

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

December 18, 2023

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, Indiana met in the Council Chambers of the New Mishawaka City Hall and via telephone on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00PM. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gregg Hixenbaugh. All were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending virtually do so by WebEx. Public that attend can participate by WebEx or observe meetings by YouTube or Facebook live. The Council meetings are also streamed live on Michiana Access on Comcast/AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

Clerk Block called the roll.

Roll Call.

Present: Mr. Hazen (P), Mr. Bellovich (P), Mr. Mammolenti (P), Mr. Banicki (P), Mr. Emmons (P), Mrs. DeMaegd (A), Mr. Compton (P), Mrs. Voelker (P), Mr. Hixenbaugh (P)
P: Present E: Electronically Participating A: Absent

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on December 4, 2023 were approved as received from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Block read letters from the Board of Zoning Appeals and the City Plan Commission regarding their recommendations from their December 12, 2023 meetings.

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and assigned committee.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-57

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

**Rezone from C-1 General Commercial to C-4 Automobile Oriented – 411 W. McKinley
(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-58

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

**Rezone from C-1 General Commercial to R-1 Single Family Residential – 617 E. Grove
Street
(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-59

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA,
INDIANA, AUTHORIZING AN ISSUANCE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA,
INDIANA TAXABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX INCREMENT REVENUE
BONDS AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING OTHER ACTIONS IN RESPECT
THERE TO WITH CONNECTION TO THE GRANDVIEW PHASE III PROJECT
(Assigned to Budget and Finance Committee)**

Clerk Block read the following resolution by title and opened the public hearing.

RESOLUTION R2023-28

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA,
INDIANA, APPROVING A PETITION OF THE MISHAWAKA BOARD OF ZONING
APPEALS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 5514 GRAPE ROAD
Use Variance to allow 4 storage containers – 5514 Grape Road (Hobby Lobby)**

Wayne Spears, 6945 South 69th East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, spoke in favor of
RESOLUTION R2023-28. Mr. Spears stated due to the unexpected volume of sales at the store,
especially at that time of the year, it became necessary that they had some additional storage and
so they were trying to do it in a way that it was screened and not visible as well as not
unattractive.

Mr. Banicki asked how long they planned on using these and if it were just a short-term fix or a
long-term fix. Mr. Spears stated this would be a long-term fix and that was why they were
putting in the fence and the landscaping. Mr. Banicki then asked, with this being long-term, if
this would be more secure than just having storage type of units built onto the back of the
building. Mr. Spears stated he could not speak to that and that would be a question for the Hobby
Lobby design and development team but right now, they just wanted to do the container storage.

Mr. Emmons asked if he had any idea how long the four containers would be there. Mr. Spears
stated all that they had indicated to him was that it would be indefinite. Mr. Emmons stated he
would have liked to have a little more information on that but then asked what size the storage
containers were going to be. Mr. Spears stated in laying out the space they had allowed for the
longer 50-foot containers. Mr. Emmons asked if they were sea van containers or trailers. Mr.
Spears stated they were just containers that sat flat.

Mr. Compton asked if the area he was fencing in would be big enough to hold more than four containers. Mr. Spears stated no. Mr. Compton then asked for clarification if they were strictly holding four containers in this instance and would be back if they were to add more containers. Mr. Spears stated yes to both questions. Mr. Compton stated he was with the other council members regarding the fact that he would much prefer to see another building there rather than container storage, but he knew that was not his place and he was present that evening to represent the client.

Mr. Hixenbaugh wanted to talk a little bit about the past and the staff report in front of them indicated that at least some evidence was in the record that as far back as November of 2022, there were two storage containers that were on site and then there were some changes in the Spring of 2023 and then it morphed into four storage containers at that time. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if Mr. Spears could help him understand how the containers got on the site without approval. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he knew things happened in life and he acknowledged that, but he was sure Mr. Spears could understand that their preference was for the approval to take place prior to the containers showing up on site. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked Mr. Spears to help him understand the timeframe. Mr. Spears stated he could only speculate but his history with Hobby Lobby was that the store manager was out of space and ordered some more units to store more goods. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated what was done was done to a certain extent, but his hope was barring approval that evening if it was in fact approved that four remained four and it did not become six, for example, because it was a matter of expediency unless they were going to have more conversation about that and he was glad Hobby Lobby was successful, but he was sure that he could understand that process was important to them and to the community. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if he could pass that message along to Hobby Lobby's management, he would appreciate that. Mr. Spears stated they would do that.

Ken Prince, Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Mishawaka, addressed a question by Mr. Emmons regarding when Hobby Lobby applied for this, if there was a specific date involved as to how long they would have the four containers. Mr. Prince stated to answer his question, yes and the approval that Hobby Lobby was requesting would be in perpetuity so they would be allowed to have the four trailers moving forward. Mr. Prince stated similar to other proposals they had received, with Dunham's being his example, where they had requested this for dealing with the peak times when they had product come in and it was really to avoid the ebb and flow of at what point would they need a building and not need a building. Mr. Prince stated their preference was always that they built that building but they were also realist in terms of the retail market and in terms of their needs and how they fluctuated over time. Mr. Prince stated he thought definitively that when this was proposed, their first reaction to this was that four was more than they had ever approved before, and he believed the most they had approved previously was two. Mr. Prince stated they just required fencing for this around the containers but in their mind, the property visibility of this even though it was at the loading dock, it was very visible along Douglas Road and as along Grape Road so that was why they asked for the landscape screening and not just in front of it because of the visibility along Grape Road. Mr.

Prince stated they felt this was a reasonable compromise and that was how they ended up with the recommendation.

Mr. Emmons stated that answered his question, but it still disturbed him that they went ahead and put the containers in before it was approved. Mr. Prince stated usually, the store managers were not aware of the regulation that required them to flag it when the additional went in, so they were allowed to bring trailers in and then pull them out. Mr. Prince stated what they could not do was put them in on a permanent basis and use it as storage, so it took them a while to figure out that they had a problem and that was how this evolved. Mr. Emmons asked Mr. Prince if the containers were flat on the ground. Mr. Prince stated they had been identified as being flat on the ground and they were offloaded and not a trailer.

Mr. Banicki asked if they approved this tonight, if they could put a stipulation of a timeframe where they would review this in one or two or five years to see how it was going and if they continued to need them in five years then maybe it would not be a temporary situation after all and would be more of a need at that point. Mr. Prince stated the thing he would stress was that either it was appropriate or it was not appropriate so if they felt like there was a reason to identify it, they had the ability to put reasonable conditions on the property but if they revisited it in three years and they continued to have the need and they continued to have four trailers out there, he was not sure what the purpose would be to bring it back before the Council other than that they would have the potential to deny it at that point. Mr. Prince stated he deferred to them and to the legal counsel as well on the merits of that. Mr. Banicki asked even if they were to approve it that evening, could they in the future revoke this if all of the sudden there were five or six containers on the site and noticed some things going on that had not been approved. Mr. Banicki added there was a little bit of a trust issue at that time. Mr. Prince stated in his opinion, the only thing they could do was enforce it back to the four if it were approved and that they would not be able to go back and revoke. Mr. Prince stated he knew in other situations that they had that where they had fundamentally not complied but if they brought it back into compliance, which was typically what would happen, he believed that they would not have an issue. Mr. Banicki stated he was concerned because this was right on the road, whereas some of the others were behind or screened off, so this was a front-line type of situation. Mr. Prince stated that was correct and there were two layers of buffer as they had the fence immediately around it which would provide that immediate screening and then what he would call the filtered buffer along in the entrance. Mr. Prince stated the shopping center in the area was built prior to their landscaping standards so it had no landscaping to speak of along there so they did believe the landscaping would help the overall appearance inside. Mr. Banicki stated that scared him a little bit because he thought that was supposed to be a right-in right-out entrance. Mr. Prince stated it never really worked and people drove around it. Mr. Banicki stated he agreed, and he saw people going the wrong ways but then asked a question if they were going to put the trees and the other landscaping there, if that would alter seeing cars coming. Mr. Prince stated what he called it, for lack of a better term, the illegal drive was the left in and he did not believe the problem was with the left out because you could queue up to the signal at Indian Bridge and he had seen a ton of lefts in and not a lot of lefts out because there were multiple ways to make that trip.

Mr. Mammolenti asked if they also put the Big Lots, Dunham's and Dicks Sporting Goods in perpetuity similar to this case where they allowed outdoor storage. Mr. Prince stated he believed so, yes. Mr. Mammolenti referred to the diagram and asked if the plan was for the fence to be placed in the grass area. Mr. Prince stated his understanding was the fencing would be placed immediately in the parking lot area. Mr. Prince stated that would be a good point to clarify with the applicant.

Mr. Compton asked if this was passed, if the variance would be strictly applied to Hobby Lobby and if they moved this would go away. Mr. Prince stated it remained with the property but they would likely pick up the storage containers and take them with them to move and for another retailer to bring it back, he did not know if the new applicant would even be aware of the variance they would receive and if they would even bring it back but in terms of rights, the use variance ran with the property and did not run with the applicant.

Mr. Emmons asked if the trailers were not utilized for a year, for example, if there would be a timeframe of when they needed to be used or whether they could just sit empty forever. Mr. Prince stated the use variance would be for the placement of those containers and they would never verify whether they were being used or not. Mr. Prince stated they could remain there theoretically empty, but he would not know what the point of that would be. Mr. Prince stated theoretically, those containers would have value if they were not being used and he assumed they would be picked up and moved elsewhere.

Mr. Banicki asked when they built onto the building, obviously there would be additional taxes but with these temporary storage units, there would be no taxes involved and asked if that were correct. Mr. Prince stated he was getting above his pay grade, but he would not believe that the personal property would be subject to tax, and it would be taxed as real estate, and the containers theoretically were taxed at some point in time, but he was not quite sure how that worked. Mr. Prince stated very much like a vehicle was taxed, he assumed that the container would also be property that would have to be taxed.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he appreciated the effort the staff put into enhancing the screening for these but for that, personally, he would not even consider voting for it except for the fact that they had a precedent as well as they had approved these in other locations so there was a difference in degree and number here but he did appreciate that additional screening and his hope would be that if they received these requests in the future, they would be as vigilant with regard to those screening issues as he had been in this instance and thanked him for that work.

Mr. Banicki asked for Mr. Spears to come up before the Council once again and confirm where the fencing would be and if it would be attached to the building or if it would be on the street. Mr. Spears stated it would be between the street and the building and the landscaping. Mr. Spears, there was a 27-foot drive aisle that would remain for access to the south side of the store. Mr. Spears stated there was a trash compactor there now, so it was about 10 feet to the west of the trash compactor and that was where a couple of the containers would slide in between the

fence and the compactor. Mr. Prince provided a detailed layout of the proposal and displayed the layout.

Question was called for at 7:25PM for **RESOLUTION R2023-28. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mr. Hazen, Mr. Bellovich. Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Mr. Compton, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The resolution passed 8-0.

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and opened the public hearing.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-54

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS “THE ZONING ORDINANCE” OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

Rezone from I-2 Heavy Industrial to C-4 Automobile Oriented Commercial – 1213 E. Jefferson Blvd.

Mr. Mammolenti reported the Committee of Land Use Planning recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Banicki, the motion carried.

Grigor Petkov, 1315 Highland Village Drive, Mishawaka, Indiana, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-54.** Mr. Petkov stated he owned Greg’s Automotive, which was on the north side of the street, and he purchased the old Reggio’s with the parking lot and also the lots to the west of that all the way up to Merrifield. Mr. Petkov stated he planned on annexing all of the frontage on Jefferson for automotive purposes and the next step would be for him to submit a plan to deal with the building and bringing it up to code just like he did with the parking lot just to the west of it.

Mr. Compton stated this was in his district and he drove through there a lot and appreciated what he was doing and stated he really cleaned that area up and started to make it look more inviting for those who would be driving into the city from the east. Mr. Compton stated he appreciated that and appreciated what he was doing, and he knew a lot of people who missed Reggio’s and their good food, but nothing was forever and then there was a lot of question about what was going to happen to that and how long it was going to sit empty and just become dilapidated. Mr. Compton stated now they were seeing down the street a little further from him with Troop Town, that should really make this look a lot better in that whole entrance and it was something that needed to be done. Mr. Compton thanked Mr. Petkov for taking that on and he was anxious to see how it would look in the future.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he also appreciated what Mr. Petkov had done and congratulated him on his success, but his one word of caution was as he moved further to the east and as he acquired

the properties, there was a lot of good for the community that came out of that but as he became closer in proximity to some of the neighbors who lived on the north side of Stanley Street there, if he could please continue to be a good neighbor. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he always had been a good neighbor, but he thought they were all sensitive to their world changing little by little as Jefferson developed and he asked Mr. Petkov to keep that in mind as he moved forward. Mr. Petkov stated he absolutely would. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if there was any update on the move to the restaurant space on Mishawaka Avenue. Mr. Petkov stated so far so good. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated to keep up the good work and they looked forward to that as well.

Question was called for at 7:30PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-54. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mr. Hazen, Mr. Bellovich. Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Mr. Compton, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The proposed ordinance passed 8-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5876.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ken Prince, Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Mishawaka, also served on the Board of the Mishawaka Food Pantry and they had done something different this year. Mr. Prince stated they were holding a gala as opposed to an annual Pantry of Plenty dinner they did right before Christmas in years past. Mr. Prince stated they were trying to change things up and gain more excitement so on December 29th they would be holding a gala and he wanted to make the public aware of that. Mr. Prince stated there was still time to purchase tickets and they were \$60 a piece, which he knew was expensive, but this was their major fundraiser year, and it would go to a very good cause. Mr. Prince stated those who had interest, he recommended they contact Doris Portolese, the Penn Township Trustee and Penn Township actually owned the building the food pantry was run in, and they were a great partner. Mr. Prince stated he just wanted to pass that information along and hopefully make it to Facebook where other people could view it and get that information.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Block read the following three resolutions in their respective entirety honoring Mike Bellovich, Mike Compton and Maggie DeMaegd for their years of service to the City of Mishawaka.

RESOLUTION R2023-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA HONORING MIKE BELLOVICH FOR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA

WHEREAS, the Honorable Mike Bellovich was duly elected to the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Mike Bellovich has faithfully discharged his duties as Councilman for the Second District,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA THAT:

1. The Council, Mayor and Clerk gratefully acknowledge the past thirteen years of service rendered by Mr. Bellovich on the Common Council.
2. The Council, Mayor and Clerk publicly commend Mr. Bellovich for his dedicated interest in the welfare of the City of Mishawaka and its citizens.
3. The Council, Mayor and Clerk wish Mr. Bellovich well as he leaves the Mishawaka Common Council and encourage him to continue serving our community in the years ahead.

Mr. Hixenbaugh provided Mr. Bellovich with a plaque and asked Clerk Block to read the other two resolutions as well and then they would have one vote on all three of them at the end.

RESOLUTION R2023-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA HONORING S. MICHAEL COMPTON FOR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA

WHEREAS, the Honorable S. Michael Compton was duly elected to the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, and

WHEREAS, the Honorable S. Michael Compton has faithfully discharged his duties as Councilman for the Fifth District,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA THAT:

1. The Council, Mayor and Clerk gratefully acknowledge the past sixteen years of service rendered by Mr. Compton on the Common Council.
2. The Council, Mayor and Clerk publicly commend Mr. Compton for his dedicated interest in the welfare of the City of Mishawaka and its citizens.

3. The Council, Mayor and Clerk wish Mr. Compton well as he leaves the Mishawaka Common Council and encourage him to continue serving our community in the years ahead.

Mr. Hixenbaugh provided Mr. Compton with a plaque.

RESOLUTION R2023-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA HONORING MAGGIE DEMAEGD FOR SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA

WHEREAS, the Honorable Maggie DeMaegd was duly elected to the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Maggie DeMaegd has faithfully discharged her duties as Councilwoman-At-Large,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA THAT:

1. The Council, Mayor and Clerk gratefully acknowledge the past four years of service rendered by Mrs. DeMaegd on the Common Council.
2. The Council, Mayor and Clerk publicly commend Mrs. DeMaegd for her dedicated interest in the welfare of the City of Mishawaka and its citizens.
3. The Council, Mayor and Clerk wish Mrs. DeMaegd well as she leaves the Mishawaka Common Council and encourage her to continue serving our community in the years ahead.

Mr. Hixenbaugh wanted the record to reflect that they had a plaque for Mrs. DeMaegd as well and they would make sure that was delivered to her, as she unfortunately was not able to be with them that evening.

Mayor Dave Wood publicly acknowledged the service of the three councilmembers. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka public service, as he always said, was different and here you served your family, your friends, your neighbors and you did so with a passion for your hometown and when he looked at the two councilmen right in front of them, they had done an outstanding job of serving their hometown. Mayor Wood stated when he thought of their public service, they did it selflessly and passionately and he thought they could walk away knowing that they had left their city in a far better place than when they found it. Mayor Wood stated they served their districts and at large representing the people who lived here and not only did they do that, but they were very trusted in how they did it and in many cases, you could call the city or any one of their offices but the two of them served in a way that people went to them. Mayor Wood stated when they went to them, they did so because they knew that they would receive a compassionate ear, they would receive honesty and they knew they would go to bat for their residents and there was no better public service than that. Mayor Wood stated they could also take heart in walking away and one of the best things about serving Mishawaka was that you could point to what you had

impacted. Mayor Wood stated you could drive down the street, you could talk to your friends, your neighbors, your families as you were driving by and you could tell stories about how you served and how you improved the neighborhood, how you impacted a project, how something was there that would not have been there without their support. Mayor Wood stated that was public service at its heart and he had served an awful long time with the two of them, in particular and they had been to a lot of meetings and they had been in a lot of discussions about how they could improve the city and its ordinances and its services and all along the way, they did disagree from time to time but they did it respectfully and they served selflessly and that was all they could ask for in Mishawaka. Mayor Wood stated it was all their citizens could ask or and they left hard shoes to fill but they also set a great example for public servants to follow and like any good public servant who left, they would never try to let him get away cleanly. Mayor Wood thanked both of them for their willingness to continue to serve as both of them would continue to serve on boards and commissions going forward, lending their expertise to their citizens. Mayor Wood thanked them both from the bottom of his heart but also on behalf of their citizens, he wanted to thank them because they were both a class act. Mayor Wood stated the only thing he had never known was that Mike Compton was S. Michael Compton and was curious to know what the S stood for. Mayor Wood concluded by thanking them both for their service and he was proud of both of them.

Mr. Compton stated the S in his name stood for Samuel in Samuel Michael Compton and he was named after both of his grandfathers who were both Samuels and both interesting characters. Mr. Compton stated where he came from was a story of America as his one grandfather was a coal miner in Southern Indiana and his mother talked about when she remembered when he came home, John L. Lewis had negotiated health care benefits for their family and that always sat with him and was something that drove him to do the things he did. Mr. Compton stated his other grandfather immigrated here from Syria and was a Shiite Muslim and here he was, the byproduct of those two men and that only happened in America, that he could think of. Mr. Compton thanked the Council, Mayor Wood, his staff and when he thought about the 17 years he sat up there, he had been through quite a lot personally and professionally and there had been great support during all of that time by a number of people sitting on the Council and it did not go unrecognized and unremembered by himself and his family. Mr. Compton wished them all good luck in the future and it was not a difficult job but it did have its moments and he wished the three new council members the best of luck and if he could be of any help to any of them, he was certainly a phone call away. Mr. Compton spoke to Mr. Bellovich directly and stated he knew this did not end the way he may have liked it to end and he could appreciate that and to a degree he felt bad about and he had some empathy for that. Mr. Compton stated Mr. Bellovich's opinions, his thoughts, his viewpoints from his marine service, from his experience in human resources was all helpful to them and really brought a lot to the table and he understood where he came from when he talked about organized labor and different things of that nature of the workforce. Mr. Compton thought they complimented each other in those areas. Mr. Compton stated lastly that they did this, as Mayor Wood said, for their families and their citizenry and he could not have done it without the support of his wife. Mr. Compton stated when he was a union representative and a city councilman, he was gone up to four nights a week every week and she never really complained too much even though there were times but did not complain too much and had as much of an interest in what he was doing as he did, which was important. Mr. Compton stated he could not have done what he did and at least still be married and he did not

want that to change, so he wanted to thank everyone. Mr. Compton stated he was not going to go away completely but he was ready to be fully retired and his time had come, and it was time for someone else to step into the role. Mr. Compton stated he was going to miss the people and he was not going to miss some of the circumstances but anytime like he had left jobs in the past and such, you missed people over time. Mr. Compton stated he would continue to see the members of the Council as well as the Administration. Mr. Compton stated from a kid who was just a long haired, 18-year-old kid who just wanted to be an electrician and when he looked back on what he had been able to do, he still had to pinch himself. Mr. Compton thanked them all once more and stated he would miss being there.

Mr. Bellovich stated the thirteen years and three months that he had served on the Council had been one of the greatest honors of his life. Mr. Bellovich stated he served thirty years in the Marian Corps, active duty and reserves and that was also something that was a great honor for him but he thought Mishawaka over the years had been a very well-run city from the Administration and the support that the Council gave and he thought that over the years, their meetings in Mishawaka certainly had not been as exciting as their city to the west but one of the things that he really appreciated was as a group, they worked well together. Mr. Bellovich stated they had not always agreed on the issues but they had managed to resolve everything and he thought that Mishawaka had a great future ahead. Mr. Bellovich stated he knew the four elections that he ran in, he always appreciated the fact that in his elections and across the city, they had clean elections and they had a lot of integrity on the Council and he appreciated the kind words of the Mayor and his leadership for the City of Mishawaka. Mr. Bellovich also wanted to thank Mr. Hixenbaugh for his tenure as President of the Council and all of the meetings he had participated in had been orderly and organized and he thought most of that credit went to Mr. Hixenbaugh. Mr. Bellovich stated and he also, like Mr. Compton, would be hanging around on one of the commissions and he still wanted to help Mishawaka move forward and concluded by thanking everyone present that evening.

Mrs. Voelker stated she felt like she was losing to work husbands but on a serious note she enjoyed the give and take herself and Mr. Compton had as they sat next to each other for an extended period of time, and she also appreciated Mr. Compton's respect for whoever came up to the podium to speak, whether it was for or against an issue, he had always been very respectful even if he did not agree. Mrs. Voelker stated she also admired the way he led individuals to answer that they may or may not have wanted to give or admit. Mrs. Voelker stated she and Mr. Bellovich spent a lot of time on the phone over the years, over twelve years, and she was going to miss him a lot. Mrs. Voelker stated she knew she would see them in the future and wanted to thank them both. Mrs. Voelker stated they had both been great mentors to her and she truly appreciated all they both did.

Mr. Banicki gave a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Compton, Mrs. DeMaegd and Mr. Bellovich and stated it had been an honor and privilege working with all of them. Mr. Banicki stated it was not a goodbye forever it was just until next time and they all had each other's cellphones so if there was anything they needed of them, feel free to reach out because they would always be willing to help and there would be open phone lines both ways.

Mr. Emmons stated it had been a pleasure and a joy working with Mr. Bellovich and Mr. Compton. Mr. Emmons stated he, along with Mr. Banicki, were on the board there until both of them came on and he had enjoyed sitting next to Mr. Bellovich for a number of years, chit chatting during the meetings and catching up on things either he missed, or Mr. Bellovich missed and had served on the wage and negotiations with both Mr. Bellovich and Mr. Compton for years and both of them were very diligent on labor and on negotiations. Mr. Emmons stated it had been a privilege and gave all of his joy to Paula Compton, Mr. Compton's wife, as well as Pat Bellovich, Mr. Bellovich's wife. Mr. Emmons stated without the wives, they would not have been successful, and the wives made them successful because they had to come home and have the shoulder to cry on sometimes and the ear to listen and that was what wives were for and he complimented both Paula and Pat, even though Mrs. Bellovich was not present that evening. Mr. Emmons stated it had been a privilege to serve with Mr. Bellovich and Mr. Compton and looked forward to working with them in the future. Mr. Emmons asked them both not to be strangers.

Mr. Mammolenti echoed some of the comments made by his colleagues and formally thanked Mrs. DeMaegd, Mr. Compton and Mr. Bellovich for their time and he think Mr. Compton had mentioned this was not a hard job but there were hard things within the job and saying goodbye to your friends was definitely one of them and thankfully it only happened every four years. Mr. Mammolenti stated the great things that he appreciated most about both of them was that once the elections were over, it became about we and the City of Mishawaka came first. Mr. Mammolenti always appreciated their regards and their thoughts for the City of Mishawaka, and he also wanted to thank them both for being on the wage committee. Mr. Mammolenti stated as Mr. Compton mentioned, Mr. Bellovich's experience in Human Resources was invaluable at the table and helped bring a different perspective in how he communicated with the other side of the table, and he knew it was never easy, but he sure helped that process along. Mr. Mammolenti stated Mr. Compton's experience with the union and the negotiations always was a great asset and he could not thank either of them enough for making that process as easy as possible. Mr. Mammolenti stated, as Mayor Wood had mentioned, he hoped they would find value in driving throughout the city in years to come, knowing all of the wonderful things that they did and had a part of. Mr. Mammolenti thanked them both very much and looked forward to chatting with them in the near future.

Mr. Hixenbaugh added his thanks to both of them for not only their service there but for who they were as residents of the community. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated between their colleagues and Mayor Wood, they hit the high points, but he had the privilege of serving with more Council colleagues than he thought he could count but he could say without any hesitation that he had never served with any better people than Mike Bellovich and Mike Compton. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the similarities between the two always struck him and it was not just in the first names that they used were the same, but it was those qualities of character that both of them evidenced on a regular basis that really were consistent across the board and it had been a pleasure to work with both of them. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he felt like he was a better person from having worked with them and he knew the work of the Council had been better and the community was a better place for their years of service. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked them for everything they had done, thanked them for who they were and thanked both of their spouses for being wonderful people as well for their support of them. Mr. Hixenbaugh looked forward to seeing what the next stage of

both of their lives would hold because he was confident that great things were still to come. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked them both once again.

Question was called for at 7:56PM for **RESOLUTION R2023-29, RESOLUTION R2023-30 and RESOLUTION R2023-31. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 8).**

Yes: Mr. Hazen, Mr. Bellovich. Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Mr. Compton, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The three of the resolutions passed 8-0.

Mr. Hixenbaugh concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hopefully they would all have a chance to be able to enjoy some time with family and friends over the holidays and they looked forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. Mr. Hixenbaugh also made a reminder that at a prior Council meeting, they changed the date of the first Council meeting in January, so they would be next convening there in the Council Chambers on January 8th, 2024, at 7PM.

ADJOURNMENT 7:57PM

Deborah S. Block /s/
Deborah S. Block, IAMC, MMC, City Clerk

Gregg A. Hixenbaugh /s/
Gregg A. Hixenbaugh, President