

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE  
COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morton Community Center on February 5, 2018, at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

President Bunder called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Peter Bunder, Nick DeBoer, Steve Dietrich, Jonathan Jones, Gerry Keen, Larry Leverenz, David Sanders, and Gerald Thomas.

Absent: Norris Wang

Also present: Mayor John Dennis, Corporation Counsel Eric Burns, Clerk Sana Booker, IT Director Brad Alexander, Street Commissioner Ben Anderson, Director of Development Erik Carlson, Facilities Director Tim Clark, Police Chief Jason Dombkowski, Parks Superintendent Janet Fawley, Human Resources Director Diane Foster, City Engineer Ed Garrison, City Controller Peter Gray, Fire Chief Tim Heath, WWTU Director David Henderson, and Building Commissioner Chad Spitznagle.

President Bunder stated that if there are no objections from the Council, he would like to move the City Summit to come before the Police Officer of the Year Award. There were no objections.

CITY SUMMIT

State of the City Address

Mayor John Dennis presented the 2017 State of the City Address:

State of the City  
2017

It is easy to live in a place like West Lafayette. With its great trails and parks system, award-winning schools, diverse population that rivals some larger towns or cities, and a reputation for being safe, we're lucky to call this place home. With that, it's sometimes easy to forget that we're not perfect—it's easy to think that our work is done. However, actions both inside our community and around the country too-often remind me that that the ugly is alive and well. This makes me spiritually armor up every day, and stay in prayer lest I become angry and hateful towards innocent people who could pay the cost for the behavior of others. We are challenged to remember that though we must speak up when we see wrong deeds committed or the innocent injured, we must not carry anger and sadness and allow it to turn to bitterness. Some days can prove harder to get up, dress up and show up than others. Some days you just want to drop down to their level and fight ugly with ugly. Other days you just want to give up...but not today! Today I needed to say that these ugly actions are more than morally wrong, legally wrong, or humanly wrong...it is generationally wrong a taught hatred. Someone taught the hidden faces how to hate, and unfortunately, the need to share that hate remains an opportunistic moment. Therefore, while it's easy to live in a place like West Lafayette, we're not perfect—our work is not done.

Our first grandson, Jonathan, was born in July of 2016. Last year in the State of the City Address, I mused on July of 2066, when Jonathan will be 50-years-old and perhaps himself a grandfather. What sort of city would he and his grandchildren inherit? What sort of world would we leave behind? What did we need to start in 2017 to get the city where we wanted it to be for Jonathan's 50th?

This is something I thought about with every decision I made as mayor in 2017 and will continue to think about as long as I am lucky enough to be entrusted with this office.

Let there be no doubt. The events of late last month cast a shadow on our City. The words of hate strewn on a house of worship made me fear we had taken a step backward, or worse: that we had never actually progressed. That West Lafayette, (like most of America at the turn of the last century), shunned and prohibited those that looked or acted different. However, I need not worry. From that disgusting event, a light was focused on our hometown. As word of the incident at the UU Church traveled across the country from the Washington Post, to ABC News, and The New York Times to websites like LGBTQ Nation and Pink News that focus on information for the LGBTQ community, I quickly realized that the real West Lafayette was evident to readers. These articles quoted West Lafayette residents like Rev. Charlie Davis, Police Chief Jason Dombkowski and others who were quick to stand up and let our brothers and sisters know that we are united against hate, whether explicit or in the undercurrents of our City. We will not let the acts of a lone coward or small set of bullies define our community.

After the service at the UU Church, my daughter waited for me at the entrance, we embraced and I thought again about my grandson, her son, who she and her husband are raising in our hometown. I took comfort in knowing that our hometown is a wonderfully complex, diverse and historic city with all its associated challenges. It overflows with youthful talent, professional skills, and a great sense of optimism (including some healthy cynicism) that sets us apart from the rest, and positions us well for the next half century. That leaves me optimistic that Jonathan will be just fine. However, we must continue to embrace, educate about, and promote inclusivity for this to happen.

Fifty years ago, our country experienced a sociological tug of war reminiscent of what we are witnessing today. Many of these experiences have been difficult to observe and to even understand. Nevertheless, like most difficult times, they can lead to positive and lasting change if addressed openly, patiently and constructively. In communities around our country, there is concern about our future. During times like this, it is important to remind OUR community of our long-standing philosophy based on acceptance, understanding and love.

It is with this understanding that I repeat what most of us are keenly aware of: As a city, West Lafayette is filled with people from all over the world, who are curious and engaged in learning about the multitude of cultures that come together to live and learn here. Examples such as Globalfest (which will be greatly expanded this year), our Naturalization Ceremony, the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, Outfest and the countless other events that are held specifically to celebrate our uniqueness and diversity prove that point: EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. They shout out to people from all over the world that we are a place that is open and welcoming.

Our friends choose to live here knowing that they do not have to surrender their culture or their lifestyle as part of being included in the choir of strong, unique, united voices that is West Lafayette.

This means that West Lafayette is not only a leader in smart and sustainable growth and development, we're also leading the way in the human element. We value all of our citizens,

student residents and visitors. For our children, we are fortunate to have two of the best school systems in the country.

Now back to my grandson. Should Jonathan choose to remain in West Lafayette, it is my hope that the pathways that this administration and several past administrations have established and sustained, will make him and his family as proud of this city as I have been. And that with great courage, integrity and love, the City of West Lafayette will continue to embrace our responsibility to co-create a community where each of us, our citizens, our student residents, and our planet can flourish. As I mentioned earlier, our work is not done. This means that community members must speak out at wrongdoings and stand up for each other—and that we must listen to each other. And, that I, as a community-leader, must work to create an environment where citizens can stand up and speak out and, importantly, be heard.

2017 saw more of the foundation for the West Lafayette of 2066 being built. The first major phase of the State Street Redevelopment was completed. Now our main route through the urban core and campus is a 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor, a “complete street” with bike lanes and welcoming pedestrian areas. Development has flocked to the area as a result. You all are aware of the projects that have been approved, but what you may NOT know is that we have repeatedly passed on potential investments for not fitting the community-feel of West Lafayette. The exciting news is that more developments with options for our WHOLE community are on the horizon.

We have taken the first steps for a new Indoor Recreation and Aquatics Center to be located at Cumberland Park. Additionally, a new City Hall that will serve the West Lafayette of the next half-century-plus is in the works. I look forward to working more on these great additions to our city in 2018.

Therefore, the foundation for our growth into 2066 is already strong. Our city is in excellent shape. Financially, operationally and physically, our citizens are provided services that focus on their wellbeing with the intention of providing a quality of life that promotes public safety, education, recreation and diversity. Like most cities, we share concerns about the impact that things largely out of our control, such as national and state priorities, will have on our city. However, we will do everything in our power to continuing building upon our strong foundation allowing us to maintain and promote the quality of life we've established.

As I do every year, I must commend the work of this Council, our City Clerk and our City employees, the women and men in charge of delivering city services with efficiency and integrity, representing a commitment that runs through this Administration. Our shared belief that public service is a noble calling helps make West Lafayette special. We help our neighbors live a better, more comfortable and more productive life. The services our department heads and their staff provide every single day throughout West Lafayette have made us the safest and strongest large college community in Indiana, and you deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

I am very proud of your hard work and shared commitment to our community. Moreover, this City is what it is because our citizens are who THEY are. I am grateful for the ideas, energy and participation of all West Lafayette residents who have made us a top city in the nation to live, learn, work and play.

### Volunteer Recognition Awards

Mayor John Dennis stated that we have a group of people that we would like to honor tonight. He began by saying that any community has a great deal of staff and members who do everything they can do make sure that their community is in top-notch shape. However, most communities

are dependent on more than just people who are paid to do the work. It requires a strong core of volunteers to bring a bright shine on an already shining community, and the City of West Lafayette is no exception. For years we have had volunteers do everything from trim trees, to pick up trash, to clean up trash, to park cars, to assist us with some of our events, to assist us with our Farmers Market, and to basically make West Lafayette the City that it is. They do all of this for nothing. They take their own time, and they take away time from their friends and families to help us as a community. Each year we like to recognize a few volunteers who have stood out over the past year.

Mayor Dennis presented the first award to Geraldine Arney. He stated that Ms. Arney was a graduate of the 1995 class of Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, and she was eager for a way to earn volunteer hours. She started to volunteer at the nature center in Battleground. When the Lilly Nature Center opened in 2000 she jumped at the opportunity to get involved. She was one of the Center's first ever volunteers, and she continues to dedicate her time regularly and enthusiastically, 18 years later. She has contributed 1,164 hours as a volunteer for the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor Dennis spoke about Ms. Arney's passion for music and for helping young children. She enjoys feeding and watching the birds from the Center's viewing area. He stated that Dan Dunten, the Center's Director, speaks very highly of Ms. Arney and her commitment to West Lafayette. We greatly appreciate all of the time, knowledge, and interest that she graciously shows.

Mayor Dennis presented the next award for the West Lafayette Tree Friends. He stated that every year we give this award to individuals who dedicate their time and unique skills to give back to the community. This year we decided to honor not just one volunteer, but a group of citizens who have been contributing determinedly to West Lafayette since 1981. For the past 26 years, West Lafayette has been recognized as a Tree City USA. This honor would have been impossible without the tireless work of the Tree Friends. This 25-person committee fundraises for tree plantings along our streets, waters young trees during hot summers, offers tribute trees to honor our loved ones, reaches out to local business owners through their Pruning Partners Program, and prunes our street trees during the spring and fall. The Tree Friends also release a bi-monthly newsletter and host special events in hopes of educating our community and business owners on the importance of trees. A select few committee members have volunteered to answer the call when there is a pruning emergency; these few have been dubbed the "E-Squad." When a broken branch or snapped sapling appear, the E-Squad heads out within 24 hours to take care of business. The Tree Friends' passion to maintain West Lafayette's urban forest can be seen through their impressive amount of volunteer hours. From 2013-2017, the City and the Tree Friends have planted 822 trees in the City's public spaces. In that same period, the volunteers along with Development's Bev Shaw (Quality of Life) and Bryce Patz (Neighborhood Vitality), pruned 6,251 City trees, committing 981 volunteer hours. From 2009 to 2017 the Tree Friends have contributed a total of 9,246 volunteer hours toward our urban forest. This is a value of \$137,848.42. Mayor Dennis gave a huge "thank you" to the West Lafayette Tree Friends.

#### POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Police Chief Dombkowski and Police Merit Commission President David Rollock presented the Police Officer of the Year Award to Officer Uriah "Heath" Crawford. Chief Dombkowski explained that the Department started this away in conjunction with the Police Merit Commission (PMC) in 2008. It is something that the Department looks forward to and values. He read from the citation nominating Officer Crawford for this award. He highlighted some of Officer Crawford's accomplishments and spoke of his dedication to the Department, saying that he has continually exceeded the duties and requirements of his position. He puts significant effort into combatting the flow of illegal drugs through our City. He has also been dedicated to the Field Training Program, spending hundreds of hours teaching and training new officers. Officer Crawford has

proven his personal dedication to the policing profession and to our citizens through his outstanding work ethic and his constant desire to improve.

Officer Crawford stated that it is an honor standing here and to be a part of such a great Police Department. The veteran officers of this Department are the ones we must really thank for making it what it is today. Those same officers have shown him what it means to do the right thing at the right time and for the right reason. That, to him, is what being a police officer is truly about. He spoke to his fellow officers, saying that he is proud to call them his family, and he is honored to serve alongside of them. He expressed appreciation to his wife and his parents. He also expressed appreciation to the citizens of West Lafayette and to the PMC members. He stated that it is an honor and a privilege to serve, and he looks forward to many more years to come.

#### MINUTES

Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the January 4, 2018, Pre-Council Meeting, and January 8, 2018, Common Council Meeting. Councilor DeBoer seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

#### REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

There were no comments.

#### REPORT OF THE APC REPRESENTATIVES

Councilor Leverenz reported that the Sagamore Commons project is on the February APC agenda, but the full staff report is not available yet. He also expressed appreciation to Councilor Keen for completing a two-year term as President of the Area Plan Commission.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS:

##### Council Appointment: Go Greener Commission

Councilor DeBoer motioned to appoint Linda Prokopy to the Go Greener Commission. Councilor Dietrich seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

##### Mayoral Appointments with Council Consent: Human Relations Commission

Councilor Keen motioned to accept the Mayoral appointments of Vidhya Iyer, Yaman Kaakeh, Shefalia Prabhakar, Sheila Rosenthal, Charlie Shook, and Susan Thomas to the Human Relations Commission. Councilor DeBoer seconded the motion. Director of Development Carlson confirmed that each person listed is a current member and this is a re-appointment. The motion passed by voice vote.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

City Controller Gray reported that we are running right along with the budget so far.

#### LEGAL REPORT

This report is on file.

#### SPECIAL REPORTS:

##### Joint Board Report

Councilor DeBoer reported that there was a Joint Board meeting this month. He noted that every year the Board votes in new leadership, rotating between Purdue University and the City. However, two members of Purdue's staff to the Board were absent and had others filling their seat, so the elections have been delayed to the next meeting in April. He reported that Director of Development Carlson gave a presentation to the Board about the State Street Project. It included a retrospective of where we were at, what happened over the summer, and what is going



to be happening when construction season kicks into gear in the near future. Those plans can all be found on [www.statestreetwl.com](http://www.statestreetwl.com), which includes road closures.

President Bunder asked for confirmation of dates for the next round of meetings that explains the roadwork. Director Carlson responded that there will be a meeting at noon on February 8, 2018, in Grissom Hall, and another meeting is that same evening at the library at 6:00 p.m. The presentation will be similar to that given recently to the RDC and the Joint Board, and it is aimed at getting word out to the public a few weeks before the first construction is set to begin on Stadium Avenue.

Councilor Sanders asked if, aside from construction issues, there is a mechanism for solicitation of response from the community about the new traffic patterns. Director Carlson responded that the [statestreetwl.com](http://statestreetwl.com) website has a feedback form that goes to our colleagues at the Deering Group. Those comments get distributed to either the University or the City for feedback and response. He confirmed for Councilor Sanders that there are multiple documents with the website provided and the contact link is high on that homepage. The project's Facebook page frequently links to the website as well.

President Bunder stated that the biggest question this week is if people can park in front of Starbucks now, to which the answer is yes, and the bus stop sign can be ignored. Director Carlson added that we had a meeting today with City Bus, and they will pull the bus into the stop if they can, and they will not if they cannot. The bus stop will be moved once nearby spaces are done in Wabash Landing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 01-18 An Ordinance To Establish The Cumulative Capital Development Fund And Readopt West Lafayette City Code Provisions Concerning The Fund (Submitted by the Controller)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 01-18 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 01-18 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

City Controller Gray stated that each year we need to reestablish the CCD Fund. We are keeping it, again, at 5 cents per \$100 of assessment, which it has been for a number of years. It provides us with needed capital for the City.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

<u>Councilperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Dietrich	Aye
Jones	Aye
Keen	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Sanders	Aye

<b>Councilperson</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Absent

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 01-18 passed on first reading.

Resolution No. 03-18 A Resolution To Appropriate Grant Reimbursement In The Cumulative Firefighting Building And Equipment Fund (Submitted by the Controller)

Councilor Keen read Resolution No. 03-18 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Resolution No. 03-18 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Controller Gray stated that this is an appropriation for a grant that was initiated in 2017. The funds were not received until January of 2018. This resolution allows us to be able to spend the funds this year.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

<b>Councilperson</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Dietrich	Aye
Jones	Aye
Keen	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Absent

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Resolution No. 02-18 passed on first and only reading.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor Sanders spoke about what a privilege it was to participate with the community at the event at the Unitarian Universalist Church. He believes that that is the real image of our City, and it was a moving experience to be there. It makes him very proud to live here in West Lafayette. Councilor Sanders also read a poem, which is on file with the Clerk's Office.

► President Bunder congratulated Mayor John Dennis on his response to the graffiti on the fences of the Unitarian Universalist Church. He stated that most know that his day job is as an Episcopal priest, and the Episcopal Church is left-leaning. Over the years, parents of gay and lesbian kids have come by to ask what it is really like living here in Indiana. To that, questions have recently been added to ask what transgender people will find when they get here, with concerns about safety expressed. He stated that ordinarily his advice, for better or worse, is that it is great here—

just do not leave the “bubble.” Once you get outside of the West Lafayette and Purdue area, things may be a little different, but in here it is fine. For a while, a couple of weeks ago, it was not as fine, but then it got to be fine again because of the response of the community and support of the Unitarian Universalist community, and the part of all of us folk who enjoy living here because this place tolerates a level of diversity that other places in Indiana may not. He again complimented the Mayor on his response and added a thanks to all for making his job a little easier every July and August as parents drop by to see what this place is like. He also noted the irony of having this discussion at the same time that the State pulled hate crime legislation; the State Senate decided not to go forward with that legislation. He also wonders how Purdue responded to the event; there were a wide variety of political community leaders and other community organizations providing support, but he is not aware of any from the University. He thinks that it would have been important for the University, given that the incident took place about four blocks from its door, and it is possible that that one of their students put the signs up. If they had been responsive to this challenge to the community, it would have made his job easier.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor DeBoer moved for adjournment, and President Bunder adjourned the meeting the time being 7:14 p.m.