In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:30pm, Council President Susan Sandberg presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council. Per the Governor’s Executive Orders, this meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom.

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

Council President Susan Sandberg summarized the agenda.

Rollo moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020, October 14, 2020, December 9, 2020, December 16, 2020, and December 21, 2020. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sgambelluri noted her upcoming constituent meeting to be held via Zoom that upcoming Saturday.

Sims noted the beginning of the Lunar New Year. He discussed Black History Month and acknowledged Beverly Calendar-Anderson and Shatoya Moss for their work on the City of Bloomington’s Black History Month Kickoff Celebration. He encouraged the public to look for more events at bloomington.in.gov/bhm.

Volan commented on the Eagleson Avenue renaming ceremony. He said he looked forward to the larger celebration ceremony that was scheduled in April.

Rollo commented on the Eagleson Avenue ceremony, noted that it was an important day in city history, and acknowledged those who were a part of the renaming task force.

Rosenbarger said that during the 2022 year her constituent meetings would be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Scott Robinson, Planning and Transportation Director, and Jackie Scanlan, Planning and Transportation Development Services Manager, gave a report on plexes as it related to Ordinance 21-23. There was brief council discussion following the report.

Mary Catherine Carmichael, Director of Community Engagement, introduced Jonathan Ingram from Novak Consulting Group to give a report on their review of the City Boards and Commissions. There was council discussion following the report.

There were no council committee reports.

Greg Alexander commented on a previous ordinance regarding fines for public right of way, and thanked the city for its’ implementation.
Sandberg acknowledged that there was an error in a committee assignment from the previous regular session1, and made the following correction to the following Council appointments: for the Climate Action & Resilience Committee: Flaherty (chair), Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, and Smith.

There was brief discussion with Clerk Nicole Bolden about how that change would be recorded in the minutes.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-04 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 22-04 be adopted.

Volan presented the legislation. He explained that the ordinance changed one seat on the Parking Commission from a mayoral appointment to a council appointment. He also noted that the legislation would restructure the Citizens Redistricting Advisory Commission, with the composition to include two members from the Democratic Party, two members from the Republican Party, and one Independent, reducing the total number of commissioners from nine to five.

Sims asked what type of feedback Volan had received from the administration regarding the change of seat on the parking commission.

Volan said that the seat has been vacant since August 2019, had previously asked the administration to appoint someone, and that the administration had refused. He commented that being in Bloomington, it shouldn’t have been difficult to find someone to fill the vacated seat. Volan welcomed anyone from the administration to comment regarding the vacant seat.

Carmichael noted it had been a struggle to keep the Parking Commission filled. She added that changing the seat from mayoral to council appointment was atypical according to state statute, but understandable.

Volan said he understood the challenge to fill the commissions. He reiterated that six of the nine seats were council appointments and that the proposed change did not go against state statute. He noted that the administration was still represented on the parking commission.

Carmichael said that there had been high turnover on all of the commissions during Covid, agreed it had been an issue with the Parking Commission, and apologized for not keeping it fully staffed.

There was no public comment on Ordinance 22-04.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 22-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

There was no additional public comment.

Volan moved and it was seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole scheduled for February 9. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

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1 Please see the minutes from the Regular Session on January 19, 2022.
Rollo moved and it was seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved by voice vote.