

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 7:30 pm with Council President Tim Mayer , presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
May 16, 2012

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Mayer gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

Minutes for April 18, 2012 were approved by a voice vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Rollo noted the completion of West Third Street and noted that the native trees lining the street were red maples and thanked the Public Works Department for the beautification project.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Referring to Peak Oil, he said society was reaching certain biophysical limits. He said this was not just about energy, but about metals, topsoil, water, the ability of the atmosphere to absorb carbon, and about all organisms on the planet. He added that we have an economic system wedded to the idea of expansion, diametrically opposed to reality. He said we couldn't continue to expand the human footprint on a finite planet, but that fact was not acknowledged by conventional economics. He said this century was the time for us to understand sustainability on a deeper level, and that we needed to challenge basic assumptions to avoid ~~failure of the~~ limits of the planet. *over shooting (RWS)*

He added he would add to this statement in his future comments.

Darryl Neher announced a presentation of Switchyard Park plans on May 17th. He invited people to see the plans that had evolved from citizen input.

Dorothy Granger announced a May 18th, 7:30 am Citizens' Breakfast that was co-hosted with County Council member Julie Thomas at Rachel's Café. She said these were ongoing meetings that citizens were invited to so that they could speak to and hear from elected officials.

Chris Sturbaum commended the brave police officers for how they handled a particularly dangerous situation recently.

- He reported on a New Urbanism conference that he had recently attended and told of a classical architect named Krier who spoke about the right and wrong way to build cities. Sturbaum said that he learned that we live in a classical city, and was proud that we do.

Susan Sandberg reported that the Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee had met to hear presentations from agency directors. She noted that she chaired the committee and said that there were a number of good programs seeking funding. She thanked the agencies for their outstanding work in assisting underserved and needy people with their services. She noted the scarcity of resources and the difficulty of decision making of the committee.

Tim Mayer said that there was a lot of construction going on in all parts of the city, and asked that motorists be patient. He noted how fortunate the city was to be able to make these improvements and thanked those working on the projects.

Mayor Mark Kruzan noted the recent passing of Bob Thrasher, a former Democratic County Council member, and he said that Thrasher's recent book was worthy of attention by local citizens.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

He noted the day's festivities regarding the publishing of two books by local authors, Bob Capshew's biography of Herman B Wells and Carroll Krause's on Shower's Brothers Furniture Company.

Mayor Kruzan presented a proclamation for Bobby Chestnut on the

Mayor and City Office Reports (cont'd)

occasion of his retirement from the Street Department. He worked for the city since March of 1975.

President Mayer recalled stories about Chestnut and his dedicated work with the street department.

Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager in the Parks and Recreation Department, and Becky Barrick-Higgins spoke about the Dog Park plans and the online competition for funding.

Volan announced the formation of a Special Committee on Street Design and Engineering Standards that would explore remedies for the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. He said the NTSP's vague language and arduous procedures have created significant controversy. He said it would also explore a more explicit understanding of the state statute, "generally accepted engineering standards" and what this phrase means, how the standards were applied, and how the public could review these standards. He asked that the committee meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. He said the first meeting had not yet been scheduled and that Andy Ruff and Marty Spechler would join him on the committee.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mayer asked for public comment.

PUBLIC INPUT

George Brooks spoke about the wages of employees who work for tips and gave a history of the \$2.13/hr wage. He said it needs to be raised as now these tip wage employees do other things beside work for tips, and that employers do not hire workers for more than that because "tip wage" employees can work doing all kinds of things as part of their job. He asked for help in getting Indiana to raise the wage.

Kevin Bordner said his heart was broken when reading the newspaper. He did not like what he called the "final solution" to the urban deer 'problem' in the city. He said we should consider ourselves blessed to have these wide-eyed sentient beings visit our city.

Megan Wichlacz, an elementary school student, said she would be setting up a stand for Lemonade Day, a program that helped children understand business. Megan said she wanted to raise \$600 so that she could give \$200 to Riley Hospital, put \$200 in her college fund so that she could study to be a nurse, and then have \$200 to spend. She asked citizens to come to the lemonade stands around the city that day.

Tamby Miller said that she had been mentoring Megan Wichlacz for Lemonade Day and said that she has enjoyed teaching entrepreneurship in this program. She said the Boys and Girls Club helped to coordinate workshops and the events surrounding the day.

Greg Alexander spoke of connectivity and urban and suburban travel patterns. He talked about taking three times as many miles to travel to destinations without a complete street grid, and said that when distances were not connected well, people would not walk to their destinations.

Glen Carter asked the council to exercise oversight over the executive branch of city government. He said he was outraged by the police response to a land use rule that was violated by a group of people erecting a tent on city property. He said 40 police from 4 agencies showed up with arms and crowd control devices to tell 20 protestors that they were breaking the law. He noted there was no threat to public safety.

Kelly Thomas spoke about the same issues as Carter but wanted to speak to citizens about the issues and police action. She read a flyer that described the events of the day and other arrests at demonstrations. She called them a network of social struggles in Bloomington.

Ryan Conway talked about the choice of police using hard or soft methods

PUBLIC INPUT (cont'd)

as strategy. He criticized the BPD tactics and strategy, and called for support for those who face charges from oppression of this type.

Aaron Pollitt said he was a protestor, that this was an epic time in sustainability and justice on earth, and that people had better do something about these issues. He said elected officials needed to address the mass loss of species and income disparity. He said pepper ball guns should not be used against such protests.

There were no appointments at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

There was no legislation for second reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 12-11 To Amend the Planned Unit Development (PUD) District Ordinance and Preliminary Plan for Lot 205 of Renwick Phase III, Section I Within the Renwick PUD – Re: 1522 S. Piazza Drive (Renwick Village Center, Petitioner)

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING
Ordinance 12-11

Ordinance 12-12 To Amend Title 14 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Peace and Safety” Re: Amending Section 14.36.090 (Intoxicating Beverages – Consumption in Public) to Authorize Sale of Beer at Cascades Golf Course

Ordinance 12-12

There was no discussion of changes in the council schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

CW Poole, long time citizen of Bloomington, said he was glad for the diversity of the city and for the opportunity for people to protest, and mentioned anti-war marches in the 60s and cardboard cities in Dunn Meadow to protest the homeless situation. He said that the level of intimidation from police for these actions had drastically changed and had become intolerable. He said that police greeting people by their Facebook assumed name was an indication of more intimidation. He asked the public, mayor and council why.

PUBLIC INPUT

Marc Haggerty said that in the last three years there had been five shootings of impaired individuals by police even with a crisis intervention program. He said our program differed from other programs. He also noted that he had received a letter of condemnation of his land for the I-69 highway. He said that the price of \$2100 per acre was not reached by an impartial appraiser, but INDOT. He said he has asked for a jury trial, and hoped that others would, too.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Timothy Mayer, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington