

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 6:34pm, Council President Dave Rollo reconvened a Regular Session of the Common Council originally convened on May 1, 2019.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 15, 2019

Members present: Ruff (arrived 6:35pm), Piedmont-Smith, Granger, Rollo, Volan, Sims, Sturbaum, Sandberg  
Members absent: Chopra

ROLL CALL [6:34pm]

Council President Dave Rollo summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:34pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that the Council structure deliberations on Ordinance 19-09 to limit council questions, public comment, and council comment to not exceed 20 minutes each.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND  
READING AND RESOLUTIONS  
[6:36pm]

Michael Rouker, City Attorney, welcomed any questions from the Council.

Ordinance 19-09 - To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” – Re: Amending Chapter 15.04 (Definitions), 15.56 (Bicycles, Skateboards, and Other Foot-Propelled Vehicles), 15.60 (Miscellaneous Traffic Rules), 15.64 (Traffic Violations Schedule) and Adding a New Chapter 15.58 (Motorized Scooters and Shared Use Motorized Scooters) to Provide for Regulation Governing Motorized Scooter, Shared- Use Motorized Scooters, and Shared- Use Motorized Scooter Operations.

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith asked for information about enforcement under the interim operating agreement.

Council Questions:

Rouker said the operating agreement allowed the city to enforce certain regulations regarding scooters blocking the sidewalk. He said the administration had hoped to have more permanent legislation in place, but would engage in enforcement under the operating agreement until such a time.

Piedmont-Smith asked how the fees from the scooter companies paid under the operating agreement had been used.

Alex Crowley, Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, explained that the fee was imposed as a way to offset costs, but it had not yet been spent on any enforcement efforts on the street.

Volan asked about the feasibility of parking scooters between the sidewalk and private property, as well as the feasibility of parking the scooter on the street near the curb.

Rouker said those ideas were still being discussed internally by staff. He noted scooter parking could affect trash pick-up and snow plowing. He said he could have more information for the Council the next time it met on the issue.

Volan asked what would happen if a scooter fell over into the street. He suggested that there would be a much faster response from the city.

Rouker said it was the intent of the city to thoroughly enforce non-moving violations.

Sturbaum asked scooter operators to comment on scooter parking in Indianapolis.

Ordinance 19-09 (cont'd)

Alex Freeman, General Manager for Lime, described where scooters could be parked in Indianapolis. He also noted that educating scooter riders helped with parking issues.

Granger asked for information about using an outside company to enforce scooter regulations, including the potential cost.

Rouker said it would cost \$140,000 to hire a company to do scooter patrols and to help the city enforce its regulations.

Granger asked if hiring such a company would help free up city staff time.

Rouker said the benefit of using a company would be to avoid a permanent addition to city staff when there was still so much information the city did not yet have about how much enforcement would be needed.

Sims asked if hiring a full time employee to enforce scooter regulations was the plan.

Rouker said it was one option among several. He said the city expected to recoup the costs of enforcement from the scooter companies.

Sims asked if allowing scooter parking in tree plots could pose problems for property owners charged with maintaining that property.

Rouker said it could. He noted there were trade-offs in deciding the most appropriate locations to park scooters.

Rollo asked if the 24-hour service line had been used and if complaints had been remedied in a timely manner.

Rouker said yes.

Sandberg asked what phone number people could call with complaints.

Rouker said he could find out and provide it.

Volan asked if there would be a single reporting line or a separate line for each company.

Rouker said there would be a number displayed on each scooter to call with complaints. He said he did not know if there would also be an independent line that people could call.

Randy Paul spoke about accessibility issues and scooters on sidewalks.

Public Comment:

Kaleb Crain spoke about accessibility issues and the need to ensure safety for all residents.

Alex Freeman, representative of Lime scooter company, voiced concerns with using an outside company to enforce regulations. He also noted the work Lime was doing to address accessibility concerns.

Valerie Merriam spoke about accessibility issues posed by scooters.

Jean Capler spoke about the risk posed by brain injuries due to scooter crashes.

Dave Derka displayed pictures to suggest ways in which scooters could be parked.

Brian Roach, representative of Bird scooter company, spoke about the efforts of his company to reach solutions for parking and usage.

Ordinance 19-09 (cont'd)

Sturbaum suggested that the scooter companies propose solutions to the problems that had been described.

Council Comment:

Piedmont-Smith said that scooter companies should have worked with the city and given more consideration to accessibility before launching their products. She urged the scooter companies to find an easy way for people to report violations. She said her main concern was accessibility and she wanted to continue having conversations to find a solution that worked for everyone.

Granger said she did not like scooters or bicycles on sidewalks. She also hoped to find a good solution for everyone.

Sims said scooter companies had not helped provide for the city's infrastructure that was being used for their products. He also did not appreciate that the city was left to address the problems created by the scooter companies.

Sandberg said she was not satisfied with the response of the scooter companies to accessibility concerns. She said she expected strict enforcement and leadership from the administration to help protect the most vulnerable community residents.

Volan said he still had concerns about enforcing regulations and responding to violations. He said the overriding concern was the speed of motor vehicles in the street that drove cyclists and scooter riders to the sidewalks.

Rollo said scooters could not be allowed to compromise accessibility. He said enforcement of regulations was essential.

Sandberg moved and it was seconded to postpone Ordinance 19-09 to the Regular Session on July 31, 2019.

Motion to postpone Ordinance 19-09

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on motion to postpone Ordinance 19-09

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

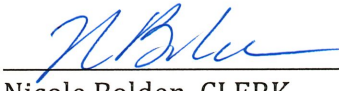
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 12 day of June, 2019.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

  
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Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

  
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Nicole Bolden, CLERK  
City of Bloomington

