In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6:30pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
May 3, 2017

Roll Call: Sturbaum, Ruff, Chopra, Granger, Sandberg, Mayer, Piedmont-Smith, Volan (left at 7:07pm)
Members Absent: Rollo

ROLL CALL
[6:31pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION
[6:31pm]

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017 as corrected. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
[6:32pm]

April 19, 2017 (Regular Session)

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS
  [6:33pm]

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum spoke about the proposed changes to the national health care law.

Councilmember Dorothy Granger shared her disappointment with the state legislature and its last minute change to the budget bill that voided the annexation process for Bloomington.

Councilmember Steve Volan also spoke about his disappointment with the actions of the state legislature.

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith explained her disappointment in the president of the United States, who seemed to her to not understand Civil War History. She explained that the Civil War was fought about slavery, and spoke of the need for people to learn about history and from history.

Councilmember Tim Mayer spoke about IU Graduation weekend and wished all graduates well.

Councilmember Susan Sandberg echoed the sentiments of her colleagues, and stated that she would be speaking the following night along with the Mayor about the impact of the state legislative session. She then welcomed Deputy Mayor Mick Reneissen to speak about the results of a recently completed citywide survey.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES
  [6:49pm]

Mick Reneissen, Deputy Mayor, thanked the Council for allowing the City to conduct the first ever survey of the entire community for citywide services. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Department had used similar surveys in the past to gauge satisfaction levels of citizens with Parks services. He said those surveys helped the department to allocate resources and set priorities. He said that in October 2016 the City contracted with the National Research Center (NRC) to create a citywide survey. In addition to the scientific survey that was mailed out to residents, there was also a non-scientific opt-in survey (available online bloomington.in.gov/communitysurvey) that anyone could fill out. He commended Mayor Hamilton for taking a risk, as it was the first citywide survey of its kind to find out what citizens thought about city services. He introduced Ashley Perez de Tejada, with the NRC, to speak about the results of the survey.

Ashley Perez de Tejada thanked Reneissen, Matthew Wolf, and Mary Catherine Carmichael for their help in the survey process. She explained that she would be giving a high level review of the survey results and encourages people to read the 120 page report. She spoke about the response rate and survey methods. She noted the results had been broken down by geography, demographics, and certain benchmarks by which the City could measure itself.

Perez de Tejada explained that her discussion of the results would touch on four key findings. The first finding was that Bloomington residents enjoyed a high quality of life. She detailed the survey questions and answers that led to that finding. The second finding was that aspects of mobility were appreciated, but residents supported transportation improvements. She explained the reasons for that finding as well.

Councilmember Allison Chopra asked what residents said they liked the least.

Perez de Tejada said the lowest-rated item was anything related to traffic, mobility and parking.

Chopra asked what the second least-liked thing was.

Perez de Tejada said affordable housing and built environment.

Perez de Tejada continued and explained that the third finding was that a majority of residents commended the job city government was doing and were pleased with the quality of most services. She explained the evidence for that finding.

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum clarified how benchmarking services to the national average and other comparable cites worked.

Perez de Tejada explained how the NRC used the rating to determine whether Bloomington was above or below the average ratings for other communities.

Perez de Tejada said the final finding was that respondents were concerned about the homeless and overwhelmingly supported the city assisting supportive housing. She displayed a slide which detailed priorities and planning opinions of residents. She then said she was available for additional questions.

Sturbaum asked if there was a national benchmark for the concerns related to homelessness and housing.

Perez de Tejada said unfortunately not, as there had to have been at least five other communities that had asked that question for there to be a benchmark.

Sturbaum asked whether other communities were not experiencing those problems or were not talking about them.

Perez de Tejada said other communities had not included a similar question in their surveys.

Chopra asked if there was any data on how Bloomington's shopping and retail opportunities compared to other peer cities.

Perez de Tejada explained that Bloomington had asked about shopping and retail opportunities in a way that prevented that metric from being benchmarked.

Reneissen directed people to the City's website should they wish to view the full report. He said the administration would like to repeat the survey every two years to measure progress and would like to continue trying to improve upon all of the numbers.

Sandberg thanked Reneissen and said she looked forward to future such surveys.

- PUBLIC [7:19pm]

Sandberg called for public comment.

Jim Burton spoke in opposition to the previously planned annexation.

Bill Schmalz thanked the Council for its stewardship and for the sense of responsibility it brought to the community. He spoke on behalf of some residents from Area 2 related to the previously planned annexation.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS

There was no legislation for second reading.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

There was no legislation for first reading.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [7:25pm]

Sandberg reminded councilmembers of an upcoming internal work session, and determined who would be available to attend.

It was moved and seconded to hold a Special Session before the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. The motion was approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 17th day of May, 2017.

APPROVE:

Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington