

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 7:30 pm with Council President Tim Mayer presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 18, 2012

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Mayer gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Darryl Neher reported on the Switchyard Park input session that would be held at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, April 21. He said there would be a public meeting at noon on April 26th at the council chambers and also another session at 5:30 pm. He said this was an exciting project that had recreation and also economic development opportunities for the area. He encouraged citizens to participate.

Dorothy Granger invited citizens to a City-County Residents' Breakfast that she held monthly with Julie Thomas of the County Council. She noted that the event was held at Rachel's Café on East Third Street.

Susan Sandberg noted the 10th Annual Homeward bound walk had been held the previous Sunday. She noted the success of the event, for which she was the MC, and encouraged folks to contribute online in the following thirty days.

Marty Spechler said construction had begun on Section 4 of I-69. He said he would have preferred a better routing to avoid the city, but the decision of the state was binding. He said that access and disruptions should be minimized; tourism should be maximized; and asked that I-69 opponents participate in this effort.

Andy Ruff announced that Robert Greenwald, *Koch Brothers Exposed*, would be shown in the council chambers at 7 pm on Thursday, April 20th by Democracy for Monroe County. He invited citizens to this free event that would highlight corporate power and influence in political narrative.

Tim Mayer thanked Sandberg for her participation in the Homeward Bound walk and said he made remarks at the event for the Mayor. He also thanked Kathy Mayer of the Community and Family Resources Department for her organization of the event.

Council member Volan read a proclamation from Mayor Mark Kruzan noting the achievements of Bloomington High School North and South Science Olympiad teams, and proclaimed the day National Science Olympiad Day in Bloomington. Two student spokespersons Students thanked the council for the proclamation and support in addition to the support of the community. Mayer noted the achievement for the city.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Bet Savich, Volunteer Network Coordinator, reported on the April 3rd Be More Award and noted the following winners:

- Be More Collaborative Award went to the Tornado Cleanup Volunteers of Van Buren Township
- Be More Phenomenal Award (Board Service) went to Donna Lafferty for her work with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra
- Be More Involved Award (College Student) went to Emily Bornstein for her work at Middle Way House
- Be More Creative Award (Arts and Culture) went to Mary Lee Deckard a founder of the Monroe County History Center
- Be More Knowledgeable Award (Education and Literacy) went to Katie Hopkins for her leadership in the Monroe County Circles Initiative
- Be More Sustainable Award (Animal/Environmental) went to Lisa Ritchel for her work at the Animal Shelter

- Be More Energized Award (Youth) went to 16 year-old Hannah Fidler, a volunteer with Global Gifts and Fair Trade Bloomington
- Be More Bloomington Award (General) went to Phillip Saunders for his work with Shalom Community Center
- Be More Bloomington Award (General) went to Julie Pointer for her 19 years of work with Monroe County Girl Scouts
- Be More Dedicated (Lifetime) was awarded to Lee Marchant for his work with IU Health Bloomington, Ivy Tech and the Salvation Army.

She also noted that on April 20, 2012, the city would be holding a day of service for high school students.

Mayer asked for public comments.

Tonia Matthew noted that April was National Poetry Month. She honored Adrienne Rich, writer and activist, who recently died by reading her poem, *Dedications*.

There were no appointments made at this meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 12-08 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of do pass 8-0-0.

She also noted that the public comment portion of this deliberation would serve as the legally noticed public hearing on the issue.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 12-08 be adopted.

Mayer asked Planning Staff Lynn Darland and Tom Micuda to present the basics of the Right-of-Way Vacation request.

Darland noted the location of the alley and the property that surrounded the alley. She noted that the KPM Hotel Group intended to redevelop five vacant lots surrounding the alley into a Springhill Suites by Marriot hotel. She noted utilities, emergency service providers, the Board of Public Works and Indiana University, the adjoining property owner, had no objections to the vacation.

Darland showed site plans for the hotel and adjoining garage. She noted that the hotel would have five stories on College Avenue, with six stories on Morton Street. She noted that a small separate retail space would also be included in the structure.

Darland reviewed the public benefit of the vacation that she said included \$325,000 Innkeepers Tax Revenue, 35-40 new jobs, and increased revenues for the TIF District. She concluded by saying that the Public Works Department and Planning Department supported the request for vacation of the alley.

Rollo asked if, since alleys are used for alternative transportation, the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Commission had reviewed the request. Micuda said they had, and the plan was also reviewed by Planning transportation staff members. He said that they found that the vacation of alley right-of-way would not interfere with any plans for bicycle transportation.

Volan asked why Indiana University was consulted. Darland said that they owned the property north of the alley: a parking lot and the Woodburn House. Micuda said they were consulted because they were the adjoining property owner. Volan verified with Darland the width and length of the alley. Volan asked if the commercial space located within the building was big enough for a restaurant. Doug Bruce, architect for the project, said that the space was less than 1000 square feet and would be considered quite small and would not accommodate a restaurant.

Volan asked about retail establishments in the area. Micuda mentioned some and said that there would be more at the area north of this site was developed for retail. Bruce said that the area was 'dark' after 5 pm, and that was an issue with this type of business.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES PUBLIC INPUT

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 12-08 To Vacate a Public Parcel – Re: Alley Right-of-Way Running North/South between North College Avenue and North Morton Street, North of West Ninth Street (KPM Hotel Group, Petitioner

There were no public comments regarding this alley vacation.

Ordinance 12-08 (cont'd)

Council comments:

Rollo said he favored this proposal, and thanked the staff for their work. He said there was a public good in vacating the alley as hotel space was needed in the downtown as opposed to the periphery of the city.

Neher said giving up the alley as public space and giving up public parking spaces in the area in front of the hotel on College Avenue and what the trade-off would be was the consideration in this issue. He said that benefit to the downtown TIF, the innkeeper tax, the employment and increased hotel space in the downtown were of benefit to the city.

Volan said he agreed with previous comments. He said the new functions for the land were an improvement. He noted that the pictures of the new hotel showed projecting signs and that while they are not currently permitted, he encouraged the hotel to apply for a variance to this code. He and asked the council to take up this change as well.

Ruff said he would support the proposal based on the unanimous recommendation of the committee and planning staff.

Spechler said this was the kind of economic development that he liked. He said there would not be a negative environmental effect, but would increase business for local shops and restaurants. He noted the extended-stay aspect of the hotel which would benefit weekday business. He added that this was the type of project that would bring jobs to the community.

Rollo said that he thought it would be great if the city would provide bicycle parking in the area, especially considering the extended stay nature of the business.

Mayer said that putting the property back into the tax roll was important to him and thanked the developer for doing it.

Ordinance 12-08 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 12-09 To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration And Personnel" – Re: Amending Chapter 2.04 Entitled "Common Council" to Ease the Opportunity for Standing Committees to Consider Legislation Pending Before the Council

Ordinance 12-09

Ordinance 12-10 To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration And Personnel" – Re: Amending Chapter 2.04 Entitled "Common Council" to Establish and Clarify Scheduling Policies for Council Committees

Ordinance 12-10

There was no additional public comment at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT

There were no council schedule items for discussion at this meeting.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Timothy Mayer, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington