

## COMMON COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, was held in the Breck Auditorium at the Shelbyville High School on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Councilwoman Means-Davis opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Councilman Adams followed that with a prayer. Six members were present with Mayor Furgeson presiding. Councilman Harrold was absent.

Mayor Furgeson entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2026 regular meeting. Councilwoman Sanders made that motion, and Councilman Johnson seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Under old business, was the request for a continuance of Ordinance No. 26-3052 Annexation of Certain Real Estate or the second reading of Ordinance No. 26-3052.

Mayor Furgeson chose to explain the necessity for both requests being on the agenda before the vote. He felt that the council had heard the petitioner and the public, suggesting that more time might be beneficial. He believed a continuance was appropriate, allowing the council more time for "educational purposes" to perform their due diligence. The Mayor noted that the petitioner, Prologis, had the right to sue the city if proper procedure was not followed. Therefore, he viewed this delay as a chance to slow down and address questions from both the public and other council members.

Councilwoman Means-Davis requested an independent environmental study of the proposed data center site. The study is crucial, in her opinion, to determine the effect the 13 proposed buildings would have on the local landscape, using an unbiased source. She emphasized the need to examine the basic geology and identify any potential negative impacts from the data center, particularly ensuring neighboring farms are unaffected. The study should specifically address impacts on the water table, water runoff, and issues related to neighboring wells, as construction at other sites has caused problems for neighbors.

Furthermore, Councilwoman Means-Davis called for safeguards to mitigate concerns regarding noise and noise frequency. She cited her visits to four data centers over the past 12 days, noting a significant difference between a site with excellent noise barriers (using trees to conceal the center) and another with none, stating she would not want the latter in her own backyard. She also encouraged the ordinance committee to meet and develop specific ordinances for data centers, mentioning that she would like to collaborate with council members from Shelby County Council to form joint requirements to better protect their neighbors.

Additionally, Councilwoman Means-Davis raised several points, welcoming the annexation but emphasizing the need for more information. She asked follow-up questions regarding power supply, which Prologis had previously addressed at the last meeting, along with water consumption. They have been told, not by Indiana American Water, that water tables would be unaffected, she requested to see supporting reports. Additionally, she sought clarification on the capacity of the city's treatment plant to handle the incoming water and the process of water treatment. Ultimately, while recognizing the potential benefits of the annexation for the city, she stressed that the Plan Commission required sufficient time to review the land outside of the current city limits. She expressed hope that, with adequate planning time for the annexation, the land would be actively utilized following its rezoning.

There being no further comments or questions, Councilman Johnson moved to grant the petitioner a 30-day continuance, extending the matter to the February 18th meeting. This time is intended for gathering additional details and information. Councilman Reed seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

There was no new business to discuss.

Under miscellaneous business, Mayor Furgeson announced that city officials met with Reedy Financial Group to discuss the proposed rate increases for the wastewater portion and stormwater portion of the city utility bills. There will be a formal presentation at the next city council meeting, on February 2nd, to discuss these changes. There will not be a vote on the matter, only a discussion.

Under comments or requests for citizens, Councilman Johnson outlined the procedure for public comments, proposing that each of the individuals who signed up be allowed one minute to speak, with the total public comment time capped at 60 minutes. Speakers would be limited to one address per person, and comments must be directed toward the Council.

Clerk-Treasurer Scott Asher instructed citizens to line up in groups of five, and he indicated that a bell would be used to signal the end of each person's allotted time. A list of speakers will be attached to the meeting minutes in the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

The proposed development prompted a lengthy and passionate public comment period during the council meeting, lasting for more than 30 minutes. A substantial number of residents came forward to address the council directly, presenting a wide range of questions and objections concerning the project. The core concerns raised by the community centered on the potential strain on public resources and infrastructure, specifically addressing issues related to increased water consumption and the existing electric grid's capacity to handle the new demand.

Residents also expressed concern about the project's potential environmental impact, including the probable increase in noise pollution for adjacent properties. Furthermore, they voiced serious worries about potential health risks, citing serious illnesses such as cancer, neurological, and kidney disease. Economic aspects were also a significant point of contention, particularly the granting of tax abatements and the potential negative effect on surrounding property values. Finally, a pervasive theme in the objections was the perceived accelerated or rushed nature of the project review process, leading to calls for greater transparency and more time for public input and thorough governmental review.

In response to an inquiry about a 140-acre property that had already been annexed and zoned, Mayor Furgeson clarified that the developer, Prologis, holds an option to purchase the land, but the sale was not finalized.

Before adjournment, Councilman Johnson adjourned the meeting after thanking participants for their time. He encouraged residents to continue sharing their concerns and inquiries via email, phone, or text message. All questions raised at the meeting will be addressed as soon as possible.

There were no further comments, questions or requests from citizens, and there were no further reports from committees, boards or commissioners.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Furgeson entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Johnson moved to adjourn the Common Council.

ATTEST:

  
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Scott Asher  
Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Scott Furgeson  
Mayor