

Dissension

continued from Page 1

Mayor Alumbaugh initiated the legal action after taking office in 2016. The civil lawsuit was halted by Superior Court 3 Judge Warren Haas late last year when he found that the statute of limitations had run out before the City took legal action. His ruling was sustained by the Indiana Court of Appeals and the City is now awaiting a ruling from the Indiana Supreme Court on whether the suit can continue.

Thus far, legal expenses, mainly to the Indianapolis law firm of Ice Miller, are believed to be about \$1.6 million.

The City Council, with a 7-2 Republican majority, began questioning the expenses and the source of the money to make the payments immediately after Alumbaugh entered his second term in January.

Most recently, the Council submitted a list of 11 questions to the administration and the Mayor’s office provided 83 pages of response, mainly copies of documents and receipts, which Councilman Brian Cowgill described as “not acceptable.”

The mayor and his advisors did not attend the Council meeting at which

the documents were presented. Their absence became a central complaint from some Council members and the Council voted to initiate legal action, if it believed it necessary. And an additional list of questions was submitted to the mayor and Controller Julie Flores on July 2, along with a request that the four administrators appear at the July 7 Council meeting.

In a July 7 e-mail from City Attorney Hunt to Council President Cain, Hunt said, “the Mayor and his team will not be attending the meeting tonight. Instead we propose to meet with the Council at its Aug. 4 meeting.”

“We will come prepared to answer financial questions about the Y litigation, but I have to make it clear we will not answer questions about litigation strategy or our plans in prosecuting the case.”

The issuance of the subpoenas came late Friday after Alumbaugh spoke publicly for the first time in several weeks.

“I have no idea why some people on the council are being so difficult, especially considering their threats to issue sub-

poenas for my team to appear before them, he said in his regular Friday appearance on “Good Morning Grant County” on WBAT radio. “I want to make it clear that I will not be intimidated or bullied by their threats,” he said.

“It is no secret that what some of the members of this Council want is to exercise many of the powers and duties assigned to the Mayor by Indiana law,” Alumbaugh said in a prepared statement.

It marked the first time that Alumbaugh has publicly responded to criticism from some of the nine council members, dating back to the beginning of his second term in January.

Later Friday, is it believed, Alumbaugh and Council President Deborah Cain spoke personally for the first time in several weeks and are believed to have scheduled a one-on-one meeting this week, although the conversation is believed to have occurred before the subpoenas were prepared.

In formulating its approach to the mayor, the Council, under the leadership of Council President Deborah Cain, conducted several executive sessions

and caucuses that may have been in violation of the Indiana Open Door Law.

And, in the midst of that activity, the council changed lawyers, replacing Phil Stephenson with Martin Harker. Harker is believed to be a key advisor to several council members, including Cain and Brad Luzadder.

In a letter from Harker addressed to Hunt on Friday, Harker admonished the mayor:

“The Mayor’s refusal to appear this week will not slow down the Council’s investigation and monitoring of the City’s finances,” he said.

“It is regrettable that the Council has had to invoke this formal legal process in order to obtain certain timely answers from this Administration,” the Council’s lawyer said to the City Attorney. “Finally, Council President Cain hopes that the Mayor will be more respectful of the Council and the residents of Marion by attending all regularly scheduled Council meetings in the future without the necessity of the formal subpoena process.”

The first indication of the stormy relationship between Alumbaugh and the Council came early in the year when the mayor sought council approval of redefining the job and title of Chief of Staff Flynn, a plan Alumbaugh presented as essentially administrative reorganization. He wanted to rename the job “deputy mayor.” It was defeated, 6-3, and set a voting pattern that has persisted through other issues. Councilmen Jim Brunner, Gary Fordyce and Mike Cline voted with the mayor, while Cain, Luzadder, Brian Cowgill, Steve Henderson, Don Batchelor and Robin Fouce voted against. Batchelor and Fouce are the lone Democrats on the council.

As the mayor and his staff have pursued the legal action against the Seybold administration, the council members have become increasingly concerned with the costs of the lawsuit. All acknowledged that the fees and related costs over four years of litigation are at \$1.6 million, with more to come if the Indiana Supreme Court reverses a lower court ruling and allows the suit to continue. That decision is expected in the next two to three months.

4-H announces

2020 royalty, show winners

4-H Royalty

Queen: Abigail Strange  
King: Garrett Scher  
Princess: Kortney Goff  
Duchess: Hannah Strange

4-H Scholarship and Award Winners:

**2020 Indiana 4-H Foundation Senior Scholarship received from the Richard Ladd Scholarship Endowment:** Anna Morehead and Garrett Scher  
**2020 Farm Bureau Tenure Award:** Wyatt Stephenson and Klayton Kitts  
**2020 4-H Ambassadors:** Quentin Carr and Hunter Wolf

4-H Swine Show

Grand Champion Barrow: Kristin Goff  
Reserve Grand Champion Barrow : Braylon Carey  
Grand Champion Gilt: Kortney Goff  
Reserve Grand Champion Gilt: Jackson Manwell  
Novice Showmanship: Champion: Aleese Warnock and Reserve Champion: Caiden Myers  
Junior Showmanship: Champion: Addison Carey and Reserve Champion: Cameron Turner  
Senior Showmanship: Champion: Matthew Strange and Reserve Champion: Brandi Hodupp

4-H Beef Show

Grand Champion Steer: Hayley Jarck  
Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Collin Cates  
Grand Champion Breeding Heifer: Austin Clock  
Reserve Grand Champion Heifer: Lilly Edwards  
Grand Champion Market Heifer: Abigail Sneed  
Reserve Grand Champion Market Heifer: Isabel Roush  
Novice Showmanship Champion: Elayna Cates  
Junior Showmanship Champion: Lilly Edwards  
Junior Showmanship Reserve Champion: Isabel Roush  
Senior Showmanship Champion: Hayley Jarck

4-H Pet Show

Best of Show: Kathleen Robinson  
Runner Up Best of Show: June Burtner

4-H Poultry Show

Grand Champion Duck: Shakira Collier  
Reserve Grand Champion Duck: Brandtley Richey  
Grand Champion Commercial Poultry: Landon Killman  
Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Poultry: Landon Killman  
Grand Champion Exhibition Poultry: Drew Combs  
Reserve Grand Champion Exhibition Poultry: Elizabeth Winche  
Grand Champion Bantams: Landon Killman  
Reserve Grand Champion Bantams: Ethan Winchester  
Grand Champion Geese: Tashielie Harpham  
Reserve Grand Champion Geese: Rebecca Fansler  
Grand Champion Turkey: Tashielie Harpham  
Reserve Grand Champion Turkey: Elizabeth Winchester  
Grand Champion Exotic Bird: Tashielie Harpham  
Reserve Grand Champion Exotic Bird: Shakira Collier

4-H Goat Show

Grand Champion Dairy Wether: Olivia Legg  
Reserve Grand Champion Wether: Brandi Hodupp  
Grand Champion Pygmy Wether: Lucy Lopez  
Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy doe: Corey Templin  
Grand Champion Pygmy Doe: Claire Templin  
Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Parker Kelly  
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Rosin White  
Grand Champion Meat Goat Does: Brandtley Richey  
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Doe: Morgan Cates  
Novice Goat Showmanship: Dawson Daugherty

See Results, Page 12



Gayle Armes  
Funeral Director



Danielle Nelson  
Funeral Director



Amy Downing  
Prearrangement  
Counselor

ARMES-HUNT

FUNERAL HOME &  
CREMATION SERVICES

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College Park Chapel

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Marion, IN 46953

765-573-6500

Jones-Smith Chapel

259 N. Main St.

Upland, IN 46989

765-998-2101