

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE  
COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JUNE 4, 2007

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on June 4, 2007, at the hour of 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Mills called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Griffin, Hunt, Keen, O'Callaghan, and Truitt.

Absent: Plomin and Satterly.

Also present were City Attorney Bauman, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Director of Development Andrew, Public Works Director Downey, Fire Chief Drew, and Parks Superintendent Payne.

MINUTES: Councilor Griffin moved for acceptance of the minutes of the May 3, 2007, Pre-Council Meeting, and the May 7, 2007, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Keen seconded the motion, and the motion passed *viva voce*.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS:

STREET AND SANITATION: Councilor Keen presented this report.

For the month of May, the recyclable sales totaled over \$9,000, and the materials that were recycled and the yard waste that was composted saved us over \$7,500 in tip fees, which was a good thing. We had over 18 tons of asphalt put out for all of our pothole patching. We had 71 gallons of paint used for street painting. [To Public Works Director Downey] You guys were busy. Over 30 tons of material was collected from street sweeping, which was quite a bit. The construction projects in progress are Tapawingo South that will actually open June 5 of '07. That is—

Mayor Mills said tomorrow.

Councilor Keen said tomorrow. Exactly. The Salisbury Street Sewer Enhancement Project is progressing as well, and the Salisbury Safety Improvement Project Phase I from Meridian to Creighton Road has been completed. A couple of yard waste reminders: Do not put grass clippings in the curb line; they have to be placed in rigid containers at this point in time. And all leaves and all other small yard waste material must also be placed in rigid containers. As far as mosquitos go, 'tis the season. In order to prevent mosquitos from nesting around your home, please do the following: Check and clean your gutters, remove all old tires and any old items that will hold water, mow any tall weeds, empty birdbaths every few days, fill any ruts in your yard or drive, aerate any ornamental ponds, and place grass clippings in a rigid container for pickup. That completes that report.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY: Councilor Keen presented this report.

Thank you, Madam Mayor. For the month of May, there was over 292 million gallons of flow into the wastewater treatment facility, of which 99.88% of that was treated. There were six events at the Dehart Street facility, and four events at the Quincy Street facility, resulting in that overflow. There were over 15,000 lineal feet of sewers that were cleaned and televised. Imagine that channel. That concludes that report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilor Keen presented this report.

Thank you, Madam Mayor. For the month of May, the West Lafayette Police Department received over 1,300 calls for service, which was actually down about 19% from the month previous. During the same time period, the Police Department participated in several training events, which included but not limited to, canine training, commercial vehicle crash investigations, seized computer and evidence training, kinesic field interview training, cyber crime investigation, and animal issues in disasters training. The Department is also pleased to report that they will be hosting training for instructors to teach the RAD, which is the Rape Aggression Defense, program on June 13, 14, and 15. The Department will be scheduling the first RAD class for the public after the instructors are certified to teach the class. A public class will probably be scheduled for late summer or early fall. The Department is also pleased to report that they'll be hosting a Basic Spanish for Law Enforcement class for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Indiana here at our Department. The Spanish class will be held June 20, 21, and 22. They also completed their first 2007 Citizen Police Academy on May 30. I don't know how many graduates they had from that. For the same time period, the month of May, the West Lafayette Fire Department, I want to talk about the comments on Station No. 3. Response time planning is far and away the single most important element in determining where to locate Station No. 3. Most of the citizen input forms returned to date likewise rank response time as high, and many have ranked it as number one. The impact of where this station is located will extend into the middle of this century. Anticipate response time is the tool that will effectively locate it. Most of the discussed location options do not have acceptable anticipated response times, but of the seven studied options, however, there is more than one that is acceptable. CAFS training, an instructor from Ohio was hired to continue our preparation for the arrival of the new fire trucks with the compressed air foam system that will be on board. The basics of the foam were reviewed, as well as changes that have developed over the past several years in foam proportioning equipment, form solutions, and foam application techniques. Operating material that is specific to the new trucks was also presented and training was held on each shift. Per a request from the shifts, the instructors may be hired again at a later date. The manufacturer will also provide additional training when the fire engines actually arrive. Last but not least, the aerial truck was in the Memorial Day Parade. I hope all of you had a chance to see that. And it was also used at Happy Hollow School for a fun end-of-the-year science project, which [Fire] Chief Drew says he believes included dropping eggs. And that completes my report.

PURDUE RELATIONS: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Councilor Hunt presented this report.

Thank you, Madam Mayor. The Parks Department has been very busy. Last Saturday, it was National Trails Day, and a dozen hikers celebrated that by joining Mayor Mills for a hike on the Celery Bog Footpath, and it was lots of fun. The weather was pretty good, and the mosquito count was quite low. Over three dozen volunteers cleaned up five pickup truck loads of trash along the Wabash River during "De-Trash the Wabash Day" on May 19. The Coalition for Living Well after 50 presented the 2007 Trails Award to West Lafayette Parks and Recreation. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service awarded a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program grant for \$4,500 to West Lafayette Parks & Rec for work on the Celery Bog Nature Area. Lincoln Park is nearing completion, and it's quite a charming little park. An official opening will be later this month. The municipal pool is open, weather permitting. And the Sagamore West Farmers' Market is open every Wednesday in Cumberland Park from 3 to 6:30, and there's some vegetables and rhubarb and other things for sale there. The next Park Board meeting will be June 18 at 4:30 in City Hall. That ends my report.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT: Councilor O'Callaghan presented this report.

Thank you, Mayor. The Redevelopment Commission met on May 14 and appropriated funds from the Sagamore Parkway TIF District and the KCB TIF District, the latter for a temporary quarters for the fire station. In other development news, the Lafayette-West Lafayette Development Corporation released their first quarter 2007 highlights of economic trends. And it's just really exciting to see all the things that particularly pertain to West Lafayette—four new companies, four companies that grew, a Research Park Technology Center II underway, an amazing amount of real estate development in the Research Park and in Chauncey Square and College Park Centre, Wabash Commons, Sagamore West. Lots of public works increased. We annexed the 1,173 acres and \$9.4 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment system, and a lift station project, and the greenway trails, and relocation of 231. So just lots of exciting economic things going on in West Lafayette. And certainly in the news, lots of reports of the wonderful things going on with West Lafayette businesses. So we're really appreciative of all the work that the Development Department does to make those kinds of things happen, to aid those kinds of things in happening. Thank you.

PERSONNEL: Councilor O'Callaghan presented this report.

Thank you, Mayor. I'll just mention that we're certainly preparing for the hiring of new firefighters and police officers. That's an exciting expansion of City services for us.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Councilor Truitt presented this report

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I would say that we're looking forward to beginning the budget process coming up here soon, so we will look forward to that. And, beside the fact that all of us have our monthly cash report plus the detail that recently arrived in our boxes. That will conclude my report for this evening.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE: Councilor Griffin presented this report.

A couple items, Madam Mayor. One is relevant to the discussions earlier tonight about the fire station and its location. There continue to be construction permits for single family dwellings in West Lafayette, seven in the month of April, and that included Lauren Lakes and Arbor Chase, Prophets Ridge, Amberleigh Village, and so forth. Also, more recently, just last week, the Executive Director for the Area Plan Commission introduced the Safe Routes to School initiative, and this was presented to several of the government officials in the area. This represents funding that is available for sidewalk and bike trail construction projects, as well as educational and safety programs for parents and for K-8 children to walk and ride bikes to school. There are grants that are available and I believe the City's going to be applying for a grant to help with some of those education and safety programs. That's the end of the APC report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Employee Service Anniversaries

Mayor Mills said we have three employee anniversaries in June. Scott Fohr, who has been with the Police Department, is celebrating 25 years; Jeff Martin, also in the Police Department, 10 years; and Larry Neal in the Street Department, 20 years. We congratulate all of them on their anniversaries and thank them for the excellent service they are providing all of us.

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Mayor Mills said Councilor Truitt.

Councilor Truitt said this is an exciting evening for me. I'm very proud to recognize an old neighbor, Joan Stewart, who I will refer to as Mrs. Stewart. For many years, I had the honor of being their paper boy for seven plus years, which was always great to come to the Stewart household. About a nine iron away from here is a very, very setting, right on Salisbury, and Mrs. Stewart has maintained and enhanced the landscaping with an artist's eye toward creating a wonderful setting for their home. She has mixed plantings of hostas and perennials to give the impression of permanence. A beautiful shaded seating area under the pines gives you the impression that you're not on Salisbury or you're not on a busy street, you're away from the hustle and bustle. Actually Salisbury sits very close to where that quiet solitude location actually exists. But after three decades of living on a beautiful home on Northridge Drive, the Stewarts moved eight years ago, and started off by making the lawn a beautiful setting for the landscaping. Colonel Stewart was in charge of mowing, and I can attest that he was very particular to the mowing. He had the most beautiful edges—I mean, they were like this thick—it was quite the attraction, and the lawn was always very, very beautiful there, as it is here on Salisbury. There's always multiple birdbaths created by local artists to attract many different types of birds. Mrs. Stewart has created an environment that both people and wildlife enjoy sharing with one another. It's with great honor that I recognize Mrs. Stewart this evening with this month's West Lafayette Beautification Award. Mrs. Stewart, congratulations. Here is your certificate. Thank you for making West Lafayette so beautiful. And then, here, I think Councilor Hunt—no?

Councilor Hunt said Lynn Layden took them.

Councilor Truitt said Mrs. Layden took these pictures. Here's some pictures that you can post. And if you haven't had a chance, very short on your way home, please stop by and see Mrs. Stewart's beautiful lawn.

Mrs. Stewart [2224 North Salisbury Street] said I'll give all of you the fifty-cent tour.

Councilor Truitt said so if you'd like to say anything, you can step forward.

Mrs. Stewart said no, thank you. This is wonderful. Thank you.

Councilor Truitt said thank you so much.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I wanted to first mention a couple of items on the monthly cash transaction report. I wanted you to note when you look at the revenues year to date, how short we are. That's primarily lack of receipts of property tax. As you know, tax collections are delayed this year, and we will receive the final settlement as late as very early August. So that's causing the larger than usual deficits in cash. On the personnel portion of spending, there are a couple of highlights. One is, you'll note that the Police Department spending is nearly identical to the prior year. This is very unusual; it has to do with vacancies. However, if you look at the Clerk-Treasurer's budget, it is running 10% over last year. My budget contains the health insurance benefits for nearly all the employees in the General Fund, and those line items are running 14% over last year, year to date. So we'll look forward to hearing a report, as the Consortium gets underway and we finish out the second quarter of the year. Hopefully, we'll get some good news in that regard. The other matter I'd like to briefly address is the situation that's

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coming up for Local Option Income Tax. We have a deadline, August 1, by which the County Income Tax Council needs to make some decisions what it wishes to do about the current extra CEDIT, Economic Development Income Tax that was imposed to address the effects of removing inventory assessed valuation from the tax base. The other matter has to do with the options recently created for imposing Local Option Income Tax. This fiscal body, over the last four years, has gained an understanding of the financial trends and the funding strategies that are available to us, as well as our constraints that pertain to West Lafayette. It's equally important that we now turn our attention County-wide. We have some sense of how we're impacted by levies of other jurisdictions, particularly in regards to our current distribution of income taxes. We discussed that issue, in fact, at our last budget cycle. We especially need to develop a grasp of the financial position of the other entities that have enormous influence on our future taxation and flow of resources for our taxpayers. Any jurisdiction in the County Income Tax Council, including this body, may initiate legislation. I believe it's going to be a joint effort as we tackle this over the next several months. This Council, who has certainly taken on the challenges of understanding thoroughly the City's financial position, I'm sure, will prove capable of taking on the challenge of looking outward across the County. In order to accommodate the discussion about Local Option Income Tax and to determine the size of the annexation levy appeal, which must be filed with the 2008 budget, I am anticipating a somewhat later budget schedule this year. It's possible. The Mayor will keep us informed of her timeline. No dates have yet been set for budget presentations. So we'll be in touch with you, I'm sure, as the summer opens up here. Thank you.

Mayor Mills said thank you. I will just add that, as far as preparing the budget, we are on our normal timeframe with the departments, and we will do normal presentation scheduling for you to hear all of the department budgets. But, as the Clerk-Treasurer said, we have some weighty decisions to make before August 1, whether we'll go to income tax for the new growth in the levy, or whether we will stay with property tax. Once you make that decision to change to income tax, you are locked out of the property tax use for new growth in the levy, and so it's a decision that cannot be made lightly. We have to look at what the ramifications will be for years to come, not just this year in the budget cycle. We will be sitting down with the County officials and with the Mayor of Lafayette to talk about this further in the weeks to come, particularly as soon as possible, so that we can all be on the same page and make a joint decision about what is best for the community. It takes two of the municipal entities to have the majority in that decision, and so we want everyone to be involved and all of us, hopefully, will be in agreement as to what the County Tax Council, the decision they will make. We will be working very closely on that, the Clerk-Treasurer and I have talked about it many times in the last couple weeks, and she has done a great job in keeping up with the people at the County Auditor's Office to stay on top of this. The numbers that we're running, we're checking with the numbers they are running, so you will hear much more about that in the weeks to come. And certainly the Council needs to be very involved in this process. Thank you, Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes].

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 13-07 An Ordinance Providing For Temporary Loans From A Fund Having Sufficient Balance To A Depleted Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer) Councilor Griffin read Ordinance No. 13-07 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 Keen.

Mayor Mills said this is an ordinance tonight, basically to provide us with operating funds. We will depend on the balance in the Wastewater Utility, as we do often for cash flow purposes, but

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particularly will be depending on it a great deal more this year, because our tax draw will be very late. And so for the City to continue to operate, we will be borrowing money from the Utility earlier than normal and probably more frequently than normal. This is a loan from the Wastewater to the General Fund in the amount of \$1 million. Are the questions from the Council, or any discussion?

Councilor Keen said will we be needing two readings on this?

Mayor Mills said yes. Unless you want to—

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said we need the two readings.

Mayor Mills said okay, any discussion?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I just wanted to say one item. When we do temporary loans between funds in this City, we do not pay interest between the funds.

Mayor Mills said even though Mr. [Public Works Director] Downey would like that.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said well said. However, in order to relieve the Utility of some of the expense, in terms of basically allowing the City to meet its payroll and payables obligations, we are not billing the Utility for its normal payment in lieu of taxes for a few more weeks.

Mayor Mills said a real break there, Mr. [Public Works Director] Downey.

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Mills said all right, will you call the roll, please.

Ordinance No. 13-07 passed on first reading, 5-0.

Councilor Griffin said Madam Mayor, I move for suspension of the rules to consider this on second reading tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilor Keen.

Mayor Mills said all right, we have a motion to suspend the rules and have the second reading of this ordinance tonight, so that we can go ahead and start borrowing money from the Wastewater Utility.

The motion to consider Ordinance No. 13-07 on second reading passed by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Griffin said Madam Mayor, I move that we consider on second reading tonight an ordinance providing for temporary loans from a fund having sufficient balance to a depleted fund, Ordinance No. 13-07, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor Keen.

Mayor Mills said all right, is there any further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Mills said will you call the roll, please.

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Ordinance No. 13-07 passed on second and final reading, 5-0.

Resolution No. 14-07 A Resolution Confirming The Designation Of An Economic Revitalization Area For Property Tax Abatement For Endocyte, Inc. (Prepared by the City Attorney) Councilor Griffin read Resolution No. 14-07 by title and moved that it be passed on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call, after a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Keen.

Mayor Mills said all right, as Councilor Griffin said, we will be having the second vote on this confirming resolution for tax abatement for Endocyte, but before we do that, we must, by law, have a public hearing. So at this time, I will open the public hearing. Is there anyone who would like to comment on the tax abatement for Endocyte? Ms. Lassiter [Director of Finance for Endocyte, Inc.], do you want to just come to the podium and give us a few comments, please.

Ms. Sue Lassiter [Director of Finance, Endocyte, Inc.] said I'd just like to say thank you for the past two abatements that we've had. It's always an exciting time to be at Endocyte. I've been there four years, and it continues to be exciting every year. This abatement will help us to buy \$1 million of equipment over the next three years, with the majority of that being purchased this calendar year. It will also enable us to hire 17 new employees over the next three years. These employees that come in are highly skilled, you know, above average wage earners, so it's something that we're very excited about.

Councilor Griffin said can you tell us approximately what the average income level is of the 17 new employees?

Ms. Lassiter said \$80,000.

Councilor Griffin said great jobs.

Mayor Mills said thank you. Any questions?

Councilor O'Callaghan said you might want to state your name, just for the record.

Ms. Lassiter said sure, this is Sue Lassiter, and I'm the Director of Finance at Endocyte.

Councilor O'Callaghan said thank you.

Mayor Mills said I will just remind you, and I'm sure none of you have forgotten, because we do hear from Endocyte and hear about the Research Park and the good companies there frequently, but when expansion of the Purdue Technology Center opened, Endocyte doubled their square feet of office and laboratory space in that new center, so it is a company that's growing very rapidly.

Councilor O'Callaghan said and also attracting lots of new venture capital, which is great to bring that money into our community.

Mayor Mills said it certainly is. If there are not comments, we will close the public hearing. Is there any further discussion from the Council?

There was no further discussion.

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Mayor Mills said all right, will you call the roll, please.

Resolution No. 14-07 passed on first and only reading, 5-0.

Mayor Mills said [to Ms. Lassiter] thank you for being here.

Resolution No. 15-07 A Resolution Appropriating Code Enforcement Funds On Hand Resulting From Repayments Of Funds By New Chauncey Housing, Inc. (Prepared by the Department of Development) Councilor Griffin read Resolution No. 15-07 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 Keen.

Mayor Mills said thank you. Mr. [Director of Development] Andrew, do you want to make any comment on this repayment of funds.

Director of Development Andrew said only if there are questions.

Mayor Mills said can you tell us briefly about the program.

Director of Development Andrew said this is basically reimbursement to the Department of Development for work they had done for New Chauncey. It's just—it's time to repay us for it, so— It's for code enforcement, essentially violations in wiring and things of that sort in houses that have been redeveloped by New Chauncey.

Mayor Mills said thank you. Any questions?

Councilor Griffin said so to clarify for the public, this is New Chauncey Housing, Inc., not New Chauncey Neighborhood Association.

Director of Development Andrew said right.

Mayor Mills said this is the not-for-profit housing entity in the City. Councilor O'Callaghan.

Councilor O'Callaghan said thank you. I'll just remind Councilors that we did receive a memo from [Assistant Director of Development] Allen Grady today, and so some of you may not have seen your email to do it, so you might want to pull that out. I think it's just another example of the great working relationship between New Chauncey Housing, Inc. and the Department of Development to fulfill the goals of HUD, Housing and Urban Development, and the Community Development Block Grants, to provide affordable housing in areas that it needs.

Mayor Mills said good. Thank you. Good reminder. All right, any further questions? Any discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Mills said all right, will you call the roll, please.

Resolution No. 15-07 passed on first and only reading, 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

◆ West Lafayette Public Library Presentation

Mayor Mills said we have tonight a whole series of West Lafayette Public Library Director and Board members and staff that are here to talk to us about their request for a capital projects fund. [West Lafayette Librarian] Mr. Schenkel or [WLPL Board President] Ms. Dunn, whoever is going to present.

West Lafayette Public Library Board President Nancy Dunn said good evening Mayor Mills and Council members. My name is Nancy Dunn, and I'm the President of the West Lafayette Public Library Board, and we're here to talk to you a little bit about our capital projects fund. Just to bring everybody up to date—it's been a while since we've been here. The last time we were here, we were looking for approval, and since then we have built a beautiful library in West Lafayette, and we have been confirmed that our decision to stay in the Village was a good one. We feel like we are an anchor there for many things that have happened and still going on. There's still big cranes in the Village, and that's kind of exciting, unless you're on the wrong side of the road. The other thing that we did was we started out to build a two-level parking facility; we ended up building a three-level parking facility. All in all, with all of the building and the development that we've done there, we feel that this has been a plus-plus for West Lafayette and for our taxpayers. For example, this year, we already have 250 kids signed up for our summer reading program, and this is a very exciting thing. Early on, we had an arrangement with the folks at Morton that we would share our parking with them, and they would share our parking with us, because we just have a really good working relationship with them there, because of all the things that go on over at Morton, including the WALLA group and then they have meeting spaces and we have meeting spaces. This has been one of the things that we are delighted about, because we have many small groups in the community that come to the Library to have their monthly meeting or whatever. We have civic organizations and we have bug people and embroiderers and also a lot of piano recitals. This is wonderful. Back in the old days, you didn't have a piano in the library. But we have a very nice grand piano up there, and the local music teachers group has many of their recitals in the Library. This is great for the kids and the parents and anybody who happens to be downstairs and hears the really talented students. We also have done a lot more, obviously, with the community because what we talked about was we wanted to be a center for the community for books and arts and literature and the whole—what was that acronym?

[Someone from the Library group] said ABC.

Ms. Dunn said ABC.

[Someone from the Library group] said arts, books, and culture.

Ms. Dunn said arts, books, and culture. Okay, and we feel like we're doing that, we're very happy with that. We've had kids from the schools come down, and I think they did—was it Shakespeare?—out in our little outside place. We've had bands, we've had music groups, you name it. And this is really what we wanted to do, and we really appreciate support from the community and the folks that help us do these things. We have a lot more outreach than we used to have to a variety of our people. A new one that we have is foreign language books that they've been working on, staff has been working on, and I'm told that most of those books are out all the time. There's several different languages. And so, the reason we're here tonight is because last August, when we were preparing to do our budget, which is one of our favorite words, we were notified that had been cut \$100,000 on our COIT fund, which is County Option

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Income Tax. So when we went to make our new budget, based on last year's budget and comparing them, obviously we were looking for places that we could find some money, because we are in a new building, we knew that when we moved there, we built in some, you know, little holes there so that we could keep our library and our garage in the same state that it was. You know, so that we could keep that going. Well, what we did was we cut the hours that we're open. Now this is not a great, great big deal, but if you work on the staff, it is. So we're not open quite as much. It's not a great big deal. We cut the hours. We cut the part-time staff down. We embarked on a rather long interesting endeavor to optimize the HVAC in our building. Because we put in a really nice system, and we assumed that once the button was turned and it came on, it was working. Well, it was, but this one was working and that one was working, and so we all learned how you do these things. So that has really helped us a lot. That was some thousands of dollars there. We have also all become grass-roots fundraisers. We have some formal fundraising at our library. If you haven't been to "Light up the Night," then you watch your mail next January, and come and have a good time. We've done this three times, and it has really been a lot of fun. But we are in a position now to do this, because we have a place to do it, we can show you what we want the money for, where the money's going, and, well, you just have to get excited about it if you want to ask somebody for their money. Now, through the generosity of our community, and this is just really—we are one of the outstanding libraries in the State, in terms of volunteer hours. This means, if you have volunteers, you don't have people on the payroll doing those jobs and we're very proud of this. If you would see the numbers from other counties, you would be quite impressed. But the business of our library, first of all, is library books, our collection. That is what we're supposed to do, we're supposed to have new books, so when you come in there, you can find that one you read in *The New York Times*. Hopefully. But with this situation, we have had to use a lot of this outside money that has been donated to us or another source of funds has been grants. Whenever we can find a place where we can write a grant, we do. Sometimes you get \$100, sometimes you get \$1,000, but if you get 10 of them and they're \$100, that counts. For us, the concern is new books. If you come in there and the same things are on the shelves, you're going to say, "Well, I'll just go downtown," or whatever. So we have had to put this money, then, toward our operations. Our budget money, our tax money goes to making the Library run. Did I say that right?

[Someone from the Library group] said yes.

Ms. Dunn said so, then, in our budget with this \$100,000 reduction, then the question is what are we going to not be able to pay for? Well, that became very obvious very quickly. And one of those areas, a very large area, is the maintenance of our wonderful three-level parking facility. I'm assuming that you all know about parking facilities and all those big numbers that come out when they tell you about how you're going to have to maintain this thing—not a thing, I'm sorry. But before we built this, Kettlehut sat down with the board and showed us very graphically what you have to do to keep a garage maintained and what you have to look at every year. It's not just, you know, this is not like your garage. I mean, if you sweep it out, you're lucky. But this is like money things, and the lowest thing you do would be, what, \$5,000. So we saw the whole range, from what it costs to do it the way you're supposed to do it, the way the garage people recommend it, and then what you can get by with, if you just go on the cheaper plan. So we had that figured in to our budget to a certain extent, as much as you can, whatever you know or don't know. But this was a really big hit, and it turns out it was just almost the same amount that we had allocated for maintenance, and also for the upgrading of our computer systems. I'm not a computer person, so I'm not going to go into that, but you know that when you go to upgrade it, you've got your machines, you've got your hardware, your software, and whatever else it takes. So that's where the money is needed that we don't have.

The other thing that we wanted to do, because, I mean, like I say, you're all familiar with a parking facilities and what they cost if you don't take care of them. And so we are, right now, on two years, a two-year building, and we would like to sort of stay ahead of that repair cost, so that we don't one day wake up and somebody says, "You know, you've got things falling apart in here and it's going to cost you \$10,000 a floor," or whatever. You know how that works, you know—"Pay me now or pay me later." And if we can fix it now or keep it where it is, that is what we would like to do. Now we had Tom Gall come in and walk through the garage and point out areas already that he could see—"These are things that you're going to have to address, these are the first things you're going to have to address a year down the road." We had a really, really nice report that had all kinds of colors that helped some of us understand, you know, what those areas were. Anyway, the bottom line is that, right now, those two things, which both fall under maintenance or upkeep or whatever, they are simply beyond the capability of our budget. And that's all I have to say. And somebody else is going to come up here and sing and dance. And this is Jeff Schwab, the Treasurer of our Library Board.

Mr. Jeff Schwab said good evening. I'm Jeff Schwab and I am Treasurer for the West Lafayette Public Library Board. Our Director, Nick Schenkel, is passing out a small one-page spreadsheet that kind of reflects where we are this year and where we see our budget and our impact on the property tax base going. Top line, you can see is this year, as everyone has read in the paper, our annual cost for our \$100,000 assessed homeowner is roughly \$231. Now, that does not include the Homestead Credit from the State, which will make that substantially lower, but we wanted to give you the raw numbers, so we could do an apples-to-apples comparison here. We are asking for a \$0.0133, that's one and one-third cent, capital projects fund, which we're going to ask you to approve. The good news is, if you'll notice in 2008, the annual cost actually goes down, even including the capital projects fund. The reason for this is we anticipate next year being able to reduce our bond fund levy by approximately \$0.04 to \$0.06. And I say "approximately," because we have no numbers yet on the trending and all those wonderful factors that go in to creating the assessed value we dig from. We do have sufficient funds from the operating balance now, in the bond fund, we can do this and still make all the bond payments that the State certainly likes us to make. We're asking for this—the operating fund was built for the same reason you just moved money from Wastewater—is you're never quite sure when that tax draw's going to come, versus the bond payments, and the bond payments have to be made on time. So we now have sufficient operating fund to make that possible, and that's why the State lets us have an operating balance in the bond fund. So we anticipate reducing the bond fund draw next year at the same time we're going to add the capital projects, but the net assessment to the homeowner in the City will drop in our district, from what our impact is.

Mayor Mills said any questions for Jeff [Mr. Schwab]?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I wanted to make one comment, which was really a discussion some of the Board members and Nick [Mr. Schenkel] and I had before the Council meeting, and it also touches on what I spoke about earlier: The reduction in the County Option Income Tax allocation to the Library really derives from the same cause as the flatlining of the cities' COIT, and that is the increase in the levies of other jurisdictions. Probably the most spectacular is the increase in that Family & Child Levy, which is now itself larger than the levy for the entire City. So that's probably going to continue to be a factor, and those income tax dollars may not be back this side of the river for some time.

Mr. Schwab said yes. We were prepared to deal with the flatlining. We were not prepared to deal with a six-figure reduction. Obviously, this money goes for the parking garage, computer

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refurbishment, which, as we all know, our computers seem to age because the internet keeps getting bigger. In a modern library, computers are what our patrons want.

Mayor Mills said thank you, Jeff [Mr. Schwab]. We were hopeful this year that the legislature was going to pick up that child welfare cost, but they didn't do that, so we still are responsible.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said that may not be the solution you think. The last time they did that, in 1999, they created a phantom levy, which the County still has and it counts for its draw of income tax. Sometimes you get what you ask for, but you also get something else.

Mayor Mills said thank you. Anything else to add to the discussion tonight? Nick [Mr. Schenkel], please.

Mr. Nick Schenkel [West Lafayette Public Library Director] said thank you. I just wanted to mention that, according to State law, this needs to be acted upon by the City Council by August 1, so I would request that you bring it up officially at the July City Council meeting. You have to hold a public hearing. We have to have it advertised. I've been working with Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes] on that, and then, of course, you can take action on it, as you wish. I won't repeat anything that my Board President or Treasurer said, except to say that it is a fantastic community resource. We look forward to keeping it a fantastic resource for many, many, many years to come. We certainly built this building to last for the long term. And the same thing with the parking garage. This capital projects fund would go far towards keeping that building and that garage and the services that we offer a very healthy and long term proposition for the City and all the folks who use the Library.

Mayor Mills said thank you.

Mr. Schenkel said you're welcome.

Mayor Mills said any questions tonight from anyone?

Councilor Hunt said I have one.

Mayor Mills said Councilor Hunt.

Councilor Hunt said there's an asterisk after \$100,000. I don't know what it refers to.

Mr. Schwab said it refers to the note that the Homestead Credit is not included.

Councilor Hunt said oh, it's not on the bottom.

[overtalking]

Councilor Hunt said I looked. It refers to what? I'm sorry.

Mr. Schwab said the fact that the numbers in that column do not reflect the Homestead Credit.

Councilor Hunt said okay, I heard you say that. Okay.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said Jeff [Mr. Schwab], is that just basically the tax rate times the assessed valuation.

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Mr. Schwab said right.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said it's the gross tax.

Mr. Schwab said right.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said before the PTRC and the Homestead.

Mr. Schwab said correct.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said okay.

Mr. Schwab said it's the raw number.

Mayor Mills said all right. We will have this on the agenda for the July meeting, but I thought it would be nice, since we had a very short agenda tonight, to have a bit of discussion, to give you an opportunity to ask questions. And if you think of other things that come up in the next month, please don't hesitate to contact us or any member of the Library Board, so that you're comfortable with this when it comes to the Council in July. Councilor Griffin.

Councilor Griffin said the estimated impact on the annual cost for a homeowner, of course, does rely on some educated best guesses for some things that we won't come to know until well after the vote is taken.

Mr. Schwab said right. As far as the assumptions go, the Library District assessed value growth is estimated at a 1% annualized growth. With trending, that's the best number we could get. That's what the State has recommended we use for our budgeting purposes. The levy growth—the bond fund is a fairly known, because we know what the payments are going to be on that. The capital projects, obviously, we are asking for \$0.013 would come out to \$13 per \$100 raw. We are anticipating a normal growth in our operating budget of about 3% to 4%, which is what the State likes to see. So those numbers, although they are estimates, are based on reasonably conservative assumptions.

Councilor Griffin said does your volunteer staff basis seem something that you can look forward to steadily for several years to come, to the extent that one can estimate that?

Mr. Schwab said it has been fairly stable over the long period, for the last 10 years—and it's hard to tell. We've only been in the new building two and a half years now, and so it's been stable since we moved in the new building. Obviously, there was a disruption for the year, while we were in temporary quarters, but it has been very stable. We've had a very long-term, very committed volunteer base. They are just such solid gold for us.

Councilor Griffin said thank you.

Councilor O'Callaghan said may I ask a question?

Mayor Mills said Councilor O'Callaghan.

Councilor O'Callaghan said thank you. Jeff [Mr. Schwab], this is just the amount for the additional library capital projects fund, or the total library?

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Mr. Schwab said that is the total library cost. The additional capital projects fund reflects about \$13 annualized for \$100,000 assessment out of that. So it's a fraction of what you are seeing as the total number, but since there are three funds involved—the bond fund, the operating fund, and the capital projects—we wanted to give you the picture of the total tax impact.

Councilor O'Callaghan said good. Thank you. But I think it's important to make that clear to the Council, that you're not asking for \$231 more, you're asking for \$13 more.

Mr. Schwab said yes. And the \$13 will be offset by a decrease in the bond fund next year.

Councilor O'Callaghan said thank you.

Mayor Mills said thanks.

Councilor O'Callaghan said I did have just a comment, not necessarily a question. But just in terms of the ABC, I just have to mention the wonderful *Mid-Samara Night* event on Saturday night. I'm not sure what happened yesterday—it got cancelled.

Ms. Linda Eales [West Lafayette Public Library Board Secretary] said no—

Councilor O'Callaghan said oh, you went—oh, my goodness, it was raining so hard at 2:30. But it was beautiful on Saturday night, and I think that's a neat example of the kind of thing that Nancy [Ms. Dunn] was talking about—outreach and getting culture. I saw a lot of West Lafayette people at that, and really enjoyed it and benefited from it. Thank you.

Ms. Linda Eales said we had people from Chicago come.

Councilor O'Callaghan said well, and the dancers from New York. Amazing.

Ms. Eales said and Ohio.

Mayor Mills said any other questions?

Ms. Martha Altschaeffl said may I make a comment, please.

Mayor Mills said please. Will you come to the microphone.

Ms. Altschaeffl said my name is Martha Altschaeffl, and I am past president of the Friends of the West Lafayette Library. To speak to the volunteers, we had an appreciation luncheon in March, and we invited over 100 people. Now, those are not all people who've worked behind the circulation desk, but they are people who volunteer their time and talent in some way to the Library. I would say it's a very stable base. Thank you.

Mayor Mills said thank you. Thank you all very much for being here tonight, for taking the time and helping us understand your request, before we get ready to vote on it. Thank you.

Councilor O'Callaghan said Mayor, can I make one more—

Mayor Mills said certainly.

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Councilor O'Callaghan said one more quick comment. I know that the literal deadline was June 1, but I hear that you might be taking pavers until the middle of June, so if anybody's listening tonight and wants to physically—fiscally, too—support the Library, they can get a paver for that patio area for just \$100 and have your name engraved in it.

Mayor Mills said thank you, Patti [Councilor O'Callaghan]. Good thing to remind people about.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

◆ Ms. Mary Cook [Harry's Chocolate Shop, 329 West State Street] said I wondered if the Mayor's Office has designated an enforcement entity for the July 1 smoking ban enforcement?

Mayor Mills said we have. It's the Police Department.

Ms. Cook said the Police Department?

Mayor Mills said we have a form. We have forms available for the exemptions for any business, now that are available. We have complaint forms. The forms will go through the Police Department. They have a process that they will follow, to follow up on every complaint.

Ms. Cook said so, is it spelled out in there, as a business. We're supposed to fill out the form and get the person's name? Or do we go to the Police Department to find out how this works?

Mayor Mills said no, we will provide you with just a short synopsis of it, but it simply is a call to the Police Department to say there's a violation, and they will fill out the form to follow up with you.

Ms. Cook said okay. Any more explanation on that from anyone here tonight?

Mayor Mills said the Chief is not here tonight.

Ms. Cook said he's gone.

Mayor Mills said we will get it all to you before the first of July.

Ms. Cook said okay.

Mayor Mills said they're ready to go.

Ms. Cook said thank you.

◆ Ms. Patsy Hoyer [3008 Wilshire] said I'm Patsy Hoyer. I live in Avondale Neighborhood, and, among other things, I chair the West Lafayette Neighborhood Coalition. My name is on the City website as a person to contact, so it was rather—for neighborhood things—and I've gotten the third call today from a young woman whose husband has just been hired to MED Institute and wanted to know all about housing in West Lafayette. So I was very excited, but I think that this is the third call in about two weeks, so we're in to moving season and it's actually working. So I offered to have a coffee with her next time she came up and gave her the names of some realtors. So, anyway, that's working and that's pretty exciting.

Mayor Mills said excellent.

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Ms. Hoyer said also, because her husband is coming to MED Institute, and she has two young children and wanted to be in West Lafayette schools, so it's all good.

Mayor Mills said all right. Thanks. It's nice to know that people are checking the website, too, for those contacts. All right, anything else?

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Griffin moved for adjournment. Motion was seconded by Councilor Keen and passed by voice vote, the time being 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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