

**PLAINFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**July 13, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Brandgard: I'd like to welcome everybody to the Plainfield Town Council meeting for July 13, 2020.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Brandgard: I'd like to ask everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL TO DETERMINE QUORUM**

Mr. Brandgard: Let the record show that all members are in attendance and we have a quorum for conducting business.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Brandgard: We have a few items on the consent agenda this evening.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 22, 2020.
2. Approval of the Accounts Payable Docket of Expenditures and the Affidavit of Payroll, per the Clerk-Treasurer's Report.
3. Approval of the Human Resources Report dated July 9, 2020.
4. Approval of a Scrivener's Error to Resolution 2020-12, which was dated 03-23-2020 but approved and signed at the 03-09-2020 Town Council meeting, per the Town Manager's Report.
5. Approval of the Private Property Traffic Enforcement Agreement between the Town of Plainfield and Core Metropolis, LLC, per the Town Manager's Report.
6. Approval of Annual Renewal for Hull and Liability Insurance for Unmanned Aircraft, per the Fleet & Facilities Report.
7. Approval of an Advanced Life Support Ambulance Intercept Agreement between the Plainfield Fire Territory and the Stilesville Fire Department, per the Fire Territory Report.
8. Approval of the Contract with Schneider Geospatial, LLC for Data Consolidation and Layer Maintenance, pending legal review, per the Hendricks County Communication Center Report. (Funded from HCCC IT Budget)
9. Approval of the Motorola APX Radio Program Management Software, pending legal review, per the Hendricks County Communication Center Report. (Funded from Hendricks County Appropriations)
10. Approval of a Release Statement and an Accompanying Payment of \$1,375.00, to Bill Munson to address rutting claimed to be caused from utility relocation work for Carr Road, per the Development Services Report. (Funded from the 2019 Redevelopment District Bond – Carr Road Project)



Mr. Angle: And your time reviewing it too, thank you.

Mr. McPhail: Well, I don't remember ever having the low bid be that much more than the Engineer's Estimate for the job.

Mr. Kirchoff: Well again, if you (inaudible) report, we talked to the bidders and we talked to (inaudible) and it appeared to be a resource availability issue of the time frame that we were in, and we'll be putting it off until next year to help resolve that, if possible.

Mr. Angle: Sounds good

Mr. Brandgard: If there's no further discussion, all those in favor signify by aye.

(All ayes)

Mr. Brandgard: Opposed? Motion carried, thank you.

### **GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Brandgard: We do have some business from the floor this evening. Just as a reminder:

1. The proceedings are recorded for public record purposes; please come to the podium located in front of the Meeting Room, give your name and address and make your presentation.
2. Please make presentations as precise as possible; try to limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes and avoid repetition of points made by previous speakers. Each speaker will be allowed to speak only once.
3. If possible, please designate a spokesperson for groups supporting or opposing same positions.
4. Following your presentation please print your name and address on the speaker's sheet provided to ensure the official record reflects your appropriate name and address.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Brandgard: Is Eric Hessel here?

Mr. Hessel: Thank you for your time tonight, I'm going to go ahead and get started. Stephanie told me I had ten minutes, so I'm going to go fast for you this evening. Over the last year the – my name is Eric Hessel, I'm the Program Officer over at the Hendricks County Community Foundation in Avon. I have actually been with the Foundation for 10 years, starting in October. I was a Tri West High School graduate, I hope you don't hold that against me. I tried to wear my red and blue here tonight for you guys. Over the last year we did a Community Needs Assessment across the entire County. And so, for all of the Council Members and additional folks that are here, Clerk-Treasurer, Town Attorney, as well as the Town Manager; I have distributed a hard copy of the full County wide report, as well as the Plainfield supplement. I sent an additional copy of the Plainfield supplement to Stephanie and they will all be on our website sometime this week, along with this presentation here that's up on the board. I am not always the best numbers guy, so I like to be able to see it and not just hear it, so that's why you've got some of that in front of you.

(inaudible)

Mr. Hessel: So, the Lily Endowment actually challenged the Community Foundation to do this work and gave us funding to do a Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment. That is their definition of Community Leadership. They are challenging Community Foundations across the state to be Community Leaders. And that's, "...to evaluate local landscapes and identify and prioritize community needs and assets; develop a deeper understanding of what our (Community Foundation's) role should be within the community; strengthen relationships with local stakeholders and potential collaborators; build internal capacities to act as an effective leader; and prioritize and develop strategies to address high priority challenges and opportunities

with implementation grant funding.” We started this process in May 2019 and did a lot of internal work to get ready. August through October we ran 58 one-on-one meetings with Community Leaders. We pulled that list from Leadership Hendricks County, different Chambers of Commerce, as well as our own internal list. September and October, we held seven focus groups with 98 individuals participating. One of those was with the members of the Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition. So, they represent kind of the entire County, mostly faith-based groups. So, we tried to get an extra reach in that focus group. October through November, we did an online survey and received 3,048 survey responses; 597 of those were from either the Town of Plainfield or Plainfield associated. So, they may have indicated they lived in Guilford Township, or there’s those folks that live in the in between lands that said, well, I live here and my phone number is this and I go to the school district here. So, we tried to reallocate those, and one we couldn’t reallocate we actually bumped into an “other” category. In January we held community meetings with 133 Community Leaders on four different days across January. February, we had some task force that helped us put together some proposals to Lily Endowment, and those were submitted on March 13<sup>th</sup>. You remember what happened the week after March 13<sup>th</sup>; everything started shutting down. So, we are still waiting to hear back from Lily Endowment on those. This is to give you an idea of who responded County wide. You should all be really – celebrate your community; 20% of our respondents came from Plainfield; you were right behind Brownsburg. And by right behind, I mean like nine behind, right. So, your community was really well represented in the survey responses. As you work through this report, what you’re going to see first are the assets. These do not necessarily mean they’re here, but these are your community values. Okay, so what we asked them to say is, “How important are each of these for your community?” Again, it’s not necessarily that you have them, but it’s their values for their community. There are two scores associated: The Weighted Score because they rank them from “not very important” to “very important”. And then a Frequency, so how often people ranked it “important” or “very important”. Now I’m going to go through these next five pretty quickly because they align exactly with the County wide report. I gave this presentation, the Brownsburg version, to the Brownsburg Chamber, and theirs was the same way; it aligns almost perfectly with these assets. Number one asset, or value, is Feeling Safe. If you are looking for a community to live in, you want to feel safe. This doesn’t mean they don’t, right; it doesn’t mean anything other than that’s what they value. Number two: A Strong K-12 Education System. Number three: Trusted Leadership. Also, a value, right. It doesn’t mean they don’t trust our leaders; it means that they value trust in our leadership. Number four: Healthy and Strong Families. And number five: Access to Healthcare and Wellness Options. These are the six through ten; again, they almost align perfectly with the County wide data. And for those in the audience, I have additional copies that you’re welcome to have. So, they almost align perfectly with what people value in the community. Next, we move to Issues. Issues are exactly what they sound like; they are perceived problems in the community. And I like to make sure that I emphasize “perceived” because this is a perception, right. These are average folks filling this out. So, you may see the results and go, well, we do that. Well, it might mean they just don’t know you’re doing that work, right. So, the first number one issue, both for the County and for Plainfield, is Public Transportation and Traffic Congestion. There are a couple of things that bounced around, around here; we heard a lot of comments about some of it being overcrowded in general, so just, the traffic is bad. And there was a lot about public transportation and access to transportation. You’ll remember Guilford Township was working on the referendum on public transportation. We have not yet released this data but we reached out to the Guilford Township Trustees, as well as their consultant, and gave them this information so that they have it. They added it into their report out to the general public. So, this is the number one issue that your community sees. Number two is Unhealthy Addictions. Also aligns with the County wide report, and you’ll see everything from drugs, theft, breaking and entering. Remember – I always like to highlight here, that a lot of folks, this is what was talked about the most. So, we were going to respond to what we talked about the most, and I think that’s another reason why you’ll have some education pieces that will come up. A little bit deeper in your report, but Plainfield particularly, focuses so much on skilling folks up, that I think that your community is hearing that. Number three: Lack of Affordable Housing. This was much higher for Plainfield than it was in the County as a whole and I’m sure that doesn’t come as much of a surprise for most of you folks in the room. A lot of the conversation, as you dig into the details here, was that it was diverse housing, right. It’s not just that’s there’s really no low-income housing, but it’s hard to find the right mix in your community. Number four: Negative and False Social Media

Influencing Issues. I'm sure that comes as a shock to everyone in this room, but social media is really bugging people. It's on the top of everyone's mind, especially as they've been locked at home, although they weren't during this time. But it's something that you really need to keep in mind. I'm going to tell you in a little bit about how people in your community want to be contacted. One of those ways is via Facebook. So, making sure that what they're seeing on Facebook is true, or as true as it can be from you, is really, really important. And then finally, the number five issue is: County and Towns don't coordinate plans or work together. This is one of the issues that we ended up focusing on, is our community working together. As we did that, one of the conversations that constantly came up was, we don't do a good job of telling folks that we're working together. When we know that the Superintendents are meeting on a regular basis, that the Town Managers talk to each other, Chambers work together – that it's actually happening but we don't do a good job of telling folks. Our community, and this is across the board, do not think that we work together. These are the top ten – I just pulled top ten, we have twenty issues in the County. I wanted to highlight a couple of things on here. Number one is that the fourth top issue for the County is that community leaders have self interest rather than social responsibility and lack overall community knowledge. There is a big decrease for the Town of Plainfield. What that would tell me is, the people have a lot of respect for their leaders here in Plainfield. They trust you; you're doing something right where they really feel that. Which is why you see that (inaudible) bumping back up, right. As you keep going down, the one outlier that's not shown here is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion often overlooked. That was basically tied for seventh in Plainfield, right. So, it's like eleventh on the County wide report, so it doesn't show because this is balancing with the County, but it's one percentage off; it's number eight, 1% off, sorry, 0.1% off. So, that's much higher than what we saw around the rest of the County, so your community really values diversity, equity and inclusion, and wants to be heard in that way. I don't think any of these will surprise you but when we asked, "why do you think nothing gets changed?", here is what we heard the most. Lack of money, because there's just no money to do all of the things that we want to happen. Self-interest or apathetic leadership. Again, like I said, that was much lower for Plainfield as a whole. Resistance to change, you don't want to do anything different; everything works just fine the way it is. Too much growth and inadequate infrastructure – I heard this a lot. Nothing changes because we keep growing and so we can't make any changes. And then again, lack of overall planning. You'll notice those align directly with County and Towns don't work together. A couple of more things from the Town of Plainfield: we asked folks how connected they feel to their County and to the Town; 49% feel very or – like the top two answers were "I feel connected" or "I feel very connected" to the Town of Plainfield. If anybody is curious, that is higher than it was in Brownsburg. And then 39% connectivity to the County as a whole. As you guys are looking at how you are going to connect with your community, 61% of people want to be talked to through Facebook based on this report, 61%. 59% want that really passive, just a high-quality website that they can go to and find the things that they're looking for. And then 55% is email. We asked folks about paper newsletters, Instagram, some of the Pod Casts, and all of those fell well below 40-30%. So, these are your top three ways your community wants you to connect with them. That last fact: 64% - this is what a Community Foundation or a non-profit in your community should really take a good look at – 64% of your community feels very and extremely willing to make a difference in their community. So, that's a value that I know you guys hold as a Town and it shows through the responses in your community. I'm going to give you a quick update on non-profits in Hendricks County, not just about the Community Foundation, but we are doing additional data work around non-profits. This is our June report; we did one also in April, and all of these numbers are up from April, right. So, COVID's impact on your organization, and 69% said "High" or "Extremely High". Impact on your clients, the individuals those folks are serving: 83% "High" or "Extremely High". And then you'll see almost 70% across the board here, 84% adjusted their operating hours; some of them don't know when they'll ever, if they'll ever, return to normal open hours. These are County wide though, right, so not just in Plainfield. 94% increase use of technology. 75% have had to cancel fundraising events; their reported loss on that is \$280,000 across the County. 63% of non-profits have had to cancel revenue-generating programs. So, you think of an organization like Susie's Place, that gets paid by Federal Government, right, for doing those interviews; they haven't been able to do interviews because they haven't been able to get people in a room. 50% of non-profits have experienced an increase in demand for services. So, you see that the revenue is down, but the need is going up, and that's a real challenge. I pulled some, just an article from the, I think it was

Chronicle on Philanthropy; 73% of charities worldwide have seen a decline in contributions. So, I want to leave you, before I entertain any questions that you might have, with what our response has been. Along with Duke Energy and Hendricks Power, who helped spearhead our COVID Rapid Response Fund, Phase 1 made \$123,000 in grants to community organizations. That is a big increase for the Community Foundation itself, and that's thanks to corporate sponsors, some of our donor (inaudible) funds, some of our unrestricted funds, and the community as a whole who stepped up to give us funds to redistribute. We did not charge any fees on these funds because they were really meant to respond to the crisis. You are the first to hear, outside of our non-profit mailing list, Phase 2 will launch on Wednesday, this Wednesday, where we will be offering matching grants to local non-profits to help encourage their fundraising. We know their fundraising is down, and so we are going to offer incentivized grants through the end of the year. They can match to the end of the year to meet their needs that they have there. Total response grants – because we have a really adverse system of how we do funding – has been \$277,000 back into Hendricks County. Really, really, our community has stepped up in incredible ways at the time when it was needed. How did I do on time? I know I went through that very fast; I will happily take any questions, and I'll sign this paper while we do.

Mr. Angle: I think, for me at least, Eric, thank you so much for taking the time to show us the supplemental; I really appreciate it. I saw the County wide one; tonight, is the first night I'm seeing the supplemental information. Once I digest it a little bit, I'm sure I might have questions. If you don't mind, I could reach out after a little bit.

Mr. Hessel: Please, like I said, this is my job, this has been my job for the last year and a half. I never thought I would be doing data work like this but... all of it will be online and we will also include the data. So, if you've got data number crunching people in your circle, they will be able to dig through all of the backend data they want. So, it is public information; it is not for us, it's for everyone to be able to dig through. And it is not trackable; we didn't take IP addresses or names, so you shouldn't be able to find who said what.

Mr. Bridget: I was actually part of the meetings in January, and I'd just like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the County.

Mr. Hessel: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Mr. Brandgard: Again Eric, I want to thank you for taking the time to come in and present this to us. At the same time, I know when you put out the County, our biggest question is, what does that mean to Plainfield. And I know digging through the data and trying to separate is a big job and I want to thank you for taking the time and effort to do that.

Mr. Hessel: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Mr. Brandgard: We have a better understanding.

Mr. Hessel: Thank you

Mr. Angle: Could you give us just a broad statement of next steps; why do all of this, and then what's the next thing?

Mr. Hessel: Sure, I mentioned we submitted some grants to Lily Endowment on March 13<sup>th</sup>; our focus, we're focused County wide, right, so our focus is community unity. Part of that, you heard a lot about distrust in community leaderships and finding ways to build that trust. A lot of conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion and how that's changing in our community. And our community is growing, and so we think we'll focus some funds there. In fact, we've already engaged a consultant to do some training for community leaders. So, there was a lot about elections; a lot about bringing people together, unfortunately. So, we talked about supporting community festivals and events where people are together. It's on a little bit of a hiatus, but our focus is on community unity and how we can get people to talk to each other in good ways and realize what we have in common and why when we have differences, that's a good thing, and a healthy thing for our community.

Mr. Angle: So, Eric, what's the best way for all of the folks who are watching on Facebook LIVE to track what's happening and see updates?

Mr. Hessel: Go to our website – [www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org) – we have step by steps on all of the data. As we get new information, we're posting it there. Like I said, this was supposed to be transparent. Our community said they don't trust leaders, and so we're trying to be as forthcoming and open with the information that we have. Or as always, you can email me; email is best right now – [eric@hendrickscountycf.org](mailto:eric@hendrickscountycf.org).

Mr. Angle: Fantastic, thank you very much.

Mr. Hessel: Thank you, thank you all.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you. Brian Motter?

Mr. Motter: (inaudible) Mark, thanks for the invite today. My name is Brian Motter (inaudible). In March I received a call from, I believe it was Denise with the Town of Plainfield Water Department and she alerted me to, just an unbelievable usage to my meter, which I was unaware of. So, I immediately called a plumber. The plumber came out and he actually found a leak from my – past my meter to my home, it's about a 1200-foot range. That was about three feet underground. And I got a bill from the Town of Plainfield for about two weeks' worth of usage that represents just a little less than \$2,400. So, I reached out to Denise and I believe it was Teresa and they actually referred me to Mr. Todisco. So, Mark and I had a conversation and he suggested that I come to this platform to really, just say – what I'm asking for is just some consideration, and that's all. I know there are laws to follow and there are procedures and policies, and I understand and respect that. If there's a leniency to the bill; we come up with a negotiable split, or whatever we want to call it, that's really all I'm asking for, is some consideration. If not, you know, that bill is on me. I understand this; the hard part for me was – I think in my email that you may have forwarded, Mark, I just said, "Hey, when I buy a product, I want to use it. It's kind of hard to buy a \$2,400 product and not use it." So, that's kind of my stance on it. But I understand the rules, I just wanted to plead my case.

Mr. Brandgard: I think I'll just – thank you for coming in – these types of things can only be handled through the Council, not through the staff. But basically, \$2,400 use of water, that's a \$2,400 – if we give you relief on that, that means everybody else in the community is paying for that.

Mr. Motter: Okay

Mr. Brandgard: Because the water company (inaudible) balance the books somewhere. Now the question is, is that just water, or is that water and sewer?

Mr. Todisco: He's on a flat sewer fee, so it's just water. He only pays that flat fee for sewer (inaudible) and that's why. Therefore, the only option, per the Ordinance, is to recommend that he comes to the Council.

Mr. Brandgard: Like I say...

Mr. Kirchoff: Could we talk about this offline and get back with you?

Mr. Brandgard: Yeah

Mr. Motter: Sure, and if you want to communicate to me, Mark in email, that's fine. Yeah, I totally respect that.

Mr. Brandgard: I appreciate you coming in.

Mr. Motter: yeah, I appreciate you guys listening.

Mr. Brandgard: And we will get back with you.

Mr. Motter: Okay, thank you very much, appreciate it.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you

Ms. Noble: Mr. Motter, could you put your name on the sheet?

Mr. Motter: I can do that.

Mr. Brandgard: Is Jessie Courdray in the audience?

Mr. Courdray: A couple of months ago I reached out to my Councilman and expressed some concern. My wife and I live at 521 South Center Street. We're right between Ash Street and South Street. My wife and I were recently married; she's been a resident close to four or five years. In short, we have some concerns about the rate of speeding motorists on our street. To be frank, we're 24 and 25; we aren't out to be the vengeful older resident who thinks that speeding past our home is unacceptable. But the truth is, we are very prideful of where we live. It's a very engaging area with the community. I expressed my concerns with Councilman Bridget, that there are a lot of people that do walk past our street on a daily basis, and quite frankly, I have fears that someone at some time may be struck by a motorist either crossing the street – just next to our house we have a pedestrian crosswalk, and in my own kind of way of trying to find a solution – there's really no clear markers once you turn right off Stafford Road or come off of Longfellow Road there by the public works area, that clearly defines the speed limit. It's 35 miles an hour there and the next speed limit sign for 30 miles per hour is after Buchanan Street. So, there's kind of a gap there and with the 500 foot area for the pedestrians, we do have a school bus stop just past our house. While I'm not here representing my employer, I do work for the Indiana State Senate and had a member who's district was impacted by a speeding motorist that struck and killed children while trying to get on the school bus. So, I wanted to come here just to express my concern for the rate of speeding motorists and hopefully come up with a solution that can deter that. Short term, in light of the pandemic, I did reach out to the Police Department and offered my real estate as a means for an officer to sit there, in hopes that just by physical presence, that people would slow down. We did put in kind of a petition to have increased patrol; I can't say that that's been positive or negative, but I can also say that I've not seen an increase in police activity outside of the busyness of our streets. So, my hope here tonight is to at least stand in front of you and say that I have concerns and hopefully come up with a solution that can both protect our areas, certainly our home. This last fall there was a police chase that ended in our neighbor's front yard and struck a tree. The police there were very gracious and took care of the accident. All things said, it is kind of a narrow road and I'm just concerned for not only our property but everyone else walking past.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you for bringing that in. Jared? He's the Chief of Police. Can you take a look at that?

Mr. McKee: Yeah, we'll take a look at that. I think out best approach would be to put our data collection signs up for a while and that way we can get some times of day, numbers, and get a better idea of exactly what's going on.

Mr. Courdray: Certainly, and if the radar machine needs to be put out, I'm happy to run the electricity, should it need that, or you know, any means, we're willing to work with the Police Department and the Town Council to hopefully make our area a little bit safer.

Mr. Bridget: I personally would like to commend you. You had an issue, you and I talked about it, you were very well spoken and presented your case very well. I just appreciate your good citizenship.

Mr. Courdray: Thank you. Working in the State Government, I get to see it, I get to hear it, but this is my first option to come before my Town Council. My wife and I both graduated from Mooresville and really liked the direction that Plainfield was going, and certainly, where we live, we really appreciate the easy access to the streets and parks. So, I just wanted to thank you guys.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you again. And maybe – Jason is not here this week, but look at where the speed limit signs are...

Mr. Klinger: Yeah, I'm looking at the Google Maps now already and there's not a heavy presence of signage in that area, so I'll talk to Jason and see if he can look into that.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you

Mr. Courdray: Thank you, appreciate it.

Mr. Brandgard: Is Rose Baker in the audience?

Ms. Baker: Hello everyone, my name is Rose Baker. I was told I needed to state my address, 214 Shaw Street, Plainfield. I stand here today yearning to become an informed citizen of the Town of Plainfield. I'm interested in knowing what conversations Town Council is having towards racial justice in Plainfield. I'm going to share with you, conversations that I've had with various members of the community. What you all have, Town Council members, are all of the emails, back and forth between different community members, so that when I reference them, you can check out the whole conversations. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, the Plainfield Police Chief addressed the Town on May 30<sup>th</sup>, in which he addressed and acknowledged racial tensions in our community. He talked about the Police Department's commitment not just to post about racial justice, but the action part. I loved hearing about that; not just to post about it, but to be about it; and stated "actions speak louder than words" and "it takes more than implicit bias training and putting cameras on our Police Department and wearing body cameras". In this post he also mentioned a diversity council that met regularly to ensure the department is hearing all points of view and perspective. I love that that was posted. I had a few questions, so in response, I wrote an email to the Chief. I wanted to know, when is the Town's next diversity council meeting; do you have officers with one or more formal complaints filed against them. This was important to me after I learned that George Floyd's murderer had more than ten formal complaints filed against him at the time of his murder; and if the Chief was able to share yearly data on traffic stops, specifically who gets pulled over in Plainfield, the race/the gender. The response I received is, that the Town's diversity council doesn't have another meeting – I'm going to wait because I think this is distracting -

(brief pause)

Ms. Baker: Super... the town diversity council didn't have another meeting on the books because of COVID, but he would let me know when the next one would be. He shared with me the link on how to file formal complaints against an officer and he shared with me a link to the annual reports. My feeling was that my questions were not fully answered or addressed. And actually, the email back totally missed the mark. I didn't ask how to file a complaint at all. So, I'm asking, how do I become an informed citizen? During this time, I also decided to reach out to my Town Council rep, Mr. Dan Bridget. I asked similar questions, but in particular, I asked in an email, "when do topics of racial justice happen in Plainfield?" The response was very timely. We had a phone conversation where he shared with me that his expertise and knowledge that he brings to Plainfield in is sewers, and he directed me to the Police Commissioner and Police Chief to answer my specific questions. So great, I have another lead, thanks for the information. Again, I'm asking, how do I become an informed citizen and how is Town Council addressing social justice in Plainfield? Next up, I look up John Anderson's information on Plainfield's website. Did you know that Mr. Anderson doesn't use a Plainfield email address? There is no address linked to him; he doesn't use a Town of Plainfield email. So, in order to find his email, I asked a Facebook friend to get in contact with Mr. Anderson. So, I got his work email for my future conversations with him. I asked him specific questions regarding proactive policing and information on the race breakdown on all traffic stops in the Town of Plainfield. And I asked again about formal misconduct complaints filed. In response, I learned generally more about what the Commissioner does, serving as a buffer between Town Council and the Police Department. The Commissioner also makes sure that the department is following policies and procedures set forth in the general operating manual, and he directed me back to the Police Department and Town Council to answer my questions. So, I'm getting kind of all shifted around in different ways. In addition, only after me specifically asking, he let me know that in order to get documents like the general operating manual, which is what they enforce, I would need to go to the Administrative Office and fill out the form, and this was during COVID. (inaudible) general public knowledge. So, once again I ask, how does one become an informed citizen? Feeling like I was getting the runaround,

I reached out to a couple of engaged community members in my personal network who referred me to Stephanie Singh, Community Marketing Manager for the Town. Very responsive, within the hour, Stephanie was on the phone with me. We talked about my concerns; and she let me know that there was a form that I needed to fill out to get the public documents that I was requesting. So, all right, I'm getting some answers and some action steps, but at that point I had the thought of: why couldn't the Police Chief, the Town rep or the Police Commissioner provide this document for me? Why did it take to the fourth person to get what I wanted and needed to know to be a more informed citizen? In addition, she let me know that the town diversity council that was touted by the Police Chief was so young, as in 18 months young, that they aren't opening up to the public, and they'll let us know when they are ready for public input. I thought it was interesting that all other town business meetings such as this Town Council and other governing bodies have found a way to meet online, but with this council there was no way for a meeting to be organized. I also followed up with an email asking if the Town would consider a different perspective. Instead of "we aren't ready for the public input" to "let's get the Town input and let's see how that can inform our next steps". That email was never responded to. So, I'm still asking, how does one become an informed citizen? At this point in time, I'm gearing up for the online meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I think okay, this is a way that I can engage with my Town Council. During the meeting I submit the questions, "I would like to know, does the Town of Plainfield go through any diversity training or implicit bias training? Can the President state the definition of 'implicit bias'? I would like more information on Town Council's choosing of the Police Commission members and why the number three?" I'm just curious why there are three members in that community: not more, not less, just why three? "I would like to know Town Council's thought on rethinking the role of the police in our community and the idea of restructuring; using policemen to support our community in different ways" I was also asking on June 8<sup>th</sup>, "What is the best way for community members to use their voice or share their concerns and would you always consider having a LIVE feed for these meetings for those unable to physically be there?" And look, that's happened, so that's amazing. Since this was online and I wasn't addressing anything that was on the agenda, I was told that my questions would be forwarded to the Town Council members. That was on the 8<sup>th</sup> and it took four days to forward an email because of administrative offices being shifted around. I actually have yet to hear any response from Town Council about my questions from the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. So, I'm still asking, how does one become an informed citizen and how important is racial justice in the Town of Plainfield? All right, we arrive at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Council meeting, still online. I sit and listen and try to become an informed citizen and I wonder, what do these Ordinances mean, and hoping I find this information out, and how do other citizens find out information on Ordinances? So, using the old internet, I look on the Town's website and there are not any Ordinances listed for 2020. Going back to what I know, I reach out to my District Rep, who directs me to Mr. Todisco who then sends the attachments of the Ordinances that were voted and passed on. Then I hear from Ms. Singh letting me know that Ordinances haven't made it to the website because of COVID. It's interesting because Ordinances, they haven't been shared to the public, but can be passed during COVID. How am I supposed to become an informed citizen on what's going on in Plainfield? By the way, Ordinances are now posted, Resolutions are not. I'm frustrated and looking for direct answers; I reach out to Mr. Bridget – How do I become an informed citizen – and he lets me know to download the Town of Plainfield app and follow on Facebook and I'll get all of the information I need to become an informed citizen. I'm doing both of those things and I still feel uninformed. I then reached out the Mr. Brandgard, who has been involved with the Town Council for 40 years; and on the website for the Town he lists five goals and one of his stated goals is "to keep the small town atmosphere with citizens involved". And he states, "This is primarily a result of the attitude and the responsiveness of the public officials and staff of the Town. The staff and the Town officials welcome questions and comments from the citizens and respond quickly. The agenda for each Town Council meeting contains an item for 'Business from the Floor' to allow any citizen at any time to come to Town Council and speak publicly about whatever is on their mind. Although the Town has grown dramatically in the last couple of decades, its officials and employees remain accessible and responsive to citizens." Thanks for sharing, this is not what I had experienced as a citizen of Plainfield. I will tell you, I have successfully submitted my application, and I am hoping that I am one of the fifteen looked at citizens to join the Plainfield Citizen Academy. I hear that I'm supposed to hear back in early August about that. I have submitted two requests with the Town for reports on police officer

misconduct. I was communicated with when the Town received those and within a week, I did hear back on both of my requests, even though they were both denied for the public information that I was asking. As I wrap up tonight, I am seeking a response to the following questions. What do you see as the role of the citizen and Town Council and how does this role inform me of decisions? What is the point of a District Rep if they don't seek their constituents' feedback? And would you consider a Town Hall to hear from the community? In addition, what do Town Council's conversations about racial justice in Plainfield look and sound like? I have not seen a statement, agenda item, or action item related to our current climate in Plainfield. How is the Town addressing the needs in our community? I have also recently learned that Plainfield has a mission statement and part of the mission statement states, "Through open communication, continual self-assessment, responsible management and quality service, we are striving to keep the citizens of Plainfield our number one priority." So, how has Town Council self-assessed itself, and what does this look like? The lack of answers and the runaround as to all of my questions regarding the racial climate of Plainfield is alarming and concerning to me. Silence to me, is violence. I will continue to use my voice and am determined to become a more informed citizen. I recognize my privilege in this community as a white woman. And as someone who has lived here over 30 years, I have spent numerous hours and used my base community members to get answers. But what if that wasn't the case? What if I was new to Town? What if I didn't know anyone? Would I still be up here now? How does Town Council reach and serve all community members? These are the questions that I would like to hear a response from the Town Council. My email is included in all of these documents; I can write is somewhere else, as needed, in another place. Thank you.

Mr. Brandgard: Rose, thank you for bringing your comments to us. As you said, I've been on the Council for over 40 years and I've lived in this community since 1955. I'm surprised I haven't met you because I'm out in the community all of the time. And although the community has grown, it has become more difficult to know who everybody is because (inaudible). But I'm still out in the community and at events. And in the mornings, I have coffee every morning – most people know where I have coffee and if they have something, come and talk. You know, it's a two-way street on communication. I appreciate you coming in and we'll do our best to get you answers.

Ms. Baker: I really look forward to having more conversation.

Mr. Bridget: How many times did you and I have conversation?

Ms. Baker: Oh, many.

Mr. Bridget: Once

Ms. Baker: We had one on the phone...

Mr. Bridget: On the telephone

Ms. Baker: and then...

Mr. Bridget: Not many; we had one.

Ms. Baker: Okay

Mr. Bridget: And all three of the responses that I gave you came out of that same telephone call. You make it sound like I was giving you the runaround.

Ms. Baker: Well, that's the way I kind of feel, with everyone involved.

Mr. Bridget: You asked me what my responsibilities were; I told you. You asked me for information; I told you. That's the best I can do.

Ms. Baker: Okay, and so, to my first point – and I appreciate the conversation – but to my first point, it took me four people to figure out where a document was to request something through the Town.

Mr. Bridget: I have no idea about the rest of your communications, but I can tell you, I feel like you misrepresented ours.

Ms. Baker: Say that again?

Mr. Bridget: I fell like you misrepresented our communication. You made it sound like you came to me on three different occasions.

Ms. Baker: We can check the dates.

Mr. Bridget: You and I had one conversation.

Ms. Baker: Okay

Mr. Bridget: And I gave you those three answers to the best of my ability.

Ms. Baker: Okay

Mr. Bridget: I think that's my job.

Ms. Baker: Okay, and I'm asking for more, to be honest. I think that as...

Mr. Bridget: And I told you where to get more.

Ms. Baker: Okay, okay. And there are different dates and times that we emailed back and forth.

Mr. Bridget: (inaudible)

Ms. Baker: Okay, out of everything, that's what you want to take out of it? That's my issue. There are so many other things that we could be talking about in moving this conversation forward, and you would like to talk about how you think you were misrepresented? That's frustrating to me. Out of everything that I talked about; that's really frustrating. Anyone else have any comments? Silence is violence to me. I don't know who is having these conversations and when they're happening, but I would like to be a part of them.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you

Ms. Baker: Thank you

Mr. Brandgard: Is there any other business from the floor?

Ms. Perrill: Hi guys, I'm Brandy Perrill from Hendricks College Network. With Eric being here and talking about some of the response that they're doing for the community for the COVID crisis, it reminded me that I probably want to share some more information with you about what we're doing. We were given a grant by the Community Foundation to respond to our students that are maybe having trouble accessing the technology that they need because their classes, if they're in school, might have gone online; maybe their computer doesn't work as well as they hoped, or maybe they don't have access to Wi-Fi. So, we had the opportunity to get them a computer, a laptop that they can keep as theirs. And we also have Hotspots ordered, but apparently, they're a little bit unavailable right now, so we're waiting on those to come in. But if anybody would need that, if anyone in the audience knows about someone who might need that, we're happy to add to the community by just supporting them in any way they need. If they need (inaudible), we're good at helping people navigate all of that too. And that's all I have; I just wanted to say all of that really quick. Thank you

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you, that's a good effort.

Ms. Perrill: Thank you, we have great partners.

Mr. Brandgard: (inaudible) to try to make sure we have internet access in the towns. Any other business from the floor? Brad?

Mr. DuBios: Sorry, I was waiting on staff reports; I wasn't sure when... So, we have the parade, so tonight I'd like to ask consent from the Council to move forward with that. September 19<sup>th</sup> is the date. We currently have an okay from the state; we do have a permit. So, I just wanted to – I talked with Chief McKee and Assistant Chief Prewitt and they are good with our plans – so, I'm just asking for consent to move forward. As long as everything is (inaudible) and COVID is not going to raise its ugly head again.

Mr. Brandgard: All things being (inaudible), you have consent.

Mr. DuBois: It's a moving part; thank you.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you

Mr. DuBois: Thank you

Mr. Brandgard: Is there any other business from the floor? If not, we'll move to the Town Manager's report.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Klinger: Yeah, so, I have a few items here for you this evening. First, I wanted to report on our small business grant program. And Brad, thank you for your participation on that; he was on the committee with me, as well as Todd and Frank (inaudible), and Stephanie assisted throughout that process. And so, if you recall, of course, as part of the COVID-19 response, the Council approved a small business recovery plan that included grants for small businesses in Town. The amount that was funded by the Council was \$75,000 using EDIT Funds. We actually were able to get some additional dollars from – first of all, Plainfield Christian Church threw in \$2,500 as well as working in partnership with Main Street Plainfield, they received a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation that provided an additional \$5,000 into the project. And so, we did award over 30 grants. The maximum amount we set was \$2,500 which was really intended for the small business within the community that were kind of struggling through this, particularly some of our small restaurants, locally owned bakeries, things like that. And so, we were able to issue those grants. I think we kind of hit the sweet spot there because just as the money was running out, we were also kind of running out of applications. We got the last couple of applications in and we were able to kind of close out the program. I will point out however, that Main Street Plainfield, because their money was really dedicated to Main Street Plainfield businesses, some of the businesses that applied to our program were Main Street Plainfield businesses and received money from both the Town and from Main Street. They actually still have some money left over specifically for Main Street Plainfield businesses, so we are still encouraging Main Street businesses to apply. They are working on their own application process now that we've kind of closed out our program. They've created their own application process so those Main Street businesses can apply for those funds. So, still encouraging businesses to take advantage of that. I also wanted to – Ms. Baker kind of stole my thunder because we are accepting applications for our Citizens Academy, the next version of our Citizens Academy. We have a couple of recent graduates sitting in the room here with Mr. Shaw and Brad DuBois here, so appreciate your participation this past year. We are accepting applications for the next round and the deadline for those applications is July 31<sup>st</sup>. And so, as Ms. Baker said, we'll be reviewing those in early August and making the selections in terms of the next class. And we are working on an idea to do kind of a – we started thinking about this last year but never really put it together – but doing kind of maybe a 2.0, Citizens Academy 2.0, for people who have already gone through the first round, maybe having a smaller, more intimate type setting for the next level of communication for people kind of want to go to that next level. So, that's something that we're toying around with. Since Eric is still here, I will point out that tomorrow we will have what is now a weekly Town Manager's call. When the whole COVID-19 situation came up, you may recall that we were, all of the Town Managers of the four major communities, as well as – and we're not excluding anybody; if Dan from Clayton wants to join in, he's welcome to it – but it's usually just Danville, Avon, Brownsburg and Plainfield, but it does also include the County Administrator, Todd McCormack as well as some other County officials from EMA and from Board of Health, and occasionally we have a representative from the Governor's Office joining us on our call as well.





## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brandgard: Kent, new business?

Mr. McPhail: I have a couple of things Mr. President. Talking about these virtual meetings and all of those things, you know, I would encourage our community to talk to our State Legislators – when this whole thing is over, that they'll change the structure and the law where if somebody is out of Town, they can join our meeting like we've been doing. You know, technology is out there today and... I think it takes a Legislator to do it, doesn't it?

Mr. Klinger: Yeah, and I will say that we've already – given that we do have a representative from the Governor's Office sit in on our calls – we've taken advantage of that to start relaying some of these things. And we've had that exact conversation, about having some additional new ways versus the current statutes. And I know that that's becoming a point of emphasis for AIM as well, in terms of their lobbying efforts for next session. We also, you know, we had a lobbyist last year and things kind of got on put hold for the last several months, but we need to get them in here and start working on our own legislative agenda for this coming session. So, that will be a key piece of our own agenda as well.

Mr. McPhail: Okay, the other thing I have, I got a call from a constituent representing the HOA in Saratoga; they are having difficulty enforcing their covenants, which we understand that. But she had been informed, by a past HOA member, that the Town of Plainfield had an Ordinance that restricted parking in cul-de-sacs. I had to tell her that that was not true, but she seemed to think that it was a safety issue. I guess they had an incident where they needed an ambulance and there were so many cars in the cul-de-sac that the ambulance had trouble getting through. I don't know if that's something that we should address and look at; I don't know how we could do that. I informed her that any regulation on parking had to be very specific in terms of location and duration and that type of thing. So, I just thought I'd bring it to your attention. I don't know whether the police department or fire department has had enough instances that we might take a look at that, but some of these neighborhoods are pretty packed with cars and I'd hate to be in an emergency vehicle and have to get through some of them. I told her we couldn't help her because they have covenants that restrict overnight parking and stuff like that; I said we can't help you with that, the HOA is going to have to take care of it.

Mr. Brandgard: Yeah, I think if there's an issue through the cul-de-sac (inaudible), we need to look at that. I don't know what we could do there, can't answer that until we (inaudible). That's another one for Jason and (inaudible) to look at. In my neighborhood they have an annual garage sale and I cannot drive a car down the street let alone get an emergency vehicle, so that's always a concern.

Mr. McPhail: That's all I had.

Mr. Brandgard: Okay, thank you

Mr. Brandgard: Lance?

Mr. Angle: No

Mr. Kirchoff: It's just good to see your smiling faces for a change, feels like it's been forever. It's good to be back.

Mr. Brandgard: Yes, it is.

Mr. Kirchoff: That's all

Mr. Brandgard: Okay, thank you



Mr. Todisco:

Mr. Bridget – yes

Mr. Angle – yes

Mr. Kirchoff – yes

Mr. McPhail – yes

Mr. Brandgard – yes

First Reading of Plainfield Ordinance No. 18-2020 is approved.

Mr. Brandgard: Thank you

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Brandgard: I'd like to express my thanks to the staff for working us through these last four months. And I'm also pretty proud of the fact that as far as our emergency responders go, we didn't have any instances of anybody getting the disease, although we had a hot pocket right next door to us with the state institution. We were able to get through it and I think that's – I'm commending the staff throughout the Town and also the fact that we got out at this early and got everybody the PPE that they needed. Again, I want to thank everybody: Police, Fire, and Public Works, as well as the Town Hall. If there's nothing else, I'd entertain a motion to sign the documents needing signed and adjourn.

Mr. Kirchoff: So moved

Mr. Bridget: Second

Mr. Brandgard: All those in favor signify by aye

(All ayes)

Mr. Brandgard: Opposed? Motion carried, thank you.

DocuSigned by:

*Robin G. Brandgard*

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Robin G. Brandgard, President

DocuSigned by:

*Mark J. Todisco*

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Mark J. Todisco, Clerk-Treasurer