COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 17, 2016

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:32 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Granger, Sturbaum, Mayer, Sandberg, Ruff, Volan, Piedmont-Smith, Chopra
Absent: None

AGENDA SUMMATION

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the Regular Session of February 3, 2016 were approved by voice vote.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Allison Chopra noted that she was excited to appoint people to Boards and Commissions later in the evening.

Isabel Piedmont-Smith commented that her next constituent meeting would be held on Saturday, February 26, 2016 from 10 to 11am at the Monroe County Library in Room 2A. She said that Hopscotch Coffee, where she had her first meeting, had great coffee, but was a little too noisy for a meeting.

Steve Volan welcomed the students of Carl Weinberg's SPEA class that came to the meeting that night. He pointed out that councilmembers frequently circulated around both before and after meetings, and were happy to meet with citizens and tell them how meetings were run. He said that folks did not have to be students to get introductions to the council, and encouraged everyone to spread the word.

Dorothy Granger reminded the public that it was still February, and that it was still Black History Month. She also noted that there was still a lot going on and encouraged people to look at all of the opportunities and events being offered in the hopes that they would avail themselves of them.

Tim Mayer thanked the firefighters who had a busy January and early February. He asked for others to remember to thank the firefighters for their fine work and let them know that they were appreciated. He also thanked the Public Works Department for removing the snow, even on the recent holiday. He also thanked residents for clearing their sidewalks of snow.

Susan Sandberg offered thanks again to the Downtown Resource Officers who received an award at the February 3, 2016 meeting. She asked that the approved minutes include a correction to the name of the social worker who worked with the Downtown Resource Officers, since the minutes listed her as Vivian Hall, but her name was actually Virginia Hall.

Volan thanked Councilmember Sandberg for talking to the class while he was out of the room. He then corrected himself and disclosed that the class was not a SPEA class, but was instead a PACE (Political and Civic Engagement) class.

Andy Ruff read a letter that he wrote to the Indiana Legislature to develop awareness about how to reduce plastic waste, in particular single-use plastic bags. He reported that the state government had preemptively acted to prevent action on the local level. He thought that it was inappropriate for the state to change the state code in a

broad way that prohibited local government decision-makers from taking action. He explained that the initial intent was to take a more formal council action, but because the state legislature moved so quickly, there was no time to do anything except compose a letter to be signed by the council president. He also disclosed that all of the councilmembers supported the letter. Ruff then read the letter-*copy attached*- and stressed that it was not a council action.

- Council Members (*cont'd*)

Rollo thanked Ruff for writing the letter, and thanked staff for their research. He remarked that it was a bad precedent for the state legislature. He hoped that local and regional media would take note of what the legislature had done, and that he thought the issue deserved more attention from citizens.

Ruff said that it was up for action at the state level, and thanked Rollo for pointing out the hard work that the staff had done.

Piedmont-Smith voiced a concern about the minutes that the council had just voted to approve. She said that there had been several appointments to the boards and commissions that were not listed in the minutes.

Volan suggested that the council make a motion at the next regular session to correct the minutes, and asked Council Attorney Dan Sherman what he advised.

Sherman advised the council to amend their action.

It was moved and seconded to reconsider the approval of minutes to account for the corrections recently noted. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (CHLA)

Israel Fernando Herrera, Chair of the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (CHLA), reported to the council on behalf of the commission. He discussed several upcoming events and programs for CHLA, which included: Hispanic Heritage month in September and October, the Learn-to-Earn program, a literacy bill that went through the state legislature, and a school outreach program. He then introduced Ruben Marté, who was the Vice-Chair of CHLA.

Marté spoke about the subcommittee formed for public safety. He spoke about the commission's efforts to assist other agencies with translation issues, particularly with domestic violence. He noted that the county prosecutor's website had everything translated into Spanish, and they had a strong outreach program. He also spoke about the need for a Spanish speaker at the 911 dispatch center, and how CHLA offered to help facilitate hiring Spanish speakers. Last, he relayed that CHLA has also reached out to La Casa at Indiana University.

Maria Carrasquillo, from the government sub-committee of CHLA, spoke next about their efforts to better include Latinos in the political process. She spoke about the difficulties posed by language barriers, and what the commission had done to overcome them. Carrasquillo also recounted the committee's efforts to promote voting literacy. Finally, she informed the council of efforts to reinstate a Citizen's Academy in Spanish so that Latino citizens could better understand how the government worked.

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs (*cont'd*)

Rollo commented that language seemed to be a major barrier. He asked if the commission had looked into the use of smart phone apps to fill in the spaces until further action could be taken. Marté responded that it was a good idea, but also expressed the concern that it was often an issue of improved timing. He stressed that the system used in Monroe County was used throughout the country, and would benefit most from having a Spanish-speaker on staff.

Volan declared that he was excited about the prospect of taking Citizen's Academy in Spanish in order to improve his own language skills. He then queried as to whether everything the CHLA members had said was in their annual report, if they in fact produced one. Carrasquillo responded that they would make certain the council got a copy of their annual report.

Rollo inquired what the city could do in terms of outreach. Marté and Herrera both responded by listing several media outlets and agencies that they used for outreach. Rollo speculated as to whether CATS could be of service. Marté agreed that it was a great idea.

Ruff thanked the members for their report and their hard work.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Council Committees.

- PUBLIC

President Ruff called for public comment.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Sue Sgambelluri and David Walter to the Redevelopment Commission.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Tom Coleman and George Hegeman to the Tree Commission.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Gwendolen White to the Commission on Sustainability.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Leslie Abshire as an Advisory Member to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Volan asked whether there was a provision for advisory members on the HPC. Ruff affirmed that there was.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Jim Rosenbarger to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Julie Hill to the Commission on Aging.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to appoint Marcus Debro and Mary Tourner to the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commission.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions (*cont'd*)

It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Abigail Pietsch and Sara Ryterband to the Traffic Commission, to appoint Lanny Haywood to the Traffic Commission, and to appoint to the one-year term Markeus Farrand to the Traffic Commisson.
The motion was approved by a voice vote.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 16-01 – To Approve Recommendations of the Mayor for Distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for 2016

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 16-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Bolden read the legislation and synopsis; there was not a committee recommendation.
It was moved and seconded that Resolution 16-01 be adopted.

Doris Sims, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, explained the allocation process for the distribution of the Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (as amended). She said that the city was an Entitlement City under the block grant program which meant that if the city applied for the funding each year they would automatically get the grant if they followed the procedures of the program. Sims reviewed the guidelines for the allocation of the funds. She noted citizens were involved in the extensive process of reviewing applications, attending hearings and making the recommendations. She noted and thanked Councilmembers Sandberg and Mayer who also sat on the committee. She also thanked the council for reappointing two of the Redevelopment Commissioners earlier in the evening. Sims also thanked the staff in HAND for their assistance. She pointed out to the council that the city received notification of their final allocation that day, and that it was more than anticipated.

Sims reviewed the recommendations of the fund allocations as follows:

Social Service Funding	
Boys & Girls Club-Crestmont Club	$24,765
Hoosier Hills Food Bank	$24,999
Middle Way House – Domestic Violence	$21,458
Mother Hubbards Cupboard	$21,458
Community Kitchen	$24,999
Physical Improvements	
Bloomington Housing Authority	
Crestmont Interior Building Renovations	$130,811
New Hope	
Facility Improvements of two structures on West Second St	$29,753
HAND	
Home Modifications for Accessible Living	$33.311
Boys & Girls Club	
Lincoln Street Renovation	$100,811
Life Designs	
Facility Improvements in North Dunn Street	$34,000
Middleway House	
New Wings	$19,000
Planning and Transportation	
West 17th Street	$55,000
Parks and Recreation	
Banneker Center's Retaining Wall Reconstruction	$68,000
HAND	
Curbs and Sidewalks	$39,258
CDBG Administration	$156,906
Total	$784,529

Ruff asked if Sandberg and Mayer if they would like to add anything at that point as chairs of the committees.

Sandberg said that she was delighted there was more money than they anticipated for all of the nonprofits. She thanked the committee for their work, and thanked Sue Sgambelluri in particular, who was

there that night. She said that it was a good process, and that it was hard not to fund everyone that came to them for help.

Resolution 16-01 (*cont'd*)

Mayer said that he was glad they were able to fund almost all of the projects to the full amount. He wanted folks to know that some of the projects had been ongoing on an annual basis, which allowed the committee to work closely with them over time. He especially noted that the façade on the Boys and Girls Club was a very small part of their project, and that they would be rehabbing the entire facility.

Rollo inquired about an emergency funding request from Shalom Center that was not funded, versus a non-emergency request from the Boys and Girls Club that was funded for roughly the same amount.

Sandberg answered that the Shalom Center request was for the Community Sheltering Project and was hastily written. But she noted that they received a grant from the BUEA for a years' worth of funding, in addition to another matching grant. She reported that because of the requirements of the grant application, the Shalom Center did not have all of the information needed. She concluded by noting that when all of the information was considered, she felt good about the decisions the committee made.

Sims added that the social service committee went through an extensive process, and looked at all of the information they could. She also underlined the need to meet all of the required elements, which the Shalom Center application did not meet.

Rollo asked about any redundancy for sidewalk funding.

Sherman clarified that this funding was in a different location.

Piedmont-Smith asked why all of the administrative funding went to HAND.

Sims explained that HAND was responsible for overseeing all of the agreements, contracts, and distribution. She noted that HAND made certain that all of the federal requirements were met, not the other departments.

Chopra asked why the numbers in the packet were different than the ones Sims gave in her presentation.

Sims stated that the final numbers had just been received that day, and that the numbers in the packet were only an estimate. She noted she consulted with Council Attorney Sherman, who pointed out the packet had a provision for the change in amounts.

Rollo asked for clarification on the process by which amounts were received.

Sims replied that the determination was based on a lot of different factors.

Rollo asked if that meant we would receive less the following year.

Sims said that she hoped not, but it really depended on factors that they could not predict.

Rollo said that it had implications for Jack Hopkins funding.

Sims noted that the amount of funding had generally decreased over the years.

Sturbaum asked if the additional $66,000 was already reallocated by staff.

Sims affirmed that the numbers she presented already had the additional funding included.

Resolution 16-01 (*cont'd*)

Piedmont-Smith asked for an email with the new figures. Sims said that she would be happy to do so.

Ruff called for public comment. There were no public comments, so he moved on to final council comments.

Granger commented that she appreciated the work that goes into this, and that she was pleased at the additional funding. She thanked Ms. Sims and everyone else on the committee for their work.

Volan joined in thanking the committee for its work. He commented that he was grateful that he did not have to do the work that went into making the recommendations.

Rollo also appreciated the work of the committee, and likened it to the difficulty of the work of the Jack Hopkins Committee because the need was so great. He said that it called for tough decisions in an open, public process. He ended by thanking the committee.

Ruff referred to the citizens who serve on the committee as unsung heroes because they volunteered their time with nothing in return other than the satisfaction of serving the community.

Mayer reiterated that the committee made a point of planning for if the allocation was higher or lower. He thanked Sims for the good news and the good work.

Sandberg thanked the individual members of the social services committee.

Rollo noted for the sake of the students in the room that every year, the fund got less money back. He said that these were our tax dollars that we sent to Washington, and every year we got less back. He said that every community was experiencing this, but that Bloomington was fortunate because it was more well-to-do than other communities of its size, and was able to fill in the gaps. He said he was disappointed to see the downward trend in funding.

Resolution 16-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Appropriation Ordinance 16-01

Appropriation Ordinance 16-01 – To Specially Appropriate from the General Fund, Parks General Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Parking Meter Fund, Fleet Maintenance Fund, and the Risk Management Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating a Portion of the Amount of Funds Reverted to Various City Funds at the End of 2015 for Unmet Needs in 2016).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments in this segment of the meeting.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Internal Work Session February 19, 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington