

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 7:30 pm with Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
July 14, 2010

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Piedmont-Smith gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of June 16, 2010 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Sandberg noted an announcement of the website for the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District – www.visitbead.com.

REPORTS:

COUNCILMEMBERS

Steve Volan reported that he was asked to address the new IU freshman orientation program Campus Legends Tour at the Herman B Wells statue on campus. He said it was inspiring to meet the incoming freshman class.

Mike Satterfield noted that even though the city was doing street work on West Kirkwood; the businesses in that block were still open. He encouraged folks to support them and local merchants.

Isabel Piedmont-Smith excerpted comments:

There will be two unusual items on your ballots this fall election. The first is a proposal to slightly raise property taxes to support our public schools.

Public school funding has declined with the switch from property tax to income and sales taxes which fluctuate more than property taxes. MCCSC has lost 5.8 million dollars in funding within the last year. 45 teachers have lost their jobs, classes will be larger in the fall. Funds for stipends for extra curricular activities, Aurora Alternative School and other programs have been decreased or eliminated.

It's essential we restore the lost funding for public schools by voting yes on the school funding referendum which will be an expenditure of 14 cents more per one hundred dollars of assessed property value. Quality education makes for a quality community -- important for recruiting new businesses for jobs in our community and ensuring these children have a productive future without the need for help from society through social services or through the prison system. A good education is essential for every child to be a contributing member of our society. It's time for us all to step up and save our public schools here in Monroe County. I encourage you all to vote yes on the school funding referendum.

The second item on the fall ballot will be a constitutional amendment that would put property tax caps making it impossible for the state legislature to increase property taxes regardless of the condition of our public services and the economic outlook. Property tax caps are already law. The general assembly cannot currently levy more than 3% tax on commercial property, 2% on rental property and 1% tax on owner occupied homes. A constitutional amendment is not necessary. It would only tie the hands of our leaders in the future to react to economic changes and fiscal shortfalls for municipal, local and state governments. The property tax caps have already had a detrimental impact on our public schools across the state, and putting them in the constitution would make it very, very difficult to change those decisions in the future. A constitution is a statement of principles and guidelines for governance; it is not there to set specific fiscal policy that is very unwise. I urge citizens to vote no on the property tax amendment.

Craig Brenner, Special Projects Coordinator in the Community and Family Resources Department introduced Katie Herron, Chair of the Council for Community Accessibility, who reported on the council's activities. She invited citizens to the Celebration of 20 years of the Americans with Disability Act called Boogie Woogie Blues and the Arts. She also read a proclamation from Mayor Kruzan on the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

There was no report from any council committee at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Piedmont-Smith noted the rules of participation for the public comment segment of the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Greg Alexander said he didn't drive a car, and read a short article from the newspaper regarding a bicyclist being hit by a car after not yielding at a crosswalk. He said the bicyclist was being a good citizen but the driver didn't look both ways. Alexander showed frustration that South Walnut Street was not friendly to bicyclists in lane width, speed and accommodations for transportation other than cars.

Michael Summers said he would be voting no on both of the special questions on the fall ballot. He noted he had heard that the property caps would affect the MCCSC by about \$60,000 and noted the superintendent's salary was \$109,000. He said administrative benefits and salaries were counter to getting teachers back into the classroom.

Mike Hanna read portions of a letter sent by some city officials to the governor of Arizona regarding SB 1070, making his own comments refuting the statements therein paragraph by paragraph. He noted the federal lawsuit regarding this law was about infringing on federal jurisdiction, not on racial profiling.

Gabe Rivera spoke of ending the war on drugs.

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

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

There was no legislation for second reading or final action at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

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 10-08 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps from Quarry (QY) to Residential Medium-Density (RM) – Re: 3020 and 3040 S. Rockport Road (Rockport Road Trust LLC, Petitioner

Ordinance 10-08

Mike Hanna read about Ginkgo from the Audubon Field Guide to Trees.

PUBLIC INPUT

Gabe Rivera spoke of oil consumption and some personal issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isabel Piedmont-Smith PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington