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May 29, 2026

President Green,

I am requesting that you make a formal inquiry to Mayor Ridenour, in your role as the president of Muncie City Council, regarding the status of contract negotiations between the City of Muncie and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The last update Council received from the administration was in an email from the mayor on December 29, 2025.

City Council adopted the most current Collective Bargaining Agreements at the beginning of 2026 for both the Firefighters' Local #1348 and the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #87; but, we have yet to receive a resolution for the 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for AFSCME, Local #3656.

During the 2026 budget process, each Department Head included a 4% raise for their employees in their proposed budget. As then-Finance Chair, I questioned if the city had the available funds; Controller Craig Wright assured the Finance Committee that, even with decreasing property tax revenues as a result of SB1, the city could afford to give all employees a 4% increase given that Mayor Ridenour had pledged to subsidize the General Fund with \$900K in EDIT dollars. The Council verified the funding and adopted the appropriations in Ordinance 33-25.

The AFSCME employees are carrying the lion's share of the hardship our city employees experience as a result of the 'SB1 strategies' announced by Mayor Ridenour at his press conference last August; these include static wages in the face of increased health insurance premiums, a hiring freeze and encouraging full-time employees to transition to part-time status. Even under these circumstances AFSCME employees continue to give the city their best; I hold the firm opinion that feeling appreciated and valued by your employer goes a long way towards improving an employee's Quality of Life and Quality of Place, both of which Mayor Ridenour spoke of in his State of the Community address last March. They have earned and deserve this salary increase which was promised during the mayor's press conference last August.

The funding has always been there to provide these raises and invest in our employees. I am optimistic your inquiry will reveal that a 2026 CBA between the City and AFSCME which includes their salary increase is being prepared for submission to the Clerk's office for our July meeting.

Respectfully,
Nora E Powell