

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 4, 2015

Roll Call: Rollo, Ruff, Sandberg, Volan, Granger, Sturbaum, Neher, Spechler, Mayer
Absent: None

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of the following council meetings were approved by a voice vote:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 19, 2014 Special Session
- December 03, 2014 Regular Session
- January 14, 2015 Regular Session

REPORTS

Marty Spechler spoke of the favorable press coverage for the Healthy Indiana Plan, but said the truth is that everyone, even the poor, will be paying 'co-pays.' He said that this will still put a lot of folks of need into emergency rooms, which is more expensive health care. He said having the poor pay for their healthcare treatment on the basis of 'making the poor more responsible' is a fatuous idea and one that should be criticized.

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Sturbaum said he would soon have a report about his visit to the Congress On New Urbanism. He noted that the theme was that the most progressive cities have their future tied to transportation, more dependence on public transit for sustainable and affordable transportation and reliance on bikes. He said he had been slow to understand this concept, but it was an important thing to work out for the future of our cities.

Darryl Neher asked people to pay attention to Senate Bill 446 which he said would systematically disenfranchise students from the right to vote. He said that this would prevent anyone identified as a temporary resident from being able to vote where they lived. He said this had been proposed in the last session, and was pushed aside. He hoped that it would be pushed back again. He said that IU students played a big role in our city that they were impacted by the role of the city and state, and this legislation was wrong headed. He said it was an overt attempt to take away the vote to influence elections in the state. He said that there would also be an attempt to erode the city's local control, oversee landlords, and regulate apartments and rentals in our community. He said that we had a strong history of tenants' rights and that local control needed to be maintained.

Dorothy Granger noted that February was Black History Month, pointed out a calendar of activities for the month and encouraged people to attend them to find out what things make the community so great.

Tim Mayer talked about the emerald ash borer and referred to a recent article in the HT regarding the fact that McCormick's Creek State Park and Brown County State Park have begun removing trees to prevent spread of this. He said that the city of Bloomington had also been invaded. He said the city forester would be marking all the ash trees in the public right of way and would be determining the health of the tree, would treat them if possible, or destroy the tree. He said there would be many trees removed. He advised people with these trees on their property to seek professional advice because choices were limited, may be expensive, and it would be less expensive to save the tree than remove it. Rollo added that Parks would be addressing this issue soon.

Andy Ruff talked about the opinion of the US State Department that the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would allow exploration of the Canadian Tar Sands, would not have a significant impact on global climate change. He said the EPA issued recently that, because the XL Pipeline would reduce the cost to further exploit the tar sands, it would have a significant impact on global climate change. He said it might not be covered well in the media, he wanted to make sure local people knew that the EPA's conclusion was different than the State Department's.

Ruff noted that bicyclists needed to wear helmets at all times, paying particular attention to slick and sandy weather conditions.

Dave Rollo referred to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric and NASA release that noted global temperatures report from 2014 showed that year exceeded all past years for the highest global temperature. He said it was part of the trend as global temperatures were increasing each year. He said this was correlated with ocean acidification and showed a chart to this effect. He said this had implications for plant and fish life in the oceans. He showed a graph of the makeup of Bloomington's Carbon Footprint and noted the action needed by citizens. He noted the reports by various city boards and commissions regarding plans to be implemented to reduce that carbon footprint. He talked about the city's efforts to come to Platinum LEED status for city buildings, and other measures the city had sponsored to reduce the carbon footprint. He said other cities were able to achieve this, and that Bloomington could, also.

Steve Volan reported that the coming Saturday, February 7, 2015 would be the first day that callers would need to dial ten digits to make even local phone calls. He said both area codes 930 and 812 would be used in southern Indiana.

Beverly Calendar-Anderson, Director of the Community and Family Resources Department talked about Black History Month and the activities during the month in the entire community. She was joined by Debra Vance, Black History Month planning team who spoke about the theme: "What Excellence Looks Like." She spoke of the kick-off event, an essay contest and the 10th Black History Month Gala on February 28, 2015. She invited everyone to attend one or more events during the month.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

Reports from the Mayor/City Offices

- Black History Month Report
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Report

Vince Caristo, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in the Planning and Transportation Department talked about the city's path to the status of a Platinum Bike Friendly City designation from the League of American Bicyclists. He said the current award from the LAB was the Gold-level, which was awarded in October, 2014. He added that the award placed Bloomington in the top 25 cities for bicyclists in the country for transportation and recreation. He noted that Bloomington had over ten times the national average of persons using bicycles for commuting to work. He reviewed the Platinum Bicycle Task Force work and recommendations and reviewed progress since the 2010 actions. He added the programming, educational, and infrastructure improvements for riders that added inspiration and community building activities that were created by several local groups as well as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission.

Volan asked if Bloomington was on track to meet the Platinum level by the task force's 2016 target date. Caristo said there were four Platinum communities in the US, Boulder, Co; Ft. Collins, CO; Portland, OR; and Davis, CA. He said that their bicycle commute rates were about 12%, twice the rate of Bloomington's, and that it would take time for Bloomington to get to that point. He also added that feedback from the League of American Bicyclists was posted on the city website.

Neher asked about an upcoming bicycle ride. Caristo described the 4th Annual Horrible Terrible winter bike ride for the next weekend, and invited participation by everyone.

Sturbaum asked for the next big initiative commitment. Caristo said that expanding and connecting trail systems was an important goal. He added that the network facilities would need some work on the infrastructure, as well as encouraging more people to ride. Sturbaum asked if 'connections' more than painting was important to continue to develop. Caristo said innovative biking structures was important, and needed to be considered in the future.

Spechler asked about publicly available rental bicycles that he had seen in other cities. Caristo said that the public bike share system had a lot of interest locally and nationally, and it would be discussed at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission in the next week. He said it worked best in larger cities with dense transit networks and populations. He said it was a good way for tourists to see a town. Spechler asked if cyclists were encouraged to wear helmets. Caristo said it was the best thing that bicyclists could do for themselves.

Ruff expressed his appreciation to the staff for their work on this issue, and noted that it was difficult to recruit people to the understanding that they could use bicycles for transportation, especially when routes are a little more challenging to figure out.

Rollo asked if ridership needed to double in order for the community to achieve Platinum status. Caristo said there was no real formula as the goals were changeable. Rollo asked if the public should be called on to use the infrastructure.

Volan noted that bicycling was part of traffic as well as automobiles. He asked how the study counted IU students in the community data. Caristo said that the American Community Survey included students, and the data was collected over twelve months. Volan reiterated that students could receive this survey as well as any other citizen.

Rollo noted that the graph showed that ridership increased from .4 to .6 riders. Caristo said that although it didn't look like it, it was a large increase in the number of people bicycling. He thanked Caristo and also Scott Robinson, an alternative transportation planner who was also present for this report.

There were no reports from council committees at this meeting.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

President Rollo called for public comment.

- PUBLIC

Rita Lichtenberg addressed the council about the possible relocation of IU Health – Bloomington Hospital outside the city. She showed the names of persons on the local board to ask council members and the public to contact them regarding this issue.

Mary Catherine Carmichael, board member of the Court Appointed Special Advocates, spoke of the children in need of services, and asked that folks consider becoming an advocate for children who have experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

Daniel McMullen spoke of Citizens for Self Government. He asked the council to join this bi-partisan group.

There were no appointments to Boards or Commissions at this meeting.

- APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There was no legislation for final action at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 15-02 - A Supplemental Bond Ordinance of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, Supplementing and Amending Ordinance 05-35, Adopted on December 21, 2005, as Previously Amended by Ordinance 06-05, Adopted on March 2, 2006, All for the Purpose of Authorizing the Modification of Certain Contractual Rights of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, the Execution and Delivery of its Amended Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of 2006, Series A-1, and Approving Certain Related Matters in Connection Therewith

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING
Ordinance 15-02

Ordinance 15-03 - A Supplemental Bond Ordinance of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, Supplementing and Amending Ordinance 05-12, Adopted on April 20, 2005, as Previously Amended by Ordinance 06-04, Adopted on March 2, 2006, All for the Purpose of Authorizing the Modification of Certain Contractual Rights of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, the Execution and Delivery of its Amended Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 2006, Series A, and Approving Certain Related Matters in Connection Therewith

Ordinance 15-02

There was no public comment at this portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was moved and seconded that the council take Ordinance 15-01 from the table and refer it to the Committee of the Whole on February 11, 2015.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0

Ordinance 15-01 To Designate an Economic Development Target Area (EDTA) – Re: Property Located at 338 S. Walnut Street and Identified by the Monroe County Parcel ID Number 015-47812-00 (Big O Properties, LLC, Petitioner)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington