

BROWNSBURG



SENTINEL

A News / Commentary Publication

Informative / Insightful

July - August 2017

PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY

Phil Parnin Resigns ! - Anne Sering



Brownsburg Parks Director is leaving after ten years. Philip Parnin resigned sometime following the July 27, 2017 Town Council Meeting. The date is not as important as the fact

Brownsburg is losing an outstanding leader who always portrayed a calm demeanor no matter the controversies swirling around. Wise for his years, his words of encouragement and optimism gave hope to his staff. Since Phil has been in the field of Parks and Recreation for 25 years, Brownsburg is truly experiencing a loss. Phil stated, "I have worked my way up through Bloomington Parks, Monroe County Parks, Munster Parks, and Mooresville Parks to the best Brownsburg Parks".

When asked about his biggest achievement, Phil responded, "... positioning the department for future successes. The department has a solid foundation to build on." I remember that under the leadership of Park President Jim Mangus the department developed a business plan that is continually evaluated. Since then documentation of all aspects of Parks Management have been prepared. Presently the department is working on guidelines for the maintenance department, scheduling on-going maintenance and tracking unplanned tasks such as removing graffiti. When asked what he hoped his replacement would accomplish Phil responded with, "more than I did."

As far as achievements, Phil was too modest. Besides the internal changes Phil did not mention, I believe the biggest achievement was the Splash Park. Since the hope for a swimming pool in Brownsburg has been dashed for more years than I can remember (30 years, at least), Parnin came up with a substitute idea (the splash park) that the children of Brownsburg can enjoy and improved on it the following year by replacing and updating a nearby playground for the younger children. The various trails have been improved and expanded. Christmas Under the Stars has been a repeating success. Phil has continually taken the lemons he has been given and replaced them with lemonade. Plans for a community center have been presented and shelved. I remember contributing to a fund to turn the College Avenue gym into a community center more years ago than I can remember. For those of you not aware the College Avenue Condos now sit there. Even today, the tug of war between commercial land and park lands continue.

Phil's immediate plans are to spend some well-deserved time with his family, helping a friend with a wood working project, and completing some of the larger tasks needed to be done around his home before starting his new job. When I asked if I'd be seeing him at any Town meetings, he responded, "I do not know if I will attend any meetings as a citizen. I suppose that depends upon what is being considered and how that might affect me as a citizen. So we will have to wait and see." That was a selfish question on my part as I hate goodbyes and miss seeing acquaintances I have seen on a regular basis.

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You may not receive the governance you vote for, you always receive the governance you tolerate. -- The Editor

July/August - Town Council Highlights



July 13 - Ms. Bascu opened the meeting and indicated that only three members were present. There were no citizen's comments related to the agenda because there was a public hearing for Cadence. Ms. Bascu then read a proclamation Kool Kids Day on July 17, 2017.

Todd Wallace gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. As of mid-July, the schedule has moved back a month due to the rainy May and June.

Old business for the night included the second reading and public hearing for the Cadence project annexation on 700N. The Reed Estates home owner's association spokeswoman came to the podium. The homeowners association has wanted to meet with the developers and the town council. They had finally have been able to speak one on one with the developer and Mr. Jessen spent time with the association. She thanked both groups for meeting with them. Next up was Kurt Disser, he first commented that he was disappointed the Mr. Kleinhenz and the two council members were not in attendance. He then questioned the legality of the annexation while the land was part of north annexation. Another homeowner asked how the land could be annexed voluntarily when the land is part of the litigation for north annexation. The attorney sitting in for the town attorney stated he would get that information back to the town council members if they wanted the information. Next the owner of the property, James Fisher, came to the podium and indicated that he wanted the annexation to go through with or without the Cadence project. On that note, the motion was approved on second reading.

Next on the agenda was new business. The main ordinance on this evening's agenda was a change to the Unified Development Ordinance to amend the enforcement section of the UDO. The town had not set a schedule for the fines for multiple violations. Currently it is an informal process but the new wording makes the process formal. The proposed changes to the process would give steps before getting to the fine stage. The motion was approved on first reading.

The other ordinance was an ordinance to adopt zoning text changes to the UDO. There are approximately 90 changes to the wording. This is moving forward with the Advisory Planning Commission with a favorable recommendation. This was approved on first reading.

There were two items under town manager items. First was the waiver of the fee for the Bow Wow Bash Event which was approved. Next was the background on why the town approves the crossing guards for the school.

July 27 -- Ms. Bascu opened the meeting and indicated that all members were present. During citizen's comments regarding the agenda, John Rabold talked about the UDO changes on code enforcement. He requested to only vote on second reading so that amendments could be made to the UDO.

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LETTER TO / FROM THE EDITOR

July 28th -- "Since my post [on social media July 28th] about the parks, I have been threatened over the phone not once, but twice. I have received messages saying they are boycotting my restaurant. I have been told I better stop going to Town Council meetings and stop posting on FB. Let me take this opportunity to say, that the only people I am 'aligned' with is my family. My passion comes from wanting Brownsburg to fully reach its potential as an amazing place to raise a family. It's the driving force behind our community involvement. So believe me when I say, the 2 most important 'associates' in my life, are 6 & 7. Everything I do, is for them.

While my resolve remains undiminished, I am going to take a break from social media for my sanity and my family.
Be good to each other. . -- Ron Mathews, Brownsburg Indiana

[The letter above serves as the preface for the Letter FROM the Editor Unstable rogue elements a problem for everyone, The Editor]

The TRUE cost of incentivized development.

I'm going to put aside for a moment the arguments against incentivizing private enterprise over public projects. I won't get into the effect of creating unfair competition against local, established businesses. I'm not going to bother objecting to the fact that most beneficiaries of tax incentives aren't actually interested in cultivating business in our community, but rather pocketing the profit that comes once they sell their multi-million dollar development thanks to generous tax gifts.

I don't want to dredge up another firestorm over proposed recreational centers, swimming pools, business suites and parking lots. If there is one positive that comes from this whole mess that used to be the St. Malachy property, it is that people have taken it upon themselves to get involved. Town officials defending against the outrage have asked citizens to "Gather facts, instead of believing the gossip..." Well, here is a dose of facts that should have you questioning ANY project with three little letters attached: TIF

Tax Increment Financing is a tool for promoting economic development. The premise is this: The town has a collection of property that the town can collect property taxes on. If a development, or rejuvenation project occur in an area, the property values will go up, which means more property taxes to collect. The town does a complex calculation to determine if incentivizing a development by providing taxpayer money will raise property values in that area enough to offset the tax gift via increased property taxes. Confused yet? Good.

You have a house worth \$100,000. Your annual property taxes are

\$1,000. If you were to spend \$25,000 to add on a sun-room, your new property value would be \$125,000. Your new property taxes would be \$1,250 annually. You go to town and ask for a gift of \$5,000 to build your sun-room. If your taxes increased by \$250 annually, it would take 20 years for the town to earn a return on its investment. Of course it isn't just the value of YOUR home that increases, but the whole neighborhood bumps up just a little bit too! So, the town gives you money for your project. Over the 3-5 years, the property values in your neighborhood are going up at 3% per year, almost like clockwork. Sounds like the TIF was a success, except...

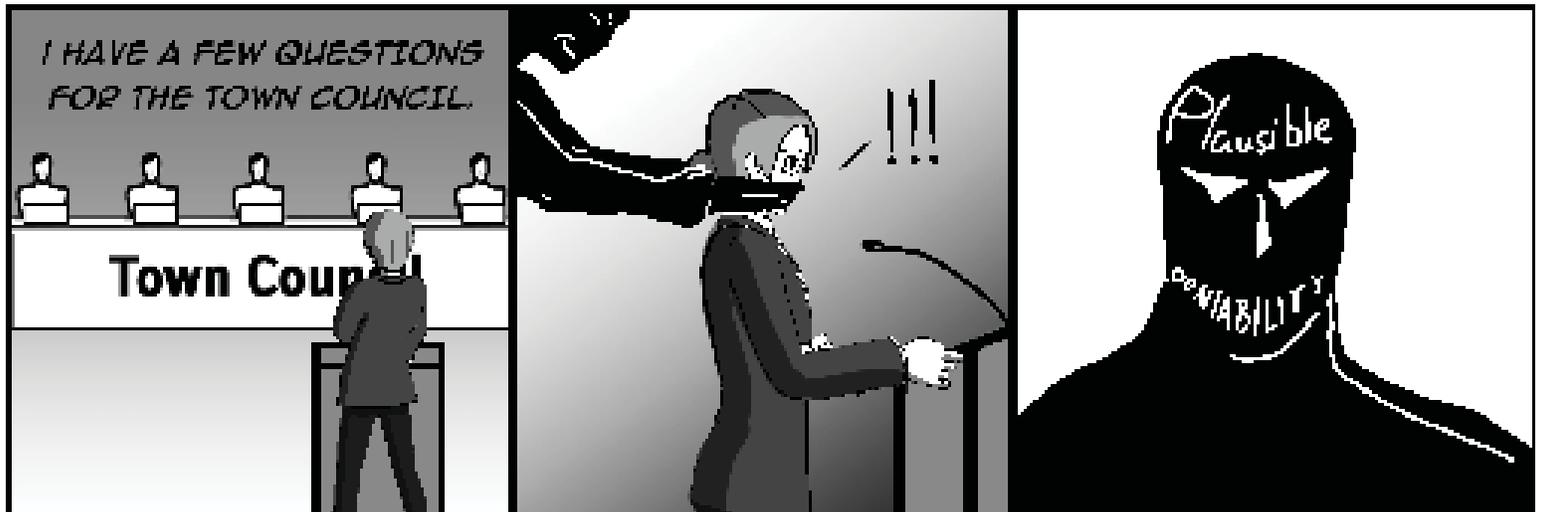
When a TIF area is drawn, there is a base assessment that is done. This would be the original \$100,000 that your house was worth. The assumption is that without the investment of building your sun-room that your property value wouldn't have increased at all. So when the town calculates the increased portion of future property taxes, it fails to recognize that you, like everyone else, see your tax bill increase annually. This fact is important, because this Base Assessed Value will continue to distribute property taxes the way it would have normally, while the increase will go to pay off the bond that the town used to secure your \$5,000 gift.

You see, despite what the town would have you believe, all of your tax dollars do not go directly to the town. The State, County, and Townships need services too. Yes, the town is operating with their "slice of the pie" so to speak once they invest into projects, but by drawing a TIF area, the town robs everyone else of the increases that would have happened organically. So while the project benefits, all other services in the area are stretched just a little bit thinner. That Based Assessed Value will stay stagnant throughout the neutralization period until the bonds are paid off. No additional money for schools, police, or infrastructure come from this TIF area until the bonds are paid.

So while the town administration is literally betting on the fact that the town will grow, they continue to choke off the very funds that are needed to support that growth. There's only one option: areas outside the TIF zone now have to pick up the slack, and so they get squeezed at an accelerated rate to make up the difference *Continued on pg 3.*

Phil Parnin Resigns ! - continued from 1

Phil's final comment was, "I have had the pleasure to meet and work with many dedicated people from our community to better our community. I am going to miss that the most. Things may not always be the way each one of us would like, but collectively things are best of what could be. Brownsburg is such a great place, I hope most people recognize that." -- Anne Sering



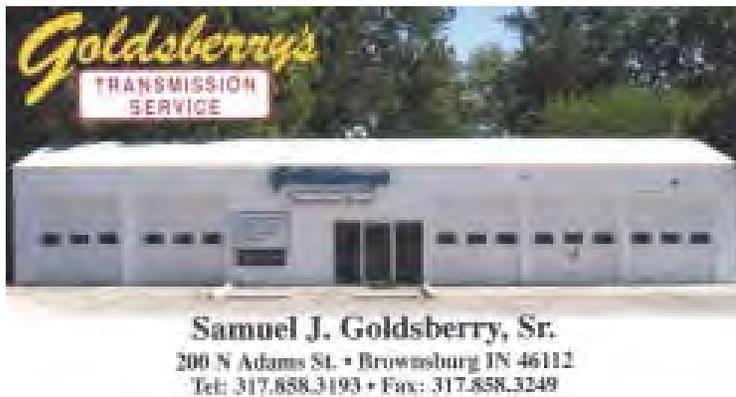
Letter TO the EDITOR- *cont. from pg 2*

The TRUE cost of incentivized development, So to re-cap: whether it is a \$28M Rec center, or a \$5M business park Tax Increment Financing all works the same:

1. The Town will borrow money by selling bonds, for which they must pay interest
2. The money is given to a developer in direct incentives, land deals, and tax breaks
3. The developer sells his new building 3 years later at market value, pocketing the taxpayer's money
4. Taxes inside the TIF area are increased on a predetermined schedule to guarantee the bonds get paid
5. Taxes outside the TIF area are increased to cover the increased demand on schools, police, fire territories, public utilities, infrastructure, etc. that the TIF Area's taxes would have covered
6. The town administration congratulates themselves on creating a wealthier town from which they can collect even more of your tax dollars
7. They start looking at the next development, to do it again.

This land-grab to recover as much property tax as possible under the TIF model will not last forever. If we are going to use TIF to fund projects, at the very least make it a project where everyone benefits, and not just the developer who is looking to flip multi-million dollar properties with guaranteed profits paid for by taxpayers.

-- In Solidarity, Carl Williams



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Letter FROM the EDITOR- *(The Editor)*

Recently, Brownsburg led the nation in a very troubling area. Thankfully, doing so, outside the mainstream media's spotlight. Long before Charlottesville, and later Boston, where people rallied exercising their right of freedom to assemble and freedom of speech, repressive elements in town, new or present for years feeling their "agenda" threatened lashed out in the only manner they know how.

These unstable rogue elements whose true numbers are unknown, are generally thought to be an insignificantly small percentage of Brownsburg and surrounding area's total population. These people have behaved in this manner before, in 2013 targeting remonstrators, the founding of the publication in 2014 (with intermittent activity to the present day), the 2015 Brownsburg School Tax Referendum, as well as other individuals who have been targeted for one reason or another through the years.

Like any group of thugs, individually they may not agree on all matters; yet they form a loosely based association(s) when common goals and objectives are present.

These thugs share a number of other things in common. They are unable to verbalize their desires by generally acceptable means various public legislative forums for example, and/or are unwilling to step out of the shadows to allow their names, and faces be associated with what are likely wholly unpopular position(s). Fearing they will not get their way, they instead turn to (nefarious / heinous) means to achieve their objectives.

Some of those actions were targeted against Ron Mathews see his comments he posted July 28th in social media (see page 2 top left of this publication). Ron's crime in their contorted view? Exercising his right to speak at various town boards and council. His advertisements have been "censored" in this edition as a result. Other actions targeting individuals tires were slashed, bricks thrown through windows (see pages 5 and 6 of this publication).

Their actions had a secondary purpose-- feebly targeting businesses deemed in their minds "associated" with this publication, threats to their businesses in the form of attacks, and loss of revenue by not patronizing their business while they were "associated" with this publication.

Their actions show their extreme level of cowardice for not contacting this publication directly, and a high level of ignorance regarding why this publication was created, how it is funded, and clearly underestimates the resolve of the editor, writers, and supporters (known and unknown) to ensure this publication receives all matériel needed to remain in print for many years to come.

This publication suggests-- Please stop using "middle men" and direct your concerns in a civil, nonviolent manner at the perceived source(s) of your problems. Be that this publication and/or elected, hired, or appointed public servants.

To the people mentioned above -- wide spread collateral damage, and attempted pacification by dishonorable means, ultimately undermines your goals and objectives, in the minds of the majority.

In this publication's case, please summon the courage to meet me face to face, and talk out our differences at a date, time, location, and duration of YOUR choosing. We may not agree, but in the end I am confident we will both walk away learning something new.

Publisher / Editor - David Weyant

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July Brownsburg Parks Board - *by Anne Sering*

The Brownsburg Parks Board met on July 20, 2017. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting. If one misses a meeting one can always the meeting archived on the Town web site. I have spent time looking over the slides from the presentation from the 2017 survey and the 2012 survey on the Park website. By the way, these surveys are necessary if the Parks Department hopes to apply for grants. Surveys are often a prerequisite for showing need and use of existing facilities. The five-year period is not accidental either. I also have spent time listening to the citizens' comments from the meeting. I will address these two topics in this article. The figures on the survey are based on respondents and are felt to be statistically sound.

First, I was surprised at the little change in the ages of people in a household in five years. The number of those 55 and older had not changed and represent 18% of the total. Those between the ages of 24 and 54 dropped 3% while those less than 24 went up 2%. As expected, Arbuckle Acres, Williams Park and the B&O Trail were the most visited. The 2017 survey added the Town Green, Maple Ridge, and Gateway as destinations. The Cardinal Property showed the greatest drop in usage undoubtedly because it is in transition from being an undeveloped athletic field. Stephens Park and Cardinal properties were rates as having the poorest upkeep.

With respect to activities, Fourth of July, Christmas Under the Stars, Summer Concert Series, Festival of the Arts, Easter Egg Hunt and Learn to Swim Programs continued in the same order of popularity. Added to the activities offered was B.A.S.E (Before and After School Enrichment) which was used by 10% of the respondents. The main reason for attending a program was location. (Perhaps we wouldn't have to go to Danville, Avon, or Plainfield plus we might participate more frequently, 'we don't need a community center' person.) The unfavorable rating (6%) of the quality of programs dropped one-third in five years.

The needs of the respondents had changed little in five years. Walking and bike trails still lead along with indoor and outdoor pools, nature center and trails, Indoor fitness and park shelters, picnic areas and playgrounds. The need for a multi-generational community center dropped. However, since we haven't had a community center (Eaton Hall and the Town Green don't cover it) in years, the amenities that could be offered are no longer current in peoples' minds. As to how the facilities are meeting needs, both surveys show more unfavorable rating than favorable with the 0% always out-weighting the 100% satisfaction. Similar results are reported for programs meeting needs. And even sport offerings are not meeting most needs. Three things wanted that do not now exist are a swimming pool, a dog park and a community center.

What could a multi-generational community center provide? The list of activities suggested is as follows: Walking /running track, indoor pool (leisure swimming, lap swimming, warmer water for therapeutic activities); performing art theater, space for classes (art, theater practice, pre-school and senior programs); space for banquets, parties, meetings; indoor sports fields, and (of course) a rock climbing wall.

How do we pay for operating costs of such a facility? The opinion has not changed much in five years. 17% feel it all should come from fees, while the number feeling it should come 100% from taxes went up from 2 to 4%. Those feeling a majority of the cost should come taxes dropped from 37% to 31% while those feeling the majority of support should come from user fees dropped from 44% to 42%. A new choice was offered in 2017: 6% had no preference. And how much additional tax revenue are people willing to improve the pay for Parks system? 16% don't want to pay anything but 22% are willing to pay an additional \$9 or more per month with the rest willing to pay \$3 to \$8 a month. 31% would vote for a tax increase while 22% are

against. It is apparent there is still much disagreement. Remember, this was my view. The presenter and the Board may have interpreted results somewhat differently and in more detail.

The second thing I will address in this article is the comments from citizens and the Board. I was appreciative of the fact that Ron Matthews, Donna Stout, and Jen Cox showed up to express their support for a community center and for Troy Austin for always being ready to stir the fires by disagreeing. It is unbelievable to me that he would text Jen Cox as she spoke. Since I've mentioned Troy I might as well tell what caused him to leave the comfort of home and his computer to show up at the meeting. First, he feels it is right to 'protect the taxpayers'. He evidently feels that turning over town lands and facilities to whomever will take it for a portion of its worth is a positive. (The town officials have their buildings as do the fire territory and police. Where is the community building – the front lawn and port-o-pots?) And to nit-pick Jen's comment that she paid 14.7% to Brownsburg when her 14.7% actually supports the Fire Territory; technically correct but Jen Cox has supported Brownsburg 147% more than Mr. Austin.

Donna Stout spoke the least, asking what we can do as a community. President of the Board, Carrie Parma, replied that she was doing what was needed. Appear before the Park Board and bring your neighbors, and attend Town Council meetings.

Ron Matthews expressed his frustration about the stagnant progress of the Parks. He said he was driving to Greenwood to play adult softball because the Park east of town had no vacancies. Evidently Steve Latimer asked him after a previous meeting how often he used the parks. He asked the Board how often members of the Town Council used the parks and "Who do we want representing us?" Park Director Phil Parnin responded with a lengthy explanation of the what has brought us to this point stating such comments as "this is a conservative community", don't oversell and under deliver", dialogue has to be held". Ron also mentioned that providing buildings for restaurants does not have him complaining about competition as was one excuse for not providing exercise machines in a community center as some owners of exercise establishments have stated.

Jen Cox, President and establisher of Brownsburg Older Adult Alliance, explaining the role of her organization with respect to the need for a multi-generational community center. She stated BOAA is working toward having their own center but would continue to support the goal of a Brownsburg Community Center. She stated that by it being provided by Brownsburg, Brownsburg would support it and that a visible location would make a big difference citing her success upon moving the Relay for Life from West Middle School to the Town Green. When Scott Latimer asked how we get township support, Parnin spoke up to say it was not impossible. The Brownsburg Library gets tax dollars from town and township citizens by way of an agreement. (Jen also mentioned it is difficult to address the Township officials when they only have 3 meeting a year, no web site and post notice of up-coming meetings on a door.)

Board member Phil Utterback was the last to speak. He expressed appreciation for those citizens who took time to attend the meeting and speak, the many positive comments he received concerning the 4th of July parade, and praised the summer camps put on by B.A.S.E. and their handling of a situation with a camper. --

Anne Sering

CENSORED

July / August Town Council - *continued from page 5*

Next was a proclamation for National Farmers Market Week August 6th through the 12th and Brownsburg Farmers Market Day on August 10th. The other proclamation was for the 34th National Night Out on Aug. 1st.

Reports from commissions and boards were from the police department and fire department. The police department is moving forward with recruitment of new personnel. They want to make provisional offers for the two vacant positions by mid-October. The fire department report swore in 8 new fire fighters on July 7th. Two more recruits have been hired and will train in Plainfield. The Fire Marshall position was filled by Steve Jones.

First for old business was the annexation of the Cadence Project on 700N. There were no comments. The ordinance was approved 5-0. On approval, the notice was placed in the Hendricks County Flyer and the public has 30 days to challenge the continuity of the property.

Next was the second reading of the UDO changes on fine enforcement. This evening there is an amendment to the ordinance to change the appeal process to the town court. Mr. Worley suggested a reporting requirement to the ordinance as an amendment. The ordinance was approved on second reading with the two amendments.

During Town Manager items, Mr. Kleinhenz indicated that the 2018 budget will be ready to be discussed at the end of August on the 30th. Mr. Kleinhenz indicated that the CAGIT fund split will stay at 51/49. Also, the trail underneath I-74 should be completed by the end of August.

Citizen's comments brought up several people to talk about the sign ordinances especially around garage signs being taken down. Next the owner of Brownsburg Fitness asked to be involved with the recreation center process so that it does not impact his business. Ron Mathews came up to talk about signage when it comes to business signs. The main discussion was around a guarantee from the town that as the commercial growth downtown increases that more land will not be taken from Arbuckle Acres. He did not get an answer. Next up was Donna Stout to support a community center especially for the BOAA. Last to the podium was Jen Cox commended the town for meeting with the Parks Department.

August 10 - Ms. Bascu opened the meeting and indicated that all council members were present. No one came to the podium for citizen comments on the agenda but that will change at the end of the meeting. They then accepted the Minutes from July 27th meeting and the consent items.

During the Park Board report, it was announced that Phil Parnin's last day was August 9th and that Travis Tranbarger has been appointed Interim Director while they search for Phil's replacement. Travis did clarify that there would be 66 acres of the original 68 acres would still be a park.

Next was previously considered items, there was a voluntary annexation to be able to hook up to water and sewer and the other was a vacation of an alley to the town. Both were public hearings with no one coming to the podium and were approved unanimously. The last previously considered was the change to the unified development ordinance to give a time frame and fines for violations to the town code. The ordinance was passed unanimously.

Next was new for consideration which consisted of two ordinances. The first was the fiscal plan of the earlier voluntary annexation which was passed on first reading. The second was to give additional appropriation for expenses associated with the Southside drainage

and Tilden Road improvement project. Mr. Kleinhenz said the bond issue did not contain any contingency dollars. The project went over by about 4%. It is completed but the Town cannot pay the final bill without having more money appropriated by the Council. This was an advertised public hearing which no one came to speak. The resolution was approved 5-0.

Town Manager items contained two comments. First there is a ground breaking for the Flaharrey and Collins project on August 23rd at 10am. Envoy has made good progress—foundation is poured and the elevator shaft is being completed. Scannell is clearing land and when that is completed they will also have a ground breaking ceremony. The county is preparing the reports about the legal drains within the Town limits. Mr. Kleinhenz asked for a two week extension for the report. Citizen's comments brought up Kathryn Ransburg an attorney who lives in Brownsburg. I believe in good governance with accountability especially when it involves the community which is why I am speaking this evening.

Like many residents with a Brownsburg address I have read and followed primarily on social media and elsewhere the concerns and various worries about the town's plans with going forward with the rec center including the inability of people to get information. I absolutely believe that many concerns could be addressed by the town council making a concerted effort to be more transparent and communicative with the public starting with its not user friendly website access to public documents should not be this hard. No doubt there is a couple of hundred kids at Brownsburg High School that can help you with that but that is not my primary reason for being here.

In the last few weeks I spoke with several members of the community specifically about the relationship between the Parks Department and Board, the Town Council, its various departments and the role each has to play in the creation of the rec center. In those conversations a disturbing theme kept appearing and

what I heard was that members of our community your constituents are being threatened and harassed for daring to exercise their legal and constitutional right to complain to their government and to demand answers to their questions. At least, two people have received multiple phone calls and threats over the phone and there has been one incident of slashed tires which is also perceived as a threat. They were being told to stay quiet, to shut their mouths and stop attending town council meetings to speak up about the rec center. It is believed that these threats and acts of violence are happening at the behest of people opposed to the creation of the rec center and who are employed by the town of Brownsburg. People also shared with me stories of being threatened and harassed by these same individuals in prior political campaigns, legal disputes and even in neighborhood association conflicts. At the very least, these people feel empowered to engage in these types of alarming, divisive behavior without fear of retribution. I am not a person who is easily intimidated but I have to admit that I had a long conversation with my husband before coming here to speak

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**“All Tyranny needs
to gain a foothold is
for people of good
conscience to remain
silent.
Any government that
allows its own systems
to be threatened for
daring to speak out
engages in tyranny and
terrorism”**

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Town Council *continued from page 5*

this evening. In the end, I remembered the words of Thomas Jefferson who said "All Tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent. Any government that allows its own systems to be threatened for daring to speak out engages in tyranny and terrorism" and my conscience will not allow me to remain silent.

"...if people are getting tires slashed, afraid of bodily injury or having rocks thrown through windows need to come forward"

Dennis Dawes

In closing, I remind members of the town council that you are elected officials and as such you are responsible not only for your own words and actions but for the words and actions for those you hire and employ. I know that some of you have been made aware of this situation privately but none have been informed publicly. The people who have entrusted you with the well-being of their town are now asking you to look after their well-being as well. If you choose not to take the necessary steps to address this issue then I can promise that your citizens will take the necessary steps to find town council members who will. Thank you for your time.

At the end of her speech, Mr. Benham asked for evidence to be provided so that HR actions could be initiated. Ms. Ransburg stated that she would relay the information but could not guarantee because people are afraid. Mr. Dawes then reiterated that if people are getting tires slashed, afraid of bodily injury or having rocks thrown through windows need to come forward to any member of council if they are scared. She again stated she would pass it along but was not sure if people felt that they could come forward.

August 24 - Ms. Bascu opened the meeting and indicated that all members were present. No one came to the podium to discuss items related to the agenda for the evening. There was a bid award this evening for the Cardinal Park and recreational Trails program of 1.3 million. The Park Department wants to re-bid the project instead of awarding the bid this evening. This will be moved to 2018 budget. The other bid award was the synchronization and signal cabinet upgrade project to finish the connection with INDOT. The bid by Midwest Electric was accepted.

Next was the Police Department report by Chief Joe Grimes. He wanted to reiterate that the NHRA drags over Labor Day weekend it will be a heavy traffic weekend. The drug task force working in Brownsburg completed at least 7 raids with significant results. On August 15th, the emergency task force was activated for one of the raids. On that same day was the shooting at the Home Goods parking lot which resulted in one death. The Brownsburg Police Department has received many compliments of how the department worked on both deployments. He also noted that an off duty officer came upon a person in a medical emergency and rendered aid until other officers arrived and the person survived. Chief Grimes will be submitting the three officers for Distinguished Service Awards.

The Fire Territory report was given by Asst. Chief Rinehart. They are getting

..On Aug. 15th The Brownsburg Police Dept. deployed the Emergency Task Force twice, once to assist federal, state, and local elements on a combined task force raid and later for the Home Goods [domestic violence] parking lot shooting..

Chief Grimes

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BCSC Board of Trustees Rpt.- *Anne Sering*



The Brownsburg Community School Corporation Board of Trustees met on **July 10, 2017**. This was the final Board meeting before the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. An executive session was held on July 24. Not paying attention, I showed up and was gently told I was not welcome. I did manage to get in one question to Superintendent Jim Snapp. When I told the Board, I was anxious to learn about how many new students had enrolled he

gave me a number (possibly 287' if I am recalling correctly) but said there would be some students who won't be returning to Brownsburg and the total number may go down. It will be interesting to learn the figures once school has started.

The newly hired Asst. Superintendent Christopher (Cory) Ebert who is assigned to this year's Freshman Class and will follow them through to graduation. Mr. Gardner went over the Transportation and General Fund Budget prior to the release of the final budget numbers in August. At the September Board meeting a public hearing will be held followed by the Board's vote at the October meeting.

In Mr. Voigt's absence, Dr. Snapp made a tour of the construction sites and took pictures. The new terrazzo floor brightens up the hallway in West Middle School.

Mrs. Heffernan reported on the upcoming events sponsored by the Brownsburg Education Foundation and new Board members. I had expected to see the names listed on the website but they were not available.

Mrs. Beebee, President of the Brownsburg Teachers Organization, addressed the Board to talk about the Teachers Appreciation Grant provided to classroom teachers. Her complaint was that the restrictive legislative guidelines interfere with local control as to how the money is appropriated. (It is always amusing to me when a certain party which preaches less government control adds more government control to policies.) Later in the meeting Dr. Snapp presented the first reading of the Board Policy as it related to the Teacher Appreciation Grant. Of the teachers, 45% qualified as highly effective and 46% as effective. The highly effective teachers are rewarded with an increase in pay of \$1.96 per day while effective teachers receive \$1.47. I believe, in the past, the total amount received by the corporation may have been divided up equally among all teachers and support staff such as the teacher-aides with the blessing of the teachers' organization. Having attended Board workshops I can vouch for the fact that all faculty members are team members and help and complement one another. Board Member Kim Armstrong found the \$2.00 per day "ridiculous" and mocked the grant's description as "appreciation". Mr. Utterback expressed hope there could be compensation for all providing the budget could support it.

In other business Mrs. Gordon presented the first reading of Support Staff Handbook. Some changes pertained to the use of social media and background checks being increased to every five years for every employee. Mrs. Gordon did mention that the police were very good at informing the corporation whenever questionable people moved into the area. Mr. Gardner said Prairie Farms bid to supply milk to the schools was \$3000 less than the other bid received. Mr. Gardner also recommended approval to Adopt the Preliminary Bond Resolution and Reimbursement Resolution.

Lastly, Dr. Snapp said that as of July 4th, 48 new teachers had been hired. In addition, he was also proud of the way Brownsburg responded to the news of a missing child and the support offered to the family.- *Anne Sering*



Town Council *continued from page 6*

“...Chief Grimes will be submitting the three officers for Distinguished Service Awards.”

ready to promote three firefighters. They have two recruits in the Plainfield recruit academy.

This evenings meeting went rather quickly. The reader can look at the wastewater treatment plant update on the town's website. The contractor is ahead of schedule at this time.

There was no new business and the old business was for heard quickly. The next item was a resolution to approve the Brownsburg Improvement Committee recommendations. A total recommended spend of around \$51,000 on 7 different projects. Over the years the grant program has helped 45 businesses with just over 1 million dollars of grants. The Town Council approved the resolution 5-0.

Citizen comments brought up Melissa Reed had a couple of questions. First a question from Gary Warren who wanted to know the outcome of the Savor Thyme building? It will not be moved but will be demolished. She then asked about the upgrade to the video cameras. The answer was they are looking at it but the numbers are not in the budget binder. -- *The Editor*

Brownsburg “BIG GO” Block Party



August 22nd - The town of Brownsburg once again brought its community together in front of Town Hall, for the fourth annual Brownsburg Block Party. Members of the community gathered on the lawn for a night of family fun, games, and even autographs from racers from the NHRA. Along with the racers, there was face painting, and bounce houses to keep the children occupied while parents got the opportunity to enjoy the car show, and live music performed by the Indianapolis rock band “BYBYE”.

Brownsburg residents in attendance took notice of the numbers of people at the gathering, and especially enjoyed the activities for the kids. Jennifer McCauley and Mary Ann Stone, who have attended the block party before, expressed that they believed it was good for the community to get out and get together, and to meet new people. Resident Kendra Mallory echoed the sentiment, saying “It’s nice to see the town come out together”.

The event has grown over the years since its first one in 2013, and has helped garner a larger following of racing within the town. Lucas Oil Raceway worker Hayden Rook enjoys the event because of the interest that it draws. Local racing teams John Force and Don Schumacher Racing were in attendance to sign autographs and to highlight that nationals are fast approaching. The Mello Yellow Drag Racing series is set to host US nationals over Labor Day weekend at Lucas Oil Raceway, an event that Annisa Rainey calls “the super bowl of drag racing”. -- *Article and Photograph by John Fuson*

Publics Voice Into Budgeting Process Ignored

August 24th 2017 By evidence of their conduct, this town council has little interest in improving the Town of Brownsburg's budgeting process. A simple need recognized by many for years, requested upgrades the town hall web cam was ignored by ALL members of the council, and Grant Klienhenz (see this page left column).

In addition, given the publics heightened interest on the use of their tax dollars, the editor of this publication made simple no cost suggestion directed towards improving the process. Giving the voters a voice earlier in the budgeting process. The request provide the public via their website, all materials delivered at the upcoming August 30th budget meeting 48 hours prior to the meeting. Include public comments agenda line item for the public to provide their input as the budget was in its draft form. This request was met with silence from all members present -- Grant Kleinhenz, Brian Jessen, Dennis Dawes, Ashley Bascu, Chris Worley, Sean Benham, and Brian Hartsell. -- *The Editor*

B'burg vs. Bloomington South Panthers



August 18th - The Brownsburg Bulldogs opened their season with an impressive 51-14 victory over the Bloomington South Panthers. After Hunter Johnson graduated last year, there were questions about how the team would do without their top ranked quarterback. After the performance by Kyle Strakis on Friday night, rest assured that the Dogs are safe for this season.

After electing to receive, Brownsburg return man Dequincy Davis was able to set them up at the 50-yard line. From there, the Dogs took over, capping off the drive with a four-yard rush by RJ Decker. After a three and out by the defense, Kyle Strakis connected with Bryce Kirtz for a 32-yard touchdown pass, the first of four that he would have on the night. After another three and out which included a sack by Lawson Aiken, Dequincy Davis showed off his speed again and took the ensuing punt all the way to the end zone. From there, Brownsburg never looked back, and jumped out to a 44-0 lead at halftime.

Brownsburg cooled down following the halftime break, and was unable to muster much offense during the second half. Outstanding defense was on display, with the Dogs holding Bloomington South to a field goal attempt and a turnover on downs with their backs to the end zone. The Panthers showed their grit, and were able to find the end zone twice after forcing two turnovers. Brownsburg retaliated at the start of the fourth quarter, when return man Armon'te Carter took the ensuing kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown.

An overall dominant performance can still be viewed as a learning opportunity. For head coach John Hart, the biggest thing that stood out to him was how hard his team played, however he knows that their fundamentals need plenty of work. “I’m really happy first game wise... we have to get better though”. The Dogs look to carry the momentum from this victory into next Friday when they travel to Lawrence North. - *Article and Photograph by John Fuson*

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