

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:30 pm with Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 24, 2010

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Piedmont-Smith gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to approve at this session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Satterfield reported that there were blooms on the trees and he was very happy about it!

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Craig Brenner, Special Projects Coordinator for the Community and Family Resources Department and liaison to the Commission on the Status of Black Males, introduced David Hummons, chair of the commission, to give a brief oral report on the commission's activities. He also introduced Rashawn Ray, the 2010 winner of the Outstanding Black Male Leader of Tomorrow Award from the Commission. Ray spoke briefly.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Lisa Abbott, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, announced that the city's Consolidated Plan 2010-2015 had been posted for public comment until April 12, 2010. She noted that the Outline Plan was available, also. She encouraged the council members to look at the plans, and noted that it would be forwarded to the Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency for their review. She said the final version would be used by agencies whose applications for federal grants needed to be consistent with HUD requirements.

Volan asked if it was the plan for Community Development Block Grants, to which Abbott clarified that the plan looked at those grants and also the Home Investment Partnership Program Funds. She said that emergencies services grants and other funding looked to this plan.

Rick Dietz, Information Technology Director, informed the council about the city's progress in responding to Google's Fiber for Communities project. Bloom 4 Fiber was developed to respond to the proposal by GOOGLE to build out fiber to bring high speed fiber optics to every home and business in a community. He gave the parameters of GOOGLE's offer and part of the city's response application. Danise Alano, Economic and Sustainability Development Director, said she was happy to work on this project as the residents and businesses in our community could make good use of the capacity that GOOGLE offered. She said a strong IT structure could create jobs, and that the Bloomington Technology Partners and the health care industry could benefit from this project in ways we might not yet be able to envision. Dietz asked for nominations from entities in the community for the city's response and gave the website.

Volan asked about the deadline for the proposal, to which Dietz said that the city's filing would be in before the deadline of Friday, March 26, 2010. Dietz said he didn't know how many communities would be chosen.

Wisler asked if there was a URL from GOOGLE to explain just what they were proposing. Dietz suggested using the GOOGLE search engine to look for fiber for communities. He noted that ISP's could use their structure for providing service similar to a Utility.

Andy Ruff, MPO Policy Committee Member reported on data from the Indiana Department of Transportation that he had recently received. He showed projections of increase in traffic from 1995 to 2025. He said the decrease in traffic at points along the bypass between 2005 and 2007 was about 35% of the projection for that period. He said it was critical that the project be done right as it would have a huge impact on community character. He said sectioning and isolating some areas of the community combined with six or more lanes in intersections may have negative impacts on pedestrian and bicycle use of the road. He said careful interpretation of the data and careful planning was critical, and that he asked INDOT to be sure that this data was correct.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

John Keyes, from the US Census Bureau, said that recruitment of workers would be ending the next day. He thanked the mayor and his staff for their help in allocating space for testing in City Hall, and thanked many people by name from around the city and county for their help in recruiting workers. He gave special thanks to Steve Volan, who he called Census Showman of the Year, for his work with the IU students in creating a video highlighting the importance of the census. He thanked Andy Ruff, who sent emails that resulted in about 200 people taking the application test, and called him Census Promoter. He presented them with little engraved trophies.

PUBLIC INPUT

Gabe Rivera spoke about ending the drug war in this country. He complained about actions against his work.

Elizabeth Venstra, president of Bloomington Transportation Options for People, thanked Ruff for his presentation. She read a few sentences from a recent US Department of Transportation policy statement on bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. She said that the bypass project would adversely affect bicyclists and treat the car as the dominant and almost only mode of transportation.

David R Grubb spoke of the pollution problems in the county. He said there were still hot spots in some areas that needed to be removed.

Sarah Ryterband thanked Ruff for reviewing what he presented to the MPO Policy committee about the bypass project. She said that the design speed for the bypass was 70 mph, and although it was more than what would normally be posted, even 55 mph would be hard to imagine on that road. She said pedestrians, bicyclists, and those with accessibility issues would have a hard time crossing the road. She said safety was a concern with a widened road and more lane changing, and hoped that the council would take whatever steps they could to stop the bypass widening.

Ann Krielkamp said she lived near the bypass and noted that crossing Third Street was terrifying at this point before widening and couldn't imagine what it would be like to have a wider road there.

It was moved and seconded that Jack Kahn, Alice Oestrich, Julie Hill, and Sophia Hauserman be appointed to the Commission on Aging.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

The nominations were approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded that Mike Allen be appointed to the Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Commission.

The nomination was approved by a voice vote.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 10-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 9-0.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 10-02 be adopted.

Vickie Renfrow, said there had been a problem with the effluent filter basins at the Dillman Waste Water Treatment Plant and that it needed to be fixed as quickly as possible. She said this would cost about \$670,000. She added that the Sewage Works Bonds were issued in 2006 for sewer lining projects and projects at the Dillman Plant, but that the projects were done for less than expected, and that there was money left over. She said that at this point, the money could now be used for other projects as long as they were similar to the projects originally proposed. She said that a preliminary engineering report was prepared and along with this resolution would be forwarded to the State Revolving Fund for approval.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the State Revolving Fund and Renfrow said that it was a loan fund that is a conduit for federal dollars for projects that relate to water quality. She said that the interest rates were lower and that even though it was sometimes a more cumbersome process, it was worth it in savings.

Resolution 10-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 10-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 8-0-1.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 10-05 be adopted.

Daniel Grundmann, Director of Employee Services, explained the various sections of the ordinance. He noted that the Job Evaluation Committee reviewed many more job descriptions than were listed in this ordinance. He said that many job descriptions didn't change in the committee and that many more job description changes didn't even come to the committee because the changes were not significant enough to warrant grade changes. He said that he wanted the council to be able to put into perspective the changes in this ordinance within the framework of the big picture of fluidity and adjustments that were done to job descriptions in the whole organization.

He itemized all the changes in this ordinance with specific reference to changes in job description, recommended changes in title, classification and compensation, with a reference to overall fiscal impact. He also noted that category one would be monitored for possible necessary line item transfers and additional appropriations for each change.

There were no public comments on this ordinance.

Mayer noted for citizens watching the meeting that there had been a Committee Of The Whole meeting where this ordinance was discussed thoroughly, and said that there might not be a lot of discussion at this meeting because of that.

Volan said that he had decided to vote against the ordinance. He said he was surprised that his statements at the committee meeting regarding one section of this ordinance, that of the Parking Enforcement Officers, was so begrudged. He said he felt that the most valuable parking in Bloomington was on streets which were not metered or attended for a full 24 hours a day, and that the garages, which he felt were not prime parking spaces, were metered and attended all the time. He pondered the question that if the garage enforcement was so successful, why not

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 10-02 Resolution of the City of Bloomington, Indiana Regarding the Use of Surplus Bond Proceeds

Ordinance 10-05 To Amend Ordinance 09-14 Which Fixed the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union and A.F.S.C.M.E Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, for the Year 2010 - Re: Positions in the Legal, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works (Administration, Fleet, Street, and Parking Enforcement) Departments and the Council Office (Revised)

have it be replicated in other areas of town where parking is being used at 100% capacity, including areas of yellow curbs and alleys. He said the policy was backwards and that this indicated to him that the administration was serious about garages, but not serious about streets. He said meters should be transferred from garages to meters on the streets around the square, and giving away the spaces in the garages for free. He said he disagreed with that part of the ordinance, and wanted to make sure that his disagreement was understood. He reiterated that he wanted to see an increase in parking enforcement, but that there had to be a change in policy first.

Wisler said he agreed with Volan regarding misplaced priorities in parking, but said this ordinance was a question of staffing that was driven by financial concerns. He said that it had been shown that the city collects revenue when the garages are staffed. He said that the council hadn't acted to change the policy about on-street parking, but in the meantime, the city should not forgo making the best of the situation at this point. He said he had some concerns about changes that would lead to pay increases in tough times, but had been convinced that the changes would be more than self financing, and that a few who had changed their roles should be recognized.

Ordinance 10-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Volan).

There was no legislation for introduction at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

David R Grubb spoke again about the need for mitigating pollution and the effect of not doing so on wildlife.

PUBLIC INPUT

Gabe Rivera spoke again about ending the drug war and his upcoming restraining order.

Michelle Cole said the counts in Ruff's presentation were enlightening and that intersections should be recounted. She said that the Community Orchard initiative had had an amazing response from the community with planning, finance, administration and bylaws committee already formed. She encouraged the development of a community of technologists which she said was needed to help with the recruitment of more and similar workers for technology jobs that have a high wage and low impact on the environment. She said that in the spirit of creating a sense of community Envisage Technologies was hosting a Geek Dinner on April 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isabel Piedmont-Smith PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington