

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, April 07, 2020 at 6:30pm, Council President Stephen Volan presided over a Special Session of the Common Council. Per the Governor's Executive Orders, this meeting was conducted electronically.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
April 07, 2020

Councilmembers present via teleconference: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:34pm]

Council President Volan summarized the agenda and stated that the items on the agenda were matters critical to the operation of the city government.

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Piedmont-Smith spoke of her frustration with the Supreme Court's decision to not extend absentee voting in Wisconsin and the recent decisions by Republicans at the federal level.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sgambelluri thanked those who attended her constituent's meeting and spoke of the next meeting in May.

Rosenbarger spoke of the opening of Cascades Park for biking and walking.

Mayor John Hamilton reported on the public health emergency, social distancing, organizations that provided emergency assistance, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

Alex Crowley, Economic and Sustainable Development Director, gave an update on the Economic Stabilization and Recovery Working Group (ESRWG).

Hamilton gave an update on the COVID-19 Social Services Working Group projects on behalf of Beverly Calender-Anderson.

There was council discussion following the reports related to the Farmer's Market, homeless shelters, a regional isolation center, and masks.

Sandberg discussed the upcoming John Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee meetings and application process.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 – To Specially Appropriate from the Food and Beverage Tax Fund Expenditures Related to the Convention Center Expansion and Support of Local Tourism During the COVID-19 Emergency

Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 9-0-0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 be adopted.

Philippa Guthrie, Corporation Counsel, presented the legislation to the council. She discussed the importance of using the funds from the Food and Beverage Tax as opposed to the General Fund and explained how that funding would be used.

Jeff Underwood, City Controller, said Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 would follow the normal allocation review process.

Alex Crowley, Economic and Sustainable Development Director, explained the allocation review process between various departments to receive the necessary funding.

There was council discussion related to the Food and Beverage Tax Fund, CARES Act funding, business size limits, criteria, employee protections, an appeal process, and funding sources.

Council discussion:

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 20-01.

Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 20-01

Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 Synopsis: This amendment adds a Whereas clause to explicitly address recommendations issued by the State Board of Accounts regarding expenditures by local units that relate to addressing the economic burden incurred by citizens and businesses as a result of the public health emergency.

Piedmont-Smith presented the amendment to the council.

There was no council discussion.

Council discussion:

There was no public comment.

Public comment:

There was no further council discussion.

Council discussion:

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 [8:29pm]

There was additional council comment related to federal funding and public disclosure of recipients.

Council discussion:

Randy Paul spoke against the expansion of the Convention Center and suggested diverting that funding to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Public comment:

Erin Predmore, President & CEO of The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, discussed the development of the Rapid Response Loan Program and her support of the legislation.

Jennifer Pearl, President of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), spoke in support of Appropriation Ordinance 20-01.

David Rooker spoke of his concerns with Appropriation Ordinance 20-01.

Vauhxx Booker spoke of the importance of the Council remaining vigilant to ensure the success of the Rapid Response Loan Program.

Susan Bright spoke about struggling businesses.

There was additional council comment related to council participation on the approval board, accountability, review criteria, and the economy.

Council discussion:

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 20-01 [9:09pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-09 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 20-09 - To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" and to Grant Authority to Act in Accordance with Declared Disaster Emergencies - Re: Amending 2.22.030 Entitled "Employee Policies" and Complying with the State of Indiana's Declaration of Disaster Emergency under I.C. § 10-14-3-12

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 20-09 to be referred to the Committee of the Whole on April 15, 2020 for report back to the Council on April 22, 2020. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Stephen Lucas, Deputy Council Attorney, reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

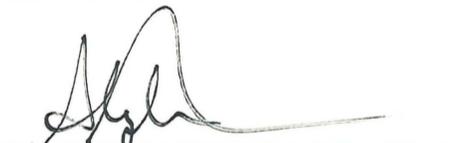
Rollo moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT [9:17pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 6th day of DECEMBER, 2020.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Stephen Volan, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington