off to the right is our Criminal Investigation Division. Our administration that leads those four divisions—myself, obviously, but then we have our four Captains that are basically my right-hand people that take care of my issues and my wants and needs on a daily basis. But they certainly are commanding an equal share of the responsibilities at our Police Department on a daily basis. We generally run four Lieutenants. We currently have an opening in a Lieutenant's space, so it's being filled by Sergeant Troy Harris in the Criminal Investigations area. But our four Lieutenants manage our shifts and our Detective Division and do a lot of the day-to-day management of the Police Department. We're hoping to get a Lieutenant promoted to the Criminal Investigations Division here through the Police Merit Board later on this month. That CID Division, Criminal Investigations, is headed by a Lieutenant, and they have two

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responsibilities in our Police Department currently. That is our Criminal Investigations Unit, but also our internal standards, our Internal Affairs Unit, and their staff is one manager that assists the Sergeant and four Investigators and one Drug Task Force Agent. Generally, in our Department, in the makeup of what we're asked to do, most of the cases they investigate are theft, fraud, burglary, battery, drug investigations—not only through the Drug Task Force, but we also assist them with our investigators as well—and then any other major crimes that come up. We did have a homicide last month that our Investigative Division was tasked with and certainly put in a lot of man hours and a lot of resources into that one single event. So their work is generally event-driven. Our Patrol Division is the bulk of what we do, it's the bulk of our resources and our people. A couple of things that stand out about what we do differently than maybe some other Police agencies. Our schedule is a 10-hour schedule, and it allows us some flexibility to do some things differently and attend to our needs that we have as a University town. Our peak hours of Police service in the overlap there are the red and blue, between second and third shifts is about a four-hour window where we're running two patrol shifts on the street, and a double shift between those hours accommodates our needs of having a student population. Those are some peak hours of criminal activity, but also exposure to the community through our Patrol Division is needed during those hours. And then we have overlap at each end of the shifts, to cover one hour each at shift change over. They work four days, three days off, and we have a minimum of officers on the street. In our specialty patrols—we're going to do things a little differently this year, and our bike patrol is going to be utilized a little bit more—during not only special events, but our average workday when the weather permits, of having bicycle officers have bicycles attached to a vehicle and to stop patrolling in a vehicle and jump on a bike in a neighborhood or into the Village or even into our parks and our trail system. So we'll have a little bit more exposure in those areas than we have in the past. And I think it's an important area we need to move towards. Our Patrol Division also has K-9 units, two of them currently. Jeff Dunscomb who's been a canine officer for several years now, he's on his second dog, and Officer Adam Ferguson our newest canine officer, is currently finishing training Friday with the new dog and officer to start patrolling next week sometime. That's a five-week program where the dog and the officer bond, and basically hit the streets as a team. We're also part of the Metro K-9 Program, which is housed and kept here at our facility. They have an office there. The basis and the spirit of cooperation with the Metro K-9 Program is that there is a canine on duty in the County at all times, and then the departments share those resources for major events—a robbery or what have you that a canine is needed for, a drug investigation. It's a very expensive program to maintain canine units. The spirit of cooperation and having it housed here at our department makes sure that the City of West Lafayette always has a canine available to it, whether it be through our own or through the County Sheriff or the Lafayette Police Department. We're pretty proud of that. Everybody always has questions about K-9s, too. I could spend half an hour on this slide. Everybody wants to know about what the dogs do. Our Dispatch Center is also a cooperative effort down at the Sheriff's complex, where it is our dispatchers that are down there. They are employed by the City, but they are housed off-site. Sharing of resources that's done there is mostly the computer equipment, and the computer-aided dispatch system. Our employees that are there—eight full-time employees and one supervisor—are responsible for also having two dispatchers there at all times. They're on 12-hour shifts. We really run a streamlined system when it comes to the dispatch center and having an efficiency there with the Sheriff's Department. They are responsible for Police and Fire dispatch. Calls for service, we generally go on about 1,400 calls for service per month. As you can see, the numbers from last year to this year are up about 7%. I listed some of the common calls for service that we go on, some of the larger number calls for service. Certainly vehicle crashes is one of our biggest. I think that's a result of living in a fairly dense population here in West Lafayette, and the traffic congestion, as you can see, takes up quite a bit of our resources in the cases that we generate. Our criminal statistics for 2007, I touched on a couple of them, and the summation of those four areas of 77% of all of our criminal arrests is in those

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four areas shows that we have a large student population, obviously. We have some alcohol awareness education programs that we need to focus on and improve those numbers through reducing arrests through education and awareness. I am happy to announce that our Operating While Intoxicated arrests were down 9%. As I preach when we talk about our alcohol awareness, our officers are some of the highest-producing Operating While Intoxicated arrests in the County. Every year they're in the top one or two of all the agencies, so there's some real dedication to that area of enforcement in West Lafayette. Our Records Division is tasked with doing multiple tasks for our agency, and it's comprised of just two people. They gather a lot of stats, data entry for us, as well as uniform crime reports as an FBI requirement that we gather stats and report to them. That's a pretty involved process. It also generates monthly reports that I provide to Councilor Keen and the rest of the Council for what we do as a Police Department monthly. Our Animal Control and Parking Control are two of the largest programs in our Special Services Division. Again, unique to West Lafayette is our Parking Control that we'll be discussing here a little bit later on tonight, parking being a big issue in the City. Tickets issued last year were over 17,000, and fines collected of \$331,000. That goes directly to the General Fund, and is a source of revenue for the City. I would say that those fines and the adjudication of those tickets are all done in-house here through West Lafayette City Court, which is an efficient program that allows citizens to come in here in an informal manner and dispute their parking and traffic concerns here in the City. Again, informal; no lawyer required, and it's a nice service that we have here in West Lafayette for the citizens. And then Special Services Division also has responsibilities for recruiting and hiring that they assist the Police Merit Commission with. And then our Training Division which is huge and all the requirements that we're required to do for training, to keep our officers certified, and then also expanding our programs in things that we want to do for the community really tasks our Training Division. One of our specialized units is the Special Response Team is comprised of nine members. They train monthly, plus they go to the range monthly as well, so it works out to about two times a month for training. Some of the things they're involved in, in the past they've been asked to do for us are riot and crowd control, warrant service—they do that quite often; that doesn't get reported and we don't give them the credit sometimes that they deserve for all the training that they do—and then special situations as well. One of the things that I'm fairly proud of that we provide to the community that's unique to West Lafayette is our cooperative effort with the School Corporation, and some of the programs that we do with them. The School Safety Officer Program has been around for four years now; this is its fourth year at the Junior-Senior High School. Service is also provided to the grade schools through that program when they request an officer to come down for a need to one of the two grade schools. This is a cooperative effort with the School Corporation where we provide the officers. Their salaries are paid for by the Corporation. We provide equipment and training for the officers. They do that on their own time, on their days off, and it's a very popular program and assists the administration down at the schools. Nine crossing guards also are provided by the Police Department for the three school campus sites. And the D.A.R.E. Officer Program, a huge success and really something I'm proud of as well to have for our community. The fifth and seventh grade programs are both huge programs. The fifth grade just has a graduation the other night, and I was astonished how much the kids really appreciate that program and the teachers and how popular it is amongst our fifth graders. A few of the other programs we do for the community that we just started are RAD Kids program, which is a parallel program to the RAD for Women, and we're going to be having another RAD Kids program in April, and we'll be on our website encouraging people to enroll their children and their families in that program. Citizens Police Academy we'll do later on this year as well. It's an 11-week program that anybody who's been through it says it's very educational for what we do, and also fairly rewarding to be part of that program. Alcohol Awareness and Education as well, we're going to concentrate on that in 2008 with out student population a little more than we have in the past. And then one of our new programs, Identity Theft Education Program through our Criminal Investigation Division has been quite popular

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these last few months as well. That's my presentation, Mr. Mayor. A quick snapshot of the Police Department. If I had a little more time, I could do into a little more depth, but hopefully that gives the citizens an overview of some of the things that we do at the Police Department and some of the things we're proud of as well.

Mayor Dennis said any questions or comments from the Council?

Councilor Burch said I have a comment. I just want to thank the Police Department for all that they do for everyone here in the community. I really appreciate it, and am also pleased to hear that you're expanding the foot and bike patrol on the trails. Thank you.

Police Chief Dombkowski said thank you.

Councilor Hunt said I have one, please.

Mayor Dennis said Ann [Councilor Hunt].

Councilor Hunt said we recognized Captain Dan Marvin in Pre-Council but we wanted to do it again. West Lafayette Police Department Captain Dan Marvin has been honored with the Sagamore of the Wabash Award. As you all know, this is an extremely high award given by the State of Indiana, and we'd all like to congratulate Captain Marvin on his award. It certainly goes along with the Police presentation, so thank you.

Mayor Dennis said thank you.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said we ended the month with a special day, Leap Day. You've received your State Board of Accounts accounting ledgers. Tonight at your places, the cash transaction report has been modified according to the request for you to begin to see the role the Utility plays in the City. You'll see toward the bottom, I've provided some cash-basis information to you—revenues, expenditures, and the fund balance. I also asked the Utility Financial Manager to provide you with her monthly income statements and balance sheets. We will begin to discuss the Utility's finances over the next several months, I'm sure, as part of the budget process. This is just the beginning. Thank you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 6-08 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation, Perimeter Parkway Fund **PUBLIC HEARING** (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 6-08 by title, and moving that the public hearing be opened. Councilor Truitt said seconded. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Mayor Dennis announced the public hearing. There were no comments. He moved that the public hearing be closed. Councilor Keen said seconded. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Councilor Keen moved that it be passed on second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Dennis asked for a roll call vote.

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Ordinance No. 6-08 passed on final reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 7-08 (Amended) An Ordinance To Amend West Lafayette City Code Chapter 44 Concerning Parking And Towing From Private Property (Submitted by Councilmember Roales)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 7-08 (Amended) by title and moved that it be amended by substitution to the amended version that was place at each Councilor's place this evening.

City Attorney Burns said and that, for the record, is dated in the lower right hand corner 3/3/2008.

Councilor Keen said yes, thank you.

Councilor Truitt said seconded.

Mayor Dennis said okay, everybody has a copy of that? It's been motioned and seconded. Discussion?

Councilor Roales said I can cover the changes between the copy that was presented Thursday and the copy here. There's been three "the" words removed from the Whereas. It simply clarifies and cleans up the grammar in that section. That was on the recommendation of Councilor Hunt. I have changed the section on page 2 under part (d) Towing from Owner-Occupied Single-Family Residential Property and Towing from Renter-Occupied Single-Family Residential Property. Previously this was simply towing from single-family residential property, and this was on the recommendation and discussions with Councilor Truitt concerns that we need to make it easy as possible that individuals that own their own homes can tow a car if it's impeding their property. And that, you know, is clearly the intent of that section and that clarifies that section and makes it even easier for single-family homeowners. The reason we didn't wrap residential property into one section, and we have single-family different than multi-tenant is I think it would be the intent of the community to not have a lot of towing signs in New Chauncey Neighborhood where there's a lot of single-family homes occupied by tenants. And so that's why we have two different tenant sections. I can talk about the ordinance overall after we take the amendment motion on the table.

Mayor Dennis said any other discussion? This is just for the amendment only.

Councilor Keen said this is just for the amendment by substitution.

Mayor Dennis said that's correct. Hearing none, it's roll call vote.

The roll call vote on the amendment by substitution:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	Burch
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	
Truitt	

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The motion to amend by substitution passed, 6-1.

Councilor Keen said read Ordinance No. 7-08 (Amended) by title and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said discussion?

Councilor Roales said well, there's been almost 90 days of discussion on this ordinance, and I appreciate all of the public taking their time, as well as my fellow Councilors, the Mayor, and the legal counsel for the Council taking their time to provide input. It's been a great process of improvements. There's been numerous changes throughout the process, and I appreciate that public input and the time taken to provide that input. The intent of this ordinance is to improve the quality of life in our community, to facilitate commerce in our community, and to improve the public image of our community. The current towing situation we have right now in West Lafayette has some issues that have been reported widely in the press previous to my candidacy for this office and by my fellow Councilors and fellow elected individuals. And so this is simply an attempt to improve the situation in West Lafayette, to create a situation that is more equitable, more fair, but is also clearer. The current ordinance 44.08 has been disagreed upon, there's been different sides, different legal opinions written on that, and moving to a new ordinance will create a clear standard in our community that will not only increase compliance because it can be completely understood, but will increase the quality of life because individuals will know the rules and they'll be easy to understand. And so this ordinance may not be perfect, but it's been a great attempt by many individuals and many, many hours spent on this, and it clearly, in my opinion, improves the situation in our community. It sets reasonable and fair towing rates that are comparable to communities such as Lafayette and areas such as Purdue. In fact, many of the towing rates came from, you know, the towing situations in both of those communities. We've compared and it's been supplied to my fellow Councilors, you know, comparable rates for the State of Indiana DMV, as well as cities like Goshen, Indiana. This is very much in line with those communities. This is not a parking ordinance. This is a towing ordinance. I'm not attempting to solve parking issues. We're attempting to solve the towing issues in our community, so I'd remind everyone of that. Again, this creates a manner that, you know, we can increase compliance in our community, but businesses can also remove themselves of potential liability. And with the current unclear ordinance, you know, there can be some litigation potentially because of an unclear ordinance and disagreements about that. But setting a new clear standard will help businesses limit their liability but also provide them a manner that they know they can tow legally undertaking a couple steps. I don't believe this is an undue burden on businesses in our community. Simply taking five minutes to fill out a form or five minutes to comply with this will result in the car being towed in the same manner that it would normally, but it will provide increased public information for our community, it will allow citizens that are being towed to find their car quicker and it will allow the Police Department to be informed, a public record to be created. So I believe this is a great ordinance and I thank everyone for their input that's occurred so far, and I would ask for approval of this ordinance tonight. Thank you.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion? Public comment? And, again, it seems as though we've been having some fairly controversial issues over the past few months. If you would, please, just keep your comments on topic and as much as possible, try and keep them brief. And for everybody that's coming up, I would hope that they would have a new perspective on what they have to say.

Ms. Jane Sandefur [owner, JR's Towing and Recovery, Canal Road] said I have a small little company called JR's Towing and Recovery on Canal Road. I don't think—we all have a piece

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of paper from the last time that we were here. I still have a problem with your towing rates that you have in this ordinance. You all tonight have a copy of the old one, where the rates were set. The impound fees were \$85; you've taken them down to \$35. This evening, the Police Chief said he had 1,322 crashes. Now you, as a west side tell me that if I work for the Police Department—and I do—I must have \$1 million covering those tow trucks. I cannot pay my insurance for 1,322 crashes, I can't pay my insurance. Now, every company individually will have to make this decision. And so, because I'm a small company, I may choose not to tow in West Lafayette. So, A—Police Chief, do we have crashes that the towers don't come to when your dispatch calls? B—Mr. [Councilor] Bunder said B—are your new bicycles going to tow them away? Number C, or item going to come, this is the thing that we are saying. We've said all along, these kinds of prices, we can't tow for. You spend anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for a truck; you have \$1 million in coverage; you pay men to drive those trucks; we arrive on the scene; we have to clean it up. I've got two people there, and we have to throw down so IDEM doesn't come in to get on you. \$35? Does that make sense? Absolutely not. Now, that's part of mine from my little company. Now, I'm the Director—and I'm not speaking for JR's Towing—I'm the Director for the Indiana Towing Association. Our State laws are a little bit different, and so I'm sure that your City Attorney has talked to each one of you, because you can't come in—we are an unlicensed in Indiana. You cannot set our towing fees or regulate our fees. So, just remember when you put that vote to this evening, each company will have to make that decision if they can even afford to tow for you. And what happens if you do not have a towing company for 1,322 crashes? It's not because we aren't willing to work with you. It's because of your rates that you set, we can't afford to work for you. Just food for thought.

Mayor Dennis said thank you, Jane.

Mr. James Richardson [owner, Lafayette JR Enterprise, 777-B Cordale Road, Lafayette] said Ms. Sandefur has a very good point there. There is no way we can operate a business—at these rates, there's no way any towing company can tow for this, for the City of West Lafayette at those rates. Like she said, \$1million coverage that is required by you guys, there's no way. That insurance costs us right around \$2,000 a truck per month. It can't be done. We've got to pay employees, we've got to buy gas, which is going up to \$4.00 a gallon supposedly. It can't be done. There's no way. You will put towing companies out of business in West Lafayette. Thanks.

Mr. Richard Mullen [Mullen Towing & Recovery, 1414 Canal Road, Lafayette] said I reiterate what they say. I don't know where you got your \$35. That's not even our standard rate for a breakdown tow. Now, as Jane [Ms. Sandefur] said, be very cautious when you vote. This City had a lot of problems over legal fees and everything else last year. I went to bat—I am Chairman of the Board for the Indiana Towing Association, and we beat the Insurance Institute, which is nationwide, over price setting. If we can beat them, we can beat the City. I'll go to Indianapolis and do whatever I have to do. We can't operate for these rates. How can any of you justify better than 50% cut five years after? Can you justify it? No, you can't. None of you can. You guys want to take a 60% pay cut? If you don't, I would suggest that you vote "no" on this and leave it alone. Thank you.

Mr. Russell Brauer said I manage the parking lot for Our Saviour Lutheran Church in West Lafayette. I would like to take exception to this legislation, because individual companies like churches do not have standard hours of operation. What am I supposed to do, post a sign whenever we're having an evening service? What about council meetings? How are people to know when they can park there? The lot is clearly marked that unauthorized parking is unavailable. Until I brought in a towing service, we would routinely have to remove cars on Sunday morning. After one Grand Prix Weekend when I left the parking lot open, I had to

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sweep up broken beer bottles, which did not annoy me as much as the women's underwear and used prophylactic. Since we have brought in a professional towing company, we no longer have these issues, and I have conferred with the towing company. In our situation they have not removed anyone from the lot for over a month, because of routine, uniform, fair enforcement. Thank you.

Mr. Mark Davis [1221 North Grant Street] said I represent Lafayette JR Enterprises who spoke to you just a few minutes ago. I'll be brief. We don't believe that the amended ordinance does enough. We think the prices are unrealistically low. We think the restrictions are, in fact, onerous and not necessary. The key being, not necessary. We request that you vote this ordinance down and just kill the thing. If you choose not to do so, we, of course, are willing to sit and continue to talk, but I must say we have provided very clear testimony and talked about rates quite a bit in the past to obviously not much positive effect, when they've resulted in a 60% cut in the rates. Really frustrated, we think we've come in and testified in good faith and provided information in good faith and not been listened to.

Mayor Dennis said any further public comment? Hearing none, any additional Council—? Sorry, John [Basham].

Mr. John Basham [Basham Rentals] said is this primarily about the towing prices, or are we open to all?

Councilor Keen said we're open to all.

Mayor Dennis said it's about the ordinance.

Mr. Basham said the whole thing. Cool. Okay. Again, we've been here before. I don't have anything set out what to say. I'm just going to speak right from the heart. This is not a Republican thing. This is not a Democrat thing. This is to do the right thing. I'm so confused, and I know there's other people in this room that are so confused that the program that we've implemented in the past five or six years for our apartment complexes has been the cat's meow. It works great. My students love the program. They love it. They want that protection. Again, when they come home at night, if the lot is filled, they know that those people belong there. And then you tell me that the towing people cannot be the monitor. You're telling me who I can hire. And I read in the paper that the sticker system was going to be eliminated. Well, now I've heard it. That's probably going to be a good thing. But this sticker right here, can you read what's on that sticker? Can anybody read what's on that sticker? No. You cannot read what's on that sticker. That towing operator, when he drives that truck, he's not looking from the street. He's looking about four feet away. Can you read that? Can you read that? I asked you a question. Can you read that? That towing guy gets out of his truck and walks up there—and you didn't answer, so obviously you can't read—okay, all right. Can you read that?

Councilor Roales said sir, you're out of line.

Mr. Basham said you can read it? Okay. I'm very thoroughly upset about this. This is my life, this is my business. I've done this for 31 years. I've had over 14,000 students. Right now, I have 1,000+ students. And these students like that program. And that program's going to stay in effect. I will continue to tow cars. I will not fill out a form, because you're telling me I cannot hire these towing people to be my agent. We tried the agent process over the years. It does not work. If I appoint you to be my agent, out of 30 people in a building, this guy parties all the time. He's going to let his friends park there, and then little Sally over here, who does not party, she does not have a place to park. And then you also want to empower the tenants. We have

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empowered the tenants to call. You have that right to call. But there are kids over here who are afraid to call. They're fearful, because they're going to be retaliated on. They're going to get their car windows broken, they're going to get their doors kicked in—people, don't tell me. I've been on the campus 31 years. I know the campus like the back of my hand, just as well as the Police Department. I'm on campus night and day. But I refuse to come over here 30 times a night to fill out a form and say, "Oh, yes, that says 'Basham Rentals.'" And it's a yellow sticker and it goes on the front windshield on the driver's side. That way, nobody can get in and tamper with it. So I remind you: Before you vote on this, be prepared, because I'll take this thing national. This is ridiculous, and I know the people sitting in this room know it's ridiculous. I have a program that works for my customers, my students, and it's going to stay in place. Thank you kindly.

Mr. Jim Pasdach [JL Records] said we had a meeting here a couple weeks ago, and the Mayor asked me to discuss parking problems. My response was, "I don't have a parking problem." The reason I don't have a parking problem is because I hired them. We haven't towed anybody in two years; we haven't had to. And the reason we started towing was not even during business hours; it was when we were closed, when there's nobody there to sign a form. It was vandalism. I could match you—who was it was talking about the panties in the parking lot? I got blue jeans, I got entire wardrobes, I got downspouts torn off the building, I got a \$300 trash can torn up, I get beer bottles, I get vomit. You want to come and clean that up?

Mayor Dennis said okay, Jim [Mr. Pasdach], let's stick on topic.

Mr. Pasdach said that is the topic, Mayor. I'm sorry. I can't have that going on. And this goes on after business hours. I don't want to fill out a form. We don't have a problem right now, but if you pass this ordinance, there's going to be a problem. You're going to start this all over again, and not just for me. I will tow. You want to not be towed? Don't park where you're not supposed to. Don't violate people's property rights. This is the United States of America. Property owners have rights. There was a time you had to own property even to vote, so get off of this. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Greg Ehresman [owner of Triple XXX Restaurant, 2 North Salisbury] said good evening. Since 1980, we've gone through different situations on parking, and at one time, we had to do exactly what was being prescribed now. And at one point it was enforced that we had to wait 24 hours before we could tow. During said time period, if cars were parked on our primary lot for 24 hours on a football weekend, if I had half of my lot full, at that point in time, that was 50% of my parking. Significant decrease in business, less than half. Contrary to popular belief, everything on the west side is not walking only. It is absolutely driving, driving and walking both. The people who have purchased and have leased and rented areas for their patrons to park in absolutely have the right to tow for people who are sitting there not frequenting their business, not doing business with them, because it is our livelihood that is at stake. We pay property tax—City, County, State, federal—we make our mortgage payments, we buy property, we increase businesses, we buy property to expand those businesses. All with the expressed, hopefully, protection of the City when it comes to the point that someone is parked on there illegally, that we can remove them in order to continue doing business. With this type of regulation in place, we cannot exercise being a private business. You're putting undue restrictions—and this is my personal opinion, and I think a well-thought one—how in the world can you restrict and regulate the price of these ladies and gentlemen who are in the towing business? Is the next phase to come back in and say, "You know, Greg, McDonald's is charging \$1.05 for their cheeseburger. I think you should charge the same amount." That's impossible. You have no business to regulate what people charge. I go to whoever has the fairest price and who works within my confines. Every year, at the beginning of the school

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year—we have got the lot above the McDonald's there on Littleton that's right adjacent to one of Fleischhauer's buildings. Every year, at the beginning of the year, a lot of students park over there, they're moving in and out. I understand that. I let that slide. After about a week, I put signs on the cars that I know full well are not my employees or customers of mine, informing them, "You're on a private lot."—as well as having signs on there, informing them it's a private lot. "If you continue to park here, you will be towed." I have a situation right now at the old Domino's building at 20 North Salisbury, a private drive that goes up the back of that, where the individual who we have spoken to about parking there and informed him, "It is a private area. If you wish to park there," we gave him a charge rate, what it would cost for him to park there. He has not responded. He continued to park there. I put a sign back on his car again, "Remove your car or it will be towed." I don't think that I'm being unfair at all in making this tow. I'm doing everything I possibly can, going well beyond what anyone should have to do, in order to maintain and protect my property. On that same piece of property, every year, one of the things that they're talking about with the parking lots here, I clean up computers, beer bottles, trash, garbage—on my property—from a tenant building across and from people who go up, pull on the lot, open up their car doors, and just empty everything on the parking lot. I clean that up every morning. If you tell me that I can't tow, come forth with the mortgage payment, the property taxes, the policing, and the employees to cover all this stuff, and while you're at it, I'll calculate out what you owe me for lost business when you allow people to park where my customers can't come in and take care of me. Thank you.

Mr. Thomas Kessler [479 Maple Street] said only once in the 18 years I've lived in New Chauncey did I find a car parked on the street and blocking my driveway, but I really appreciated being able to call the Police and have the Police come and look at the car and see if it needed to be towed. I wound up, because I didn't want to wait, driving across grass and over the curb and onto the street, but if it happens again, I hope that there is a towing company who could remove the car blocking my driveway. Thank you.

Mayor Dennis said further public comment? Final Council comments?

Councilor Keen said Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Dennis said Councilor Keen.

Councilor Keen said could I ask a couple questions of some of the people who came up here—Ms. Sandefur, Mr. Richardson, or Mr. Mullen. The question was brought up about the towing rates being a maximum of \$35. And you say that that is not accurate. What is the charge that you charge anywhere else besides West Lafayette?

Ms. Sandefur said what we did—you have that first piece of paper—that was done through the Police Chief, not through the Council at first. The towers and the Police Chief got together, because we wanted to be within the same area, we got together, we put that price together, the Mayor took it, and the Mayor put it before the Board. That's what we've had. It's \$85 for an impound. You have that sheet.

Councilor Keen said is that for Lafayette as well?

Ms. Sandefur said that has been our standard for not only private, but that has been our standard for also the West Lafayette Police Department.

Councilor Keen said okay, but what I'm asking you is, is that \$85 what you charge to tow somebody from Lafayette as well as the County?

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Ms. Sandefur said correct.

Councilor Keen said so it's not \$35, it's actually \$85.

Ms. Sandefur said it's \$85. And, like for Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department, for State Police, our impounds are \$85. Some are \$95. We stay within that realm, and we try to stay within \$10 or each other for the Tippecanoe wreckers. There are five of us here. And we need to probably reevaluate, because our insurance has gone up. Our fuel may hit \$4-and-something in about June. Is that right, Jim [Mr. Richardson]? They talked about it. So what we have to do as individual companies, we must make that decision if we want to tow for west side, and how sad. I mean, really, that is sad. I don't think that there's a company here that hasn't towed. I know that I have towed for west side since I've come to town. Mullen's—Jim, how long have you towed? 30 years, maybe even more for the West Lafayette Police Department. What happens if we can't afford that? In all honesty, what is the Police Department going to do? The only thing that I know, that I would never back down, and I know the other towers wouldn't. If a child is in a car and a Police officer calls, we unlock that car for free, and we get there. Does that mean that we can take the chance of being fined? I'm not going to take that chance. I'm not going to tow something from Weida's or one of my apartment complexes for \$35. And because something and somewhere didn't go right, you're going to fine me for \$500. I ain't doing it. Just that simple. And I think the frustrating part is that you can improve an ordinance. Anything can be improved. But to take an ordinance that was just fine and go from one page to five spread all over the newspaper, make every property owner upset, make every commercial owner wonder what in the world is going on with this Council, it really is unnerving and wracking, and I don't know really and truthfully, how you're going to survive with all this cluster and confusion. I go through that myself and I say, "Okay, I can tow from here. However, I keep my phone, so I'm going to dispatch a driver out, I'm going to call the Police Department, I'm going to see if the Police Department can go there, I'm not going to wake Patty [Weida] up at 5 o'clock, or I'm not going to wake one of the others up at 5 o'clock or 3 o'clock" and go through this whole rigamarole and say, "Oops, Jane, first fine \$100." for a \$35 tow? No. I think the whole consensus—you know, you guys talk to all these people. We're busy. We're workers. People run restaurants, people run this and that. We don't get to talk to thousands of people like you do. I'd like to see in this room, who would like just to get rid of this stupid ordinance? Please raise your hand, because I'd like to know. It affects so many people. And I think there is a lot of anger underneath. There is a lot of nervousness, because this is not how you do it. Why didn't you come to the five towing companies? Why didn't you invite us in? The Mayor had a meeting with all the business owners. Why didn't you invite us in, all five of us? We're all here. And say, "Jane, we've got a little problem. People really don't like your prices. Couldn't we talk about it?" I tried. The people—Basham—has a system that works. Patty [Weida] has a system that works. Cochran's got a system that works. Why are you messing it up? Why are we fixing it when it's not broken? Because somebody just somewhere decided we needed a few more paragraphs? Absolutely not. And it's a sad situation. We have a new administration, new Police Chief. You know, west side's a great town. Are you going to tell Jiffy Lube that they've got to up their prices? You're telling me when I have to be open. I can say no to you. Can Jiffy Lube?

Mayor Dennis said thanks, Jane, I think you've answered Councilor Keen's—

Councilor Hunt said Mayor, may I ask Ms. Sandefur a question?

[overtalking]

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Councilor Hunt said Mayor Dennis. Can I ask her a question.

Mayor Dennis said absolutely.

Councilor Hunt said I had an email just today, saying that their son, I believe, had their car towed and it was \$170. That's a lot of money. How does it go from \$85—I know you say you need special equipment, but talk to me through about how it jumps to \$180—

Ms. Sandefur said well, if you remember, we talked about—I think you all had a sheet or at one time, you've got your towing charge of \$85, and then, like if it's a Durango, if it's an all-wheel drive, you've got a \$35 for a dolly. I charge storage when it comes on my lot. You know, we have a fence all around, the towers do, so nobody can get in there and break in. And you know that costs money. So I've got storage there. I don't want somebody to come in and take your stereo, because if they take your stereo, I'm going to have to pay for it. So I've got security going on there. Then, if they want to come at 2:00, 3:00 in the morning, which I'd rather them not, but they want to, they're going to get a \$45 after charge. Add that up. I can't, if they're a jerk, I can't add another \$25. I'd like to. But I can't. Does that answer that? And that comes up to that. And that's because when they—

Councilor Hunt said that's like \$165 right there. So if my car were towed at 11:30 at night and at one minute after midnight, I wanted to pick it up, it would be a total of \$45—

Ms. Sandefur said if I'm running for a Police Department and I cannot have men do that, no, you'll wait until in the morning.

Councilor Hunt said but how much would it be if I wait until tomorrow. Like it's Friday night—

Ms. Sandefur said well it doesn't grow a big deal, no. Okay?

Councilor Hunt said thank you.

Councilor Keen said I have one other question that I just wanted to put out there. Does anyone know or have knowledge or anyone that has been towed that was parked legally or authorized to be parked where they were parked?

Mr. Brauer said yes, one time someone left a car on our church lot that they should not have, but they were told by a church representative that they could. I contacted the towing service. The vehicle was released immediately at no charge to the vehicle owner.

Councilor Keen said aside from that? My point here is people generally speaking don't get towed if they don't park where they're not supposed to. If you park where you're not supposed to, then you're going to pay a fine. I mean, it's that simple. I personally believe the system in place in West Lafayette is very effective at keeping people from parking where they're not supposed to. That's my opinion on it.

Police Chief Dombkowski said I want to make a couple points of clarification. We do need the towing companies, and we need to have a relationship with them. We would be unable to function if they were not going to operate in our City, certainly for impounds—not just for towing purposes, but for crash purposes or when we're removing a subject from a vehicle for arrest and we have to impound that vehicle as well. So a multitude of functions where we have to have that relationship with them. And, really, the towing, I feel in my years of experience is fairly standardized, not only by the agencies themselves in setting their prices that they charge, but

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also by the government entities across our County. I spoke with department heads in Lafayette, the Lafayette Chief, and they do accept the \$85 rate by Jim's for their towing purposes for the City of Lafayette—

Councilor Roales said excuse me, Chief. That's incorrect. I mean, I received a copy, and it's \$35 from Lafayette, and that's the contract with Jim's and the City of Lafayette.

Ms. Sandefur said Jim [Mr. Poe] is right here, sir—

[someone in the audience said could we have Jim testify?]

Mayor Dennis said go ahead and finish, Chief. Then, if you would, Jim.

Police Chief Dombkowski said and we may have conflicting information. My information is \$85. And the point I also wanted to finish was that I didn't really have an opinion on prices or fees that our towing companies should be charging, but whatever that determination is by the Council, the overall spirit is that we have to have tow companies in our City, and that those prices are standardized across this County, not just by West Lafayette, but by the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department and the Lafayette Police Department as well—
[someone in the audience said and ISP and Purdue.]

Police Chief Dombkowski said ISP and Purdue. So those rates, I think, are tested and standardized across our County, and I would have you take that into consideration as well.

Mayor Dennis said thank you, Chief. Jim [Mr. Poe, Jim's Garage].

Mr. Jim Poe [Jim's Garage, 1770 North 9th Street] said I have the contract for Lafayette, and when you talked to me and called me, I gave you a copy of our tow rates, which is what is on that contract, and I also told you that was the first time that we'd raised rates in 12 years. Now, do you remember talking to me?

Councilor Roales said no, sir, I don't.

Mr. Poe said well, you did. Just right before all this over here started.

Mayor Dennis said what's the rate, Jim?

Mr. Poe said the rate is \$85 for impounds, wrecks, and Joe Doe towing. It depends on what it is and special equipment and so forth there. That's \$40. Special equipment runs you \$30, and in reference to your question there a while ago on what do you do if you towed a car that was wrong and it was properly where it was supposed to be in this apartment complex or whatever, and I'm sure the rest of them have done the same thing. I did one just the other day that was not on the sheet that was called in for the apartment complex, and the kid called, and yes he was mad and I went back over to talk to him. He showed me a little bitty sticker up in the window that you couldn't even hardly read, and it was raining that day, and I called the apartment complex back, gave them the number and so forth there, and she said, "Well, I don't know. It's not registered as a legal car to be here." I said, "is that one of your numbers?" She said, "Yes, it is." I said, "Okay," then I said, "the kid needs to come over and talk to you and show you why it is." So I said, "Right now, I'm going to drop the car." And the kid started getting a little mouthy and kind of ensued an argument, and I said, "Look. Don't argue. You go over to the management at your apartment complex." I said, "I'm not charging you anything right now." But I said, "Get this matter straightened out." I said, "She acknowledges this is her

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number, so now you need to go over there and talk with them. But," I said, "don't go over there like you're arguing with me." I said, "Go over there with some common sense and talk to her." I said, "I'm sure that it can be worked out." I never heard any more out of the apartment complex, I never heard any more out of the kid. Any other questions? If any of you want a copy of rates, I'm sure each and every one of us can provide you a copy of rates of what we're doing. But, like I said, mine is a contract with Lafayette and he was requested to see a copy of it here a while back that he doesn't remember. But yes, I did fax him a copy of that. And that's the same copy that every one of my drivers uses in a handbook for every tow that they do, regardless of Police towing or whatever. And they all run the same rates for west side, County, State. Every Police Department, every complex that has private impounds, it all runs the same. Okay?

Councilor Keen said thank you.

Mayor Dennis said thanks, Jim [Mr. Poe].

Councilor Thomas said Mr. Mayor, can I ask a question?

Mayor Dennis said sure.

Councilor Thomas said when's the last time you had a towing increase, the rates?

Mr. Poe said 12 years ago.

Councilor Thomas said 12 years ago?

Mr. Poe said yes. We just raised ours January 1 to these rates.

Councilor Thomas said thank you.

Mr. Poe said okay.

Mr. Mullen said I just have one other question, what did we do to you people? That's the question I have. This isn't solving the parking problem. The problem is the parking. It is not the towing. You solve the parking problem, the towing problem goes away, doesn't it? We solved the problem at Willowbrook. The problem was solved at McCormick Place. We had to solve it, because nobody else would. We aren't doing anything wrong. Not a thing. Don't penalize us. And if you vote on this, I would hope you vote "no." Because it's going to go as far as it can possibly go. These fines are absolutely absurd.

Mr. Basham said with all due respect to Councilman Ann [Councilor Hunt], this letter you got from this father, was the student illegally parked? Did he live there?

Councilor Hunt said it wasn't a father. It was a mother, and—

Mr. Basham said was he legally parked?

Councilor Hunt said she didn't say. I'm sorry. It was just this afternoon.

Mr. Basham said well, normally you don't, because nobody does anything wrong until mom and dad get out of town. There was a question that came up, I heard—I was going to play you a message here. There was a question, so it kind of killed my position here. There was a question that came up, "How does a student know where to get their car?" And I was going to

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play that for you right here. But it says, “no service,” but when they know they’re parked in a complex, they know who owns the complex because the complex says on all the complexes the owner’s name. And immediately they go and make the phone call. Again, I wish I could play this. But in mine it says, “Thanks for calling Basham Rentals. For truck towing car information, call JR Enterprises at 471-9553. If this is a maintenance emergency and cannot wait until tomorrow, try calling blah-blah-blah.” So right off the bat, we talk about towing.

[someone in the audience said thank you.]

Mayor Dennis said further comment from the Council?

Mr. Sam Haynes [713 Avondale] said just a matter of conversation I’ve had with my friends. We have the impression that the towing companies are—the words we use, like snake in the weeds. They’re not called in, they’re circulating in certain areas to pick up a car. Are they always responding to calls only? Do you understand? Thank you.

Ms. Sheila Cochran [Cochran Apartments] said I sat here and listened to everybody talk, and I’m sure that you’re doing the same thing, listening to all the opinions. The part that seems so frustrating for me is that we’re all business owners and we’re trying to make our businesses work, and we finally came up with a program that will work, using our stickers like John [Basham] has been showing you. We have the same kind of system. We’re talking about these towing companies, how we should change their prices because they cost too much. And Ann [Councilor Hunt] brings forth information about a mother who called, and I’m sure she did. I’m not doubting that at all. But the problem seems to be is that this ordinance is supporting the people who are breaking the law. All of us, who are doing our business according to the law and doing what we’re supposed to be doing, are all going to be penalized, because the support is for those people who break the law. Most people who have a driver’s license—and I’m talking from the 16½ year-old on up—know when they park a car someplace, whether it’s parked appropriately or not. I’ve parked in places I shouldn’t, full well knowing if I park here because I’m in a hurry, I may get a ticket for this. You accept that responsibility when you break the law. This ordinance is protecting those lawbreakers. It’s not protecting any of us businesspeople who are trying to promote our businesses, do our jobs, and do it legally. Thank you.

Mayor Dennis said Council?

Councilor Truitt said Mr. Mayor, can I say a couple things here? There’s a couple things that I do like about this ordinance. First of all, it’s the collaboration that took place among individuals, individuals in the audience, business owners. I commend Councilor Roales for trying to clean up an ordinance that probably needs—in certain areas—needs a little attention. However, there’s four or five main areas that I’m having a lot of trouble with. One of those Ms. Cochran just talked about, about focusing on the wrong behavior here. I mean, we cannot penalize the property owners in this community—whether it’s single family, whether it’s commercial, whether it’s a house of worship—so we need to make sure that we remain focused on the proper client, if you want to call it that. We need to also not lose sight of the rights of the property owners. Now, the individual that is about to have their car towed, we need to make sure that we’re also being respectful of his or her right, but at the end of the day, they parked illegally and they need to be dealt with. I had a nice conversation with John Basham today, and I was really trying hard to understand the entire scope of this ordinance. John did a great job, explaining with passion, in regard to the programs and policies that he has put into place that he feels allow him to sleep at night. I’m having a hard time regulating fees. I’m having a hard time telling somebody like a John Basham who he can hire in order to protect his property. And as much as I would love to continue to see this refined and, Councilor Roales, I appreciate the collaboration and

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communication, but the way it's put together right now, I'm still having a hard time getting over the hump on this one.

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, if I may. I would also like to express my concerns that I feel that the Common Council should not be regulating or stipulating business prices. I want my Police officers out protecting me and mine and you and yours. I'm very concerned about the rights of property owners, whether it's private property or commercial owners, I don't want us being dictated to on what our personal property rights, what's common law or has a longstanding tradition of common law. Thank you.

Councilor Truitt said Mr. Mayor, one more comment that I forgot. The other item that I feel is important is I would love to see a program or a process of identifying where the towed car is actually located. And I know that John brought up his recording, but something that's a little bit more official in regard to the location of the car. And I've talked to individuals whose cars have been towed. In our neighborhood on football Saturday, we have cars all over the place, and the people—they don't care, so on behalf of the individuals that live close to the football stadium, when individuals come out, they know who towed their car in most cases. If they park in my driveway, I'm the one that's going to tow their car, but I think that they need to have an opportunity for someplace to call in order to know where their car is, and if it's the Police, that would be fantastic. If we can work collaboratively together to determine a system that's not a laborious one, but one built around being able to have a clear approach of where the car is located it'd be great.

Councilor Keen said Paul [Councilor Roales], can I ask you a couple questions. I appreciate the fact that you were singling out the single family properties. I think that was definitely a step in the right direction in working on this and making it more easy for them to go ahead and tow if somebody's parked on their property. Could you walk me through the logic in separating the owner-occupied from the renter-occupied, and how a truck driver, tow truck person, would know the difference between the two. There are so many—I mean, what is it? 60% of the properties in West Lafayette are rentals?—I mean, it's a huge number, and I know on my street alone, I bet there's probably 15 people that rent. Now, if you are going to single out the renters from the owners, how's that determination going to be made, and what difference does it make, I guess really is my question.

Councilor Roales said sure. Well, first I'll talk about identification. All of the single-family homes that are renter-occupied in West Lafayette have a sticker affixed to the front door, either on the outside or the inside that identifies that home as renter-occupied. That certifies that property as being able to be legally renter-occupied. And so that is a simple identification method, which any tow truck driver or occupant of that building could use. The logic behind separating that is discussions with Councilor Truitt, in that we want to make it as easy as possible for an individual that owns a home to remedy a situation where an individual is parked illegally on the property. That's the intent of this ordinance, to make that as easy as possible. So in this instance where a single family is occupying a home and they own that home, there's no need for reporting on a form to the City who initiated that tow, because it's very clear who initiated that tow, the property owner. I mean, there's not going to be a tenant initiating that tow, there's not going to be an agent initiating that tow. The property owner is going to initiate that tow. So to make this as streamlined a process as possible, we eliminated the necessity of a form in that instance, because if your car's been towed from that property, it should be very clear. Now, in a tenant-occupied situation, it could be a number of individuals. It could be an agent, it could be a tenant, it could be a landlord, and so we still require a form in that instance, because for an individual who's been towed to have redress, to be able to appropriately figure out who ordered their car towed, the form is still required.

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Councilor Keen said but I guess I have kind of an exception with that, because I know that—most people who rent homes is what I'm more specifically speaking about here—they enjoy the rights and privileges of the homeowner, or they can assume a lot of those rights and privileges, including the right to be able to have their driveway free from anybody illegally parking there without a lot of undue problem with that. And so I guess I'm having a little difficulty with the idea of if I rent a home versus own a home, I have some problem with not allowing those persons the same rights that, just because they didn't have the wherewithal to be able to buy the home and they have to rent it, to be able to still be able to tow someone from the property if they needed to.

Councilor Roales said this ordinance does not change the ability to tow a vehicle. If a vehicle is illegally parked on a property, a vehicle will most likely still be towed under current law and this ordinance. This simply interjects a process of filling out a form and notifying the Police Department of where that vehicle is being relocated to, so that that individual who's been towed can quickly identify their car, our Police Department can identify between towed vehicles and stolen vehicles. And, you know, the process can be orderly and maintained. I mean, a five-minute process to fill out a form is not an undue burden when you're seizing someone's vehicle. I mean, we're balancing here the rights of the property owner and the rights of a vehicle owner. So if we completely say that, you know, the individual who owns property has unlimited rights over anything on their property, I think that's going too far, and striking a balance between the rights of a vehicle owner and the rights of a property owner is the intent of this ordinance. And I think a five-minute form is not an undue burden in striking that balance.

Councilor Keen said and one other question. On page 3, section paragraph (g) says that charges don't apply to commercial vehicles. What is your logic behind that one?

Councilor Roales said the logic is that commercial vehicles have very different needs than individuals that are using their vehicles for their own use. You know, an instance like a UPS truck or a truck that is bigger and maybe more expensive to tow, maybe more expensive to relocate, and there's too many situations that, you know, to be applied to in that instance. There's too many different types of vehicles that could be used in commercial business for us to efficiently set out a rate for those vehicles. And that's largely current wording from 44.13, in that instance. So currently the City of West Lafayette does not regulate commercial vehicles or towing rates.

Mayor Dennis said final Council discussion?

Councilor Hunt said I have a question or two, please. Councilor Roales, I thought there was some discussion about removing the part about when a business isn't open. Am I—?

Councilor Roales said that has been removed in this. I think I failed to mention that in introducing the amendment by substitution, and that has been removed. You'll see under part (g) on page 2, there's now only two conditions for commercial property towing, that is a complaint procedure by a third party and the posting of signs prohibiting unauthorized parking.

Councilor Hunt said okay. I thought that was removed.

Councilor Roales said yes, it has been removed from the current version.

Councilor Hunt said did you want to discuss—and I hate to put you on the spot, but I guess I will—the charges, as far as \$85 and that's what Mr. Jim says. Do you want to discuss that?

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Councilor Roales said sure, I'd be happy to. In response to comments by, I believe it was Councilor Truitt, maybe Councilor Keen, the request for more research on cities similar to us, cities similar in our area that, you know, we look at those towing rates and we attempt to set our towing rates in line with that, I did research. I contacted the Lafayette Police Department and asked for a copy of their contract with Jim's Towing. In that, I received a copy that said \$35 is their maximum base towing rate. That is a copy from the Lafayette Police Department received since the first of the year that says \$35. I can supply that to the Council. I'd be happy to. Again, Captain Potts of the Purdue Police Department contacted me and said, "Hey, I see you're looking at this issue. I'd like to supply you with information. Purdue, you know, supplied me with a copy of their contract between Purdue Police and Jim's Towing. And, again, that said \$35 is the base rate. So that's two data points, both that say \$35, both in our community. I find it hard to believe that if they're profitably, you know, engaging in towing at those \$35 rates, that they would decline to do business in our community at that exact same rate. The special fees were set exactly in line with Jim's Towing of Lafayette and Jim's Towing of Purdue, and these are competitively bid prices, you know, the towing companies competed for these contracts. I think that's a fair assessment of what's needed for profit. Those are two objective data points. The subjective data point, if that's not enough, presented here tonight, I think should not be considered by the Council as heavily. Again, I would be happy to supply that documentation to you, but, you know, that is what I received from Purdue and Lafayette.

Councilor Keen said Paul [Councilor Roales] could I ask one more question?

Councilor Roales said sure.

Councilor Keen said on page 3 again, under section (b), you list the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., that they can charge money for that. Does that preclude the fact that the—or does that mandate in any way that the tow truck service would have to offer that vehicle to be retrieved during those hours?

Councilor Roales said my changes to Section 44.13 here simply clarify the definition of "during night" that was previously in West Lafayette City Code. If previous West Lafayette City Code mandated them to allow a vehicle to be retrieved, then I would expect that to continue. That's not my interpretation of this, and that's not my intent with this.

Councilor Keen said okay. I just wanted to make sure that wasn't your intent with what you were doing there.

Councilor Roales said no, that is not. My intent was to simply clarify what "during night" meant. That was my intent with that change.

Councilor Keen said okay.

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, I would just like to comment again that I feel that the rights of private property owners are not being respected.

Mayor Dennis said thank you.

Councilor Burch said thank you.

Mayor Dennis said Councilor Thomas.

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Councilor Thomas said Councilor Roales, I know you've supplied in the past information again about the rates between Purdue, Lafayette, West Lafayette, and other comparable sized cities, and I'm looking at the information you've supplied, and I'm hearing a different scenario from the towing companies. So I'm struggling as to how to make sense out of all of this. I obviously—all of us have needs to be towed at some point in time, and I've needed to be towed in the past and I probably will be towed in future. I don't want to put towing companies out of business, because we do that, who's going to tow our vehicles? So I'm struggling with the dichotomy here of rates that have been assembled, comparable rates from what I'm hearing from our friends in the towing company.

Mayor Dennis said Chief.

Police Chief Dombkowski said I happen to have a rate sheet from Jim's that, when I was making my calls on this to Lafayette and they told me to grad Jim's Garage's current rate sheet, and that's what they go by, and I have that here. It was faxed on the 24th of January it's dated, and it has an effective stamp at the bottom of the first of the year of '08. That's what I was using.

Councilor Roales said is that from Jim's or is that from the Lafayette—

Police Chief Dombkowski said from Jim's.

Councilor Roales said okay, well the document I received is from the City of Lafayette Police Department.

Police Chief Dombkowski said is it dated, though? I mean, I don't know how old it is.

Councilor Roales said it was supplied to me after the first of the year. And they told me it was the current contract. If Jim's is charging a rate above the contract—

Police Chief Dombkowski said when did you change your rates, Jim [Mr. Poe]?

[overtalking]

Mr. Poe said what we're getting difference of opinions on is John Doe towing versus wrecks and impounds. This is where the confusion is coming. Because it says right here, "Impounds are \$85, wrecks are \$85, car carriers are \$65." You've got John Doe towing, dealership towing is \$40 across the board, but that's where you're getting into the conflict of a John Doe backup, pickup, and go, rather than going out and doing an impound.

Councilor Truitt said what does that mean?

Mayor Dennis said John Doe is just an anonymous towing—

[overtalking]

Mr. Poe said yes, John Doe towing.

Mayor Dennis said when there's no known owner of the vehicle?

Mr. Poe said no, that's when we have an owner is what we call John Doe towing. Its owner calls up and says, "My car broke down—"

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[overtalking]

Councilor Keen said so that's if an owner calls you.

Councilor Truitt said that's lingo.

Mr. Poe said any place within the City.

Police Chief Dombkowski said the vehicle owner tell?

Mr. Poe said the vehicle owner themselves calls. And that is \$40 anyplace in town. But it's like you go to the grocery store and you've got different prices for different products, and it takes different equipment to do different products. It's the same thing in the towing business. You can't go out and tow a car you have to dig it out of a ditch or something else, you have additional labor on that aspect of it, because it's got to be winched out of a ditch or it's got to be dollied, special equipment, or you've got to have a flatbed. And most of your Police Departments, when they do make this call, they will call for one wrecker if it's towable, they will call for a flatbed if it's not towable.

Councilor Truitt said so would you guess, Jim [Mr. Poe] that the Purdue rates then are this John Doe rate again?

Mr. Poe said the Purdue rates—wrecks are the same thing in Purdue for a wreck *per se*. What he's quoting you is basic John Doe vehicle owner breakdown, pickup, and tow.

Councilor Truitt said okay.

Councilor Thomas said so these would not be rates for an illegally parked vehicle?

Mr. Poe said no, it would not. And Purdue has that information over there and it's on file. Now, when you're talking about relocating cars, that is a different situation there, because they pick it up here and they tow it over here to the end of the road and they set it. Purdue pays that, and then Purdue charges the kid himself for the towing rate. And bringing up the situation of this one car here that was just talked about being an impound, not an impound, or whatever, we had one here just the other day that they went over it on a lockout for a Purdue kid, on a motor club. And they have separate rates for motor clubs, too. But this kid called mom, because the first time he called, they went and unlocked it. Then they had to send a second truck back over again, because this alarm system, he couldn't get it to shut off, so the motor club sent the wrecker back the second time, and this kid calls mom and says, "Mom, they charged me \$50 cash." So she's calling the motor club complaining. They're calling us, and said, "What happened? Why?" Well, we've got it right here where he's signed for two motor clubs, and the motor club is telling us, "Why did this kid sign them tickets when he ain't even authorized and not even on the policy?" But still the motor club paid it, and then she probably went back and charged it to mom.

Mayor Dennis said thanks, Jim [Mr. Poe]. I love this stuff, but we've got to continue through.

Councilor Hunt said I have a—may I make a comment, please?

Mayor Dennis said sure, Ann [Councilor Hunt].

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Councilor Hunt said first of all, I think the sticker system that Mr. Basham and the Cochrans have is very viable. My main concern is a third party being involved. I just—when someone said about it, if they parked illegally, they could ticket. Well, in this instance, if you park illegally, and I don't park illegally, but I also don't have the constraints that living in an apartment where there's a limited number of parking spaces, and I don't live in a very, very dense community like the area in District 1, but I think when you get a ticket, the Police Department is involved. When you're towed, a profit-making company is involved. And I do believe that businesses should make a profit. But I think a third party is needed to be involved, to say, "This car needs to be towed." I'm sorry that sometimes their boyfriend—they get mad at their boyfriend and they call the tow truck. I don't know how to resolve those issues. I know when I was teaching, you make a list of "You can't do this and you can't do that and you can't do this and you can't do that" but always somebody comes up with a creative something you didn't list in your course syllabus, but you can't always cover those. And legally, I don't know how we can. So those are my main points. I like the sticker system, I think it's extremely good. The Cochrans and the Bashams and many other people run a very efficient system. I do think the third party needs to be involved, and I very much support some sort of information to the Police immediately of telling people where in the world their car is, because I imagine the Police get lots of calls about, "Oh, my gosh, my car's been stolen." And, of course, it's in awkward times of the day. So those are my concerns. The price I'm a little worried about. I would remind people we need two votes on this, so this will not be finally decided tonight.

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, I think the stickers could be used as a third party. I don't think the City or the businesses or the towing companies should need to hire or call on another individual. I think the stickers work perfectly well. I do agree with Councilor Hunt that the Police should be informed as soon as possible, so that when someone does call and say, "Hey, where's my car?" they know where to go. So I do agree with Councilor Hunt on that. Thank you.

Mayor Dennis said further final Council comments?

There was no further discussion.

Councilor Truitt said I call the question.

Mayor Dennis said we have a motion.

Councilor Keen said do you need second on that?

City Attorney Burns said if he's calling the question, second for the question.

Councilor Keen said I'll second.

Mayor Dennis said a voice vote on the question.

The motion to call for the vote on Ordinance No. 7-08 passed by voice vote.

The roll call vote:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	Burch
Hunt	Keen
Roales	Thomas
	Truitt

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2008, CONTINUED

Ordinance No. 7-08 (AMENDED) failed, 4-3.

Mayor Dennis said thank you all for your comments. Just as a side note and not taking a side on the issue at hand, we live in a pretty good community, when our headlines deal with parking and towing and not homicides, not with failing corporations, not with economic destruction, not with boarded up windows. So be proud of where you live, and be proud of your Council. We work through these issues, and as usual, we try to do what's best. Those of you who came for this, thank you very much for your time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 8-08 An Ordinance Providing For Temporary Loans From A Fund Having Sufficient Balance To A Depleted Fund (WWTU to Fire Pension Fund and General Fund) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 8-08 by title and moved that it be passed on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said any discussion?

There was no discussion.

Ordinance No. 8-08 passed on first reading, 7-0.

Councilor Keen said Mr. Mayor, I would move that we suspend the rules and vote on Ordinance No. 8-08 for its second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said all right, it's been motioned and seconded.

The motion to consider Ordinance No. 8-08 on second reading passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 8-08 by title, and moved that it be approved on its second and final reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said all right, any discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 8-08 passed on second and final reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 9-08 To Amend Certain Portions Of The Unified Zoning Ordinance Of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Designating The Time When The Same Shall Take Effect (UZO #57) (Submitted by Area Plan Commission)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 9-08 by title and moved that it be passed on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said it's been motioned and seconded. Discussion?

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Councilor Keen said this is an omnibus amendment from the Area Plan, and it basically talks about three different sections. One of those sections was to allow urban zones in small unincorporated towns that had sanitary sewer systems, as well. What this does, it really does not apply to West Lafayette *per se*, because we already have a sewer system. And so that portion of it doesn't apply to West Lafayette specifically. Section 5 was to separate out adult day care centers on the Use Table, and allow them to mirror the zones permitting the child day care centers. There was some question brought up about adult day care, and the allowed areas in which those could take place, and they wanted to mirror the ones of child day care centers, to have the same rules in effect by them. And then the final section of that was expanding the Courthouse proximate. It's to basically limit single-family, two family, and residential units in the Courthouse proximate area which includes the area directly around the Courthouse, but this wants to expand down Main Street on both sides, down to 11th Street. It would allow for business and those types of things on the main levels and residential areas to be on areas above the first floor. The only exception would be accessible housing, which would be allowed in rear entrances to the facilities, as opposed to the front entrances. Those were the things that those were about.

Mayor Dennis said any further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 9-08 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 5-08 A Resolution Confirming The Designation Of An Economic Revitalization Area For Property Tax Abatement For Purdue Research Foundation (PTC-II) **PUBLIC HEARING** (Prepared by the Office of the City Attorney)

Councilor Keen moved that Resolution No. 5-08 be opened for a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Burch.

Mayor Dennis said we need a voice vote.

The motion to hold a public hearing on Resolution No. 5-08 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Dennis opened the public hearing. Any comments? Hearing none, the public hearing is closed.

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 5-08 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said Councilor Thomas has a comment.

Councilor Thomas said again, because I have filled out a conflict of interest statement because of Purdue Research Foundation as my parent company, so I would defer to Attorney Burns on a ruling on this.

City Attorney Burns said the Councilor asked me for a legal opinion on whether or not he had a conflict of interest in voting on this, and my understanding is that, because Councilor Thomas has no pecuniary interest, that is the test, and therefore there is not a conflict of interest. That would be my legal opinion. Further, there is no legal impediment to Mr. [Councilor] Thomas' participation in this vote.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2008, CONTINUED

Mayor Dennis said thank you, sir. Any further discussion?

Councilor Truitt said you've got a big proposal, Jody, right?

Mayor Dennis said who's going to present?

Councilor Truitt said Jody.

Attorney Thomas Brooks [Redevelopment Commission Attorney] said Jody's going to present.

Ms. Jody Hamilton [Lafayette-West Lafayette Development Corporation] said this is the second resolution for the designation of an ERA [economic revitalization area] for the Purdue Technology Center-II building, for their 10-year tax abatement. We're mainly standing in front of you today to ask you to support that abatement. It's on a \$14.5 million investment that will add about 275 jobs to the Purdue Research Park. Those jobs will make over 3,000 employees that EDS this past few weeks has already helped them grow to in the number of employees. So we're just asking for your support, and if anybody has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Mayor Dennis said questions from the Council? Thank you, Jody [Ms. Hamilton].

Attorney Brooks said this resolution is also setting out that the area is a revitalization area, not just for the tax abatement. You are also saying that this particular property is a revitalization area. So there's two things with regard to this resolution.

City Attorney Burns said one vote, though.

Attorney Brooks said one vote.

Councilor Truitt said hey, Tom [Attorney Brooks], is it always the case in economic revitalization area terminates at a predetermined date?

Attorney Brooks said that's City Code.

Councilor Truitt said okay.

Attorney Brooks said actually, City Code is two years, and the Economic Development Commission and the Redevelopment Commission bumped it up to three years.

Councilor Truitt said all right.

Mayor Dennis said thank you, Mr. Brooks.

Councilor Hunt said may I ask a question? We're on 5-08, right?

Mayor Dennis said yes.

Councilor Hunt said okay. At the end it says, "Due to the potential conflict of interest, Councilor Thomas..." that will be stricken?

City Attorney Burns said that's a good point.

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Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said yes. That was to reflect—and we would have changed the jurat, because that reflected what occurred in the declaratory resolution. Given the opinion that's just been provided, we would have provided a different jurat for signature.

Councilor Hunt said it was just staring at me. Thank you.

City Attorney Burns said please ignore it.

Mayor Dennis said any further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 5-08 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 6-08 A Resolution Requesting The Transfer Of Funds (EDIT) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 6-08 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Truitt.

Mayor Dennis said discussion?

There was no discussion.

Resolution No. 6-08 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Dennis said I was gone last week. I was in Washington, D.C. with some our elected officials, as well as representatives from the Lafayette and West Lafayette Redevelopment Corporation. It was a good experience. We actually got to see some of our representatives, Senator Lugar and Bayh, and Congressman Buyer, and we got to present some issues that are important to the area to our elected representatives. We did discuss 231. We discussed the Wabash Redevelopment Corporation and the development on the Wabash River. It was a very worthwhile experience for me. Sort of going through my pledgedship up here. But it really did bring to light some of the issues that communities all over the country are weighing. As I said earlier, we live in a very great place. Let there be no doubt. We live in a very great place. Again, our representatives are very much aware of that. West Lafayette, Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County carry pretty significant influence with our elected officials. And for that you need to be very proud.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said Mayor Dennis, was Councilor Burch on that trip?

Mayor Dennis said yes.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I believe that's the first time we've had a Council member on that Washington, D.C. trip. That's at least my recollection, so I think congratulations are in order for the commitment from a Councilor to also attend.

Mayor Dennis said nicely done.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2008, CONTINUED

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I can't recollect when we've had a Council member in all these years attend that trip. Perhaps the first of others.

Mayor Dennis said that would be good.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Truitt moved for adjournment, and the meeting adjourned, the time being 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Rhodes, Clerk-Treasurer
Secretary of the Common Council