

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, October 31, 2012 at 7:30 pm with Council President Tim Mayer presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
October 31, 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

Minutes for June 20, 2012 were approved by a voice vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Sturbaum said there was a shortage of facts in the current election cycle. He asserted that Bain Capital was closing a plant in Wisconsin in order to move operations to China, and he said that Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney had strong economic ties to the company and China.

REPORTS:

- COUNCILMEMBERS

Susan Sandberg spoke about community principles and social welfare. She said we were better when we worked together.

Marty Spechler said that the Herald Times reported that Section 5 of I-69 would stretch from southern Monroe County to Martinsville. He said that the state was looking for alternative funding methods for the highway.

Steve Volan wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween.

Dave Rollo said that he read an article that the country could become the top oil producer. He clarified that the estimate incorrectly included other forms of liquid fuel that falsely inflated the numbers, and he accused the oil industry of producing propaganda.

Andy Ruff said Section 5 of I-69 could only be funded by creating toll roads or selling the road to a private company.

Tim Mayer said that Hurricane Sandy had caused extensive damage to Long Beach, NY, where he grew up. He said that he had not been able to communicate with his family members on the east coast.

Patrick Murphy, Director of City of Bloomington Utilities, spoke about emergency management in times of drought. He detailed the plans and the internal management team that handled conservation during the summer drought.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Rachel Atz, Water Quality Coordinator for the City of Bloomington Utilities, gave a report on the department conservation program. She said that water and wastewater utilities used 30-40% of the city's energy consumption, and they put together an energy management team to promote efficiency and sustainability. She said the energy team was tasked to perform energy audits, establish baseline measures, and track progress towards reaching goals. She said that the department worked to reduce energy costs by and achieve lower rates from Duke Energy. She said that the program had saved over \$200,000 dollars over the last year.

Sturbaum asked how utilities had saved money on pumping water. Atz explained that pumping consistently instead of just at peak times helped to balance the rate charges from Duke Energy.

Rollo asked if the city could move towards composting and methane energy. Atz said that alternative energy sources were a priority for the team, and she said that now that the initial study of needs was completed they would begin vetting alternative energy ideas.

Rollo asked about power that could be captured from dams. Atz said that mini-hydroelectric dams throughout city facilities were being considered.

Volan asked what the investment return on the lighting changes in office space. Atz said it would be about 10% energy savings, but she had not determined the exact dollar figure. She said that the new bulbs would not need to be disposed of as hazardous waste and had a much longer lifetime.

Spechler asked if the city could charge more for excessive water use through an inclining rate. Murphy said that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission required a cost of services study before any rate change could occur, and he did not know of any communities in the state that had an inclining rate.

Mayer noted that an inclining rate structure implemented by the city had resulted in a lawsuit that the city lost.

There were no reports from council committees.

Mayer called for public comment.

Glenn Carter said he expected the state to lobby for I-69 funding only after a significant increase in traffic deaths on State Route 37.

Gabe Rivera spoke and sang a song and about ending the drug war.

There were no appointments at this meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 12-14 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 Resolution 12-14 be adopted.

Tom Micuda, Planning Director, said this would renew the agreement that first began in 1997. He said that there was one difference between state and county code; county code required skirting on mobile homes. He said that higher standards would come under scrutiny from the state and ultimately fail.

Council Questions:

Mayer asked if the city allowed mobile homes within the city limits.

Micuda said they were allowed to be in mobile home parks.

There was no public or council comment on this resolution.

Resolution 12-14 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

Ordinance 12-25 To Vacate a Public Parcel -- Re: Alley Right-of-Way Running East/West Between South Gentry Street and the B-Line Trail, South of Kirkwood Avenue and North of West 4th Street (REI Investments, Petitioner)

Ordinance 12-26 To Vacate a Public Parcel -- Re: Portion of Morton Street Right-of-Way, South of Kirkwood Avenue and Directly West of the B-Line Trail (CFC, Inc., Petitioner)

Cheryl Underwood spoke against city rezoning that had changed the zoning of her property. She said that she had won a lawsuit against the city for not properly notifying her of the change, but city legal had appealed the decision.

Mayer announced that a Special Session would be held before the Committee of the Whole on November 7, 2012. He said that on November 28, 2012 the council would hear the report from the deer task force and consider action on the report on December 5, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC INPUT

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 12-14 Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana - Re: Building Code Authority

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 12-25

Ordinance 12-26

PUBLIC COMMENT

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Timothy Mayer, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington