

RESOLUTION 12-04

FAILED  
AYES: 3 (Ruff, Rolfe, Volzan)  
NAYES: 4 (Neher, Starbuzum,  
Sandberg, Mayer)  
PASS: 1 (C. Angen)  
out of Room (Speckler)

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 clearer lines of reporting for Administration officials; 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, 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, 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, ensuring more timely appointments; 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); and
- 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 along with the nine City 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:

1. In accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code 2.04.210 "Standing committees – establishment," the following standing committees, which shall be composed of four Council members shall be established:

- (a) COMMUNITY & FAMILY RESOURCES. This committee oversees the department of the same name and oversees, and when applicable, also nominates persons to 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 Children and Youth
  - (vi). Commission on the Status of Women
  - (vii). Council for Community Accessibility
  - (viii). Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Celebrations Commission

(b) ECONOMIC & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This committee oversees the Department of Economic & Sustainable Development and oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to the:

- (i) Bloomington Arts Commission
- (ii) Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association
- (iii) Economic Development Commission
- (iv) Environmental Commission
- (v) Industrial Development Advisory Commission
- (vi) Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

(c) HOUSING & PLANNING. This committee oversees the Planning Department and the Housing and Neighborhood Development (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 persons to the:

- (i) Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission
- (ii) Board of Housing Quality Appeals
- (iii) Board of Zoning Appeals
- (iv) Housing Trust Fund Board of Directors
- (v) Plan Commission
- (vi) Redevelopment Commission

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

- (i) Board of Parks Commissioners
- (ii) Tree Commission

(e) PUBLIC SAFETY & ADMINISTRATION. This committee oversees the Departments of the Controller, Fire, Human Resources, Information & Technology Services, Legal and Risk Management, and Police, as well as the Animal Care & Control, Facilities Maintenance and Fleet Maintenance divisions from Public Works.. This committee oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to the:

- (i) Animal Control Commission
- (ii) Board of Public Safety
- (iii) Board of Public Works
- (iv) Police and Fire Pension Boards

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

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

(g) UTILITIES AND SANITATION. This committee oversees the City of Bloomington Utilities and the Sanitation division of the Department of Public Works. This committee oversees and, when applicable, nominates persons to the:

- (i) Bloomington Digital Underground (BDU) Advisory Board
- (ii) Telecommunications Council
- (iii) Utilities Service Board

2. The Council Sidewalks and Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding Program Committees shall continue and operate in the same manner, but as special committees as set forth in BMC 2.04.240.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY MAYER, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
REGINA MOORE, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK KRUZAN, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

#### SYNOPSIS

This Resolution proposes a slate of Standing Committees for the management of the Council's legislative workload.

In addition to providing practical time-management benefits, the naming of standing committees gives Council more tools for overseeing the functioning of the City, and clearer reporting lines for various departments. The use of standing committees would 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 can also hold hearings on issues that are not the subject of pending legislation, but may need to be; such hearings allow Council to gather information and input without having to develop an ordinance or wait for events to overtake the issue.

Standing committees would subsume the responsibility of making nominations to boards and commissions, eliminating the need for dozens of nominating committees.

The Sidewalk and Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund Committees, having a limited mandate and ceasing to function after the mandate has been completed, fit the definition of "special," not "standing," committees. As special committees, they can continue operating exactly as they have been,