

Withdrawn

RESOLUTION 11-16

TO ESTABLISH A SLATE OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

- Whereas, standing committees define Council oversight of the functions of the Executive and provide a clear line of reporting for Administration officials; and
- Whereas, according to BMC 2.04.210, “committees may investigate other areas within their jurisdiction,” allowing for hearings to be held on issues not already on the Council’s agenda; and
- Whereas, according to BMC 2.04.250(c)(1), “the committee of the whole may consider only matters and questions referred to it”; and
- Whereas, every first- and second-class city council in the State of Indiana refers issues to standing committees rather than a committee of the whole, as does the third-class city of West Lafayette; and
- Whereas, the duties of board-and-commission nominating committees could be subsumed by standing committees in untelevised internal work sessions, ensuring more timely appointments to boards and commissions; and
- Whereas, only those who are members of a standing committee would be expected to attend an internal work session in anticipation of legislation referred to that committee, making those sessions more practical to schedule; and
- Whereas, no minutes are required to be taken during committee of the whole, when much of the significant questioning, discussion and debate on an issue is taking place, while standing committees “shall keep a memorandum of the proceedings and the recommendations made” (BMC 2.04.220);
- Whereas, many “me-too” and “what-I-said-last-week” statements come from Council members during Second Readings, making the Second Readings often redundant after a committee of the whole; and
- Whereas, Council members clearly desire to record the ayes and nays they cast in committee of the whole, as such votes are being recorded contrary to BMC 2.04.250(c)(5); and
- Whereas, standing committees, whose deliberations are non-binding, enable the City Clerk, who is part of the Bloomington “Common Council” along with the nine Council members, to participate in deliberations as an equal member of one or more standing committees; and
- Whereas, Council can set its priorities through the definitions of standing committees, which can sometimes transcend the definitions of existing city departments;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code 2.04.210 “Standing committees – establishment,” the following standing committees, which shall be composed of no more than three Council members and may also include the City Clerk, shall be established to oversee City operations:

(a) ARTS AND CULTURE. This committee oversees the Arts functions of the Economic and Sustainable Development Department (including the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District [BEAD]) and oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Bloomington Arts Commission;

(b) COMMUNITY AND FAMILY RESOURCES. This committee oversees the department of the same name and oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Bloomington Human Rights Commission;
- (ii) Commission on Aging;
- (iii) Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs;
- (iv) Commission on the Status of Black Males;
- (v) Commission on the Status of Women;
- (vi) Community and Family Resources Commission;
- (vii) Council for Community Accessibility;
- (viii) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commission;

(c) ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This committee oversees the non-BEAD aspects of the Department of Economic & Sustainable Development and the Redevelopment aspects of the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department. It oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association;
- (ii) Economic Development Commission;
- (iii) Bloomington Industrial Development Advisory Commission;
- (iv) Bloomington Commission on Sustainability;
- (v) Redevelopment Commission;

(d) HOUSING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. This committee oversees the non-Redevelopment aspects of the HAND Department as well as the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA). It is authorized to reach out to, discuss and coordinate policy efforts with Indiana University, IVY Tech College, Monroe County, and Monroe County Community Schools. It also oversees and, when applicable, nominates or recommends consent for persons to serve on the:

- (i) Board of Housing Quality Appeals;
- (ii) Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission;
- (iii) Housing Trust Fund Board of Directors;

(e) INTERNAL SERVICES. This committee oversees the Controller's Office, Human Resources, Information & Technology Services, and Legal and Risk Management, as well as the Facilities Maintenance and Fleet Maintenance divisions within the Department of Public Works.

(f) LAND USE. This committee oversees the Planning Department and annexations, and oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Board of Zoning Appeals;
- (ii) Environmental Commission;
- (iii) Plan Commission;

(g) PARKS & RECREATION. This committee oversees the department of the same name, and oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Board of Park Commissioners;
- (ii) Tree Commission;

(h) PUBLIC SAFETY. This committee oversees the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Animal Care & Control Division within the Department of Public Works. It oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Animal Control Commission;
- (ii) Board of Public Safety;

(i) TRANSPORTATION. This committee oversees Bloomington Transit as well as the Engineering, Parking Enforcement, Street and Traffic divisions within the Department of Public Works. It oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to server on the:

- (i) Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Commission;
- (ii) Board of Public Transit Corporation;
- (iii) Traffic Commission;
- (iv) Citizen Advisory and Policy and Technical Advisory Committees of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO);

(j) UTILITIES AND SANITATION. This committee oversees the City of Bloomington Utilities Department and the Sanitation Division within the Department of Public Works. This committee oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to serve on the:

- (i) Bloomington Digital Underground (BDU) Advisory Board;
- (ii) Telecommunications Council;
- (iii) Utilities Services Board.

Section 2. The Council Sidewalk and Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program committees shall continue as special funding committees without change in their authority or procedures.

Section 3. All previous actions of the Council establishing specific standing committees are hereby repealed and all nominating committees are hereby disbanded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2011.

SUSAN SANDBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2011.

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2011.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is co-sponsored by Councilmembers Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Volan and Wisler. It proposes a slate of standing committees for the management of the Council's legislative workload, as a regular replacement for exclusive reliance on committees of the whole.

In addition to providing practical time-management benefits, the naming of the standing committees gives the Council better tools for overseeing the functioning of the City, and clearer reporting lines for various departments. Standing committees make the development of legislation more predictable, as an official or petitioner will know who will be likely to hear the legislation in committee. These committees will also be able to hold hearings on issues that are not the subject of pending legislation, but may need to be; such hearings allow the Council to gather information and input without having to develop ordinances or wait for events to overtake the issue.

Standing committees can subsume nominations to boards and commissions, eliminating the need for nominating committees. The Sidewalk and Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program committees shall continue without change in their procedures as special funding committees.

Withdrawn