In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm with Council President Darryl Neher presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
June 5, 2013

Roll Call: Rollo, Ruff, Sandberg, Volan, Granger, Sturbaum, Neher, Mayer
Absent: Spechler

ROLL CALL

Council President Neher gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Sturbaum said he was strongly in support of the expansion of the convention center and the 1% food and beverage tax that would fund that expansion. He said this would be a regional center and that people from all over the area would appreciate and use the downtown facility.
He said there would be a benefit to the region as a whole, and that the 1% would be the same for everyone, and said there would be no disadvantage. He said a $20 meal would raise 20 cents for what he called the common good. He said that people across the region depend on jobs in Bloomington and he hoped that the action would be supported as the area's healthy economy should not be taken for granted. He said the convention center trade would diversify the downtown economy instead of the default student oriented businesses that were proliferating in the downtown. He said mid-week and middle-aged convention trade would support businesses that made the downtown an asset for county residents as well.
He noted his year long membership in the Commission for Bloomington Downtown and said the center was too small to keep up with the business and said that the center was loosing clients that were growing out of the facility.

Susan Sandberg said that the Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee had finished the allocations for the 2013 round and that the agencies would be working on funding agreements with staff. She said the report would be presented to the council on June 19, 2013. She said it was difficult work, and thanked community members Skip Sluder and Mike Gentile for working along with council members.

Tim Mayer noted that Dick Schmaltz had passed away at 95 years of age. He said Schmaltz had accomplished a lot, worked with city officials and noted his work on boards and commissions of the city. He mentioned the special Schmaltz store on North Walnut.

Steve Volan thanked Bloomington Hospital for dealing with his recent case of appendicitis, adding it was his first time needing to use a hospital and was very appreciative of Dr. Greene and the nursing staff.
He agreed with Sturbaum's comments on the convention center expansion. He said the state was stringent on how a food and beverage tax would be applied with regard to the 1% number and that there was little flexibility on that allowance. He added that the tax could only be used for things that involved the convention center, and little that municipalities could do on their own without the permission from the state to raise these taxes. He said the state was the authorizing body and had only given this ability to Monroe County, not the City of Bloomington. He said the dollars could be divided in strict accordance with the law, but that there were very strict regulations on the use of the proceeds from the tax. He reiterated his support for the expansion and the tax. He likened this to outgrowing the old bus terminal.

Darryl Neher said that the food and beverage tax and the process of approvals were topics of discussion. He pointed people to resources of information in the Indiana Code 6-9-41 enabling legislation, and the website that contained research and debate points at investmonroecounty.com. He noted that these resources included the process by which the tax would be allowed, its use, and the debate as it would unfold in the community.

There were no reports in this segment of the meeting.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

There were no reports from council committees at this meeting.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

President Neher called for public comment.

- PUBLIC

David Parsons, as a tribute, read a list of street people who had died in the past three years. He said these people had names, lived in our city, and that perhaps some of the deaths could have been prevented. He said they only live in memories, but if they could speak, they might hope that their lives were not lived in vain.

Glen Carter said he had read comments by the mayor, council and residents that scared him as they represented to him a class divide. He worried about deaths and discrimination against homeless people by people he said had homes. He noted a homeless person had recently been dragged by a car just because he was crossing the street. He said most of homelessness was a consequence of economic conditions and that only 10-20% of homelessness was chronic, mostly caused by mental health problems such as addiction. He said medical societies considered addictions to be psychiatric illnesses and that this disease should not be a barrier in seeking shelter and a home. He said it was an impossible task to seek solutions to both problems at one time. He worried about there being no legal place to sleep after 11:00 pm.

Carter talked about how he has thrived in Bloomington for over twenty years after first arriving to enter a detox facility. He said he hoped that other homeless people who were nurtured here would do the same and that the community would benefit all around.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

It was moved and seconded that Landon Jones be appointed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commission.
The nomination was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded that Eric Spoonmore be appointed to the Board of Housing Quality Appeals Board.
The nomination was approved by a voice vote.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS

There was no legislation for final action at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

There was no legislation for introduction at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Conway said he would like to see more people speaking about homelessness more frequently and would like to see the issue get more coverage until some adequate resolution to the problem was reached. He said private conversations with council members dealt with implementation lag time, and policy lead times, and said he understood the public policy dynamics involved. He said that emergency stop gap measures could be taken while that policy was developed. He said strict enforcement of city codes to the detriment of people in stress was questionable, and asked that the city relax the rules. He said this would reflect well on the city until a more coherent policy could be constructed.
Conway also talked about a Community Reinforcement Approach to addiction treatment and its high rate of success, but added that it depended on the community stepping up to help.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Dan Sherman, Council Attorney/Administrator noted the upcoming internal work session scheduled for Monday, June 1, 1013.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

APPROVE:

Darryl Neher, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington