

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 7:30 pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
June 15, 2011

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Sandberg gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of March 2, 2011 (Regular Session) were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Volan announced that he had talked with officials from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and noted that their population demographic was much like that of Bloomington. He reported that they had recently experienced a violent tornado. In the attempt to gather information about their 311 call line and implementation, Volan said he gained insight into how that city coped with this emergency, and added that it gave him pause to think of how our community manages emergencies.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

There was no report from the Mayor or any city offices at this meeting.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

There were no council committee reports at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Sandberg explained the rules for public speaking at this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Gabe Rivera commented rather extensively on drug prohibition and the futility of the war on drugs.

There were no appointments to boards or commissions at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11-09 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee recommendation of 6-0.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING

Chris Sturbaum noted that his wife had made the presentation for the Futures Clinic, an applicant for the JHSSF, and to avoid any appearance of impropriety he, therefore, would not participate in the discussion or vote on this resolution. He then left the room.

Resolution 11-09 Authorizing the
Allocation of the Jack Hopkins Social
Services Program Funds for the Year
2011 and Other Related Matters

Sandberg acknowledged the work of the council and HAND staff and interns in the work of the committee. She then read the Jack Hopkins Committee report from the Chair Isabel Piedmont-Smith who was not in attendance. This letter was provided to all council members in the Legislative Packet for June 15, 2011.

Sandberg said it was a proud moment of her service to be able to provide funds to help in the missions of the social service agencies that work to help citizens out of poverty.

Sandberg asked Mayer to read the list of allocations. He read the allocations, agency receiving the funds and what the funds would be used for.

There were no comments from the staff to augment this presentation. There were no questions from the council to the staff on this legislation.

Scott Tibbs, city resident of Council District 1, objected to Planned Parenthood funding. He said they had billions of dollars of revenue and that they just wanted a political endorsement. He added that while Planned Parenthood's request was for funding of HIV test kits, they promoted the culture of promiscuity which promoted the spread of HIV. He also objected to the funding due to the fact that the organization performed abortions. He

thanked Wisler for his no votes on this issue during the years they had applied for these funds.

Eric Rasmusen said he knew that Planned Parenthood already provided HIV testing and that they didn't need this funding. He said this meeting was not the appropriate place to debate abortion, but that it was rude to give money for this. He likened this rudeness to serving pork at a dinner which Jewish and Muslim people attended. He added that there were other causes to fund and recommended that the council skip over this cause that was offensive to so many.

David Canfield, noting that he had a PhD from Indiana University, said he was a local business owner. He said that councilmember Ruff's statement from a previous year's Jack Hopkins meeting indicated that the Planned Parenthood request for funding for a piece of equipment was morally neutral. Canfield reminded the council that the Nazi medical experimentation had been universally condemned, even though some of it yielded potentially valuable scientific information. He noted that the immoral context of the experimentation brought about the condemnation.

Canfield said the ideological divide on this issue hinged on whether or not whatever was growing inside a womb was a human being, a person, and worthy of protection. He said that if humanity was conferred on the blob of tissue (sic) during the birth process, then those who held the pro-life position would be guilty of causing a woman an inconvenience by denying choice. If the fetus was person with rights before the birth process, then the pro-choice position holders would be guilty of murder. He said regardless of scientific evidence, the burden of proof on this issue remained on those who believed other than him.

Canfield proposed that the council give money to the organizations that were not involved in procedures that were detestable to fifty percent of taxpayers.

Josh Congrove identified himself as a recent IU PhD graduate and said he opposed the use of tax dollars funding Planned Parenthood. He said that Planned Parenthood mingled its reproductive services with abortion services, and therefore divested parents of the children it claimed to support and therefore destroyed the ones that government should protect and govern. He said that Planned Parenthood showed a rank disgust for inalienable rights because it covered up statutory rape and denied children the right to exist.

He said it was typical for them to ask for something innocuous in order to free up other money for other services. He called this a shell game. He said that funding from the city granted legitimacy and an imprimatur to procedures that some would consider criminal and barbaric. He said that this caused tax money to be turned into blood money. He concluded by saying that city money would grease the wheels and give financial solvency to crime. He said council members would be held accountable before citizens and then their eternal judge.

Sam Allison, Monroe County Council District 4 representative, noted that the pro-life movement had produced 17 attempted murders, 8 deaths, 41 bombings, and 153 incidents of assault or battery and yet no one has denied the pro-life movement the right to exist. He said that the pro-life movement had produced millions of dollars to defeat the pro-choice movement and that they could have used that money to help the poor and needy. He quoted the Bible referring to people selling their land and houses to give money to the Apostles to be distributed according to need. He said that to be consistent in applying the New Testament, one should think of this in socialistic terms and urged time to join the Socialist Party.

He urged folks to be consistent and quoted Luke 6:37 "Do not judge others, God will not judge you." He said that if this was applied to certain people, it should be applied across the board.

Tonia Matthew said that each year when the funding was publicized she was reminded of why she is a proud citizen of Bloomington, IN. She said it was wonderful that we consistently found the money to give to the needy.

Resolution 11-09 (cont'd)

She said it was particularly important in this year when state and federal cutbacks were making holes in the social network, and that we were filling those holes. She said that all organizations on the list were very worthy, but she was particularly pleased that eight of them were aimed at women and children as they were the hardest hit in the current budget crunches. She thanked the committee for their serious hard work, and said that compassion and care had been taken in making the choices. She said she was pleased to see that Planned Parenthood was supported by the Jack Hopkins Fund. She noted her use of the organization's services during a time she was not insured, and thanked the council for their support.

Brian Bailey said he was the father of 6 children with one more due to be born within the week. He said that the scripture quotes of the earlier speaker were prophesying falsely. He said that loving our neighbor did not include subsidizing their killing by other people. He said the reference to the quote of Acts was to let a private individual love and care for his neighbor, not to take property to give it to a cause that was detestable.

He said that the Indiana General Assembly had recently voted to cut off all state funding to Planned Parenthood and any group that performed abortions. He said that as a political subdivision of the state, the city council had no authority to fund Planned Parenthood. He cited the law and said the intent was clear that the law and policy was to not fund abortion providers. He said that despite the way the Jack Hopkins money had been disbursed in the past, this year was different because of that law.

Pedro Roman identified himself as a Monroe County Human Rights Commission member and President of the Indiana Latino Democratic Caucus. He expressed amusement with the fact that middle aged white men would tell women what to do with their lives and their bodies. He said that the rights of the mother prevailed over the rights of the fetus. He said that the cutting of funding from education, social services and welfare programs showed that the folks fighting against Planned Parenthood funding didn't really care about children once they are born. He said that their understanding of the scripture was twisted and heretical because of the Biblical translation they used. He said as a Catholic and Christian he was deeply insulted by this abhorrent use of scripture. He said that the HIV testing kits were needed to keep people from dying, not to kill people in a Nazi-like manner. He said the council had the authority to use the Jack Hopkins funds as they saw fit as they were elected because their values fit the community.

Merridee LaMantia identified herself as a long time Bloomington resident and thanked the committee for their work on dividing the limited funds for those in need. She asked if there was a way for the committee to verify for the public that the funds were spent the way that the money was intended. Sandberg referred her to Marilyn Patterson of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department for the thorough answer. LaMantia said she supported the allocations as the committee recommended.

Andrew Henry identified himself as a Bloomington resident and an IU Alum. He referred to Roman's statement and said he couldn't understand Roman's opposition of the Pope's edict that Catholics had the obligation to protect life. He added that Planned Parenthood made a lot of money as a national organization while it had the audacity to ask for local funds. He said it boggled his mind that the council had voted to fund them year after year. He said the funds were requested under the guise of HIV testing when any funding freed up money to pay for abortion procedures. He said it was disingenuous for them to request the money as if they needed it, and he then asked the council not to give them their request.

Joanne Bunnage, Chair of Community and Family Resources Commission said she was proud of this work by the council and proud that the mayor had doubled the money in this fund as these actions reflected a city that cared about those whose voices were not heard. She said that as a woman she was pleased that agencies that have a record of service to issues

regarding women and children were included in the recommendations. She said that on the whole all the organizations do outstanding work, and the committee had determined the importance of funding by the process of evaluation. She said that we might not individually agree with every aspect of every organization, but on a whole, they were positive and that included Planned Parenthood. She thanked the council for having a member of the CFR Commission on the committee. She thanked the committee for making difficult decisions in the best interest of all citizens.

Paul Belcher noted that he was a Bloomington resident, a Christian and the father of two children. He referred to the rating score of the agencies as published on the council web page, and noted that the Planned Parenthood request for funds for HIV testing was ranked as 16th. He said that testing was already done without city funds, and he proposed that the funds for Planned Parenthood be given to those that ranked first, second, or third, so that they would be fully funded for their request, and not partially funded. He said that our community should be more concerned for the children than trees and wildlife. He urged the council to be a voice for the voiceless, the children, and to not fund Planned Parenthood.

Nicia Congrove identified herself as a resident of Bloomington, an IU graduate, an English teacher, a woman and a Hispanic. She said not just white males opposed Planned Parenthood funding as she had women friends who also were opposed. She said her primary opposition was that the child in the womb had unalienable rights. She asked that the council remember and consider those rights of the unborn children. She said we could not forget about the weak and helpless people.

Glorianne Leck said she was a resident of District 1, and said she was surprised that people were bringing religious values into the council chambers. She said that social services which dealt with folks in poverty had to exemplify sensitivity regardless of their religious beliefs. She noted that they provided essential services that people of privilege made as a matter of choice, and added that the role of government was to provide that opportunity for folks in poverty. She said that people of privilege take advantage of their opportunities in dealing with their sexuality, and that all people need to be able to take advantage of these opportunities. She added that religion had hidden sexuality and that some might object to funds given to religiously affiliated groups.

There were no more public statements or additional questions from the council. Sandberg asked if there were comments that the council members wanted to make at this time.

Volan said that this issue had brought forth well spoken, respectful comments. He said that the Greek word 'polis' was the origin of the terms we use today – politician, police, polite, politics. He said that he took exception to the linkage of politicians and corruption.

He added that it was easy to make assumptions about what other people believed but that this process was meant to forge agreements. He acknowledged that it didn't mean that everyone would agree with the decision.

He said that decisions made that day were affected by technology that didn't exist in past ages, and that fact needed to be considered in this day's governmental work. He thanked the council members who worked on the Jack Hopkins committee and said he would be endorsing their decision.

Wisler said this was always a difficult decision to make and he added that he appreciated all the hard work that went into making the recommendations for this funding. He noted he had never served on this committee and therefore was relegated to making the overall recommendation in the Resolution stage. He said that all of the agencies were good causes and that some of the agencies were ones he supported personally.

He added that the more difficult decision was determining need and getting the most impact from this allocation without funding ongoing

Resolution 11-09 (cont'd)

expenses of the agency. He noted that seven allocations were funding salaries in this recommendation, and said that was getting away from the initial criteria.

He said that a salary test could help determine need using not only the living wage criteria, but also taking a look at the six figure salaries that some organizations pay.

He added the pressure to spread out the money to help several organizations was counter to his preference for making more of an impact by funding fewer requests with a higher impact for those agencies. He said he would be voting no on this resolution.

Ruff thanked the community for the thoughtfulness and tone of the comments on this resolution. He said that the issue of partial or full funding for agencies was a regular part of the deliberations of the committee, and that the impact of partial funding was discussed with all agencies during the review process. He said the process was complicated as some aspects of a particular request would be more critical to the agency mission than other portions. He added that the percentage of total funding for an agency relative to their 'score' didn't always correlate perfectly.

Ruff said that although some might believe that this funding was a political issue, it wasn't one for him. He said the program was about helping agencies deliver important critical services to those in need, and that he saw them all alike in that endeavor. He added that funding was the limiting factor in how and if these services were delivered. He said that looking at how much money an agency raised or held should be considered with the demand for the service provided.

He thanked those who deliver services and the council members for their support.

Mayer thanked the committee members and staff for their work. He thanked the agencies for their applications and their understanding of the needs of the community. He said it made the job both easier and harder. He said he, as an elected official, had taken an oath to support the laws of the state of Indiana and the US Constitution, and said that he felt some elected officials in the state had a case of amnesia when it came to this regard.

Sandberg noted that this discussion had been done with safety, security and respect to all who came to speak their mind. She said she had heard from citizens about poverty and women's rights, equal opportunity and rule of law. She said that the job of the committee was to listen to both those inside and outside of this meeting.

She said that there would never be enough money in the JHSSF to adequately reach those who are struggling on the lowest rungs of the socio-economic ladder. She said that the council was on record as opposing HB1 that would cut social service programs because that cut at a national level would affect residents of Bloomington.

She said that she had worked in social services and child protective services and knew of what she spoke. She said she rankled at any charge that she or the council didn't have compassion for women in need. She said that this was about agencies who were dealing with the aftermath of ill conceived legislation coming from above. She said that the state statute mentioned in Mr. Bailey's statement did not pertain to the allocation of these funds and that the council was on firm ground with this resolution. She said that this was a compassionate community and that the Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund represented the best of Bloomington.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 11-09 be adopted.

Resolution 11-09 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 1 (Wisler). (Sturbaum did not deliberate or participate in this discussion.)

Clerk Moore read the following legislation by title and synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING

Ordinance 11-06 An Ordinance Approving the Issuance of Bonds of the Bloomington Redevelopment District, Acting in the Name of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, in and Amount Not to Exceed \$13,670,000 to Finance Acquisition of Real Estate and Construction of Certain Improvements in the Downtown Economic Development Area

Ordinance 11-06

Appropriation Ordinance 11-04 Authorizing an Additional Appropriation of Proceeds of City of Bloomington, Indiana, Redevelopment District Tax Increment Revenue Bonds of 2011 and Any Investment Earnings Thereon (To Spend Approximately \$13.67 Million to Acquire and Develop Approximately 12 Acres of Land in the Downtown Economic Development Area)

Appropriation Ordinance 11-04

It was moved and seconded that the council hold a special session on June 22nd to consider the Annual Tax Abatement Report. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

It was moved and seconded to cancel the Internal Work Session on June 17, 2011. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Scott Tibbs said it was shameful for an elected official to engage in character assassination and slander against his constituents, as he said happened earlier in the meeting. He said the person should be thrown out of office with extreme prejudice in 2014 and asked that the residents of County Council District 4 remember this well. He said terrorism and bombings have no place in the pro-life movement and it was shameful for pro-abortion politicians to paint the pro-life movement with the bloody brush of terrorists. He asked for the resignation of the elected official.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington