



## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

KAREEMAH FOWLER, CITY CLERK

### PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK COMPLETES HISTORICAL DIGITAL ARCHIVING PROJECT**

Shortly after City Clerk Kareemah Fowler took office, the Clerk's Office contracted with a local company to begin the scanning and preservation of the City's record books dating back to 1865. Today, the Clerk's Office is happy to announce that the record books are available for the public to view on the City of South Bend's website at <https://www.southbendin.gov/councilminutes>.

"Preserving the history of the City of South Bend is important to me as City Clerk, and I am proud to announce that our office has digitally preserved that history and made it available to the public," said City Clerk Kareemah Fowler. "In the Clerk's Office, we've enjoyed every stage of this process. We found ourselves looking through the pages as we went along, mesmerized by the discussions during the time when we were first incorporated, during the Great Depression and both World Wars. The digitization of the books will give people in South Bend the chance to learn about how our City dealt with those issues on a local level, just by visiting the City Clerk's website."

The books contain valuable information regarding the organization of early South Bend including the first City ordinances established as well as records of the early South Bend Common Council. The City's record books were hand-written up until 1901. The handwriting has begun to fade enough to make the books illegible in the near future. As the historian and archivist of the City, City Clerk Fowler is proud to preserve this invaluable piece of our City's legacy.

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