

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm with Council President Tim Mayer presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 15, 2012

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Mayer gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes for approval at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Darryl Neher encouraged people to get involved in the process of the Growth Policy Plan update, the switchyard planning and certified tech park planning sessions. He said he learned by talking to other elected officials at a recent IACT meeting that many city and town councils don't have the citizen participation in government that we have in Bloomington.

REPORTS:  
COUNCILMEMBERS

Dorothy Granger announced that she and County Council member Julie Thomas were hosting their regular Residents' Breakfast at Rachel's Café at 7:30 am on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. She noted the topic would be the community energy challenge. She said residents would learn about the solar panels that the county was installing on the North Showers building and about a challenge that would involve some elementary schools in energy usage.

Chris Sturbaum noted that the only thing on the agenda was the item for First Reading, and explained how, even though it was on the agenda, it was really not being 'discussed' at this meeting. He noted that First Reading was actually an announcement rather than a first hearing. He further explained the process of Committee of the Whole and Final Action.

Marty Spechler noted that several council members had attended a meeting held by Deputy Mayor Maria Heslin regarding the prospective financial issues facing the city. He said that the rise of city expenditures of 5% per year and the rise of revenue of 3% per year was not sustainable. He said that he'd asked Heslin to put a pause on any major expenditure such as a piece of art that was to be installed near the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District.

Steve Volan further elaborated on the council process for dealing with legislation by explaining when it was appropriate to have public comments, in a specific segment or during the deliberation of legislation.

He welcomed students from the Politics and Civic Engagement (PACE) Class. He noted for them that the Growth Policies Plan (GPP), the city's guiding document for land use and the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), the city's zoning laws, were coming up for review soon. He noted that the method and process of discussion of the myriad of details of these two documents was as important as the documents themselves. He said the students should be following these issues.

Dave Rollo said that US Geological Survey Director Marcia McNutt gave two talks in Bloomington about earthquakes and Peak Oil. He said that Bloomington had spent a considerable amount of time and effort studying the phenomenon and arrived at a resolution that acknowledged the reality of Peak Oil. He said the task force explored adaptation and mitigation strategies in anticipation of peak petroleum production.

Rollo answered the question: "Is Peak Oil real?" He showed slides of production of oil in three oil fields and their decline in recent years. He showed an illustration of cumulative peaking of oil fields around the world to indicate a world peak. He said that new oil fields could be brought on line but not fast enough to make up for the depletion of the older fields. He noted that the US had reached Peak Oil in 1970, showed a chart that indicated most of the countries of the world except the OPEC nations had reached peak, and that the world was now relying on those eleven nations. He said that this phenomenon had been recognized by the academic community, but that McNutt's talk had been entitled "Whatever Happened to Peak Oil?" He noted his disagreement with her and noted her statement that 90% of oil produced is un-audited and that the production of OPEC is taken on faith. He questioned the reporting of oil reserves in the OPEC countries as an artifact created from a desire to increase quotas.

Rollo noted that the great hope in oil production was "fracking." He noted that this could not create the amount of oil the world needed for its billion barrels per eleven days consumption. He said he presented the information to help citizens understand that they should take this information from the federal government very skeptically, even if it was delivered by someone of this director's stature.

Tim Mayer welcomed the PACE students to the meeting. He noted that the city's Growth Policies Plan update process was entitled "Imagine Bloomington" and would consist of a series of community meetings held in the public school buildings. He encouraged citizens to participate.

Nate Nickel, Senior Long Range Planner in the Planning Department, gave an update on Imagine Bloomington. He said it had been ten years since the last update. He added that public involvement would be encouraged every step of the way through the multi-year process. He gave details of the upcoming meeting and workshops to maximize public input and encouraged citizens to visit the dedicated website for more information and more innovative features for public input.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Melissa Britton, Latino Outreach Coordinator, spoke about the Citizenship Class which prepared residents for the naturalization exam and US citizenship. She said that 2011 was the first year for the class, and that it would be offered again in 2012 with three volunteer instructors. She recognized a group of new citizens and residents preparing to take the exam. Moises Lopez Sandoval spoke about what it meant for him to become a citizen of the United States. The council applauded his statement.

Christie Popp, an attorney with Indiana Legal Services, Director of the Immigrants and Language Rights Center, and member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said that the organization created the Citizenship Day program in Indianapolis. Popp said she approached Britton about the issues and created the local program as well as the Citizenship class.

Mayer asked that the council and meeting attendees join him in applauding those new citizens and those who were working on the process of becoming a citizen.

Mayer asked for public comment.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES  
PUBLIC INPUT

Nicole Johnson, city resident, IU researcher, member of the Occupy Bloomington De-Carcerate Working Group, and a member of a new group entitled Bloomington Activist Network Development (BAND), talked about an action at the Indiana Department of Corrections

Headquarters to protest white supremacists who serve as prison guards. She said that there was a petition drive and letters to be written to the members of the IDOC to Internal Affairs at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and the IDOC Headquarters to open an investigation on this item.

Johnson said, in response to Spechler's statement above, that in reducing the budget, she would rather see the police budget cut than to see cuts in public art.

Chaim Julian, Chairman of Democracy for Monroe County, noted that there was a bill before the US House of Representative that would remove funding for alternative transportation, bicycle paths, public transportation. He said this was ill-advised and illogical. He encouraged the council to contact Congressman Young to oppose the cuts.

Scott Wells asked the council to imagine the slanted roof portions of the Showers Building with solar panels. He said it was a reason to attend the Residents' Breakfast to learn about the county's efforts and grant award to put the panels on the roof. He said this would reduce the use of electricity and reduce acid rain from the use of coal to produce electricity. He said we needed to work together to change the county into a green one.

Doug Wissing said he was opposed to the West Third Street Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program Proposal that was being advocated for by a special interest group. He said that the proposal was not safe, civil, or legal. He said that emergency service providers had indicated that the West Third Street speed bumps create risk to life and property. He said that the use of traffic devices to reduce traffic volume on streets is prohibited, and that traffic has increased on adjacent streets since the speed bumps have been put in place. He said the proponents of the proposal called themselves the Neighborhood and he said they spoke for the Residents, but in actuality they stifled objections to the proposal. He said the money could be used for more critical needs in the city. He added that the proposal was not legal because temporary testing devices were in place almost a year after the testing began, well after the period of testing ended. He asked that the devices be removed and that the council reject the proposal when they discussed it.

Kelly Thomas said she while she was facing the council, she actually was addressing everyone in the audience regarding social issues. She said there was a "General Assembly" in the atrium at 6:30 on Wednesdays and invited people to come. She noted that the city needed a Detox Center because she said the people with both addictions and the need for mental health care could not get combined services. She called for help in the fights against I-69, the coal plant on IU campus, and Right to Work problems. She called for people to rise up and work on these societal issues that affected vulnerable people.

Glen Carter referred to his email about financial support for a detoxification program in the city. He said addiction was a mental illness, often was a fatal illness, and often one not treated because of its ugly nature. He said the victim was often blamed as their actions appeared to be willful rather than as a result of an illness. He wanted to know more about why the former center was no longer in existence and suggested that the council look into this matter.

There were appointments to boards or commissions at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION  
APPOINTMENTS

There was no legislation for final action or second reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 12-05 To Amend Title 8 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, Entitled "Historic Preservation and Protection" to Establish a Historic District - Re: 700 North Walnut Street (Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission, Petitioner)

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING  
Ordinance 12-05

It was moved and seconded that the council have an Internal Work Session on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> at noon in the McCloskey Room. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

It was moved and seconded that the council hold a Special Session on Wednesday February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the McCloskey Room to hear and discuss proposals to keep city costs more in line with revenues. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Evan Rocheford, an IU student, stated he agreed with Rollo in the matter of Peak Oil. He encouraged the council to work in a sustainable manner. He encouraged citizens to participate in the Growth Policies Plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Timothy Mayer, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington