

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:30 pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 2, 2011

Roll Call: Mayer, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Ruff, Sandberg, Satterfield, Sturbaum, Volan  
Absent: Wisler

ROLL CALL

Council President Sandberg gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of December 8, 2010 (Special Session), December 15, 2010 (Regular Session), January 19, 2011 (Regular Session) and February 16, 2011 (Regular Session) were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Isabel Piedmont-Smith noted the recent council listening session regarding possible federal budget cuts and the potential impact on local social services that work to help folks gain self sufficiency. She said that the council, as a result of what was heard at that session, had sent a letter to the Indiana congressional delegation and to the President concerning what the council heard at this session. She said that President Sandberg had led this session and thanked her for her work. She noted that this was a way in which local elected officials could convey the words of the citizens of Bloomington to other elected officials, and hoped that those receiving the letter would take it seriously.

REPORTS:  
COUNCILMEMBERS

Steve Volan said that he was traveling the previous week, but used his laptop to watch the listening session meeting. He said that he should have actually sent message during the meeting to indicate his support for the letter sent by council. He thanked citizens who came to the meeting to voice their concerns.

Mike Satterfield noted that the previous Monday at 1:30 am, tornado warning sirens woke the citizens of Bloomington. He said there were concerns that U-verse and ATT&T were not interrupting programming for the emergency message as other cable companies were. He urged citizens to contact the Governor's office regarding this matter.

Dave Rollo said that many council members had attended the Mia Birk presentation on bicycle transportation which he called inspiring. He said her home, Portland, had found the expansion of roads less necessary because of the increased bike pathways. He said the talk was available on CATS and urged citizens to watch it.

Chris Sturbaum noted that Duncan Campbell, former Bloomington resident, now Director of Ball State's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, would be speaking on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. His lecture was about Elaine Doenges' pioneering Mid-Century Modern Houses in Bloomington. Rollo noted that his aunt and uncle lived in one of the houses designed by Doenges on Browncliff.

Susan Sandberg read the letter she wrote to federal legislators and the President of the United States regarding federal funding cuts to HR 1. The letter in its entirety is attached to the end of this document. She thanked the council staff for their work on this issue and thanked the social service agencies and clients who helped make the appeal to the federal elected officials.

There were no reports from the mayor's office at this meeting.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

There were no council committee reports at this meeting.

Daniel McMullen spoke about federal cuts in social service funding.

It was moved and seconded that Dennis Laffoon be appointed to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commission. The appointment was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11- 04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Recommendation of Do Pass 8-0. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11- 04 be adopted.

Lisa Abbott, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, recapped the purpose and process of this funding in the areas of housing, environment and economic opportunities for persons of low to moderate income. She said that because of proposed budget cuts and a short term continuing resolution passed in congress, the specific amount of the CDBG allocation was not known. She said that if the cut was more than 20%, the recommendation process would be redone. She gave specific amounts awarded to each agency for physical improvements and social services at this point in time. Abbott noted that 68% of the money allocated to social service agencies is used for emergency services, with the remaining 32% allocated to youth serving programs. She thanked the members of the Citizens Advisory Council for their work on the allocation process along with the council and HAND staff.

Volan asked why any adjustment couldn't be made by reducing each allocation by the same percentage of federal cut. Abbott said that required audits might end up taking almost all an agency's allocation.

She added that the committee was committed to making the most out of each dollar awarded, and would also be committed to the re-evaluation. Answering a question regarding the audit process, Abbott explained that each agency was required to provide HAND with an agency audit before they could be eligible to sign contracts. She said she understood these audits could cost \$5000 and gave the example that an award of \$6000 might not be able to cover the cost of the project awarded the funds, or the administrative burden of tracking clients in the program. She said that this audit was required for all federal grants.

Larry Jacobs, Vice President of the Monroe County United Ministries, said that one of their classrooms had been closed part of this year due to financial issues, and added that the last two years have been devastating for MCUM. He said the CDBG grand was used to fund both their daycare and emergency services components. He asked that the council approve these recommendations.

Scott Tibbs, resident of Council District 1, said he objected to the CDBG grants because he didn't think the council should decide which social service agencies should be funded, but rather citizens should make these decisions. He added that the federal government could not afford these allocations and said that the council should send the money back to be used to reduce the federal debt. Lastly he said he didn't trust any of the council members to make proper decisions with money. He said he based his statement on their continual funding of Planned Parenthood. He said he was saddened but still needed to say that the Jack Hopkins funding process had become corrupted.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

## PUBLIC INPUT

## BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

## LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 11- 04 To Approve Recommendations of the Mayor for Distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) be adopted.

Resolution 11- 04 (cont'd)

Rollo thanked HAND for shepherding the CDBG process. He said they did a stellar job in this area, and in doing so helped provide a lifeline for social service agencies. He read a statement from the Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino:

*The Community Development Block Grant program did not cause the huge federal deficit. In fact, we've had to struggle just about every year to maintain level funding. Everything else has gone up in cost. Defense, military, health care, entitlements, bail outs, tax breaks. Why must the best programs for our neighborhoods be slashed to pay for them? To cut CDBG is to cut at the heart of our efforts to strengthen neighborhoods and help people. It's money coming home to build better cities.*

Rollo said that he could not have stated this sentiment better. He said this was a proven formula that worked, and said he was horrified at what was to come. He added that this was our tax money, and to strike at the most vulnerable of society at a time when the most vulnerable are being effected by unemployment, rising food costs and rising energy costs was immoral. He asked moral people to stand up and oppose these cuts.

Volan said that Rollo spoke for the entire council in thanking HAND for their work on this allocation process.

Piedmont-Smith said she was proud of the system that the City of Bloomington had developed for allocating the CDBG funds. She said the physical improvements and social service citizen committees met several times in public to make recommendations to the mayor, and the elected officials on the council voted on the recommendations. She said the process was open and transparent but was not the case in all cities because in some cities the mayor alone made the decisions. She said that involving the public was the tradition of Bloomington, and she was pleased to support the recommendations.

Sturbaum said that the idea that the government was out of money and needed to cut 'everything' was simplistic. He added that experts had said that the cuts proposed would actually cut the country's growth by 2%. He said it was a 'suicide pact' to make this kind of cut, and that it would cost the government for every dollar cut. He said that jobs lost could not pay taxes or stimulate the economy. He said that it was a myth that money was wasted on the stimulus. He said the fear that cuts were necessary would harm social services and the rest of the economy. He said that people did not vote for a crueller or more callous government, or to take away child care, and added that the solution to the problem was in working together.

Mayer said that 15% of the total grant was for social services but the majority of the funds were intended to be used for physical improvements. He listed Miller Drive, near Westside, Prospect Hill and Broadview as areas that have received sidewalks, sidepaths, sewer and water projects, street improvements and playgrounds to build a better community. He said the city had experienced great success with using the CDBG funds, and done it in a prudent manner. He added that it allowed the city to create an atmosphere that encouraged economic development. He concluded by saying the Country Club Drive sidepath project had made a real difference for the residents of the Broadview area.

Satterfield said it was sad for society to devolve into the attitude that people who do not have children don't want to pay for public education. He said he appreciated HAND's expertise in guiding and monitoring the administration of the CDBG grants. He added that this helped to make a move past ideology into good decisions in the allocation of these funds.

Sandberg said that these decisions were made in the common good. She quoted Abraham Lincoln's statement: *Government is to do for the people what the people cannot do well for themselves.* She said that child care, health care, Head Start and other social services add to the common good. She said that the decisions were hard, but the committee and staff did the best they could with scarce resources for the citizens on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. She concluded by saying that she hoped the letter she sent on behalf of the council to Congress regarding this issue would not fall on deaf ears.

Resolution 11- 04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that the following legislation be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. Clerk Moore read the legislation by title and synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 11-02

Ordinance 11-02 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 10-18 Authorizing the City of Bloomington, Indiana to Issue Its Economic Development Revenue Bonds, Series 2011 (Bloomington Dyslexia Center, LLC Project) in the Principal Amount Not in Excess of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), and Approving and Authorizing Other Actions in Respect Thereto

There was no public comment at this point in the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

It was moved and seconded that the Council hold a Special Session on March 9, 2011 after the scheduled Committee of the Whole to take up Resolution 11-07 opposing Senate Bill 590.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE  
Holding Special Session on 3/9/11

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington