

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE  
COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2008

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on June 2, 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, City Engineer Buck, Police Chief Dombkowski, Street Commissioner Downey, Fire Chief Drew, Human Resources Director Foster, Assistant Director of Development Grady, WWTU Director Henderson, and Parks Superintendent Payne.

MINUTES: Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the May 1, 2008, Pre-Council Meeting, and the May 5, 2008, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Truitt seconded the motion, and the motion passed *viva voce*.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SAMEER MISHRA

Mayor Dennis said Sameer Mishra is a middle school student at the West Lafayette Middle School, and Chief Dombkowski and I actually had the pleasure of meeting him some time back when we were judges for the *Journal & Courier*-sponsored Scripps Spelling Bee. As most people know, Sameer smeared 'em. Actually, he took the whole thing. One of the things that's such an amazing accomplishment about this is that this was all an individual effort on Sameer's part. He and his family trained for this for a minimum of four hours a day, and, you know, there are those of us on the Council here and in the audience this evening who have participated in organized sports. And sacrificing four hours of your day is a significant effort. It requires a significant sacrifice. For this young man to have this kind of national recognition, this kind of an accomplishment is nothing short of amazing. I know his parents are very proud when he won the local spelling bee; I can only imagine what they're like now. I wish they were here with us tonight, but he is still working the night show circuit. I think he's on *The Late Show* here or *Good Morning America* there. He is all over the place. But this is amazing, amazing stuff. I can't wait 'til he gets back, because, you know, he is the human equivalent of F7 on your keyboard. Those of you who don't know that's SpellCheck, and I know it very well, because I use it almost every time I type a sentence. Anyway, again, we will be doing more formal recognition of Sameer in the near future, and actually hope to do so with Dr. Killion and the school system. You'll be hearing more from us on that in the near future.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS:

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

I have a preliminary question. Do we have a key to the City? What do we do when we honor somebody?

Mayor Dennis said you're letting my secret out.

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Councilor Bunder said we do?

Mayor Dennis said yes, I'll talk to you afterwards—

Councilor Bunder said ride in a fire truck? What do we do? Just being inquisitive, that's all. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. First, Wastewater. The Western Interceptor Phase II construction is completed and Atlas Excavating is continuing restoration of the grounds along the project route. Western Interceptor Phase III, preliminary design has been done, and work has begun on acquiring easements. Digester renovation, a topic near and dear to us all, construction is progressing on the new digester control building; work has begun on renovating the grit building and grit tanks. You can only imagine what a grit building does and what goes into grit tanks. Councilor Bunder, it says here, came to the Plant for a tour last month, and everyone is encouraged to come on a tour; they have plenty of hard hats, while they are under construction. I'll resist reading the numbers. One request from Mr. [Street Commissioner] Downey: If you are a person who owns property along an alley in West Lafayette, the spring rains have done a wonderful job of growing all of those strange bushes that live along the alleys in West Lafayette. If you have a moment and have nothing else to do in your life, would you go out and cut those back, please. If you don't, at some point, a City worker will come and do it for you, and you may not like what happens if that happens. So, please, take care of those plants that you may or may not have planted along the alleys in West Lafayette. The *Journal & Courier* keeps telling us the Recycling Center is up in the air; that's wrong. We continue to be supportive of recycling in West Lafayette. Councilor Roales and I are pleased that an area of the Village will be repaved and landscaped using money from Tax Increment Financing. Five blocks of Chauncey Avenue, portions of Columbia and North Streets in West Lafayette. Finally, Cumberland Avenue redesign proposals are being sought. That concludes my report, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Dennis said thank you. On a side note, I spent the better part of a day on the back of a garbage truck in May, and it happened to be a cold, rainy day. We did a lot of our pick up predominately around the student area. Going up and down those alleys, it's quite true. Those limbs will reach out and grab you. So if it's at all possible for anybody that owns property down there to clean those up, that would be greatly appreciated by the folks on the back of trucks.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE: Councilor Keen presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. On May 12, the West Lafayette Police Merit Commission promoted Investigator Cindy Marion to the position of Sergeant. She is a 17-year veteran of the Police Department and is currently assigned as commander of the Criminal Investigation Division, so congratulations to her, and for the great job that the Police Department is continuing to do. In May, the Department also completed its second RAD class. RAD is Rape Aggression Defense. It's a very popular class for anybody who wants to be involved in that. It's geared toward women, obviously, but it is a great program that I would encourage anyone who is interested to get signed up for that. Also in May, three of our West Lafayette firefighters have completed the EMT training class—Grant Birge, Shane Chapman, and Ryan Linder. They all passed the Emergency Medical Technician course. They passed the practical, the State written test, and are now certified EMTs in the State of Indiana. Good job, guys. Also, in addition to attaining the EMT certification, Grant Birge also was elevated to the rank of Firefighter First Class, and John Keller was elevated from Probationary Firefighter status to Firefighter Second Class. Congratulations to all of you, and good job, both Chiefs. I appreciate it. The rest of the report will be on file.

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PURDUE RELATIONS: Councilor Roales presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's been a busy month since campus let out and our last meeting. 6,000 new alumni have been included in the ranks of now over 300,000 alumni from Purdue. As graduation concluded, classes started back up again with Maymester, and so that is currently going on. It's a little less busy on campus, but students are still there and they will be more so through the summer. As the academic portion of the year concludes, Purdue sports are still going strong. We just recently hosted at Purdue the NCAA Championships for golf, which was a very busy time around that course, and I'm sure Ann [Councilor Hunt] who lives pretty close to that saw an increase of traffic.

Councilor Hunt said they parked in front of my house. Legally.

Councilor Roales said and, again, with sports, the Big Ten Network will be holding what they call "Purdue Day" on June 2, which will have 24 consecutive hours of Purdue sports and Purdue information. So those of you who can get that, feel free to watch that. That's a good time to highlight maybe writing your local cable provider to try to get that. Recently on campus, we've seen a group called the Friends of the Celery Bog form to work with campus and the golf course on awareness of interaction with the community on how they maintain their facility. And so I think that highlights a couple of things we do very well at the City, you know, focusing on the interaction between the University and the City, but also being aware of green issues, which is obviously on our agenda tonight. So I think that highlights and reiterates the importance of those two efforts and those two things we already do well in the City in maintaining those. So as campus quiets down, I mean, I think it will be a good time to find some parking, but to prepare for the next year. Thank you, Mayor.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Councilor Hunt presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The pool opened. It opened with the Splash Bash on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. It was planned to be on Friday, but it was very cold and rainy, so it was put off until Saturday. The public response to the improvements like the shade and the fence and lots and lots of improvement to the pool area has gone well, and I imagine the warmer days recently have had more attendance. But go by and see. The shade area appeals to me quite a lot. Thanks to the 16 volunteers from Eli Lilly Tippecanoe Labs who spent more than 80 hours on May 15, mulching and removing storm damage from the footpath in the Celery Bog. And they planted trees, so we thank them very much for doing that. West Lafayette in Bloom judges will be here June 27 and 28. I think many of us are involved in that, and we continue to urge you to plant hot pink flowers, because the judges will be looking for that, among many, many other things. The Sagamore West Farmers' Market is open every Wednesday in Cumberland Park from 3:00 to 6:30. And the next Park Board is June 16 at 4:30 at City Hall. That concludes my report. Thank you.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Councilor Thomas presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It was reported last month that the Lafayette-West Lafayette Downtown Development Council has hired Indianapolis-based Hirons & Company to develop a new branded marketing strategy for the area. The *Journal & Courier* reported that Hirons expected to have a report prepared by the end of August. The study will cost about \$35,000, with funding provided by the Lafayette Regional Association of Realtors, the Indiana Association of Realtors, the Lafayette-West Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Downtown Development Center. Hirons will begin hosting meetings in July to gather input on the plan. So we look forward to movement on perhaps branding the area, and, again, generating some economic development activities for the City. That concludes my report, Mr. Mayor.

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PERSONNEL: Councilor Burch presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Chandler Poole will be starting tomorrow, June 3, as our Development Director. That concludes my report, Mr. Mayor.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Councilor Truitt presented this report.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Besides the packet of information that we receive each month, as far as the statement of funds, we also have our monthly placement of our Wastewater report, as well as our cash transaction sheet. The Budget and Finance Committee will be meeting in June at a time yet to be determined. There's some individuals that are going to be out of town and at some conventions and such, so we're going to have to work around some schedules, but we will looking forward to beginning the budget process here in the next 30 days. That concludes my report, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE: Councilor Keen presented this report.

There was no business that was directly affecting West Lafayette, so I have no report at this time.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Parks Department Presentation – Superintendent Payne

Parks Superintendent Payne presented an overview of the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor Truitt said I have the honor to present to the Eikenberrys. The Eikenberry home was the first home built at 2405 Sycamore Lane back in 1965, which is just right back in this direction, and all of you probably pass it at least once a day on your way up to City Hall or to a local store. Back in 1965, it was just a gravel road, but through the years the family has added on to the home, with a major renovation and garage construction occurring approximately 10 years ago. At that time, Joyce created a separate garden room for her enjoyment, featuring garden art and many of her large collection of lilacs. Along the front of the home is a planting of red Knock-out roses which catch the attention of many passers-by all summer long. A beautiful pink dogwood sits at the front door, planted to honor the birth of their granddaughter Maya. Five other trees honoring their other grandchildren are also located throughout the landscaping, which includes a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, and conifers. This award winner is an excellent example of a mature landscape which has responded very well to changes and looks great every year. It's with great pleasure that I pronounce the Eikenberry family the winner of the Beautification Award for this month.

Ms. Joyce Eikenberry said I would say that yes, we've lived in that house since 1965, 43 years, and our children through the West Side school system—

Mayor Dennis said I went to high school with—

Ms. Eikenberry said did you? And it has just been a joy and a privilege to be citizens of West Lafayette, and you have been very good neighbors. Thank you.

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FINANCIAL REPORT: Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes presented this report.

You have received your cash reports and ledger reports on file. Our audit has been completed. We have an unqualified opinion, and we are in the process of preparing our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for submission. As Councilor Truitt mentioned, work on the budget matters is progressing. I expect the first complete filing of the budget will occur a little bit later this week. There are going to be some functional changes in how the budget is organized, in order to streamline and make it more transparent and amenable to management. We will be reporting back to the Budget and Finance Committee shortly, as I presume a meeting is going to be organized. That's my report for this evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 15-08 An Ordinance Providing For The Payment Of Litigation Expenses Including Attorney Fees For Violations Of The City Code (Prepared by the City Attorney)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 15-08 by title and 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.

Mayor Dennis said discussion.

City Attorney Burns said may I?

Mayor Dennis said yes.

City Attorney Burns said all right. Briefly, we have covered this before. This is the second reading, as you know. I think this is a positive change to the City Code. Ordinance enforcement is all about changing behavior for the better. I think that this helps that. Currently, if an ordinance violation has to be taken to court, the City does not receive attorney fees for the City Attorney services, even if the City prevails in that lawsuit. This change would allow the judge in a lawsuit where the City prevails to obtain attorney fees for the City Attorney, so that the impact to the taxpayer is minimized or avoided completely, so that there's no cost to the taxpayer potentially for the City Attorney fees. I think that this is something that will be a positive thing for our City Code. It is a usual and fairly common thing for cities to have, and I would recommend its passage. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 15-08 passed on final reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 16-08 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 24-07, Fixing The Biweekly Salaries Of Appointed Officers, Employees And Members Of The Police And Fire Departments Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana For The Year 2008 (Submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Supplemental Information

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 16-08 by title and 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.

Mayor Dennis said I believe [Human Resources Director] Diane Foster is here, if there are any questions. Any discussion? Anybody need a refresher?

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There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 16-08 passed on final reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 17-08 An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 25-07, The 2008 Wastewater Treatment Utility Salary Schedule As Submitted By The Board Of Public Works And Safety For Approval By The Common Council Of The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana (Submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Supplemental Information

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 17-08 by title and 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.

Mayor Dennis said discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 17-08 passed on final reading, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 19-08 An Ordinance To Establish A Go Greener Commission In West Lafayette (Submitted by Councilor Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 19-08 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 insofar as a point of discussion, there's been a lot of work put into this ordinance. It is an important ordinance, and basically, it's something that, like it or not, it's something we're moving towards, what we're gravitating toward as a society. We can no longer be the same throwaway society that we used to be. Recycling, cutting fuel costs, just basically being a little bit more environmentally astute is paramount for the success of any organization, not just a city, but any organization. Look what they've done at SIA. It's just amazing stuff. They've taken basically trash that used to take up about the space of a vehicle, and they compressed it down to about that of a sandwich bag. And they've done it all in such a way that it's cost-effective. They tie it economically, and they make it work, and that's what we need to do in this community. Insofar as our ordinance goes, as a point of discussion, I would like to bring up the makeup of the Commission itself. I feel very strongly that, as an elected official, that we need to have an element of accountability, insofar as the makeup of commissions as they go and they move down the path and they have substantial influence over City business. So I would like to entertain, on the part of Councilor Hunt, some suggestions for improvement.

Councilor Hunt said in Pre-Council on Thursday, we had considerable discussion about the reasonableness of the appointments for this. The Go Greener non-official commission that was established last year thought that it would be important that they appoint quite a few members themselves, after the Mayor and the Council had appointed theirs. One of the reasons would be the rich resource at Purdue and this community brings to a commission of this sort. So I would like to make an amendment to this that realigns those—the numbers that were appointed. The amendment that I would like to have is that the Mayor have three appointees, the Council have four appointees, and the Commission itself, based on those seven, that the seven that the Mayor and the Council appoint would appoint five. So that's the amendment I would like to make, please.

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Councilor Keen said I'll second that.

Mayor Dennis said okay, discussion?

Councilor Bunder said I think I'd like to hear the Commission's reaction, just for the record. Do you like that?

Mayor Dennis said Diane [Damico, current Commission chair], why don't you come on up.

Ms. Diane Damico [128 Blackhawk Lane] said I do like that. The way I understand it is that the appointees made would appoint from the Commission that's already been in place, or that the Commission that has been working together can offer some of their nominees, too. Is that what you meant?

Councilor Hunt said well, I think that's a detail that would come out of the formal ordinance, but I think we certainly always listen to input from citizens, particularly particularly-interested citizens in the appointees we make. I mean, I think many of us who bring up appointees, you know, talk to people and say, "Are you interested? Are you committed?" And I think the commitment is certainly important here.

Ms. Damico said okay, so is there leeway for the people that have been meeting to—because during Pre-Council and afterwards, there was some discussion about self-selecting. So I'm not sure if this is totally different from that or not.

Councilor Hunt said I think it's very similar to that, it's just that readjusting some of the numbers.

Ms. Damico said okay, so three Mayoral, four Council, five from the Commission then. I think I like that.

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, while we're talking numbers, I think we should have six appointed by the Mayor, whoever the Mayor is, and six by the Council. I think a number of our citizens are concerned about unelected officials making appointments, and I think six and six is a good compromise.

Councilor Hunt said if I may speak to that. If you look at the three and the four, by the Council and the Mayor, that's seven. And that's a good percentage. We have seven out of 12 is certainly more than 50%. The Council would have to approve, you know, any policies that this Commission would create, but I think the seven and five is good, and, again, as I say, we have a rich resource of scholarly research-oriented people that have expertise in this area.

Councilor Burch said but I'm saying that the Council and the Mayor have the knowledge to select those folks with the expertise and the knowledge.

Councilor Roales said Councilor Burch, if I could respond to your comment. I mean, I share some of your concern and, you know, in reviewing the Shepherd-Kernan Report for the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, you know, they speak to the importance of having elected officials being responsible for city actions. I also see the alternate side of this point, where it's important to include a large number of individuals. I think that the Indiana Commission's concerns about that are addressed, because, in fact, the Council could control

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this Commission via the majority of our four appointments. That would be the majority of the seven made by elected officials. We could replace, through that, for all the members of the Committee, except for the Mayor's, of course. So, I mean, I feel that our concerns about control over this Committee, we still have that control via our four. I think the new numbers make that control with the Council and with the Mayor, and I think the concern there is mitigated.

Councilor Burch said I think we'll have to agree to disagree.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

Councilor Keen said I did have a question for somebody. It says here under item (d), "The first twelve commissioners shall be appointed for 1, 2, or 3 years. All subsequent appointments shall be for three years." My question is which members will be one year, which members will be two years, which members will be three years, or have we thought through it that far? I mean, will the Council-appointed members be two years? Will the Mayoral appointees be three years? Will the Commission members be one year? Or *vice versa*? If so, what? I mean, that's just—

City Attorney Burns said I'd say as much as you can, you do it pro rata. In other words, the Council's got four, the Mayor's got three. As well as you can, you divide them that way. You also have five, if we had the amendment that's suggested, then there would be, you know, 5/12 of them would have one, two, or three. So you spread them around as well as you can.

Councilor Truitt said but the subsequent appointments are three years, so it's kind of a moot point. So the ones become—

Councilor Keen said right. After the first year.

City Attorney Burns said in other words, it wouldn't—just if this ordinance was passed as is, without any further specification, the way you would do it is you would do it pro rata, so each of the three appointing bodies would have an even shot at having a one-year member, a two-year member, and a three-year member. You'd have to round up, obviously. Fractions wouldn't be perfect.

Councilor Bunder said and I have some confidence, if I may, that we would be able to solve that. I think we probably— We can do that.

Councilor Keen said well, I'm not doubting that you couldn't solve it. I'm just asking what was it going to be from the initial appointments is what I was asking. So that we could have a completely defined ordinance, because there's other things in the ordinance that I do not think are well-defined. First of all, I would agree completely with the Mayor in his opening statements, in that I think this definitely the way the City's going. I think that this is something that we need to address, and I think that we need to be thinking down these roads. But being who I am, I tend to question ordinances or any type of legislation that is not well defined from the beginning, and I think there's a number of questions that can be raised about this ordinance that I'd like to see worked out before we pass such an ordinance. And I have a whole list of questions here we can talk about. I know some of these were addressed at Pre-Council. I was going to let Councilor Burch go and explain her point of view on these things, and then maybe I can fill in with some of my concerns. But if we can talk about that a little bit.

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Ms. Damico said I'm not sure, but perhaps some of those could be answered through adopting our rules and regulations at that time. I think we also have to specify, probably even more things than you've come up with, but since the ordinance does give us that challenge and opportunity, we'll probably have to go through that, too, for our regulations.

Councilor Keen said would it be possible to get the rules and that sort of thing put together before we pass this ordinance?

Councilor Hunt said may I ask—I believe, before I was elected to my previous term on the Council, if I remember right—and Joel Weber is here; I think he could probably help us—but the Police Merit Commission—again, if I recall correctly, the Police Merit Commission was formed, approved by the Council, and then they came up with their bylaws and they were approved after the fact. If I remember. So that sets a precedent, and it seems a good one. I mean, we have a mission statement, which is always a good place to start. I wouldn't want—without our expertise of our group, I wouldn't want to say, "Okay, let's do it this way," before we started. I think you start and then you fill in the details of the structure. That's my comment on that, Councilor Keen.

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, this ordinance raises the important issue of sustainability. According to the World Commission on Environment and Development, any development is sustainable where it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability means that economic capital should be kept intact. Income should represent the amount one can consume during a period and still be as well off at the end of that period. Because of failure in past years to provide for economic sustainability, the Council must make the budget their first priority. Consequently, I would like to ask Councilor Bunder to explain how his ordinance will provide economic relief for West Lafayette, and protect the taxpayers from further depletion of their economic resources. Will it generate income? Will it help us to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs? How will this benefit the City?

Councilor Bunder said well, the answer is yes. This is not a novel piece of legislation. Bloomington's is 1971. Almost every college and university community has something like this by now. Most of the cities in the State of Indiana do, too. The aim is to encourage those new generation of businesses whose employees are much interested in the environment as an issue personally and often professionally, to understand this is a home for them, that they can comfortably work in West Lafayette, knowing that their concerns about the environment are part of the official policy of the City of West Lafayette. Usually, and I am expert not in the workings of the City of Bloomington or East Lansing, the presumption, the experience is usually that—these commissions, committees find ways for the city to, in fact, save money. And are often attractive to businesses who are seeking to make their own claims in the market to energy conservation, to environmental care. Purdue University is a center for climate research. It is important for us to be able to say to the University and to those who work at the University that the City is equally committed to dealing with the issues of global climate change. If Diane [Ms. Damico] has anything else you'd like to add, that would—I'd certainly invite her to do that.

Councilor Burch said well, wait a minute. You just mentioned global climate change. I thought we were talking about going greener here in West Lafayette. I mean, if this is based on Bloomington's ordinance or resolution to go greener and it's almost word-for-word, where is the economic impact on this? How is it going to benefit the City economically? Who's going to do

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the measures? Who's going to do the monitoring? How and who and when and where are the reports going to be given to the community? Who's going to pay, the taxpayers? I mean, we can all start right now by going greener by, instead of raking our leaves to the curb, we can start composting them. We can return that nitrogen to the soil. That's a start right there. And that will save the City money.

Councilor Roales said I disagree, Councilor Burch. There's other cities in Indiana and around the country that are in similar position to ours that have a full paid employee that will do similar work to what the Go Green Commission will do on an economical free basis. And so I see this as a way to save money for our citizens, to get some of the same recommendations that other cities pay for and have a full staff member to recommend. And so if we can leverage Purdue University, if we can leverage the talent in our community to create these recommendations to improve operations of City Hall, to improve the operations of our community, I think that's a responsible, economical thing. You know, in the past, other Councilors—I don't know who, maybe myself—recommended that we integrate more Purdue expertise into the way that the City functions. And I think that this is a great step in doing so.

Councilor Keen said can I just say that I see where Councilor Burch is coming from on this, in that this ordinance does seem to, to a large degree, mirror the Bloomington ordinance. The interesting thing that I'm wondering about is why does our ordinance not include the economic WHEREASes that is in that ordinance? Why did we specifically leave those out? And I guess the point being is not so much how much is this ordinance going to cost the City of West Lafayette, but, more importantly, how much is this ordinance going to save the taxpayers? And how are we going to measure those indicators? And when you talk about the sustainability indicators, I'd like maybe to have a little clearer definition of what those might be, as well. If you could maybe talk a little bit about that.

Councilor Roales said I'll let Councilor Bunder speak as well, but, I mean, I think this is a committee, a commission to provide recommendations. All policy would still have to come through the Council. I mean, we don't expect the same sort of level of responsibility from, say, the Police Merit Commission on their spending or their recommendations. We don't expect them to show an ROI simply from meeting in City Hall. And so I think it's inappropriate to ask a new commission to provide the same kind of level of accountability. I mean, these are volunteers that are willing to do research that we would otherwise have to pay for, and I think that's a good step.

Councilor Keen said well, I understand where you're coming from on that, but I would still suggest that I think we need to at least come up with an outline of a budget, answer questions like the City employee that we're talking about here, the liaison, whose department is that person coming out of? What kind of pay is that person to be expected? What line items are they being paid out of? I mean, don't get me wrong. I'm not opposing what we're doing here. I'm just trying to get the ordinance cleaned up a little bit better before we enact something that we're going to have to come back and change later. That's where I'm coming from. I'd like to do things right the first time around, instead of having to go back and change it is where I'm coming from on this.

Councilor Hunt said but the Council has oversight on this commission. I just think it's unreasonable to expect everything on the dotted line when we approve this.

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Councilor Keen said I'm not really expecting everything on the dotted line. I'm just asking for a general budget, maybe possibilities of people who are going to be the liaison person, you know, these kinds of things. I mean, these are important questions to be asking, and the question of asking, you know, how much is this going to save or how much could this potentially save the City. You know, these kinds of questions, I think are questions that at least need to be addressed, maybe not answered, but they at least need to be addressed to give us a reasonable idea of where we're going with this.

Ms. Damico said well, you'll notice that there wasn't any money asked for at all—

Councilor Keen said I understand that, but you're asking for a position of a person, and that converts to dollars and cents.

Ms. Damico said so I can give you a number. The number would be zero. We're not asking for any kind of money to be contributed to this. We've been meeting for five months and we haven't asked for anything from those meetings. We're already planning events; we didn't ask for any money for those. I don't see where a detail list of the big number zero would really help, but there it is. We did consider the economic sustainability from that, talked to Mr. [Mayor] Dennis, and he and I, during a conversation, thought that what we really want to work on right now is the environmental sustainability. I mean, that could be something, if you want to add that later, if you want to see how this committee works, that's a possibility. But it's not that we ignored it, it's just that our primary focus is the environment, for right now.

Councilor Keen said and I can certainly appreciate that. And I do appreciate that. I guess, you know, a question in the back of my mind is, I guess, why are we taking this step? Why are we even drafting this ordinance when we have a commission in place that is doing essentially the job that you're asking or you're wanting us to do here? Why do we need to establish this commission? Or further, what is the current commission not accomplishing that this is going to accomplish? Why do we need it, I guess, is what I'm saying. We already have a commission in place that is addressing the same things that we're talking about here.

Ms. Damico said well, I think for one thing, people couldn't find us. And that, because we wanted to be helpful in a more public way, being connected to the City, being able to be on the website, having someone to be able to go back and forth between what we're doing and taking it to the City, think we needed that. And I think as a citizen that lives here, I thought it was pretty important to know that this government body thought it was important, too. So, yes, I'm sure there's a lot of organizations that are meeting. Some of our members are from local churches, and they're greening their sanctuary. Those things do exist. But why not have the City say, "Yes, we think this is important, too. We're ready to back it. We need your expertise. We'd like your help." And so, although I'm hearing your concerns and I know being—I would prefer to be very specific, too, but I think that would just hold the process up, and you'd be losing out on a lot of—you'd gain more by starting it, working it through, tweaking it, than you would be to say, "Wow. We don't have all the details," because, you know what? I don't think we can give you every detail of what could happen in the next 10 years or whatever, while the Commission is doing their thing. So one of the things we did was we did brainstorm some metrics, to think about, if we could measure things, to show what the environment is doing. Is it improving in our City, or is it not? And we have a long list of those. But do we know that those are the ones that are valuable to our City departments? We don't know that yet, because we don't have that solid connection to the City. And I'd like to be able to have, you know, all our department heads know that we exist, and so, you know what? We're thinking about doing XYZ. Does anyone

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there know how that would affect the environment? Because everyone on the Council, I'm sure, has some concerns for the environment, but you don't have the expertise either. And when they come up and they say, "We'd like to build a new fire house." And we say, "Is it LEED certified?" Maybe we were the only ones that would have asked that; I don't know. So I think we can get really bogged down with all the small details: What day of the week will you meet? How often will you meet? How many committees will you have? I don't think it's worth it.

Councilor Keen said well, again, I'm not asking for those kinds of details. I'm asking for outlines.

Ms. Damico said okay.

Councilor Keen said I'm asking for philosophies, if you will. I think that you already have the complete backing of the City as it is with the Commission. I think you have the full cooperation of the City in everything that you're doing right now. I guess, in my way of thinking, less government is always better. And this, to me, is just simply more regulation piled on to something that's already working. Why do we even need to go down that road? If I could see indicators that would show me that this is going to be a good—something that's going to save the City money—I mean, in today's economy, we have to be looking at those kinds of things. When we already have the backing we need, I don't understand quite why we need to go down this road. I guess that's really where I'm coming from on the whole thing.

Councilor Hunt said may I make a comment? It seems like the Commission, the one that's been working hard but is not official yet, that needs the way for people to reach it and be officially recognized, it seems like that Commission is asking for formal recognition, and I think they can do more with that. I mean, it's like anything else that a higher group—if I can call the Council a higher group—approves things, there's a little more respect. In addition, if I may something as a Master Gardener, many people don't know how to compost, and it's—if we could have Citywide education courses on composting, there's the Wildcat Creek Solid Waste District—which is in all of our handouts that go out, by the way, with our recycle schedule—but I mean there's lots of people that need some education, and maybe we could set that up, too. So I think this is a great ordinance. I would like to approve it. I like the new thing we're considering under the amendment for the membership proportions, and I think this is a win-win situation.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

Councilor Bunder said I'd like to call the question on the offered amendment. We can at least clear that up.

City Attorney Burns said Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes], can you restate the amendment?

Councilor Keen said he wants to have the vote on the amendment.

Councilor Hunt said on my amendment?

City Attorney Burns said can you restate the amendment, Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes]? Or would you like me to?

Councilor Hunt said it was on Section—here, I have it.

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Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I marked it and wanted to be sure.

Councilor Hunt said oh, did you write it out? Okay. It is on Section 24.172 Commissioners. Appointment. And where it would be the three are appointed by the Mayor, four appointed by the Council, and five are appointed by the Commission itself. And, Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes] wrote that out, if you want to see the formal—

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said so, Councilor Hunt is saying in that Section 24.172 to strike out the three appointed by the Common Council, make that four; and strike out the six appointed by the Commission and make that five; and keep the rest of the Section intact. Is that correct?

Councilor Hunt said three, four, and five.

Mayor Dennis said so the amendment's been—?

City Attorney Burns said yes. Moved and seconded. Discussion?

Councilor Truitt said one other, I believe, then down later, we need to change the "one of the three Council appointments" should be "one of the four Council appointments shall be a City Council member."

City Attorney Burns said good. Thank you.

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Dennis said we'll need a vote on the amendment.

The roll call vote on the amendment to Ordinance No. 19-08:

<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Bunder	Burch
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	
Truitt	

The amendment to Ordinance No. 19-08 passed, 6-1.

Mayor Dennis said now we need further discussion on the actual ordinance.

Councilor Bunder said to address Councilor Keen's question as to why to do this, I used this metaphor at the Pre-Council meeting, and I'll use it again here. All of us have the experience of typing a document and then going back and finding some way to highlight what it is we've just done, either raising the font or putting it in bold or underlining it or italicizing it. What this Commission's placement in City law does is give it that emphasis, highlight the work of this Commission on the environment for the entire City. And it is, I believe, particularly important for us to do this in Indiana. *Forbes Business* magazine rated Indiana the 49<sup>th</sup> greenest state in the Union. For a business magazine to say that we're not doing so well, presents us with an opportunity to say, "But, here, in this place, we are trying to do as best we can." I think they

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would much appreciate the recognition that would come with inclusion in ordinance. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Councilor Keen said I guess I'm still just not real clear on how this specific ordinance is going to make any improvements to what we already have. I think that what we have in place is working. You know, everything that we've talked about here tonight can be accomplished through the Commission that is in place as we speak. I don't see the necessity for another layer of governmental input, so to speak.

Councilor Bunder said I understand that, but look at this morning's paper, for example. Without the proposal, "Go Green" doesn't get front page of the B section—is that where you ended up? Insofar as the intent of the legislation is to somehow highlight the work of that Commission, then we've already begun to accomplish that.

Councilor Hunt said call for the question again.

Mayor Dennis said okay. Just understand that the second reading will be next month, and we can have further discussion, we can work out some of the details, we can possibly bring, I guess, a more specific product to Council.

Councilor Hunt said but, Mr. Mayor, again, the bylaws of the—the precedent of the Police Merit Commission is that they were voted in and then they came up with lots and lots and lots of specifics, if I recall.

Mayor Dennis said and that can be part of that particular discussion as well.

Councilor Bunder said I'd like to call the question.

Mayor Dennis said it's been motioned and seconded.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote:

<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Bunder	Burch
Hunt	Keen
Roales	
Thomas	
Truitt	

Ordinance No. 19-08 (AMENDED) passed on first reading, 5-2.

Ordinance No. 20-08 An Ordinance To Amend West Lafayette City Code Chapter 26 Concerning Credit Card Fees (Submitted by Councilmember Roales)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 20-08 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 discussion. Councilor Roales.

## COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 2, 2008, CONTINUED

Councilor Roales said sure. You know there are large initiatives or small initiatives. This is one of the small things that I wanted to improved upon coming into office is the general customer service of the City. And one way to do that is to provide more options for payment of the various fees and fines that our citizens incur. And so the offering the Police Department to start investigating ways that they could accept credit cards for things from Police reports to neighborhood parking permits I think would increase the customer service of our City and provide a better experience for our citizens. You know, instances like when a student gets in an accident and then needs to receive the crash report. Maybe they're home for Christmas break or summer break, they can't come into the Police Department and pay the \$5.00 necessary, but they could call in and still process that transaction. This ordinance by using the word "may be paid by credit card" in Section A, allows the Police Department to start investigating it, because under State law, we must approve any fee that the Police Department would charge. And so this allows the process to begin. This does not require the Police Department to start accepting credit cards at any point, but this would enable them to do so at a point that becomes convenient, economical, and doable for the Department. And so I ask for passage of this ordinance on first reading.

Mayor Dennis said just a point of clarification. And, Chief, I might need to have you step up for a minute. Currently, a lot of local agencies do not use credit cards, because there is a fee assessed with that, and that. And that's why I appreciate the fact that the word "may" is in there, because there may be a point in time when that might be feasible. As I understand it, currently one of the major generators, I guess, one of the products that we sell from the law enforcement side of the house is accident reports. And I believe that system has actually been removed from our local authority and it's now going to a Statewide distribution point.

Police Chief Dombkowski said quasi so. The ability for us to do it through a third party will allow us to do it on the internet, and will allow those to be sold by credit card as well through this third-party vendor. This is an exclusive vendor that the State has entered into. We are still looking into—by entering in to this agreement, our autonomy to maintain selling hard copies at the window in Records. And it's my understanding just recently today I read through that we'll be able to do so. So we'll have a two-part system: Hard copies in the lobby or access anywhere over the web by credit card for the same crash report. It's already being done. Our crashes are uploaded every week to the State, and then the State contracts with this third-party vendor, and our crashes are currently being sold through this third-party vendor, but because we don't have a contract with them yet, we are not capturing part of that revenue. It's my intent to do so. It's just a matter of working through the bugs and making sure we had autonomy again to sell crash reports at the window, as we're required to do by ordinance.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

Councilor Burch said Councilor Roales, I don't have any problem making things easier for the students, and I like that idea. My concern, again, is will this be saving money or making money for the City? Is it cost-efficient?

Councilor Roales said well, you know, again, the intent of using the phrase "may be" is to not require the City to go forward. You know, in discussions with the Clerk-Treasurer, you know, it's a complicated thing sometimes, to get these instituted inside of a city government. And so, at the point that the Police Department can move forward and secure a channel that this is cost-efficient, that it costs less than \$5.00 per transaction, something that the staff can handle, that the systems can handle for accounting, then it would go forward. You know, again, by State

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law, we have—this is the very first step in making this even possible, and so it's really, you know, if we want to even start the process, we need to pass something like this, so that they can begin the process of accepting credit cards at some point in the future.

Councilor Burch said thank you.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

Councilor Keen said I wasn't here for Pre-Council, because I was at a doctor's office visit. I wanted to ask the Clerk-Treasurer if she had any input on this particular ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said the discussion I had with Councilor Roales was brief, and I had a long discussion with the Council members at Pre-Council. It was not clear at that time that the intent would be there would be some fact-finding and we could lay out the costs of how to best implement this program. There are ongoing operating costs, some of which we can recover by statute by assessing fees. There are a small capital costs that would be involved. But I wanted to be sure that, if the Police Department is going to be going ahead to sell through a third-party vendor crash reports and provide credit card access that way, I wanted to be sure the Council, as it moved ahead, would be aware that it could choose whether it also wanted to have that available here at another level of expense or wanted to have the third-party vendor as the sole source for those credit card transactions. We got involved in kind of a review of what the world of electronic payments is like, the numerous fees that are tacked on, the very small control that you have when you become a merchant that accepts these cards. However, City Attorney Burns also mentioned in that discussion that this title contains a number of fees besides crash reports that really could use some revision, and perhaps as part of this effort, we could look through the fee structure at some of these items and adjust the fees appropriately, and then move forward with alternative payment systems. I know the Mayor is planning to provide a platform, we hope in early fall, for certain online transactions, and this would certainly be the kind of things that would be eventually part of that, to provide 24-hour access as much as you can, to City services. We know that the court and parking ticket system we developed and run in our office is used 24 hours a day, no doubt. It is a great convenience. So, I look forward to moving ahead and being able to have a little bit of time to gather some facts and hopefully have some options to consider for how we may administer something like this. When you're a consumer, credit cards appear free, but actually they're not, and there are ingenious ways various people profit from them, and we just want to be prudent stewards of taxpayers' money in this regard.

Councilor Keen said so do you think, based on what you're saying then, this \$5.00 processing fee, you think that would cover the City's cost at this point in time, or do you know—associated with any of this?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said this is a maximum of \$5.00. It's written in such a way it's very open-ended. It's not really referring to a batch transaction, it's not referring to an item cost, and statute actually pretty much limits what we can charge. But I think the important work is to just do some fact finding about how we could roll something like this out and not be involved in having duplicative efforts that ends up, as I said, money down the rat hole. We really want, if we're going to spend the money, to have a long-term benefit from it, so I'm sure working with the Chief and City Attorney, we can review the fees and perhaps think about how we could allow a platform that would allow more electronic transactions at a very cost-effective rate.

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Councilor Keen said so would it be best, maybe, to think about tabling this for further review, or—?

Mayor Dennis said it takes two readings anyway.

Councilor Keen said yes, I understand that.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said it takes two readings, and I—

Councilor Keen said I mean, we'll be able to get some of this information before next month?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said and it think even after second passage, there's no timeline, but clearly we want to move ahead, because we already have a timeline in mind anyhow, looking toward the end of the summer. So we know that's when many people come back to the community, and we'd like to have a system working, at least to address some of the situations when we have a large number of people come back to the community and are new to our community. So I don't see that this will affect the timeline.

Councilor Truitt said I was just going to say I want to thank Paul [Councilor Roales] for starting. This is something that, in looking for ways to improve what is already on the books and refining, hopefully we might find something that might not be necessary at all, and hopefully we can rid ourselves of some of those items. But I think that looking at this as a starting point, you know, access is the key. Everybody's timeframe is different. Everybody's mechanism of payment modality is different, so I think there's going to be a lot that we're going to need to talk about and a lot that we're going to need to learn about this type of transaction, and so I think this is a good starting point and the word "may" I think is an important one that's in there as well.

Councilor Hunt said I definitely agree. The "may" is helpful, and I think it's great also that Councilor Roales brought this to the attention—not just for the students, but for everybody in the community. Now the Police Department and the Council are talking about ways to solve a problem, and I think that's great. I do not want to table this at this time.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 20-08 passed on first reading, 7-0.

Ordinance No. 21-08 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation (Police Station Nonreverting Fund) (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

**Supplemental Information**

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 21-08 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 discussion? Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes].

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said City Engineer Buck is going to address the Council about this.

Mayor Dennis said Mr. [City Engineer] Buck.

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City Engineer Buck said these are funds that were actually appropriated for expenditure last year, and some of them we have actually accepted quotes on, the electrical work, and would like to be able to move forward with that. One of the reasons that we have not moved forward with it, we were working and we still are working out the details with the emergency siren that's on the roof. Right now it is backed up by the generator that's in the basement. The generator, however, is an old diesel generator, original with the building, not getting the maintenance that it needs, and we have applied for a grant that would potentially would allow us to put a battery-operated backup siren on the roof, completely standalone, probably much greener, I suppose, too, and that would allow us to downsize the generator to only handle those necessary items like emergency egress lighting and things like that in the time of a power outage. Now that the Police Station is not in the basement, this isn't a 24/7 facility, and so we'd like to be able to get rid of that generator, rather than keep maintaining a dinosaur. In the memo that I passed out at the Pre-Council, I didn't really get into it probably very clearly, the quotes received are the items that we know of now, and the second list there is really more of a wish list, and that list is subject to change, additions, deletions, reprioritization as the Mayor would see fit. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Dennis said questions of Mr. Buck?

Councilor Burch said yes, just a comment, actually, concerning your wish list. Number 8, I would certainly like to see an upgrade to this room, not just technology, but—

City Engineer Buck said well, the wireless step that we made is a step, I think, in the modern direction. But technology has come a long way, and some of these items are not nearly as expensive or as difficult to coordinate, and so it's just an idea we're throwing out there, but this is going to be a difficult budget year, and so we need to watch everything we spend anything on.

Councilor Keen said are you in—can this wait for second reading for next month, is that what you're saying? I mean, would you like a second reading. No, I don't need a second reading.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said it needs to wait, because we have to advertise a public hearing.

Councilor Keen said okay. Good point.

Mayor Dennis said any further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Ordinance No. 21-08 passed on first reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 12-08 A Resolution Providing For A Transfer To The Rainy Day Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 12-08 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? Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes].

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said there has been recent legislation that will be making large

## COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 2, 2008, CONTINUED

changes to the levies that are required from local jurisdictions, and among those changes will be the levies that are required for the 1925 Police Officers' Pension Plan and the 1937 Firefighters Pension Plan. Going back, since 2001, we have levied \$784,025 in property taxes for the Police Pension Plan, and \$1,327,949 for the Firefighters Pension Plan. During that period, we have had expenses of over \$1 million per year, actually \$7.2 over this period. The new legislative mandate is that after December 31, 2008, municipalities will no longer levy property taxes to fund these pension plans. The State will be providing 100% of the funding for pension benefits. Currently, the State funds about 50% of our pension benefits; we pay all the other expenses associated with the administration of these plans. Given that the purpose of the property tax levy has now been made unnecessary by legislative action, and we have levied property taxes in excess of our needs, I would recommend that the funds in the Pension Plans that are no longer needed to pay benefits after December 31, 2007, be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund. That would amount to \$431,000 from the Police Pension Fund, and \$353,000 from the Fire Pension Fund. That is an appropriated fund, and under budgetary control of the Council. The recommendation from legal counsel and State Board of Accounts has been that we zero out the Pension Funds by the end of the year, because we will no longer be carrying a property tax levy for them after December 31, 2008. I would add we're in a county which has not yet received its Budget Order. We had initially planned to provide more property tax funding for the pension plans. We will no longer do so. When the preliminary budget order comes to the City, my recommendation is that that levy no longer be placed in the Plans. It's not necessary. For many years, West Lafayette taxpayers have provided enough funds to pay the benefits, meet our obligation, but it is no longer necessary for us to levy such a tax, and we ought to take those resources that were funded by property tax levies and place them where they should be, in this case, the Rainy Day Fund.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion? Questions?

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 12-08 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilor Hunt said I have one. It is a repeat of what I think I said in Pre-Council, but the West Lafayette in Bloom—and lots of people are working very hard on this—the department heads that we're going to visit the fire station on the judges' visit, and City Hall, the Celery Bog, and all sorts of places. But anyway, the judges for the West Lafayette in Bloom will be here June 27 and June 28 to judge the City of West Lafayette. We are competing in cities our similar size, we're not in the same competition as Lafayette, because it's bigger. But, anyway, I want to remind people the judges will be here the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. One of their many criteria is tidiness. So think about that. I'll think about it in my front yard, too. Thank you very much.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS:

► Ms. Jan Myers [1909 Indian Trail Drive] said I have comments for one, on the Go Green Commission, and the first thing that strikes me when I come into this Council meeting are all the plastic water bottles. If the City is going to be serious about going green, I suggest we bring our own water bottle, cup, mug, glass, or something from home, because, to the best of my knowledge and private use in this building, it does have running water. So I suggest if we're going to go green we start with City Council setting the example. On the other points under go green, I'd like to know when a take-home vehicle labeled "City Parks" with a City vehicular tag on it is parked at University Place indoor in a handicap parking space. When is that going to

## COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 2, 2008, CONTINUED

stop being a take-home vehicle with our—there's nothing urgent about that vehicle I'm aware of. Under go green, I'm also concerned that we have used planters as traffic calming devices, especially on Salisbury, and we already know that the Homeland Security Office has called them obstructions and of grave concern for our own safety and so forth in this community. When I think about going green, I also think about being able to bike and walk easily in this community. What strikes me is that the current trail map is full of yellow solid lines and yellow dotted lines, and almost none of them tell you by street name where the trail begins or ends, nor what streets are supposedly—what do we call it here?—connecting routes. They are also unlabelled. I get more information off the Chamber of Commerce maps, and I just folded this down to be a small part of it, but last I looked, it was out there in the literature rack. It has some of our trails on it, not all of them. And I can at least find out what streets they might connect to. So if we're going to go green and assume people will want to bike or walk our trails, I suggest we have a trail map that tells people how to use the trails. And I'm a cartographer by hobby, and it's very clever to have cute graphics, but when it's not informative, it's not a map. You can also guess I'm going to bring up accessibility. If there's one thing you can label me, I will be an inclusionist and have been for all the years I've come before this Council. When I was last here a couple months ago, various people asked me, and I've had emails and conversations with some of you since on what part of the City isn't accessible. So I thought I'd start my own little inventory. And since City Hall is a place that all the public is to be able to come to, public meetings like this and commissions and so forth, I tried something. There is not one house in West Lafayette that can get itself to this City Hall in an accessible path. And I'll tell you the short story on that. If I'm to go—I'll call it west, for the moment—you go past the Police Department, no sidewalk. It runs out. So there are no houses that way. So I go down the hill. Now, none of the signals at that intersection are accessible. They are either up in the grass and up high, they are high on the pole and can't be reached—if you could ever get there, and if you get there and a very tall, it has the small antiquated button which cannot be pushed by most people. So, then, where else can I go, if I can't go across Salisbury? Well, I can attempt to turn south or right on Salisbury. But I cannot get even past the bank, because there's a utility pole in the center of the sidewalk. I have gotten to not one house in all of West Lafayette. So I said, "Okay, I'll pretend I can go through private property. I'll go up through the bank." I went up through the bank, down theirs, and what should do? I run into another utility pole, before I've gotten to the first house in West Lafayette. Now, if we're going to be green, and if we want to be accessible to all citizens, I suggest we start now. This City has had 18 years of violating the federal ADA ordinances, and I found it very interesting to read in the Parks and Recreation Department summary here, that most of the trails—it said about 14 out of our 17 miles of trails—began in 1992. 1992 was the year by the ADA ordinance, everything that a city does must be accessible. Every trail needs to have textural alerts at their ends, at their edges, one to 12 access ramps—I can go into all these details—they're not. The ones in 2003 didn't even have access to them, either off Indian Trail or off Salisbury, and those are in severe violation. I've brought this up now for three terms of different Mayors. There is action the citizens can take. If we're going to go green and talk about recycling, then we need to think about accessibility. It is amazing how many days of trash pickup, yard waste pickup, or recycling day—we all know the calendar—sidewalks are cluttered with trashcans, with recycling bins, with yard waste. Now that assumes there are even sidewalks to be cluttered, considering how few sidewalks this City has, so then it's the bike paths that those of us who need accessibility or are pedestrians need. Most of the bike paths are littered also with trash bins, recycling bins, yard waste, tree trimmings. Or, if there isn't a bike path marked on that street, then it's the curb area. If we're going to get serious about "go green," we also have to be serious about accessibility, and no sidewalk, no curb area, no street area, and no bicycle path can have litter of any sort on it. I ask that we consider these comments very seriously, and start taking action yesterday. Thank you.

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Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, I would just like to comment that I'm aware that City Hall is doing a lot of recycling. So I hope these plastic bottles continue to go in the recycle bin.

Ms. Myers said but they don't need to be here at all. Recycling's only for a rich man's solution for the environment.

► Dr. Killion [West Lafayette Community School Corporation Superintendent] said I just wanted to come by and invite you to our Board meeting Wednesday at 6 o'clock. We're having Baker & Daniels attend and provide us expert opinion on the effect of House Bill 1001 upon the West Lafayette Community School Corporation. If you've been following House Bill 1001, the possible unexpected consequence of House Bill 1001 could be open enrollment in the State of Indiana. And so we're getting some expert opinion on that, and I just wanted to invite the Council and Mayor to attend, and community members. It will be at 6 o'clock Wednesday at the Jr.-Sr. High School Media Center. Again, it will be experts from Baker & Daniels.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Truitt moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Councilor Burch and passed by voice vote, the time being 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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