

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:30 pm with Council President Darryl Neher presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION  
October 8, 2014

Roll Call: Rollo, Sandberg, Volan, Sturbaum, Neher, Mayer  
Absent: Ruff, Granger, Spechler

ROLL CALL

Council President Neher gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-18 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 9-0-0. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-18 be adopted.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND  
READING

*CLERK'S NOTE:*

*The budget process lasted from May until October, which included 4 nights of budget hearings with each department in August, and a Committee of the Whole meeting in September. After the budget hearings, council members submitted their questions to the administration which yielded 77 pages of answers which were subsequently discussed in the Committee meeting.*

Mayor Mark Kruzan introduced this ordinance and reminded the council that this ordinance, as well as all other ordinances on the agenda, had been fully discussed during the budget presentations in August, and then again in September. He said that nothing in the budget had changed since those many hours of testimony. He said he would be happy to answer questions.

Ordinance 14-18 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2015

When President Neher called for questions from the council there were none.

Neher then described the budget process and the several different meetings for hearings, the first of which was in May. He noted the departure from past processes with the council submitting written questions for the department heads to answer.

There were no public comments.

Council Comment:

Mayer said the council wanted to thank the fire and police officers for their service.

Ordinance 14-18 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Volan)

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-19 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 9-0-0. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-19 be adopted.

Ordinance 14-19 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana for the Year 2015

There were no council questions.

There were no public comments.

Council Comment:

Mayer thanked all city employees for their work, saying they were all dedicated to service.

Rollo complimented the fine staff, especially Animal Care and Control.

Sandberg said she wanted to mention HAND because the department was getting ready to submit their five year plan for HUD funds which

would benefit low income individuals. She said they were seeking community input and hoped folks would respond.

Ordinance 14-19

(cont'd)

Ordinance 14-19 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-20 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 7-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-20 be adopted.

Ordinance 14-20 To Fix the Salaries of All Elected City Officials for the City of Bloomington for the Year 2015

Kruzan noted that last year the council voted to not receive a pay increase when the city did not have across the board pay increases for city employees. He said the council and department heads stood in unison with the city staff, and thought it should be acknowledged.

There were no questions or comments from the council.

There were no comments from the public.

Ordinance 14-20 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Volan)

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-21 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 8-0-1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 14-21 be adopted.

Ordinance 14-21 Petition to Appeal for an Increase to the Maximum Levy (A Request for Permission from the Department of Local Government Finance to Impose an Excess Levy as a Result of a Revenue Shortfall)

There were no questions from the council.

There were no comments from the public.

Volan commented that the process used this year for the budget developed because there was not enough time to study the data. As a result, the council submitted questions to the administration which were returned with detailed answers. He said he hoped the council would continue to use this process.

Ordinance 14-21 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 8-0-1. Clerk Moore said there was no synopsis and that this was the main budget ordinance for the city.

Appropriation Ordinance 14-02 An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Establishing 2015 Civil City Budget for the City of Bloomington)

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-02 be adopted.

There were no questions or comments from the council.

There were no comments from the public.

Ordinance 14-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 8-0-1.

Appropriation Ordinance 14-03 An Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Operation, Maintenance, Debt Service, and Capital Improvements for the Water and Wastewater Utility Departments of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2015

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-03 be adopted.

Patrick Murphy, Director of Utilities offered to answer questions or address comments.

Ordinance 14-03 (cont'd)

There were no questions from council.

There were no comments from the public.

Council Comments:

Mayer thanked the employees of the Utilities Department for the work they do and mentioned that much of that work is done in very inclement weather.

Sturbaum thanked the department for all of their help with the wastewater and drainage issues as sidewalks were replaced or installed.

Rollo said he was pleased with the steady progression and improvement of the entire operation of the Utilities Department.

Ordinance 14-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 9-0-0. and said there was no synopsis, but this was the main budget for Bloomington Transit. It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-04 be adopted.

Appropriation Ordinance 14-04  
Appropriations and Tax Rates for  
Bloomington Transportation  
Corporation for 2015

Lew May, Director of Bloomington Transit, said the budget had not changed from the previous hearings. He offered to take questions.

Council Questions:

Volan asked about the new station. May responded that it was a huge improvement over the old station. He also commented that ridership was up this year, which he attributed in part to the new station.

There were no public comments.

Council Comments:

Mayer thanked the transit employees and mentioned how important transportation was to the future of affordable housing.

Sturbaum congratulated May for getting the new facility off the ground and completed.

Rollo said he would like to see additional shelters at bus stops which he said were very important especially in inclement weather.

Sturbaum said the demand and need for public transportation was growing.

Ordinance 14-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of Do Pass 9-0-0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 14-05 be adopted.

Appropriation Ordinance 14-05 To  
Specially Appropriate Cumulative  
Capital Development Funds for  
Purposes of Completing Capital  
Parks-Related Projects (To Increase  
Appropriations in the Cumulative  
Capital Development Fund)

Jeff Underwood, City Controller, explained this was a technical correction.

There were no questions from the council.

Public Comment:

Ordinance 14-05 (cont'd)

Allison Chopra mentioned that it would have been helpful for the public to see and hear the questions unfold and hoped it would be considered for the future.

David Schleibaum said the community asks questions and suggests proposals to the council but never hears back from them. He said this indicated decisions made with a lack of transparency.

Council Comments:

Volan reiterated his support for this budget process, saying that the questions and answers were all available through the website. He added that there was always room for improvement, but really appreciated having all of the questions and answers in written form.

Sandberg noted that all year long council members were listening to constituents about their priorities, and it was this type of information that informed budget requests and decisions. She clarified that even though during this meeting there wasn't much discussion, questions had been asked and answered all year long.

Sturbaum said at its core this was a very responsible budget. He said however, he did miss questions unrelated to budget that would have been asked of department heads in past budgets. He suggested that it would be helpful to have department heads come to meetings throughout the year where all of those questions could be asked.

Rollo said he thought the past practice of a day long retreat really helped discussing city priorities, and requested it be reinstated.

Volan said a retreat would be more difficult for the public to attend, and would prefer to fine tune the process now in place. He also mentioned that having all department heads attend the budget meetings was their opportunity to report to the council. He said he would like to see that from every board and commission as well.

Mayer clarified that the former retreats were about 4 hours long, held on Saturday at Cascades golf course meeting room, and felt that it would be very achievable for the public to attend all of part or the meeting.

Ordinance 14-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Volan)

Dan Sherman, Council Attorney/Administrator, noted that the council would be returning to its regular meeting schedule the following week, and that there would be an Internal Work Session scheduled for Friday, October 17, 2014.

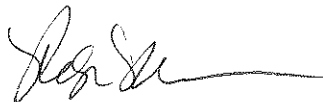
COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Darryl Neher, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington