

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, met in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Morton Community Center on February 6, 2017, 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, Aseem Jha, Gerry Keen, Larry Leverenz, David Sanders, Gerald Thomas, and Norris Wang.

Absent: None

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.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mayor John Dennis stated that it is an honor to report that the Police Officer of the Year is Officer Marcus Slifer. Officer Slifer has been with the West Lafayette Police Department since 2002, and is currently a motor officer in the Traffic Division. The primary responsibility of a motor officer is to maintain the safety of West Lafayette students by controlling traffic in school zones. Last year Officer Slifer conducted nearly 800 contacts with motorists who committed traffic violations near the school. Typically, the violations are for speeding, but it is not unusual for Officer Slifer to stop someone for a traffic violation who also turns out to be wanted for a crime or have another type of violation. Officer Slifer is also a former D.A.R.E. officer, and continues to be engaged in outreach with young people and the general community. He is currently in charge of the RAD program, which teaches self-defense and personal safety to citizens, with a special focus on women and children. Mayor Dennis stated that Officer Slifer is receiving this award in honor of his hard work, his can-do attitude, and his contagious positive outlook. Officer Slifer and his wife, Nicole, have a son named Keegan, who is starting Kindergarten in the fall, and the family resides in West Lafayette.

Police Chief Dombkowski stated that this award stems from a committee of commanders and members of the Police Merit Commission (PMC). He stated that the focus that he wants to put an asterisk on is the contagious attitude that Officer Slifer brings, and he represents the Department well. He does focus on those school zones, and Chief Dombkowski believes that Officer Slifer has affected the safety of our community. Last year, of his 800 traffic stops, over 500 were in the school zones. He presented the award to Officer Slifer. David Rollock, PMC President, also presented a certificate. Mr. Rollock stated that this ceremony allows us to focus on merit, and Officer Slifer has demonstrated that kind of merit.

Officer Slifer expressed his appreciation for the award and to several people in the Police Department. He spoke of how he loves what he does—he loves riding the motorcycle, loves

being in the school zone, loves mingling with the public, and loves serving the people in this community. He stated that he is honored to be sharing space with the names on the plaque that hangs in the lobby of the Police Station. He thanked his wife for her support and being by his side. He thanked his mom, saying that his dedication and attitude comes from the way he was raised.

CITY SUMMIT

State of the City Address

Mayor Dennis stated that he is going to break stride a bit. Usually the State of the City comprises of a lot of conversation about some of the great accomplishments that we have had. Sometimes it is just a lot of numbers, and sometimes it is some of the achievements that the City had during the year. He stated that we have had a great year in West Lafayette, and we are a standard that other cities in the State can hold themselves to; we do a lot of things right. This evening, however, he would like to speak a little broader. He presented the State of the City address, which is below:

STATE OF THE CITY 2016

Our first grandson was born last summer. In July of 2066 he will be 50 and may well by then have grandchildren of his own. What sort of city do we want for him and his grandchildren to inherit? What sort of world do we want to leave behind? To get there what do we need to do today? Something to think about, isn't it? It is something I think about with every decision I make as mayor.

First and foremost, 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. But like most cities, we share concerns about our fiscal vitality, quality of life and the overall feeling of wellbeing for our citizens. We also have a great deal of concern about what our future will be and how our leaders will handle the ever changing needs of a community, wherever it is located, in response to changes in the priorities of the populations we serve.

West Lafayette 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.

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. But 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, and in others, there is optimism and enthusiasm. During times like this, it is important to remind OUR community of our long standing philosophy.

It is with this understanding that I repeat what most of us are keenly aware: As a city, West Lafayette is filled with people who are curious and engaged in learning about the multitude of cultures that come together to live and learn here. Examples such as Global Fest, 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's open and welcoming.

Our friends choose to live here knowing that they don't have to surrender their culture or their lifestyle as part of being included in the choir of strong single voices that is West Lafayette.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, February 6, 2017, CONTINUED

West Lafayette is a leader in focusing not only on the physical element of our community, but also on the human element. We value all of our citizens, student residents and visitors. For our children, we are fortunate to have one of the best school systems in the country. Our students work collaboratively with educators and parent-volunteers to get a real world education, without being devalued and made to feel insecure about being different. That is the West Lafayette I know and love.

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 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 Dennis stated that we present these volunteer awards every year, but he does not think that we understand how such great things happen in our community. We have a group of people, our employees, who work for us to make sure that we get the right things done. We have a lot of citizen activists that help us as well. However, a lot of the programs, projects, and work that gets done in the community is done by volunteers. Without a solid volunteer base, and the staff to coordinate them, we would not be where we are today. Everyone benefits from the work that they do, and we are so appreciative. He noted that Sue Eiler could not be present due to a prior commitment. He spoke of each award winner's accomplishments, a summary of which follows:

Sue Eiler: Sue Eiler recently retired after 28 years as a clinical social worker with Purdue's Counseling and Psychological Services. Sue runs a support group for students with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and is the campus advisor for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Sue is the organizer of the Morris Schoolhouse Moving and Restoration Committee, and is taking on a new role on the Board of Directors for the West Lafayette Parks and Recreations Foundations Board.

Ann Hunt: Ann Hunt, Professor Emerita of Nursing and former City Council member, volunteers regularly with Tree Friends and Read to Succeed. She is also a host at the Lilly Nature Center and serves on the Mayor's CDBG Committee. Ann has taken photos for the Farmer's Market every week for the last several years, and is on the Art in Bloom committee and the Beautification committee.

Kurt Wahl: Kurt Wahl is an architect who gives back to his community by getting involved with various projects to restore West Lafayette and the Greater Lafayette Community. Kurt is a member of Lafayette's Historic Preservation Commission, and is a consultant for West Lafayette's

Historic Preservation Commission. Kurt is also a member of the Morris Schoolhouse Moving and Restoration Committee.

MINUTES

Councilor Keen moved for acceptance of the minutes of the December 29, 2016, Pre-Council Meeting, and the January 3, 2017, 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 on the APC agenda for February 15, 2017, the final plans for The Hub will be presented. There will be a re-written version of the transient housing ordinance that was tabled last month. A rezone for The Rise at Chauncey will be considered. He noted a couple of things in the works for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There is a request on the table for a setback exception for the property that is now the caretaker's house at Glenview Cemetery, which is now continued to April 26, 2017, at the request of the petitioner. There is a request for variances for the property at 506 Covington Street, and those will be considered at the February 22, 2017, meeting. Finally, the Rogers Group, which is the quarry at Americus is back in the system. It was on the agenda for the 22nd, but due to an incomplete submission it has been removed from that agenda, with no date given for it to appear again.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

City Controller Gray stated that the report is filed on the website. We are still working through closing out last year and getting this year's budget finalized and in the system. Therefore, a different format was used this month to compare our current spending in January this year with January of last year.

LEGAL REPORT

This report is on file.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Joint Board Report

Councilor DeBoer stated that the Joint Board held elections, and Police Chief Dombkowski was elected president. The next meeting is scheduled April 18, 2017. In response to concerns previously expressed by Zachary Baiel, Councilor DeBoer stated that he thinks that the posting of the Joint Board minutes will run more smoothly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 02-17 To Amend Certain Portions Of The Unified Zoning Ordinance Of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Designating The Time When The Same Shall Take Effect. (Indiana District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Inc.) (460 Northwestern PD) (PDNR to PDNR) (Submitted by Area Plan Commission)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 02-17 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 02-17 on first and only reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Ryan Munden (Reiling Teder & Schrier, LLC), representing the petitioner, stated that this is a petition to rezone the *Exponent* building at 460 Northwestern Avenue from PDNR to PDNR for the purpose of allowing limited commercial use as well as church use, along with continued operation of the publishing use of the *Exponent*. The Church is moving from its current location on State Street to be closer to campus and their student congregation. The third floor of the building will be used for church space. The second floor will remain the *Exponent*. The first floor will be church offices as well as a coffee shop. The basement will house the *Exponent's* printing press for the time being; however, after a year it will be removed and converted to gym-space and a fellowship hall for the church. He stated that this rezone received a favorable staff report and unanimous approval from the APC.

Councilor Sanders asked what the plan is for the current church. Mr. Munden responded that the current church location is on the next APC agenda. The plan is to convert that to a 16-story high-rise with commercial space on the first floor. The tenant for that commercial space has not been announced yet. Councilor Sanders asked if this ordinance [No. 02-17] did not pass, if it would make that change impossible. Mr. Munden responded that it would not affect the current location of the church; the church would have to find alternative plans. They are definitely moving, and it is just a question of where. They are excited about the *Exponent* location because it is right in the center of where their congregation is located.

President Bunder asked if the church has sold the current property yet. Mr. Munden responded that there are some contingencies associated with zoning and obtaining the requisite approvals. However, if this were denied, they would have to find another location to move to. President Bunder asked why this rezone is from PDNR to PDNR. Mr. Munden responded that the current PDNR zoning does not allow for the church use and limited commercial use, which would be the coffee shop. The change to the new PDNR allows those two additional uses, in addition to the existing publishing use.

Councilor Thomas asked if there is anything besides a coffee shop planned for the limited commercial use. Mr. Munden responded that examples of allowable uses would be a small banking facility or real estate broker, but a coffee shop is the plan. It would mix with the church's plans for the building where the other uses would not. The plan is for the church's congregation to spend time in that building.

Councilor Dietrich stated that the last time we did this with a church and a coffee shop we had to struggle with taxable rates. He asked if anything has been done in advance for that. Corporation Counsel Burns responded that that is an exemption that is sought at the County Assessor level. In general, the use would control what the taxability is, and the decision is made by the County Assessor, and it would be determined by square footage.

Councilor Dietrich expressed concerns about parking spaces for the staff of both the church and the newspaper. Pat Kuhnle, publisher of the *Exponent*, responded that there are seven parking spaces on the property, but the *Exponent* staff has permits to use additional spots in the garage.

Zachary Baiel (124 Connolly Street) asked if there is any precedent or opportunity for the Council to table this until the use is known, as far as what would actually be tax-exempt in the building and what would not. Councilor Dietrich asked if it is correct that that is an end-product, on how they actually use it. Counsel Burns responded that is correct, and as far as the continuance, he would leave that to Mr. Munden. However, it is not unusual for that request to be made after the

building is renovated. The tax exemption would be assessed as of March of each year, and then it would be exempt for that succeeding year, so it is not unusual to do late in the game.

Mr. Baiel asked if anyone on the Council has talked to them about their plans for the building, for the usage of it, or anything regarding this ordinance. Councilor DeBoer noted that there is quite a bit in the APC report about what they want to do with the building. President Bunder responded that he has spoken with them.

President Bunder stated that he received an email from Mike Pickett asked about the Council approving a high-rise. In response, President Bunder stated that whatever may be out there in terms of the media, this ordinance does not impact The Rise in any particular way. We will have questions and receive citizen comment about The Rise as we get there, but this exercise tonight is a rezone on the old *Exponent* building.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

Councilperson	Vote
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Dietrich	Aye
Jha	Aye
Keen	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Sanders	Abstain
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 8 AYES and 1 ABSTENTION.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 02-17 passed on first and only reading.

Ordinance No. 03-17 An Ordinance Concerning The Current Refunding By The City Of West Lafayette, Indiana, Of Its Sewage Works Revenue Bonds Of 2006, Series B; Authorizing The Issuance Of Sewage Works Refunding Revenue Bonds For Such Purpose; Providing For The Collection, Segregation And Distribution Of The Revenues Of The Sewage Works And The Safeguarding Of The Interests Of The Owners Of Said Sewage Works Refunding Revenue Bonds; Other Matters Connected Therewith; And Repealing Ordinances Inconsistent Herewith (Sponsored by Mayor John Dennis)

Councilor Keen read Ordinance No. 03-17 by title only.

Councilor Keen moved for passage of Ordinance No. 03-17 on first reading, and that the vote be by roll call. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeBoer.

Jim Treat (O.W. Krohn & Associates) addressed the Council and noted that Dennis Otten (Bose McKinney & Evans LLP) is also present. Mr. Otten is serving as bond counsel for this transaction, and he drafted this ordinance. Mr. Treat noted that in looking out for the best financial interest of the City, he does an ongoing review of the City's existing debt. He evaluates the refinancing parameters and restrictions and what the current market conditions are, to identify savings opportunities such as this. We have come back many times and have had successful transactions

with savings. This ordinance has to do with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program bonds that were issued in 2006, Series B. They were issued in the amount of \$8,345,000, and there is still \$8,250,000 outstanding. The current interest rate is 3.35%. He stated that what we would like to do, if we get final approval at the March meeting, is to search for opportunities to reduce that interest rate. We think that there is an opportunity this spring if rates stay stable, and hope that the rate will come down to around 2.5%. By doing that, we will be able to issue new bonds, pay off old bonds, and save an estimated \$200,000. That is in total savings, after all of the costs to the City to do the refinancing. Annually, that is about \$20,000 less per year in bond payments for this one bond issuance. We will not be extending the term, so it will be paid off in 2028.

Councilor Wang asked if Mr. Treat will recommend that we keep things frozen if the interest rate increases or stays the same. Mr. Treat responded that we are going to be doing a lot of market-sounding to see what the feeling is at the time that we can actually do the refunding. It could go either way; they could say to wait. However, these tax-exempt rates will likely gradually increase, and we probably will not benefit by waiting and hoping they go back down. He stated that he will give the best recommendation in a couple of months. He confirmed for Councilor Dietrich that we will be able to lock in a rate in March even if it will not be refinanced until July.

Councilor Keen asked if the \$200,000 savings is based on the estimated 2.5% rate, and Mr. Treat responded yes. Councilor Keen asked how this will affect our cash flow and debt service ratio. Mr. Treat responded that the approximate \$20,000 less in payments per year is worth doing; however, it will not have a huge impact on the coverage ratio. In total, after the issuance of the 2016 bonds for the CSO project, the total debt service just for Wastewater will be about \$4.9 million per year.

Councilor Jha asked if this is the earliest that refinancing could be done. Mr. Treat stated that they were callable as of last July, but with a 2% penalty. That falls to 1% this July. There will not be a premium if we wait another year, but interest rates may be back over 4%.

Councilor Keen asked if we are looking at any rate increases related to this. Mr. Treat responded that this will not have any impact on what we do with rates. There were already rate increases approved with the 2016 bonds, and the last of those take effect January 1, 2018. If they have recommendations for a rate increase, it would likely be due to other reasons.

There was no further discussion.

Clerk Booker called the roll call vote:

Councilperson	Vote
Bunder	Aye
DeBoer	Aye
Dietrich	Aye
Jha	Aye
Keen	Aye
Leverenz	Aye
Sanders	Aye
Thomas	Aye
Wang	Aye

Clerk Booker stated that the vote was 9 AYES and 0 NAYS.

President Bunder announced that Ordinance No. 03-17 passed on first reading.

COMMUNICATIONS

► Councilor DeBoer asked for information about the situation with the Hoosier State train line. Mayor Dennis responded that we were made aware of the fact that Iowa Pacific was getting out of the Hoosier State business. We made some calls to INDOT, and we were assured that this transition was going to be seamless. The hope would be that INDOT is going to provide more money for the Hoosier State to improve service and amenities on the train. They did not ask for an extension of our contributions at this point. Mayor Dennis stated that he made it clear to the INDOT representative that this body is the one that will make a decision. Councilor DeBoer asked when the contract ends for the support that we are providing, and Mayor Dennis responded the end of May or June. Councilor DeBoer asked if there is any indication that they will ask for a contribution, and Mayor Dennis responded that his understanding that there is still a possibility that it may require subsidization on the part of local government on the route.

► Councilor Sanders asked what is happening with the Wabash Landing development. Development Director Carlson responded that the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) is continuing negotiations with the developer of 114 single-bedroom apartments at Wabash Landing. One thing being discussed is the ability to regain control of 92 parking spaces that the developer currently owns of the parking garage, and regain control of the management operations for the parking garage. As those negotiations are ongoing, this will determine what ends up happening with the apartments. The plan is that some incentives may be offered to allow that project to go forward, while also bringing the parking garage back under the control of the Department of Development. In response to questions from President Bunder, Director Carlson explained that there are ongoing discussions with RDC President Larry Oates in regards to this, and we are going in front of Board of Works tomorrow to request some appraisals on the garage. The parking garage is owned by the Redevelopment Authority, which leases it out to the RDC, and the RDC has contracted with Jimmy Curtis to manage the parking garage through the next five years.

► Councilor Wang asked about the status of the empty building at State Street and Northwestern Avenue. Director Carlson responded that it is an ongoing question that we have. It is still under the original planned development that was approved by this body a few years ago [Ordinance No. 16-12]. All planned developments have a 10-year expiry period. At any time, it could be built in the way that was previously approved by Council; however, from our understanding there are no immediate plans for it. We believe there are ongoing discussions as far as overall development not only for that building, but also for others in the area. Councilor Wang asked if there has been any effort to communicate with the City about it. Director Carlson responded that in the last few months we have met with the half-owner of that property, and the hope is to see something move in the near future. Councilor DeBoer stated that it is his understanding that the owner is not necessarily keen on the PDMX that we enacted four or five years ago, so if they were to do something it would likely come before us again. That planned development was under one different half-owner who went out of business.

► Councilor Leverenz noted that there are a lot of projects coming through APC and BZA, and he asked that people keep track of those meetings when they occur. There were some questions tonight about the buildings going on, and you have two opportunities to respond to those; one at that level and then one here. He encouraged everyone to go to the APC website to see the staff reports.

► Councilor Thomas stated that he was reading the Police Department's 2016 Annual Report, and a number that stuck out to him was the 76% increase in criminal arrests for illegal drug possession. He asked if Chief Dombkowski had any comments about what they are seeing. Chief

Dombkowski responded that he believes that a large part of this is due to our refocused efforts in traffic enforcement, which leads to a lot of arrests in the realm for possession. He stated that it is hard, this early, to look at those numbers and see exactly why, but we have doubled our efforts in that area. We do not see a lot of arrests for major drugs, but we have seen an increased number for possession, most of that being for marijuana.

► President Bunder stated that with the changes to the State Street traffic pattern, there will be changes to the City Bus scheduled and routes. On February 16, 2017, from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 pm. in the Elm Room of the West Lafayette Public Library, there will information available to the public about those changes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

► Kay Miller (8143 Old State Road 25 North), Co-President of the Americus Area Community Coalition, explained that she has been here before to report to the Council about a Tennessee-based industrial mining group [Rogers Group] who has tried to dig a 420-foot hole in the ground in prime farmland around Americus. She has discussed the potential effects to Tippecanoe County, and what it might mean to this area—such as a loss of tourism and businesses, pollution, and the destruction of prime agricultural land along the Wabash. She stated that the Coalition greatly appreciates the support that they have had from the West Lafayette City Council in the past in opposing this development. When Rogers Group does complete their paperwork, the Coalition would greatly appreciate a written support being presented to the BZA expressing opposition.

President Bunder noted that in September 2014 the Mayor and the members of the Council drafted a letter of support. He asked Ms. Miller if she is looking for a resolution from this body to take to the next meeting. Ms. Miller responded that it would be greatly appreciated. As of right now, the issue is not technically on the books due to the request application being incomplete. Therefore, anything that would be received right now would not count. Counsel Burns and the Council discussed options, and they decided that Counsel Burns would create a draft resolution of support to file for the next meeting.

Councilor Dietrich asked if the BZA is the entity where we are forbidden to contact the individuals on the board, and members of the Council confirmed that it is. Counsel Burns stated that it is like a judge in a court; you may only contact them in a public way. Ms. Miller noted that this is the case even though two of the members are on the board that has to approve the agenda to go to the BZA.

► Ms. Miller added that she had an opportunity to ride the train to Chicago, and it was delayed. She expressed appreciation to the volunteers at the Amtrak station who share information with the passengers.

► Mr. Baiel expressed his support of Ms. Miller and the Coalition in opposition of the quarry, and appreciates the Council's openness to continuing to fight that. He stated that he contacted some Council members about Vectren's preparation to work on another gas line in the Chauncey neighborhood (Project ID: N-676). He stated that the neighbors are nervous and a bit angry given Vectren's track record for their two previous projects in Chauncey, which included damage to personal property, sidewalks, trees, roadways, etc. He thanked the Mayor, the Council, and various City staff members for assisting in a meeting with Vectren to prevent that damage. He thanked Councilor DeBoer and those others involved in increasing openness for the Joint Board by posting minutes and previous agenda items to the website. He thanked Councilor Leverenz for encouraging others to engage in meetings of the County bodies. He noted that March 12-18, 2017, is National Sunshine Week, which celebrates and advocates for transparency and

openness in government. In working with the Indiana Coalition for Open Government, there are some activities for Tippecanoe County for that week. One of them is to review government websites, so there will be a scorecard for that, focusing on a series of open government issues in Tippecanoe County, demystifying public records, and highlighting the role that public records have in open door laws in our community. In that vein, Ordinance No. 14-16 regarding internal control standards for the City included a line that said, "The City strives to lead in the areas of financial transparency and accountability." He stated that according to that proposed plan, he does not know how we will achieve that Principle 13, and he is still waiting on an update about the Tyler Citizen Transparency Portal. He stated that a lot of money has been spent on the project since it began over three years ago, and we have yet to increase the transparency of our financial information and the City's accountability to its citizenry. Knowledge and direct accountability of how our money is spent is critical for succeeding and making sure our city can thrive and be successful in the future. He asked that, for our children, that the transparency portal be up and operational.

► Rocio Leon (Purdue graduate student), stated that she is here because she is concerned with the direction that our country is heading. Two weeks ago we saw a string of executive orders, largely targeting immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and by default, communities like West Lafayette. She stated that she strongly believes in the power of local government, and it is the responsibility of the people to stand up to injustice, and to anything that will harm our values and those closest to us. She asked the Council, as local leaders, to put into effect measures to help keep our community members and students safe. Many cities and towns across the country are actively refusing to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, and are standing up to President Trump's threat to defund sanctuary cities. She stated that we ask that West Lafayette does the same to ensure the protection of undocumented students, residents, those of Muslim backgrounds, and those whose contributions to the University and the City make our lives better every day. She explained that her parents immigrated to this country in order to keep their children safe and give them more opportunities. She stated that she is sure that many of your ancestors had to make that difficult decision to leave home. It is now our turn to make sure that the communities who have given them and their families so much continue to strengthen so that many can continue to benefit from the opportunities available in this county. Right now we must do this by addressing the anti-immigrant hostility that is threatening the livelihoods of our neighbors, who deserve our loyalty and compassion. She again asked that West Lafayette look into becoming a Sanctuary City and to uphold the City's values.

Dara Marquez (Purdue graduate students) stated that she immigrated to Elkhart, Indiana, in 1996 when she was three years old, and she has lived there ever since. Because of many push-and-pull factors, her father and the rest of her family now reside there. She stated that she is following up on Ms. Leon's comments and concern regarding our community in West Lafayette; not just Purdue University, but the whole community as they are a part of that. She stated that she is not sure if you are aware of the anti-immigrant bills that were passed by former governor Mitch Daniels, which were House Bill 1402 and Senate Bill 590. These bills together essentially made it impossible and difficult for undocumented immigrants to pursue higher education in the State. The bills stripped them of any volunteer-based or merit-based federal and State aid, even though it had been earned based on work and studies. Ms. Marquez stated that in 2011 because she was unable to pursue higher education in a public university, such as Purdue, she had to attend a private college. She received her Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and started working for a pharmaceutical company thanks to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and a work permit, which is an executive action that former President Obama enacted in 2012. Because of DACA, and because she is an undocumented immigrant that pays taxes, she was granted in-state tuition at Purdue to continue her higher education. Like other people living and

working in the United States, she and her family pay State and local taxes, such as when purchasing goods and services, property taxes, and State income taxes. She stated that the best evidence suggests that at least 50% of undocumented immigrant households currently filed income tax returns using the Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs). Many who do not file income tax returns still have taxes deducted from their paychecks. With the understanding that there are more than 17,000 students in Indiana with deferred action, and the ability to pursue higher education, she asks Purdue University and the West Lafayette community to begin thinking about how it can become a more welcoming City. She stated that our Mayor mentioned in his speech, which is what she essentially believes in, that every single day we are keenly aware that, as a city, West Lafayette is filled with people who are curious and engaged in learning about the multitude of cultures that come together to live and learn here, and that we pride ourselves in that our friends choose to live here, knowing that they do not have to surrender their culture. She hopes that they also do not have to surrender themselves to the narrative, and also to the physical existence of ICE.

Sandra Bonilla (Purdue student) stated that she is here in support of Ms. Leon and Ms. Marquez in the efforts to make West Lafayette a Sanctuary City. She stated that she would like to give the story of her parents, who are both immigrants. Due to becoming too distressed to continue, Ms. Bonilla asked Ms. Marquez to read her speech on her behalf. Ms. Marquez stated that a lot of things that we talk about are very political and are risky for a lot of us who hold a political leadership position. But, the reality is that we face this every day in our lives as students. Ms. Marquez then continued Ms. Bonilla's story: "My dad is from El Salvador, and my mom is from Guatemala. Both of my parents grew up in poverty. My mom was fed coffee beans as a baby because there was no money for food. They went barefoot because there was no money for sufficient clothing or shoes. My parents started working by the age of 10 in order to help provide for their families. They were not able to go to school because they needed to work in order to have enough money to make it through the week. They never knew what it was like to have a normal childhood; a childhood that allowed them to be carefree and free of responsibilities. My dad's brother was murdered at the age of 17; my mom's sister got sick as a child and died because they had no money for treatment. Crossing the U.S. border illegally is dangerous, but they were so desperate to leave a life full of poverty and crime that it was worth the risk. My dad was 16 when he came to the U.S. illegally. He came alone, leaving all of his family behind and not knowing what to expect. My mom also came here illegally when she was 18. They had very little money, and knew no English. It has been over 25 years since my parents met here in the U.S. Since then, they have raised five children, and have been able to provide for them everything that they were never given. Because of them, I have never had to experience a life like they had. Because of them, I have been able to focus on pursuing my dreams and goals. It is because of them, and all of their hard work and sacrifice, that I am here at one of the best engineering schools in the country, pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering. I can only hope that one day I will be able give back to them everything they have provided for me, and to make them as proud of me as I am of them."

President Bunder stated, on behalf of the Council, that we appreciate both your bravery and your honesty, and for being with us tonight. He stated that he can assure that both the City administration and the City Council have scratched our heads about what it is that we could do. We will continue to do that. He understands that is not much comfort. He stated that we are very limited in the kind of authority we have, but he welcomes them to come back and yell at us or the larger government at any time, and we are happy to have them with us.

► Thomas Kesler (479 Maple Street) stated that his issues are a lot more pedestrian than what he just heard. It reminded him that he entered Indiana using a Ryder rental van, and it was a lot easier. He stated that this country needs the talents of all of its citizens and residents, and we

need to work to resolve this immigration issue. Mr. Kesler thanked the Street Department for fixing potholes on Maple Street and sending the sweeper to collect the loose grit from that project. He also thanked them for taking the latest pile of concrete. He expressed concern for litter in alleyways that he walked through today. He stated that he continues his worry about the quarry in Americus, as that is an awfully deep hole near the Wabash River. He reported that he had a couple of opportunities to ride the Hoosier State, and that was a fabulous experience. Regarding the high-rise building, he stated that he is not keen on the appearance of some of the buildings going in. He worries about the green space and parking. From his understanding of the State Street development, we are attempting to slow down traffic, and yet we are going to increase the population density. He is trying to work out how those two apparently conflicting ideas will work out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at this time, Councilor DeBoer moved for adjournment, and President Bunder adjourned the meeting the time being 8:02 p.m.