

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – JANUARY 7, 2020 – 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in regular session on Tuesday, the 7th day of January, 2020 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

On the call of the roll the following members were shown to be absent or present as follows:

Present: Cowgill, Fouce, Batchelor, Cline, Brunner, Fordyce, Henderson, Luzadder and Cain.

Absent: None.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting of December 17, 2019 were presented. Council President Deb Cain told the Council the appropriate response for when you are absent from a meeting would be to abstain. She'll take a motion to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes. Motion was made by Councilman Don Batchelor. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brad Luzadder and the vote was as follows: Cowgill – abstain, Fouce – abstain, Batchelor – aye, Cline – abstain, Brunner – abstain, Fordyce – abstain, Henderson – aye, Luzadder – aye, Cain – aye. The minutes were not approved due to the vote being 4 ayes, 0 nays and 5 abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports given at tonight's meeting.

At this time, Council President Deb Cain told the Council there's nothing really on the agenda of Unfinished Business and no New Business so they're just going to do a little discussion. There are rules that they follow for City Council and if they have not already obtained those from Mrs. Kiley, it is Ordinance No. 6-2013 is the last updated rules and so she would really suggest that they do that. They also serve on committees and are liaisons to boards, to outside boards, so she's going to pass out blank papers with the committees listed and the liaisons listed. What she would like them to do is to put their name under these. Now, one thing she wants to really point out is, for the liaisons, if they will see on the list, please pay attention to the liaisons because she's listed when they meet and the time that they meet because in speaking with those that did not have that information on the website, she called and they gave her the dates and times but they also expressed their frustration when someone did not show. So, these are the times so please really pay attention to these times and if their daily schedule does not allow them to attend, they're not going to think anything different. They just know that they're working full time and they don't have that capacity to be able to attend. Those boards would really appreciate attendance, full attendance, so only put their name down if they are able to attend and she would like them to choose two. Make two choices and put #1 and #2 beside their choices so she knows what their first preference is and what their second preference is. Now for the committees, there will be three people assigned, three members assigned to a committee, one being the Chair. Please put their name underneath four and do the same, number those four in order of preferences. Councilwoman Robin Fouce asked Cain to say that again please. Cain said, put your name under four committees of your choice and then put a number beside as preference. Councilman Mike Cline asked Cain if she would maybe go down the committees and explain what each committee's role is. Cain told Cline, sure, yes. The Rules Committee looks at the rules of the City Council and the rules of any boards that they oversee, but right now, basically City Council. The Development Committee, they are the ones that hear from individuals or companies that are doing advancements in their companies and they're bringing development to the city and they approve or, well they send back to City Council their recommendation or they can even bring it back with no recommendation but they always bring back a report to City Council regarding that company. Public Safety, that is working with the police and fire and.... She asked Mr. Luzadder if that was it and Luzadder said yes. Cain stated, that's what she thought. Compliance Committee, that is for the tax abatements and the TIF Districts, the approval of the tax abatements and making sure that the companies and individuals who have requested tax abatements are following what they put in place that they would comply with and that they've also submitted their yearly forms and to look at the TIF Districts just to make sure that they are being assessed correctly and that they're being handled appropriately. Public Works is with..... Cain said she's sorry but she has not served on that one so she needs help. Mr. Luzadder said Public Works would be with the Water Department, keeping up with Mr. Binkerd, as well as our Street Department and what's going on also with the Citywide Maintenance and the Council up to date on those as well. Council President Cain continued and said, and then Code Enforcement is looking at the code enforcements, the ordinances, and working with those offices. Any questions? Councilman Luzadder said, Madam President, also the Rules Committee has also doubled as the Ordinance Committee that hasn't been specified for an individual area. If

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you're having an ordinance having to do with Public Works and Safety, if there's no committee that that can be placed under, in the past, they've always used the Rules Committee then as the Ordinance Committee. Mrs. Cain then told the Council, as they're thinking about that, she will look at their responses and assign the committees and liaisons along with the seating and then she will email it to them, using their City of Marion email address. And she would encourage them please, look at their email, use their email, check it regularly and keep on top of it. That would be very helpful and they would all appreciate it. She said she'll give them a few more minutes and then they'll go on with the next thing. Councilman Luzadder told the Council, if you don't use your city email, it's a great idea in which to use that and Danny (Robinson, IT Director) can program it if they want that changed to another but with your personal email, if you're using it for personal use and the city information does come through, the Freedom of Information Act would then open up your personal email then. So, running that through the city email and not your private, personal, "hey buddy, let's go for a game" or something, the public really doesn't care much about that. So, it helps Council members to keep things personal as well as there's times in which they have to keep things private. Council President Cain then told the Council, so, those papers, she'll just collect them at the end of the meeting but she would like to kind of just have a discussion, talk back time. She would like to ask for them to put some thought to this and let's have some discussion. What would they like to see City Council accomplish in their first 100 days? And in their four years together? What is the top thing on their mind? What is the top priority? What do they want to see them accomplish in the first 100 days and even more specifically, what would they like to bring to the table in the first 100 days or in the four years? Is there something on their mind? Something that they would like to have them start thinking about, focusing on and helping them with, as a group or individual? Councilman Brian Cowgill said, yeah Madam President, and he just spoke with Mayor Alumbaugh a few minutes before they started here, you know, they all know that finances are tough and tight in the city so he believes that, you know, he's worked with grants and stuff a lot and he thinks that they ought to look at that situation, grants for the different departments, for the city itself. There's a lot of grants out there and there's a lot of grants out there that go unused. If just one person would apply for them, they would have gotten them. And he thinks that that's something he believes strongly and to help out the city is they need to go after the "free money", so to speak. Councilwoman Robin Fouce said, thank you Madam President, that's a good question. She'd like to see the line of communication between the Council, Administration, and more importantly, the citizens of Marion improve. She thinks some of the discontent comes from lack of effective communication and so if they make that part of their system and they buy in, as Council members, like she is over District 4 and so she's going to talk to each and every individual that she can under the umbrella of Marion and she's also going to pass that information on as she can, find a way to pass that on effectively to her constituents so they have a more collective community, a better understanding and when that communication path is open, the sky is the limit, she thinks, on where they can go. So that's what she would like to see happen, that's what she wants to be an intricate part of as well. Her goal is to learn all that she can about this business of running the City of Marion. Where she's had an opinion that may have been skewed by the lack of knowledge, she wants to correct and bridge that gap and also be a vehicle to do that again for the community. Councilman Don Batchelor said he guessed, from his perspective, the line of communication is the key for them moving the city forward. If all of them are on the same page and know what's coming down the chute, he thinks they can better represent and forward information to their constituency. He thinks that communication is a vital piece for the success of anything, having good communication and passing it along. Councilman Mike Cline said, this may be sort of a quixotic hope, he would like to see these Council meetings back on television. Figure out a way, work with the cable folks, work with whoever, Channel 27, whoever, get these things back so that people know what they're doing, they see what they're doing while they're doing it. He would love to see that happen. Councilman Jim Brunner said he thinks in the first 100 days, the one thing he'd like to see them maybe try and do, maybe has to be a committee, he would really like to see them sit down with both the Police and Fire Departments and see how they can help them. He thinks they see what's going on in the State of Indiana, what's going on in the United States, especially abroad, you can never have too much communication when it comes to public safety. So he thinks in the first 100 days, he'd like to see them make some reach out to the Police and Fire Departments on how they, as the Council, can help them. And he thinks all of them would agree on this, he thinks if you ask Madam Chairman for a four year goal, he just thinks they need to do everything they can to get more new business for this community. So, that's certainly a 48 month goal for all of them. Councilman Gary Fordyce said he would echo J.B.'s comments on that as far as the Police and Fire Departments, sitting down with them and sitting down with the Administration and seeing if there's any

way, he knows that their funds are tight, that they could help facilitate them and see what the Administration feels about it and what they think that we can do about it also. He thinks the economic development needs to continue. He's excited about that. He thinks there's a lot of people investing in this city and downtown and it's a great investment, the way that it's going and he'd like to see that continue and work with, once again, the Administration, Economic Development and all the other Redevelopment Commissions and keep this on track because he thinks it's important. It's going to bring a lot of new blood into our community and that's what we need, new ideas, new blood, a little younger than him he hopes. And then he wants to work with the neighborhood associations as much as possible and see what they think. It's a great tool. Kayla Johnson's doing a great job with them. They just had another one start up in Brinker Heights. He's got a meeting there next week Wednesday night, if any of you At-Large or anybody else wants to meet. They want to meet the new candidates. They're really excited, it's a new one and he'd like to continue that on as we did during their primary campaign. They hit the clean-ups, they hit the neighborhood cook-outs, they hit their meetings and they were really excited to see them. It meant a lot to them. Councilman Cowgill asked Fordyce, is that on the 15th? Fordyce told Cowgill, yes, Wednesday at 6:30 pm and that's at the church right there on Bradford, Brinker Heights Church. Councilman Steve Henderson said he'd like to work with the community in figuring out how they can get the roads paved and the streets taken care of, get more money into that fund so they can get that done and get that accomplished, get the potholes fixed. They've, leaving a little bit on the table from the state that they're not collecting and they need to figure out a way to match that fund and get those funds up so we can get that free money from the state. Also, they need to continue with the Blight Programs as much as they can and tearing down the blight that we have. Councilman Brad Luzadder said, first he wants to thank everyone for their vote to put him as Vice-President. He appreciates it immensely. He's looking forward to working with each and every one of them. He gets intense at times. He likes structure and so rules are things that always are working and the more that they are able to work with each other, the easier they are to work with the Administration, the support they can give to the department heads, he thinks the better they are going to be. He had written down a Grant Writing Committee. He thinks we can do so many more things when we have more minds working together. It's very difficult to do things individually and he would love to see that. Along with that, our Public Safety has stepped up to the plate multiple times and have applied for grants and they have received them and he thinks that's fabulous. We need to continue to encourage that. Madam President, when we were during the campaign, we had talked to both of our public safety, with police and fire, and at one time, we had talked about even adding a Public Safety Official from the police and one from the fire on to our Public Safety Committee. He thinks if anyone is going to know what and how we're going to be able to work together, they're on the streets all the time and they put their lives on the line for us and he believes in which they should have a voice with us. And so he would encourage a chance to bring them in with our Public Safety Committee if that would be appropriate with the Council. Had some calls about some looking for reduced speed around the high school and as well for Carey Services. They now have the apartments that are across the street of Carey, and their employees as well as their clients are living there and having to walk across the street and they've had a number of the clients who have had to stop midway through the street because people are leaving the high school and taking it as if it's a 55 speed limit. They also have Early Head Start there and he knows that Jim Allbaugh has asked that we would look into either looking at reducing the speed in that area, especially for their clients, or because they do have Early Head Start, they would be classified under a school zone. And so that would be something for them to look at quickly. He thinks that would be something that they could do with the Traffic Commission but he thinks for us to encourage that. And Councilman Brunner and he have discussed, there's going to be a problem at the hospital. Someone is going to get hit on Wabash and we're going to be held liable for it at some point in time. We need to do something in which to reduce speed on Wabash as it's coming down into downtown, especially with having parking across the way and the emergency room on the opposite side of Wabash. He's watched multiple people almost get hit because people just aren't paying attention, and so, if they could look at that. He wants to always fall on the side of caution and safety when they look at that. He had a number of people stop him at Wal-Mart the other night. They're having more and more people show up for panhandling. He doesn't know what their thought with it is. He normally stops and gives money and say a prayer for them because only by the grace of God it could be him standing out there. So, there were a number of people who have made themselves known that they don't like it. He knows that some of the communities, Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne, have tried to deter that and he thinks the more that we can help out with that, we have lots of facilities in which we provide than someone being shamed into having to give something. It's just something that

was brought to his attention. They have talked about it a number of times and haven't done anything on a transient seller and merchant. We have great businesses and then we end up having people throw up rummage sales out on the By-Pass. It's one thing to have a rummage sale for one day where you live. It's another thing to bring truckloads and throw it out onto the parking lots. They've had a number of people say that as well but they would like to see them (Council) curtail some of that. If they want to have a business, do it the right way, get a brick and mortar place or a (inaudible) truck in which they could do that. A lot of times with transient merchants, the money is coming in, they're getting paid and then they leave. He'd much rather see them take care of people that are here and that are living here and are striving in which to do business here. A number of years ago, they did away with going door to door because of safety and it's not getting any easier out there on the streets. They need to encourage people to be good neighbors. Ways in which to do that is to encourage upkeep and with not having a constant rummage sale outside of someone's house, like he said, there should be a limit on having a business outside where families are living and having to drive by or walk by. And he would like to see them, especially in, as At-Large, he would like to see in Ward 4 and Ward 5, especially after walking, he would like to see them have sidewalks and curbs, if there's some way in which we can look into doing that. Also, the CVS property out on 9 and 37, he's seen multiple people in motorized wheelchairs that are having to drive out into the street in which to get to the CVS. There's no sidewalks for them to go and so they have to actually go into the street in which to go to the drug store. So, those are things that have been brought to his attention. Talked to a few people with CVS a couple of times about seeing if they would put some money towards it. We haven't had any success with that but he thinks, especially with kids are running up and down that street as well and Madam President and he saw it multiple times as they were out walking in Ward 6. But we have a lot of areas of our city that need help and, as Council members, he believes it's their job in which to try and seek out and to have conversation with the Administration and see if we can work together to find solutions to some of the things that are effecting our citizens. Those are just a few items that have been brought to his attention. If there's others, he's willing to see what they can do to help and try and accomplish some of these goals that need to be done. You learn a lot when you walk the streets and there are people that are afraid to walk the streets at night and that shouldn't be. There's places in the Arbor Homes area that need streetlights because it's dark early and we need to encourage all the lighting possible around our city. Where there's light, there's less problems. If we would need to work with AEP to figure that out, as a Council member, he has a notepad in his car and if he drives by and a streetlight is not on, he writes down the number that is on the pole and he calls it in to AEP. That's something we can do in which to help in some of those areas. And so, some people don't know that every pole actually has a number and if you call them, they'll come out and change that light bulb. But there are some places that don't even have light poles and he thinks that people need to be able to feel safe as they walk on the sidewalks and we need to start taking back over our streets and making them safe for everyone. He knows that was one of Mike's key things, that Marion is worth fighting for and taking back our streets is one of those things that is worth fighting for. Councilwoman Fouce said, pardon me Madam President, can she add to? Cain told her, absolutely. Fouce stated, to piggyback off of their kind Vice-President, in District 6, in addition to the CVS where there is a crossing, there is a lot of traffic that comes off of 38th and the By-Pass. There's a housing addition, Prince Hall. A lot of those individuals cross that crossway over to Meijer's to buy their necessities, groceries and those types of things. They're on foot or they're in wheelchairs and recently as of November, a family member was killed up there, hit by a car, a senior citizen, a minister in this community and just what a way to go. And so, they want to protect other members in our community from something of that nature. In addition, he mentioned the Arbor Homes and the lighting. In addition to the lighting, lighting is very important, a lot of them use the bus. They don't have a bus stop. The bus does stop but they don't have a place allocated where there is a bench or a shelter so women and children, elderly, it's dangerous for them to just catch the bus up there. She knows they have other places in the city. Right now, that's what she could think of as he was talking. Luzadder said, in the past, the Community Foundation has been very strong with working with that. In fact, Councilman Nevels wrote three grants with the Community Foundation to have bus stops put out on Washington Street. So that may be something for them to look into as well. Council President Cain asked, anybody else? Any additional thoughts? Councilman Brunner said, one. Cain said, that's one? Brunner told Cain she gets one mulligan. Cain replied, oh thank you. She takes the mulligan. The joke, for anyone that came in after is that the President before her would start talking without the mike on or his mike was way out there and you couldn't hear him and Mr. Brunner said he gives her 10 times when you can't hear and then she's impeached. So, this is going to be right here. But she also understands his frustration because it was, you

couldn't hear him a lot of times. So, with that in mind, she can't remember what she was going to say. Anybody else thought of anything else that they want to add? Mr. Brunner said he would just like to personally say that this is the 25th year that he has served on either the School Board or the City Council and he's about as excited as he's ever been to work with a group of people. He knows every one of them. He thinks this is a wonderful group that the city has elected. He thinks they have a really wonderful opportunity to do some things for this city. So, to each and every one of them, he just wants to say he can't wait to work with them. Council President Cain said, and she piggybacks on that. She's been excited too. Councilman Don Batchelor said, in relation to what Councilman Luzadder had mentioned about the hospital situation, the crosswalks and stuff up there, they've had, in the Traffic Commission they've had the person from the hospital meet with them and they concluded that the hospital, they've got two, three crosswalks there and to his understanding, according to Mr. Graft, the hospital agreed to take up the expense and take care of that situation. But we had that discussion back here early fall and now we are in early January and nothing has taken place. Also, out to Carey Services out there, in reference to the speed limit and the possible stop signage out there, that's another thing that has come to the Traffic Commission and that is being studied also. So he just wanted to share that information with them, that it has been (inaudible). Councilman Brian Cowgill said he just wants to piggyback off of Jim as well. He's really excited to work with everybody and he thinks this is going to be a good Council. He thinks they're going to get a lot done. Council President Cain told the Council, okay, before she takes her turn, she also noted that the Mayor is in the audience. Can she put him on the spot? Is there anything that he would like to say to them and she would also like to congratulate him for his re-election. Mayor of Marion Jess Alumbaugh told Cain, thank you, he appreciates it. He's battling a little bit of illness for a while now, like so many of them but, first of all, congratulations to all of them. The people spoke and we're here for a reason. He will tell them that he will have Stacey, his assistant, reach out to all nine of them. He'd like to meet with them individually, just get their thoughts, let's have a discussion and see where they think we should be going. Let's get to know each other. You talk about lines of communication, the more we get to know each other and spend some time together, maybe some of the divisive things that go between Councils and Administrations will start to disappear because the more we can work together, the more we can accomplish. And he wants to remind them that they're no longer a Republican or a Democrat and people, he thinks, have realized about him, he just really doesn't care. He doesn't believe in the party system locally and he's tired of watching it happen. Let's just be people, citizens of Marion working for the good of our community. But again, congratulations to you. Stacey will reach out to them. He hopes they can do that, and he will tell them this and he knows Deb can tell them this, if they want to meet with him, call Stacey. Don't text his phone, his personal phone, but get a hold of Stacey at the office so she'll put it on his calendar so he's not double booking things and she will make sure that they get them in within 24 hours hopefully, definitely within 48 hours. The only reason that wouldn't happen is if he's gone, if he's somewhere else travelling. If he's at a seminar or something, they wouldn't be able to arrange that meeting but, you know, from the many times you came to visit, we get you in as quickly as we can if you ask to see him. They are an extension of his Administration. They are supposed to work together, not adversarial, to accomplish the good for their community and that's really all he can hope for with all of them, that they have a fresh start and they work together for the betterment of their community. Good luck to all of them. He thinks they'll enjoy this journey, and again, they'll be hearing from Stacey soon. He hopes they'll meet with him. He heard the atrium may be opening back up, he doesn't know if it has, out at Tree of Life, but that's where he would like to meet one on one with each of them and he wants to set those dates up at their convenience and work around his schedule to make that happen. So thanks again, he appreciates it, Deb, Alumbaugh said. Council President Cain said, Mr. Foustnight, she's not going to ask him to speak, she just wanted to say thank you for being here from the Administration. They always like to see the Administration here. Even when they're not on the agenda, they just come and they appreciate that. Okay so, from her, she wants to say thank you for..... Councilwoman Robin Fouce pointed out that Dana Gault is here from the Board of Public Works so she wants to congratulate her as well. Cain said, thank you. She wants to say thank you for their confidence in putting her as President and she will work hard and she will work diligently. She worked hard as Vice-President and Alan (Miller) said there were many times she contacted him and kind of kept him on schedule so she will tend to do the same thing as President. She's excited about these four years. She's excited about this group, like Mr. Brunner said. So, she wants to thank Mr. Stephenson for accepting their request to stay on as counsel for 2020. She appreciates his expertise and the way he works with them but she has a question because she agrees with Mr. Luzadder about adding a policeman and fireman to the Rules Committee. Does that need to be a

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decision they all make or can they just, do they have to vote on that or what do they need to do? Council attorney Phil Stephenson told Cain he thinks that she, as President, has the right to set up those committees and determine who will sit on those committees. Mrs. Cain asked, so the Grant Writing Committee, she can also set? Stephenson told her yes. Cain stated, because they have talked about that and she really likes that idea. Okay so, if they want to add Grant Writing Committee to their paper. Mayor Alumbaugh told the Council, Brian (Cowgill) and he talked right before they started the meeting tonight, they do have a person with the city who is working on grants but that's not their primary duty but it's Kayla Johnson with the neighborhood associations. She does a lot of her work in evening meetings so he's asked her, when she has time, to be out on the internet, looking for grants for the community and they made that change about a year and a half, two years ago. She's done a great job with the neighborhoods and he thinks she can help them find grants too. And people like Brian or Brad, you Council members, if they hear of grants, let her know and help work with her and he'd really ask if they could make sure she's on that committee so she's informed of what they're finding. That would be great. He thinks all of them know Kayla. She's doing a great job, by the way. Cain told Alumbaugh, thank you, Mr. Mayor. That's great. They will put her on. She told the Council there are many things that they all said tonight that she definitely agrees with, the focus was sidewalks. In walking the many, many, many, many neighborhoods and the districts and the roads, they had to use the roads and they were not able to. There were sometimes those roads were scary to walk on because they were narrow and they had nowhere else to move. So she agrees with that. Communication. There's so many times, Mr. Cline, that people have asked them why are they not on t.v. There was a contract in place with the cable company. That is no longer in place. And the age of the building, there are some issues with that in getting the signal out. Sunnycrest, they were the ones that came and recorded that. They no longer do that. Indiana Wesleyan does not have a t.v. station anymore. And she was just going to ask if the Mayor could come up and help them with this one, Cain said. Mayor Alumbaugh said he reached out to Spectrum in 2016 and the answer from the company was "we're not spending the kind of money it would take to fix that piece of equipment for something you do twice a month. We're not spending that kind of money." He said he forgets the expense. It was significant, six figures, to get it to where they need it to work and they said they're not spending that kind of money for something they use twice a month every month and that's it. But then he went to WIWU and talked to them and didn't get the answer he wanted from Randall so he went a little higher and they told him the same thing. It's just too much work and time to come and set up for just a short meeting and it's just not cost-effective for them. And he thinks Sunnycrest felt the same way. So, they've tried. They may have to stream it. That's something more and more people are doing. He just, with the seniors though, he thinks most of them know that people who really want to be able to see it, that can't get out in inclement weather, are the seniors and they don't stream a lot of things. You know, he misses his IWU basketball games now because he doesn't know, he's not sure he likes streaming. He wants to watch television. Councilman Brunner told Alumbaugh, but you have Jim Brunner so you're in good shape. Alumbaugh said, he's in good shape, he can listen to the game. But they've tried to look into that because he does think it's important that they find a way and Richarh might be the answer, get him back in here. He did early on, if he recalls, right, in 2016 and at least put it out over the social media where you can watch it. But he tried every option he felt like they could find as far as t.v. and it just didn't materialize. He just wanted to make them aware of that. They tried, they just didn't have any luck. Mrs. Cain asked Mr. Brunner, does he think that there is any options or any way he could have a conversation with the radio station? Brunner told Cain, well, the biggest problem you're going to have is they have virtually a sporting event on every Tuesday from the first of November through pretty much the end of March so that's five months that are going to get eaten up. Maybe what your answer is and he can talk to management, maybe your answer is for us to tape said meeting, because most of these meetings don't last more than an hour max, would you guys agree, the veterans here, and maybe if we got an opportunity to say tape those meetings, he knows the guys in the morning on Good Morning Grant County would love to probably have an hour every two weeks where they could just sit back and they play, at least they'd play what happened the night before. Because we're meeting on Tuesday, he doesn't think of anything on Wednesday that they have that is going to fill up that entire three hours. So let him run that, that's a very good question, Madam Chairman, let him run that by management and maybe that's something we could look into because with these microphones, he thinks we could hook into this, get a pretty darn good sound and have it delivered to them. It takes him two minutes to run from here to the radio station, run that over to them after the meeting and they could have it the next morning and people would maybe then know that every Wednesday, after the first and third Tuesday, we would have the City Council meetings on the air on Good Morning

Grant County. So, let him run that up the flagpole, okay? Council President Cain asked Mrs. Kiley, does she feel the sound in here would be compatible for recording? If they use their mikes, right? City Clerk Kathleen Kiley told Cain, well, yeah, if they remember to turn them on when they speak and turn them off because sometimes if you have too many mikes on, you'll get that squeal. Yeah, it's something we may need to talk to Danny about too. She's not that person, she's not the tech person. Brunner said, well, let him run it up the flagpole on his end because he can't imagine Tim and Ed not thinking that's a good idea so thanks for giving us that vote of confidence. Let him see what he can do on his end. Councilwoman Fouce said, might she suggest they possibly consider both mechanisms. A different audience listens to the radio and then there's a different, broader audience that would look at and view it through perhaps Facebook like Richarh does and the MTV-27. So they could possibly consider both of those ways and they would cover a broader scope of the community. Mrs. Cain said, exactly, yes. She was thinking definitely both. Any other thoughts, Cain asked. Anything else anybody wants to say? Councilman Gary Fordyce asked, did Phil get a 3% raise also? Stephenson said, to his knowledge, he hasn't had a raise since he started. Fordyce said, we didn't get one either, Phil. Mrs. Cain stated, okay, so this is the first time in the five years she's served that they started out the year in having a time like this, where they focused on what do they want to do in the first 100 days. So, she also wants to challenge that they put teeth to what they spoke of tonight and that they work together, they communicate well and that they strive to focus on each thing. She's made notes, they'll get the minutes also but she thinks her intention will be she's going to put something together from tonight and send it out to everybody and maybe they can start thinking about what are the first steps that they want to take to start correcting some of these and what are the things that they want to tackle first as priority and then focus on but keeping the other things in the back of their minds. So, is there anything else? Councilwoman Fouce said, Madam President, she knows that she's always quiet but she had to say a few things tonight. She wanted to inquire about the training. They were having an informal discussion. The training in particular through AIM for newly elected officials and since they have the Mayor here tonight, you know, he had mentioned it so she wanted to see where they are. There is a training January 21st through the 23rd. It's called a Boot Camp in Indianapolis at the Westin Hotel. They did miss the hotel reservation deadline, however, her experience tells her that maybe they could still get in on that group discounted rate if they opted to do it that way. At any rate, anything they could do toward training the members would be a good thing, she believes. So, she doesn't know like what direction, Mayor Alumbaugh, would he possibly have anything to say about it? Not to put him on the spot but she didn't want to let this time go since they're so early on. She wanted to seize that opportunity, Fouce said. Mayor Alumbaugh said, Robin, he thinks it's a good idea if they can make it. Who funds it? Does it come out of their pocket? He needs to find out. One of the things he's noticed from some of the OKRA things is other communities have their different units that are helping their community, not City Administration but different units that work with the city and they come together and hang out and we've had a problem with that where they don't attend these things and they're there and they're important because you can get ideas from people in different communities that they did something that works and the best way to make something good happen in your community is (inaudible) from some other community that's already done it. And he thinks if you could do that as a Council, we can get you, find a way to get you to some of these seminars where you can hang out with other Council people and hear their stories. Some things might click that you bring back and say, hey, what if we did this and try that. So he thinks it's worth looking into. Ms. Fouce said she appreciates it. Alumbaugh asked Fouce, does she think it's too late for this one? Fouce said she would be happy to call and try to negotiate getting them in on the rate if that's what they were going to do. If they had one or two individuals that they sent, she'd like for everybody that's new to go but if they had one individual, two individuals, they agreed on who that was, that's a good opportunity and maybe they could come back and say, here, these are the things that they learned but she thinks it's important that they all get to go eventually, if not now. Her question is she thought their budget was greater for the Council at \$2,500 for some reason but they were saying it's \$1,000 and so is there any funding from his (Mayor) area that they could.....? She knows the fee is over \$1,000 and so she didn't know if there was funds from anywhere else within the city, maybe for this one time. Mayor Alumbaugh replied, that's something he'll talk to Julie (Flores, City Controller) about. They have a new budget so right now they have plenty of revenue. It's when you get into September, October, November, December where it starts to get tight and that's when Julie starts sweating. But yeah, they can look into that. Remind him tomorrow to get with Julie and they'll do that. He starts his day early tomorrow, he has a coffee thing going on, but try and make sure he doesn't forget to, hey Julie, this is coming up the 21st, can we find some funds for those of you who would like to go? Some of them don't have the

time, they've got other things they're doing but they'd like to make that happen and it'd be great training. And AIM, for those who don't know, is Accelerated Indiana Municipalities and if they can go onto the website, get on there and look at what they have coming up, they can start to look at their schedule and figure out if there's something that they think is worthwhile and then they'll try to work with them. As you guys know, especially you guys that have been here a while, we have a very limited budget and Baker Tilley, formerly Umbaugh, said late last summer, "Mayor, you're on a great course, keep it up, by 2025, '26, you should be on really solid ground". So he's just saying, they're not where they want to be but they're going in the right direction. But coming up with those extra funds isn't as easy as it sounds sometimes. Fouce told Alumbaugh, she appreciates that, thank you. She'll also have the figures for that. Once they do get with the Controller, they can see how feasible it is for one, if any, and then they'll go from there. Councilman Luzadder said he spoke with Ms. Fouce right before the meeting informally. It's a wonderful tool to be used. When he got elected 16 years ago, he's attended four of the Boot Camps and it's extremely important, especially as they lay out what they're looking at doing for the next years. In the past, we've sent all the new members of the Council if they've wanted to go and we've tried to work with the Administration on that, former Administrations with that. It's that important for you to get the education. AIM is extremely important. Once you get involved, they'll start sending you stuff. There's a lot of forums that other Councils will throw things out. Tell us about your Animal Control Ordinance and then all the people from across the state, people weigh in and you're able to share that information. Like the Mayor said, there's other communities that are doing things that we could do as well but if you don't know about it, you don't know where to go or don't know how to ask for it, it becomes rather tough and especially if you've never been involved in government before, as the Mayor said, it's not as easy as what it seems a lot of times for finances but it is extremely worthwhile in doing. So, he would encourage anyone to attend as many of those that they can. They're not all just Boot Camps but they do have regional meetings that they can go to, just as they have the local elected officials meeting where everybody in the county comes together and they bring a seminar speaker. The more educated you are, the easier it is in which to work and maneuver through some of the muddy waters that they find themselves in. It's encouraging for people to do that, Luzadder said. Mayor Alumbaugh told Councilman Luzadder he has a question for him about that. Were there also besides the newly elected Council people because with the newly elected Mayors here recently, Bill Rock was there from Gas City, it's really neat because some of the people that have more experience, some of them have served on Councils, like him (Luzadder), for many years, they are also there and on the breaks, you get a chance, and at lunch or maybe at dinner after the event that night, you're sitting there having conversations and they're enlightening you if you'll listen because they've been down these roads. So were there people like that there too? Luzadder told Alumbaugh, yes sir. Alumbaugh said, whoever wants to go, they'd like to find a way to make it happen, but definitely the new ones, but again, if you have some experience (inaudible), some of you guys have been doing this a while, you might help somebody in another community with an idea they haven't thought of. They may not know about the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance, how you can strengthen that, whatever, just to pick an example. But it's really cool when the veterans are there too because they're a wealth of knowledge if you're willing to listen to them and take notes. Luzadder added, and then we carpooled sometimes. We didn't go down and stay. We'd stay as long as we could and then two or three of them would be in a car together and it's amazing how close you get to know people when you're sitting down and breaking bread with them or an hour and a half in the car. He thinks Councilman Batchelor and his relationship grew when they started being able to sit down and have conversations and communications back and forth. They both found out that they were pretty strong on public safety and they tag teamed that for eight years after they got together and he thinks it's been an extremely strong relationship that they've put together. So he encourages anyone to go to those meetings. Like he said, get involved, just as a newly elected, you have that AIM site on the website and able to share, like he said, emails with people all across the state. Normally not a day goes by that questions are not being asked by people and so you may have the answers that they're looking for or maybe things out there that we're looking for that we could share. Council President Deb Cain asked, all minds clear? Okay, well, we will adjourn. Thank you very much for thinking and talking and speaking and she looks forward to two weeks from today. Councilman Jim Brunner asked Cain, does she need a motion? Cain said, and she needs a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Brunner, 2nd by Cowgill to adjourn the meeting. Time being 8:02 p.m.