

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:30 pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 16, 2011

Roll Call: Mayer, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Ruff, Sandberg, Satterfield, Sturbaum, Volan, Wisler
Absent: None

ROLL CALL

Council President Sandberg gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of January 5, 2011 and February 9, 2011 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Rollo noted with what he called sadness and disappointment the discriminatory constitutional amendment that was passed in the Indiana Statehouse that day that banned same sex marriage and civil unions. He said he would rather think that we lived in a society where age, gender, race, sexual orientation and religion, the things that constitute the human diversity, would be accepted. He said that this action would write discrimination into the state's constitution. He thanked Representative Matt Pierce for voting against the amendment who noted that at one time interracial marriages were banned, and asked on what side of history this would stand. Rollo added that this was the wrong side of history.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Chris Sturbaum noted the proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant funding that had been proposed for the 2011 budget saying that this was tax dollars sent back to the community to use for poor relief. He said that Section 8 housing waiting lines indicated the needs, and that the cuts were taking that away. He said those who trim budgets and tighten belts should keep the less fortunate in mind. He said this was the wrong direction, asked people to speak up and vote accordingly.

Andy Ruff noted the untimely death of a lifetime Bloomington resident, Jigme Norbu, who was killed in Florida that week. He said Norbu was, at the time, involved in activism concerning issues of his family's homeland, Tibet. Ruff said that the family was Bloomington through and through, that he had gone to school with the brothers, and pointed out that Norbu's father was the brother of the Dalai Lama. He said Norbu was a lifelong resident, a businessman in the community, and contributed in a lot of ways and that this was a sad occurrence.

Isabel Piedmont-Smith stated that the Indiana General Assembly was doing a terrible job representing Hoosiers throughout the state. She then talked about several bills that were being considered that would defund unions, dis-empower unions, defunding of low cost health care, enshrining discrimination in the state constitution with the marriage discrimination amendment, encourage and actually mandate racial profiling for law enforcement officers, and outlaw any minimum living wage legislation done on the local level. She noted, too, that these bills were sponsored by people who said they were focusing on job creation. She asked how any of these pieces of legislation would create more jobs.

Steve Volan, seeing so many people in the council chambers, said he would talk about the podium at which they would address the council. He said that public comment periods were valued by council members, and said he wished more people would avail themselves of the opportunity to tell council of their concerns about the city. He said that

a person speaking at the podium often brought their own issues to the council that was later considered as legislation. He invited anyone to contact him to find out about these important matters.

Mike Satterfield, noting that February was Black History Month, took the opportunity to read a passage from the "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" Chapter 6 which told of his master's forbidding his wife to teach Douglass reading.

From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom. It was just what I wanted, and I got it at a time when I the least expected it. Whilst I was saddened by the thought of losing the aid of my kind mistress, I was gladdened by the invaluable instruction which, by the merest accident, I had gained from my master. Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope, and a fixed purpose, at whatever cost of trouble, to learn how to read. The very decided manner with which he spoke, and strove to impress his wife with the evil consequences of giving me instruction, served to convince me that he was deeply sensible of the truths he was uttering. It gave me the best assurance that I might rely with the utmost confidence on the results which, he said, would flow from teaching me to read. What he most dreaded, that I most desired.

Satterfield said to keep in mind that learning to read and write was the key to breaking the bonds of ignorance and asked how people would know what their government was doing if they could not read. He then asked citizens to get involved with government, noting that the filing deadline to run for office was that Friday at noon.

Susan Sandberg read the following statement:

A number of constituent concerns have been pouring in this week regarding proposed cuts to the federal Community Services Block Grant program. In response, tonight I would like to appeal to the community to let us know what you think about these cuts. As many of you are aware, the US House of Representatives has proposed a 60% reduction in funding for the 2011 fiscal year. This will have consequences for our community. If you provide a service to low-income members of this community, and if you are in jeopardy of losing your funding due to the proposals for funding reductions in the 2011 budget, if you are about to close a program that provides immediate relief to those in need or provides longer-term services to those in chronically fragile conditions, we want to hear from you. We also want to hear from other people in the community who will be affected by these cuts.

In yesterday's H-T (Tuesday, February 15) we saw the headlines, "SCCAP programs to help poor on federal chopping block". As a long-time supporter of the South Central Community Action Program, I was quoted in that article expressing my grave concerns about this and a number of harms that will follow if there are immediate cuts to the current 2011 budget. Three years ago, this Council, through the Jack Hopkins Social Services funding, provided seed money for an anti-poverty program called the Circles Initiative. The program was brought forward by progressive leadership of the South Central Community Action Program and aims at nothing less than effecting long-lasting, community-wide social change to help people escape poverty. And it's working! The City's investment in the Circles program was made in good faith with City resources set aside for the support of local anti-poverty programs. If federal funds are no longer available to SCCAP, this program is in serious jeopardy.

So, good citizens of Bloomington...decisions are being made in Washington D.C., but the negative impacts of those decisions are very real and very immediate to our community. The pain does trickle down from the Hill, and Bloomington citizens are about to get hurt. I sincerely believe this City Council has an obligation to sound the alarm, and make sure this community and our good citizens are made aware of the intended and unintended consequence of this pending congressional action to cut funding to vital social services programs. A cut to vital social services will harm some of our community's most vulnerable residents. In a Safe and Civil Bloomington, that diminishes us all.

Tonight, I only speak for myself in my own voice as a community activist and current President of this Council. I hope more voices will be joining me in the coming weeks as we hear from more local agencies and service providers who will be forced to cut programs and services because of reductions to the Community Services Block Grants.

Following the H-T article yesterday, I have heard from a number of other agencies and service providers who raised additional concerns about what we may be about to lose in this community as a result of congressional decisions. I ask you to share your thoughts with us and with each other. Make a citizen comment during our public comment segments in tonight's meeting and others coming up this month and next. Email or call your City Council representative individually. Email us collectively at council@bloomington.in.gov. Contact the office of Representative Todd Young. Tell him what you think...and share with us what you know. Your feedback is critical, and we want to hear from you. Thank you for listening, and thank you in advance for your community action.

Beverly Calendar Anderson, Safe and Civil City Program Director, said that nominations were currently being accepted for the 2011 Mayor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement. She outlined the purpose of the award, and named past recipients of the award along with guidelines for submitting nominations for both individuals and groups.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Juan Carlos Carrasquel, Chair of the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Affairs, gave a report on its activities of the past year and their plans for their work in 2011. He thanked the council and mayor for their support of the commission, noting that it was not usual for cities the size of Bloomington to have such a body. He acknowledged the work of the commission members and Melissa Britton, the staff liaison. He said the main work of the Commission last year had been focused on searching for funding for one person to be trained as a professional interpreter in order to do the same training locally, and then working to get agencies to accept the concept of professional interpreters. He said they created awards to honor individuals and organizations that made significant contributions to the Latino community. He said that the Commission was following the immigration issue and that their stand was that the country needed comprehensive and extensive immigration reform, without stepping on human and civil rights. He thanked the council for their stand on the Arizona legislation.

He said that the plans for the next year would be continuing their interpreter project, creating an internet portal with Latino issues and resources for the community, collecting data on immigration and the Latino population, recognition of award recipients, and providing more information through the website.

Rollo asked about raising the profile of the Commission. Carrasquel noted that the Latino and Hispanic folks were very familiar with the Commission and its work but more people should know about it, too.

Volan asked about the interpreter training. Carrasquel said they learned how to adequately and ethically interpret with care paid to the way the parties are addressed, impartiality, and things involving the interpreting of a message. The cost of training the initial interpreter was paid for by \$2500 donated by Rotary, Rotary Foundation and the Commission on the Status of Women. He said now local people can be trained with \$150 which included books and classes. He also said that the training was not specifically about one language, but the ethics of interpretation work and that they could facilitate the training of people who would like to interpret other languages.

There were no council committee reports at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

President Sandberg read the council rules for speakers.

PUBLIC INPUT

Todd Lare, Executive Director of the South Central Community Action Program, said that President Obama, in his State of the Union Speech, said that community action was the only domestic program that he was okay with cutting. Lare called this action unwise, ill advised, and that he had said that he would not 'cut services on the back of the most vulnerable citizens.' Lare noted that the Community Development Block Grant budget for 2012 was proposed by the President to be cut by 50% with the other half put into a national competitive process. He said that this money was used for subsidizing affordable 17 housing units, back to school supplies and clothing for thousands of children, supported earned income tax credit locally, promoted the 211 service, funded the Monroe County Circles Initiative, funded the soon to be launched Bank On Bloomington, provided food and fresh dairy products to Hoosier Hills Food Bank, frozen meals for seniors, bus tickets for those who needed them, vouchers for Farmer's Market, funding for

Stepping Stones, job training, winter clothes for kids, shoes for children, publication of the Safety Net. It also provided bridges out of poverty training in our four county region, funding outlying outreach offices, provided case management service, Head Start programs, funding for administration of assistance for trash stickers and the city's water program.

He added that the congress had proposed a continuing resolution that would take effect on March 5, 2011 that would essentially zero out funding for the remaining part of the year. He said this would be 40% of the allocation for this year, and the loss of \$184,000 to SCAAP. He asked supporters in the chambers to stand, and about 75 people stood in support of his statement.

Lisa Abbot, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, said she was present to stand in solidarity with the department's community partners with the proposed funding cuts.

Jo Anne Weddle, co chair of the Guiding Coalition of Circles, spoke in support of that initiative. She said she was more than shocked to learn of proposed funding cuts, and that Circles was a unique program that helps to break the cycle of poverty and make real changes in lives. She said this takes time, mentoring, support and learning, with financial backing. She said the Coalition was asking the council to take a firm stand against these proposed cuts, as it would be a gigantic gash that would be impossible to close. She asked that the council write a letter to Washington as the well being of many citizens was at stake.

Tracy Hodge said she was a Circle's leader and was working her way out of poverty, and said the program had made a real difference in her life and in empowering people who don't always have a voice. She explained that with her paired community 'allies' she was working to overcome her poverty situation. She said new Circles leaders are excited to begin the program because they've seen the difference that the program has made in the life of others, but without funding the program would cease to exist. She encouraged the council to let Washington know that these proposed cuts would take away from those who need the help the most.

Daniel McMullen spoke about the importance of speaking to governmental officials about their priorities in spending tax dollars, and about freedom while being civil. He talked about the importance of family strength and education for the future.

Alice Voigt spoke about her experience as a Circle Ally, and said that the program generated many volunteer hours and filtered into other areas of the community. She said the loss of this program would affect more than just those immediate recipients of programming.

Megan Hutchison spoke as an advocate for the South Central Community Action Program giving some of her experience as a volunteer in their weatherization program. She encouraged the council to contact Washington about the impact of SCCAP on the community.

Bet Savich, Director of the Bloomington Volunteer Network, noted that a number of students present were from Eigenmann Hall. She said they had worked with the Adopt-A-NonProfit program and paired with the SCCAP Circles Initiative where they gave support in the way of programming for the leaders' children. She also encouraged the council to write a strong statement on behalf of the need for strong staff and structure for these programs and against what she called the appalling cut in funding.

Penny Caudill, Administrator of the Monroe County Health Department, said Title X funds were also in jeopardy with funding cuts. She said that the Futures Family Planning Clinic services were based on a sliding scale, and was the sole recipient of the Title X funds in the area. She said 85% of clients were at 100% or below poverty level. She added that all the statements made at the meeting regarded the 'safety net' for low income citizens. She called the funding cuts short sighted. Rollo noted that well over 100 people were present in the council chambers to speak about or support those speaking about the proposed federal budget cut that would affect social services.

It was moved and seconded that Meredith Dowling be appointed to the Environmental Commission. The appointment was approved by a voice vote.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that Gregg Miller be reappointed to the Community and Family Resources Commission. The reappointment was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11-03 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.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11-03 be adopted.

Resolution 11-03 To Authorize and Approve the Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Bloomington and the Fraternal Order of Police

Daniel Grundmann, Director of Human Resources, explained the agreement briefly, noting the discussion held at the previous committee meeting. He noted that BPD officers Marty Deckard and Randy Gehlhausen were both present.

Grundmann noted highlights of the agreement mentioning salary increases in the contract over four years, an increase in buy-back rates for vacation days, change in bereavement leave policy, increases in overtime pay in the last two years of the contract, increases in certification pay, and other changes.

There were no questions from council members.

A call for public comment brought Gabe Rivera to the podium. He discussed the police department's budget in light of other local, state, national and international events.

Piedmont-Smith noted for the record that Controller Mike Trexler had sent her some clarifications with regard to the contract. She said she wanted to make sure that the Terms and Conditions were reasonable in respect to the Utilities payment to the city. She said that Trexler had also explained that the payment was stipulated in the contract because Utilities payments and County Option Income Tax payments were the largest portions of the city's income. She said she believed the contract was fair for the police and the city and was glad that raises for law enforcement personnel could be included.

Rollo thanked Grundmann for sending him information requested on this issue.

Sandberg said the council appreciated all the work done for the negotiations. She said this was a reasonable agreement.

Resolution 11-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 11-01 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 11-01 be adopted.

Ordinance 11-01 To Amend Ordinance 10-09 Which Fixed the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2011 - Re: Reflecting Collective Bargaining Agreement Affecting Positions in the Police Department

Daniel Grundmann, Director of Human Resources, noted this was an amendment to the salary ordinance that dealt with the police and fire salaries. He also clarified that COIT and Utilities payments referred to in the contract agreement were the biggest payments to the city outside of property taxes.

Ruff asked how long the payments from Utilities for services had been part of the contract agreement. Grundmann said he knew it had been done for at least 14 years. He said that the clause had not been used to his knowledge, but gave the city the right to renegotiate if the city fell on hard times.

Sturbaum thanked the 'men and women in blue' for the times they risked their lives for the community.

Ordinance 11-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no legislation for introduction at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

It was moved and seconded that a Special Session be held after the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for February 23, 2011.

MOTION TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION ON February 23, 2011

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

Public comment: Gabe Rivera noted the passing of David Grubb who he said practiced freedom of speech. He sang (with his own guitar accompaniment) his original score "I've Been Down This Road"

PUBLIC INPUT

Marty Deckard, BPD Detective and lead negotiator, thanked BPD officers and the negotiating team for their support. He especially thanked Mayor Kruzan for his direction to the negotiating team to continue to work after the previous contract expired in December of 2010. He said that action was important for continued negotiations. He thanked the council for supporting the Police Department and said that in the previous 24 hours, four officers in the nation had lost their lives in the line of duty. He said that in January the nation had lost more police officers than soldiers in Afghanistan. He noted that officers risked their lives for people they didn't know, and that twice last year our officers pulled people out of burning cars.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington