

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:30 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 3, 2016

Roll Call: Mayer, Sandberg, Ruff, Volan, Piedmont-Smith, Chopra, Granger
Absent: Rollo, Sturbaum

ROLL CALL

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation.

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes for the Regular Session and Organizational Meeting of January 20, 2016 were approved by voice vote after a minor correction was noted by the Deputy Clerk Martha Hilderbrand.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Allison Chopra wished a happy birthday to Deputy Clerk Hilderbrand. Chopra said that she planned on having constituent meetings at Shortstop Café at 10 am on the first Saturday of each month, beginning in March, and thanked Councilmember Piedmont-Smith for the idea.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Isabel Piedmont-Smith spoke about the sign ordinance and due to a ruling of the Supreme Court, municipalities may not regulate signs. There would need to be a revision to the sign ordinance, which could lead to an abolishment of signs in the public right of way. Piedmont-Smith also noted partial demolition requests for historic properties had increased as more properties met the historic definition (50+ years), which would need to be addressed by the Historic Preservation Committee. Finally, Piedmont-Smith spoke about the petition to develop a new Mother Bear's Pizza location on W 3rd St., and reminded the public of the meeting for the Plan Commission Monday at 5:30.

Steve Volan said he had a question for Piedmont-Smith on historic properties, but decided to hold off questions until Council Committee reports.

Dorothy Granger reminded the public that February was Black History Month.

Tim Mayer reminded citizens that the kick-off for Black History Month would start February 4, 2016 at 6:00pm at City Hall with a reception and a program to follow.

Susan Sandberg thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their support of LGBT rights after the Indiana General Assembly blocked SB334, a bill to grant LGBT protective rights.

Council Attorney Dan Sherman offered a proxy statement from David Rollo disclosing informing to the Council that Rollo was a co-owner in a farm involved in the Bloomington Farmer's Market. A motion to accept the report was made and unanimously accepted.

Mary Catherine Carmichael, Interim Communications Director, introduced herself to the Council and stated that she was a lifelong Hoosier, 25 year resident of Bloomington, and IU alumnus. She said she worked at WFIU "Noon Addition" and "Ask the Mayor" radio programs. Carmichael was also a member of several nonprofit organizations, a ten year member on the Parks Commission, and thanked Mayor John Hamilton.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

Byron Bangert spoke on behalf of the Human Rights Commission (HRC). He said the purpose of the HRC was to promote equality. The HRC wanted to recognize the Downtown Resource Officer (DRO) program also known as the "White Shirts". The nomination was submitted to the HRC by Lisa Abbott, former Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Department. It was a collaborative program that brought police, social workers, churches, and businesses together to help with the complicated issue of homelessness. The award was presented to Police Chief Mike Diekhoff who thanked the HRC. Chief Diekhoff said the work helped to change the circumstances of those dealing with homelessness.

Ruff asked for the officers in the DRO program to be named and recognized.

Mayer thanked the officers and promised continued support for the program.

Sandberg thanked the officers and noted it was the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund that was used to start the program and recognized Social Worker Virginia Hall.

Volan asked why they chose to volunteer for the project. Officers responded that they saw value to the work and had seen results because of it. Volan continued saying that as a member of the downtown community, he had seen a noticeable difference since the program began.

President Ruff opened the floor for anyone connected to the program to speak.

Virginia Hall spoke and said it had been an amazing relationship. She spoke on how persons who experienced homelessness had a difficult time accomplishing tasks, and she said the DROs helped with even small tasks.

Forrest Gilmore spoke on the collaborative nature of the program and how it broke down barriers.

Ruff thanked everyone on behalf of the Council.

Volan asked Piedmont-Smith to clarify the definition of "historic building". She said she was unsure, but at the state level certain buildings were added. An additional qualification was if the age of the structure was older than 50 years. They went on to discuss the process for dealing with historic buildings and amendments made to them.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

President Ruff called for public comment.

- PUBLIC

Daniel McMullen showed a video on the history of health care insurance in America and voiced concern over the Affordable Care Act.

Piedmont -Smith gave the nominations for boards and commissions. Alain Barker was appointed to the Bloomington Arts Commission, Josephina Vergara was appointed to the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, Matthew Hanauer was appointed to the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth, and Valeri Houghton-Motley and Byron Bangert were appointed to the Human Rights Commission. The nominations were all approved by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There was no legislation for second reading or final consideration.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS

There was no legislation to be introduced at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

There were no comments in this segment of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

It was moved and seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting for February 10, 2016. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Cancellation of the Committee of the Whole meeting for February 10, 2016.

Council Attorney Dan Sherman asked if council members would be available for the Internal Work Session for February 19, 2016. The majority said they would be.

Internal Work Session February 19, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington