

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2009

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Council Chambers at City Hall on March 2, 2009, 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, Dietrich, Hunt, Keen, Roales, and Thomas.

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, WWTU Director Henderson, Parks Superintendent Payne, and Director of Development Poole.

MINUTES: Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the February 2, 2009, Common Council Meeting. Councilor Burch seconded the motion, and the motion passed *viva voce*.

COMMITTEE STANDING REPORTS:

STREET, SANITATION, AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT UTILITY

Councilor Bunder said I would like to give thanks for the fact that newsprint still makes money, but other than that, not much else in recycling makes money these days. That concludes my report.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ORDINANCE

Councilor Keen said thank you, Mr. Mayor. The month of February, the West Lafayette Fire Department participated in some ice training. Each of the three shifts was able to participate in ice rescue training on frozen ponds. They cut holes in the ice and used various rescue techniques to practice on rescuing whomever. Due to the shifts using Amberleigh Village pond, one of the residents took some nice photographs. They will be available in the next issue of the City newsletter. Also, there was a blood drive today. The Red Cross was holding that blood drive with cooperation the local fire and police departments and a local radio station. That was from noon to 3:00 today. The West Lafayette Police Department answered over 1,500 calls for the month of February. In February, the West Lafayette Police Department hosted a daylong civil disturbance discussion that included command staff from the East Lansing Police Department, the Michigan State University Police Department, and the Purdue University Police Department. Chiefs and command staff from these agencies participated in planning and coordinating efforts for civil disturbance incidents. The Department's training division was very active in February, sending 13 officers to 10 different training schools. Lt. Troy Harris and Sgt. Cindy Marion both completed advanced coursework for internal affairs investigations and professional standards for police agencies. Twenty women participated in the department's Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training in the past month. That completes my report.

PURDUE RELATIONS

Councilor Roales said thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's been a busy month on campus. The campus master plan was updated and approved by the Board of Trustees. I had a discussion with John Collier [Purdue University Director of Campus Master Planning] about this briefly. He wanted to emphasize the five principles that are involved in that, and he would be happy to present that to us as a group, if we have any interest. Just let me know, and we'll schedule that for a Pre-Council or a future Council meeting. They're promoting compact growth, especially along the intersection between campus and the community; establishing State Street as a collaborative corridor, not only for businesses but as a kind of center parkway of campus; create program synergies through some mixed use districts, so development of the retail establishments in areas like Purdue West; encourage simple integrated transportation systems, something that we're voting on tonight is a component of that, so obviously we can see how the University's planning process, which I know a number of our individuals have been involved in, plays a role, even tonight; and the preservation of the western lands that are kind of open right now. And so, you know, that's available online, and if there's interest, he'd be happy to come talk with us. Ten entrepreneurial companies competed in the Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurship Competition and earned over \$50,000 in prize money. Seven more companies will complete in the Idea 2 Product Competition for Environmental and Social Entrepreneurship on March 7, and another \$10,000 will be injected into startup companies in our community. The Research Park is staying very busy with new companies and new money coming into our community, even at a time when the economy is not doing so well, and so that's good to see. Additionally, activity on campus, Provost Woodson delivered a "Last Lecture"-style lecture recently and a couple hundred students attended that and heard his insight and wisdom and wit and some good stories. Looking ahead to the next month, Spring Break will be occurring in the middle of the month. So, again, be observant of apartments or, you know, areas that you know are occupied by renters, as they'll be vacant for a week, and if you see anything suspicious, just like over Christmas Break, you know, be sure to notify the appropriate authorities. I bring up one special event that's coming up, the head of the National Science Foundation, a group that injects over \$45 million of sponsored research into our community every year, is visiting campus on March 4 and will be speaking at 3:30 in the Union. Obviously, that group and that organization play a significant role in the health in our community and our research, our University, and so I think that'll be an interesting presentation. That concludes the Purdue report.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Hunt said thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have five items I'd like to give some details about, please. In 2008, 7,200 visitors from 32 states and 13 foreign countries were recorded in the Lilly Nature Center at the Celery Bog Nature Area. The receptionists are almost always Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners, and they provided over 1,500 hours of volunteering, helping to allow people to enter that building. So it's quite a treasure, the Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog. The bad news was the Riverside Skating Center had to be closed 10 days early, as many of you heard, due to mechanical problems with the ice rink chiller. The ice rink opened in 2002. This is the first major problem we've had with mechanics of that. More than 11,000 skaters or admissions were there over the winter, which is a good number, considering it was closed because of the chiller during Christmas also. Anyway, everybody that visited, we thank you and look forward to opening again next winter. The West Lafayette and Lafayette Tree Funds and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources sponsored a tree establishment workshop at Morton last week. I've heard many good reports about it. There were more than 70 people involved in local landscape companies and garden centers and grounds development that attended, and there was lots of new information on how to plant a tree. That's always good, to know how to plant a tree, if you're planting a tree. The RIP program, the Remove Invasive

Plant squad, not the basketball RIP group, but the Remove Invasive Plant squad volunteer workdays are scheduled for consecutive Tuesdays beginning March 24 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. They tend to pull garlic mustard and other invasive plants. Finally, in 2008, as many of us know, there was a City-wide emphasis on planting a certain color of annuals in our gardens, and it was hot pink, if you will recall. This year, plans are being made to urge residents to plant, and hopefully at low cost, red flowers. So you might keep your eye for further information on that little tidbit. That concludes my report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Thomas said thank you, Mr. Mayor. The first public hearing of the 2009-2010 Community Development Block Grant application process was held on February 4, 2009. In addition to a review of the program, the Mayor's Advisory Committee and the Council received funding proposals for six capital improvement projects and programs totaling approximately \$400,000, and 11 public service programs totaling approximately \$80,000. The grant amount for 2009-2010 is not known, but will hopefully be known before the second hearings, scheduled for March 12, 2009. At that time, the funding allocations will be presented. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Courtroom at City Hall. The Development Office was also involved this month with the Innovation Alliance at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. The Innovation Alliance is a collaboration between Indiana and Purdue to promote the life science and high manufacturing capabilities of both universities. The Development Office also partnered with Purdue Research Foundation on a Day at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, and met with officials from IEDC and made rounds at the Statehouse. The office also attended a presentation by the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. The staff has been working with their consultants to provide data that will assist in making decisions about possible riverfront development. The staff met with representatives from the Purdue Research Foundation and Schneider Corporation, to start planning for the Research Park's expansion into the Phase III and Phase IV locations. They also participated in the Community Cultural Plan Transition Committee, the inventory of cultural sites, venues, and areas for possible new cultural opportunities are being compiled and studied. Lastly, they participated in the City's Go Greener Commission meetings, and are working with the Commission to reach for and write grants and provide support for their efforts. That concludes my report.

Councilor Bunder said Mr. Mayor, or perhaps Chandler [Director of Development Poole], what happens to Lauren Lakes now that C.P. Morgan is out of business? Anything?

Mayor Dennis said actually, Judy [Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes] and I had a bit of a discussion about that earlier this morning. As it stands right now, the only thing that we do know for sure is that the lots that were available are obviously going to have the opportunity to be developed by a different developer. Other than that, Chandler [Mr. Poole], unless you know more.

Director of Development Poole said I imagine it will probably go through bankruptcy court. The unsold lots will most likely go to a receiver. Typically, when something goes into foreclosure or bankruptcy, a receiver is appointed by the courts. That receiver, then, is charged with disposing with the asset into the open market. So I'm not sure where it's gone yet, and there will be some time yet before that process actually takes place.

Councilor Bunder said who mows the lawn? I mean, who's responsible for maintenance of these properties, usually, regularly? Will we get stuck with that?

Director of Development Poole said when a property is in foreclosure, the receiver—whether it be the bank or a court-appointed receiver—is in charge of all maintenance on the facilities that they end up taking responsibility for.

Councilor Bunder said thank you. Thank you, Mayor.

Councilor Dietrich said any idea how long it will be before we know how that person is or that entity is?

Director of Development Poole said it all depends upon what kind of legal finagling they're doing, and how intertwined this is. I guess he has a bunch of different projects, so I can't give an answer.

PERSONNEL

Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, nothing new to report this month.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Councilor Hunt said thank you, Mr. Mayor. As you know, we met in early February and will meet again in March. We're mostly working on organizational information and how the Council would like the financial reports presented. The Clerk-Treasurer was very helpful in helping us organize that. We will meet in March and more details after that.

REPORT OF APC REPRESENTATIVE

Councilor Keen said no report, Mr. Mayor.

SPECIAL REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

West Lafayette Community Beautification Award

Councilor Dietrich said the March 2009 Beautification winner is Don and Lois Stein, their house on Ravinia. I'm sure most of you have noticed the couple on the bench and the big penguins. It certainly is quite something to see, and in all seasons. The nice part of it is that it's not just set up for spring or summer, things change as they go throughout the seasons. I understand they can't be here, but Councilor Hunt and Lynn Layden, I believe, are going to deliver it to the Steins. Their efforts certainly were noticed last year in the America in Bloom walk, and they deserve all the recognition they can get with that. They have incorporated the mature trees and other different design. Congratulations to the Steins.

Mayor Dennis said actually, having spent some time at the Stein residence over the years, they do take great care, not only in the exterior of the house, but on the interior of the house. I won't go into any detail, but in high school, it was quite the place to visit.

Nomination of District 1 Traffic Commission Representative

Councilor Roales said Mr. Mayor, I'd like to nominate Nick De Boer for the District 1 Traffic Commission seat. Nick is a sophomore at Purdue University in political science, lives in District 1, and will probably serve for two or three good years on that Commission. He's been very active as an undergrad at Purdue.

Mayor Dennis said thank you very much. I received his résumé, and he seems to be an involved young man. That's exactly what we need. So I believe we'll need a second.

Councilor Dietrich said second.

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

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	
Burch	
Dietrich	
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	

Mr. Nick De Boer was approved as the District 1 Traffic Commission representative, 7-0.

Mayor Dennis said than, Paul [Councilor Roales], will you get in touch with Mr. De Boer, to let him know the background and when the meetings are, and then we'll also need some contact information, so we can put him on the distribution lists for announcements. Thank you very much.

Public Relations Item

Councilor Bunder said Mr. Mayor, what do we do when we lose our TV? What are we going to do about our lack of—?

Mayor Dennis said I was going to talk about that.

Councilor Bunder said you're going to talk about that? Well, then I hold my question, Mr. Mayor. Thank you. Okay.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said your financial reports for February have been filed in your folders. I just wanted to mention a couple of highlights for the month. The status of our temporary loans from the Utility, we've now drawn \$1,090,000. The purpose of the loans is for cash flow purposes that allow us to pay our bills, pay payroll, on the City side. The loans are from the Wastewater Treatment Utility. Our 2009 budget tax rates can't be set by the Department of Local Government Finance until they receive the assessed valuation from the County. That number will not be available until they have been able to convert the data and load it into the new information system that the County is installing. They're certainly working diligently at it. However, there is no proposed deadline when it will be done. Until then, we will not get preliminary notice of our 2009 budget, which is called the 1782 Notice. Council members who've been on the Council before may recall that particular form. I have received some preliminary news, however, about what has happened to our levy in the area of the reduction due to the State taking over pension relief 100% for the old Police and Fire Pension Funds. And I've received news that the cut to our levy will be \$550,000. That means that West Lafayette taxpayers have been relieved of over \$550,000 of property taxes in 2009 that they otherwise would have had to pay. Our estimate for what that cut would be was slightly greater

than that, and so that cut will not impact the budget plan that was proposed. That's important for us at this stage, as we perhaps will finish the first quarter this year without a budget order. At least we know, in terms of our levy, that our planning was on solid ground in that regard. The other highlight I wanted to say was probably the most unreported story in the County in the last week. It's kind of not intuitively obvious that this would happen, but jurisdictions in Tippecanoe County received \$4 million in excess local income tax distributions from the County Option Income Tax and the Economic Development Income Tax. The County Option Income Tax goes to cities, towns, County government, townships, and public libraries. The EDIT, Economic Development Income Tax, goes to cities, towns, and the County government. We are required by statute to put these excess distributions in the Rainy Day Fund. And so, while you hear the news across the State that income tax collections are falling and have been depressed for at least the last six, possibly nine, months, the State is releasing what it considers excess amounts that it has received and held in our account. Quite the opposite of the overall economic situation.

Mayor Dennis said if we could pause here for one second, notice she's smiling.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said I'm smiling.

Mayor Dennis said that means good news.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said the good news is that our share, which is about 10% of the total, has gone into our Rainy Day Fund, but we all know we're on a roller coaster with the tax distributions. They are lagging collections, and, although the State is releasing what it's calling "excess" now, I feel very confident that the distributions they will certify to us for 2010 will be taking a dive, and probably that direction for several years. So much of what we do in jurisdictions is—how much cash we say we have is a matter of timing. You have to look beyond the one-year cycle to really get an understanding of what resources you can commit for ongoing expenses, and what are one-time fluctuations in revenues available. You would have noticed the postings in your revenue reports that you received today. I have not heard that any other jurisdiction has begun to recognize what's happened. But, once again, I caution you: An inflow of cash now, I view as a one-time event. Thank you.

LEGAL REPORT

City Attorney Burns said thank you, Mr. Mayor. The legal report is on file, and I've given each Council member a copy. If there are any questions, I would be happy to address those. And there is a prize for whoever finds the typographical error, like I just did.

Councilor Bunder said I have a question for Mr. [City Attorney] Burns, and I confess I won't win the prize for the typo. What is a "proceeding supplemental collection hearing" at the top of page 2?

City Attorney Burns said a "proceeding supplemental collection hearing" is the mechanism that is used to collect a judgment. That's a time when the person who owes the judgment comes to court and has to answer about their assets and how they're going to pay the judgment.

Councilor Bunder said thank you.

City Attorney Burns said anything else?

There was no further discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 2-09 An Ordinance Requesting An Additional Appropriation – Perimeter Parkway Fund (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 2-09 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 Burch.

Mayor Dennis said any discussion?

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	
Burch	
Dietrich	
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	

Ordinance No. 2-09 passed on first reading, 7-0.

Councilor Keen said do we need to consider this on second reading?

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said this is an additional appropriation which will await a public hearing on second reading at next month's reading.

Resolution No. 3-09 Resolution Approving The City Of West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Bylaws (Submitted by Councilman Bunder)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 3-09 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 Burch.

Councilor Bunder said we will recall that this is a carryover from last month. We did not quite know what to do with the bylaws. It was suggested that it might be most appropriate to present them as a resolution, and so the resolution appears tonight.

Mayor Dennis said and we also have Ms. Damico [Chair, Go Greener Commission] in attendance tonight, if there are questions.

Councilor Burch said I have some questions, please.

Mayor Dennis said Diane [Ms. Damico].

Councilor Burch said Diane [Ms. Damico], I need some clarification, please. What do we mean by "green?"

Ms. Damico said I think we're just using that as a catchall word to mean anything environmentally connected. Not so much St. Patrick's Day, like we used that earlier.

Councilor Burch said okay. And what will this commission do that we're not already doing?

Ms. Damico said well, I sent out an email list to update some of the Commissioners, so that they all know what each other is doing, so I'll just give you a rundown of what's currently going on. I think I've previously reported about some of the projects that have been started and possibly completed. But right now, some of the things that we're working on is Heather Gall is a Commissioner who is working on A Day Without A Plastic Bag, which is going to coincide with Earth Day. She has a small committee with that. Rachel Witt has begun working with a small subcommittee to "green" the West Lafayette Farmers' Market, and we'll have a booth there that will do another unwanted medicine drop and a few other things. We'll have a booth there three times this summer. Dan Schuster is working with Joe Payne and doing an energy audit of the Morton Center sometime this week. Allen Jacobsen and Curt Ashendel and I've been working with IDEM and the department heads to complete a "Clean Community Challenge," which means that the departments are coming up with some really great projects to complete in the next three years, some of which—well, I can't really say what they are yet, because we have to decide together what they're going to do with that. [Councilor] Peter Bunder and Dan Schuster are working with the EPICS group for a Pay-As-You-Throw study that's going to be presented at the April 21 Go Greener Commission meeting here. Wayne Merriman is planning an e-waste collection event, where you can drop off your e-waste like cell phones and monitors; he's working on that. [Councilor] Paul Roales mentioned the competition coming up this week, Idea 2 Product Competition. I've been tapped to be a judge on that, so I'll be representing the Go Greener there. I've also been asked to serve on the steering committee on the watershed management plan through WREC. And Chandler Poole and I have been working on a couple of grants for—one of them, I'm kind of excited about a program this summer where a large crew of volunteers—I'm tapping everyone here to help us out. What we're trying to do is "green" the local events. For example, Taste of Tippecanoe, Global Fest—we've targeted 12 events, to try to up their standards for waste management, alternative energy used, and we've got guidelines that our group has done, so that event planners can look and say, "How is our event affecting the environment?" I think those are some of the things that we're doing that we weren't already doing. I know that we're trying to keep the staff at City Hall and all of you doing what it is that you do, so we've kind of taken some of the environmental causes on.

Mayor Dennis said did you mention the Clean?

Ms. Damico said the Clean Community Challenge? Yes, I did mention that. That we're working with IDEM on. She says we're almost ready to announce that publicly.

Mayor Dennis said good. I think we just did. Sorry.

Ms. Damico said we'll tell you what all the projects are.

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

Mayor Dennis said sure, go ahead, Ann [Councilor Hunt].

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 2, 2009, CONTINUED

Councilor Hunt said a couple of things. Number one, I very much appreciate your setting up the drug drop last summer for the America in Bloom judges visit.

Ms. Damico said weren't they impressed?

Councilor Hunt said they were. There was this big bin with all these pills in it that were not going into the river, and that was very nice. And then there's a "drop off your medications" at March on the 14th and 15th.

Ms. Damico said there is, and they're doing that. We're not really involved with that one, but we did tell them we'd help get the word out.

Mayor Dennis said March 14 and 15?

Ms. Damico said yes.

Councilor Hunt said well, you've done a lot of work, and I think we all very much appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Ms. Damico said thank you. I probably forgot a few things, but that's the highlights.

Councilor Bunder said thanks, Diane [Ms. Damico].

Ms. Damico said you're welcome.

Mayor Dennis said further discussion?

Ms. Damico said I'll say it again. We need some volunteers at the events this summer. Let me know.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	
Burch	
Dietrich	
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	

Resolution No. 3-09 passed on first and only reading, 7-0.

Resolution No. 4-09 A Resolution Appropriating Insurance Recovery Received For Damage To City Property (Prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 4-09 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 Burch.

Mayor Dennis said discussion?

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote:

AYE	NAY
Bunder	
Burch	
Dietrich	
Hunt	
Keen	
Roales	
Thomas	

Resolution No. 4-09 passed on first and only reading, 7-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

► Councilor Hunt said I would like to ask Chief Dombkowski if he would come up just a minute, please.

Mayor Dennis said Chief, would you please come up here for a minute?

Councilor Hunt said I read with great interest the fact that we're policing seat belt use, and, as you know, the nurse in me thinks it's just wonderful, all those head injuries and injuries one saves by seat belts. So would you tell us about the grant and what happened, please.

Police Chief Dombkowski said well, it's a yearly grant that we received. It's funneled through NITSA [National Institute of Traffic Safety Administration] and then through the states. Operation Pullover will be actually entering a blitz cycle here in mid-March. We'll be out in force on State dollars, officers working overtime to enforce seat belt laws. It's really something our community has embraced as a County and then specifically as a City. We have some of the highest seat belt compliance nationally, but specifically in our community, some of the highest in the State. I think a lot of that has to do with not only our efforts, but also demographics of having a young population, with the University. So we will be out in force here coming up. Those grant cycles tend to start in the spring and work their way through the fall, in about three blitzes, one per season. We do take that seriously. We also, if you read in the same article, very heavy in the school zones this past year, and a lot of those seat belt tickets were given out in those zones.

Councilor Hunt said thank you very much. I appreciate that. Many people do, I'm sure.

Police Chief Dombkowski said thank you.

Mayor Dennis said good work, Chief.

Police Chief Dombkowski said thank you.

► Councilor Burch said Mr. Mayor, I have a communication about our trip to Washington, D.C. The Mayor and I traveled with the Greater Lafayette Federal Government Committee to our nation's capital. We were there February 25 through the 27th. Our first meeting was with Duke

Energy's Federal Government Affairs representatives, Toby Short and John Haysbert. Duke Energy supports a "cap and trade" approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the new energy bill and other federal legislation could have a huge impact on Duke's Indiana customers, especially our electric bills. The proposed legislation to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants would mean additional infrastructure and equipment. Re-tooling would increase our bills by 19% plus an extra 40% just to keep the lights on. We need legislation that is fair and beneficial, not only to Indiana, but to the other coal-producing states. We need to keep in mind that jobs are attracted to low-cost energy, and that Indiana is a leader in clean coal technology. We met with Governor Daniel's Washington lobbyist, Debbie Hohlt, who told us the Governor is being cautious in setting priorities on how to spend one-time, short-term economic stimulus funds in a manner that will be beneficial to Hoosiers in the long run. Questions still remain as to how the stimulus bill will be implemented and accounted for. Ryan Kitchell, the Governor's budget man, is looking at how to integrate flexibility with formulaic funding. One highlight of the trip was meeting with the founder of C-SPAN, Brian Lamb. He is a Jeff High School and Purdue University graduate, and C-SPAN will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on March 19. It is always interesting to hear a non-political point of view from him. We met with Congressman Steve Buyer and Senators Evan Bayh and Dick Lugar, who all read and commented on our five position papers. We had five position papers that we submitted. Briefly, one was Industry and Business, which discussed energy issues, the environment, worker training, and travel and tourism. Our second paper was on education, which addressed pre-K and preparation for kindergarten, and collaboration between Ivy Tech and Purdue University to bring 21st century classrooms, labs, and IT training to make our students globally competitive. Our third paper was on health care, where we requested support for community clinics, access to affordable healthcare, prevention and wellness, and health information technology. The fourth paper addressed the Wabash River Corridor, where we requested assistance in securing appropriations for the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a Wabash River Reconnaissance Study, along with securing authorization for the Corps to design and construct a Wabash River Project in Tippecanoe County. The fifth paper, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, we urged Congressman Buyer, Senator Bayh, and Senator Lugar to be aggressive in obtaining federal funds in close collaboration with local government to provide a fair share of these funds to our community. We also encouraged Congress to eliminate Indiana's status as a donor state in highway funding. We asked our members of Congress to collaborative with Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Purdue University, Ivy Tech, and CityBus to develop a list of crucial infrastructure and highway improvements for funding in various pieces of legislation. Also, a small group met with Congressmen Brad Ellsworth and Joe Donnelly. At the Department of Education, we met with a project specialist, who provided us information on funding opportunities under the Department of Education Discretionary Grant Program. We had a very brief visit to the brand-new visitor center, which opened on December 3, 2008, at a final cost of \$621 million. We finished our trip with a short visit to the U.S. Marshal's Service, courtesy of U.S. Marshal Dave Murtaugh. The US Marshal's Service was created in 1789 and will be celebrating its 220th anniversary on September 24, 2009. U.S. Marshals are basically federal sheriffs and are not to be confused with our local town marshals. Their duties at the beginning varied from taking the census to supervising executions and fugitive apprehension. The Marshal Service provided intelligence at the Battle of New Orleans in 1812, and in 1830, they started pursuing counterfeiters. More recently, they were responsible for dealing with issues relating to integration in the South, to escorting federal prisoners, to protecting federal judges, to tracking down unregistered sex offenders. A museum dedicated to the U.S. Marshal Service will be built in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in the near future. That concludes my communication, Mr. Mayor. Thank you.

► Mayor Dennis reported that last week former Councilor and current State Representative Randy Truitt and State Representative Sheila Klinker presented the City with an award from the Indiana General Assembly, recognizing the City of West Lafayette for its honor in being named *Forbes Magazine's* sixth most educated city in the U.S. Ours is the top city listed that is not located on the east coast or in California.

► Mayor Dennis said that this would probably be the last time that this meeting will be televised, at least with its existing relationship. It's been brought to my attention via letter that the possibility, if not the probability, of this streaming video will be discontinued. We're currently looking at other options, possibly going through the website, possibly doing something in regards to maybe having a delayed transmission or even doing something cooperatively either with Purdue University or Jeff. We're going to look at some of those options, because I'm well aware of the fact that many folks watch us at home, based upon the volume of phone calls and emails I get after a Council meeting. So if there's anything we can do to continue this service, we'll sure give it a great effort. Also for those of us on the Council and up at this table, it's an excellent way for us to communicate with the citizens that we serve. We'll go ahead and continue to research this. For the Council, I'll probably have more information about this on Friday. I have a meeting with the folks at Comcast on Friday, and we'll be able to make a better decision then.

► Councilor Hunt said one more. I think we should thank Comcast, Insight and Comcast, that have been doing this for so long. And the staff that lugs all those parts up. It looks like there's one staff; usually there's more. Thank you very much.

Mayor Dennis said that's kind of a sign of the times. Everybody else has been let go. The poor guy is on his own—the producer, the director, he's the staff, he's the gaffer. Anyway, but thank you very much. You guys have provided excellent service and the community of West Lafayette appreciates that.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

► Ms. Jan Myers [1909 Indian Trail Drive] said thank you, Mayor and Council. I have a question unrelated to others you usually hear me talk about. Obviously, I've been out of town for a while, so I'm very aware of things when I get back. There are two gateway sites, as I've heard them expressed when I've been in this building and this meeting or others in the past, and neither one of them is in good shape. So I'm interested in what's going to happen at the former Family Inn's location, as well as the former K-Mart location, and the seeming moving out of more of those businesses behind that location. I would especially like, if not tonight, maybe at next month's meeting, to know what were the taxes each of these locations paid when they were businesses, and what are they paying now as vacant lots? In this day and time, I don't think we need to worry just about bankruptcies in residential areas. I've heard a lot of discussion in the past, in this building also, on ordinances to keep lawns and other things in good condition. In fact, that was brought up tonight about a subdivision. What is the ordinance to keep these two looking good? Right now in both sites, there are fences open, wide-open gates, so if the chain link fences were put up to protect the neighborhood children, it certainly is not happening. In fact, in both sites, there is a chain link fence falling down, and the barrier for runoff, water control and other things Go Green people should be worried about, is substantially not in place or down. And I'm interested what's happening there and who sees that the gates are locked and the fences are upright and the rubble that's stacked around is cleared out of there.

Mayor Dennis said we've got a couple folks who can speak to that. Chandler [Director of Development Poole], would you like to come up.

Director of Development Poole said in regards to the former K-Mart site, Wabash Commons as it's called now, the developer Mr. Frank Swiss unfortunately did fall victim to the economy. His percentage equity stake that the bank required before they would give him a loan increased considerably, unfortunately went beyond what he was able to do at this time. He is working on finding more equity, so he can start his development. Most of the retailers that we had looked at for that site have either curtailed their expansion plans or stopped them outright, or even started to reduce the number of stores they have. So we're a little bit under the gun on that one, which is unfortunate, because it's a very visible site. Champion's Centre as well had issues in regards to sales of the condominiums—

Mayor Dennis said and that's the Family Inn location.

Director of Development Poole said correct. They did not make enough pre-sales of the condominium units that would allow them to then pull the trigger to build the hotel and the condominium project. They're very intertwined in how they were financed. We're hoping to meet with them relatively soon, to understand what they plan on doing, so we can find a way to work with them to maybe move forward on the project. We are trying to work with the developers to be creative.

Mayor Dennis said thank you. I do want to credit you, because Chandler [Mr. Poole] has been very aggressive in making sure that the property owners do maintain and keep their property up. I know just the week before we went to Washington, D.C., we engaged the developer of the Family Inn lot, because there were fences that were down, and we mandated that they pick them up. The same thing with the K-Mart Plaza. We had some issues involving some of the trees that they removed, as well as snow removal, and we did everything we could to encourage them to go ahead and keep those things cleaned up as well.

Ms. Myers said one of the reasons I'm very personally interested in the Champion's Centre, as you know, I've been working with the State a lot about getting that intersection— They said they were going to do this spring, but they were waiting to hear on what happened with the Champion's Centre, so when I talk to them, I want to be able to say, "Here's the status." It sounds like it's on hold of some sort.

Mayor Dennis said it's kind of reflective of what's going on nationwide. Thank you, Jan [Ms. Myers].

Ms. Myers said I'll look forward to the tax information.

Mayor Dennis said we can go ahead and get some research done on that.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business at this time, Councilor Keen moved for adjournment, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting, the time being 7:20 p.m.