

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 7:30 pm with Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
September 1, 2010

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Piedmont-Smith gave the Agenda Summation She said that council rules that were adopted on August 4, 2010 would be in effect for this meeting and noted that the rules allowed citizens to speak at either the first or second segment for public comment on the agenda, but not at both.

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Mayer noted the passing of Paul Grudis who was the first director of the Boy's Club in Bloomington. Mayer said he was motivated to enter public service because of Grudis' example.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Chris Sturbaum welcomed Indiana University and IVY Tech students back to Bloomington and wished them luck as they worked to change their lives.

Mike Satterfield cautioned students about driving in Bloomington and reminded them to pay attention to new pedestrian crosswalks on campus.

Dave Rollo reported on the energy predicament, and said it was important for representatives of local government to anticipate the future and plan for it. He said it was especially important to do so now before problems of scarcity, high prices and shortages arose.

Rollo said he was grateful to Mayor Kruzan and city department heads for using the Peak Oil report as a framework for the 2011 budget. He said he received an email from his friend, Paul Nellen in Hamburg, Germany who wrote that the German army had composed a report on Peak Oil. They concurred that the peak was now and would continue to have a severe impact on Germany, as well as all nation states.

Rollo noted that the team of authors, led by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Will, warned of shifts in the global balance of power, of the formation of new relationships based on interdependency, of a decline in importance of the western industrial nations, of the "total collapse of the markets and of the serious political and economic crises."

Rollo said the *Guardian* newspaper recently reported that the British Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Bank of England, and the British Ministry of Defense were working alongside industry representatives to develop a crisis plan to deal with possible shortfalls in energy supply.

He said the authors painted a bleak picture of the consequences resulting from a shortage of petroleum. "As the transportation of goods depends on crude oil, international trade could be subject to colossal tax hikes. Shortages in the supply of vital goods could arise as a result, for example in food supplies. Oil is used directly or indirectly in the production of 95% of all industrial goods. Price shocks could therefore be seen in almost any industry and throughout all stages of the industrial supply chain. In the medium term the global economic system and every market-oriented national economy would collapse."

Rollo said constituents needed to be informed, and that urgency needed to be added to strategies such as those described in the *Redefining Prosperity* report to insure that there was adequate

preparation for the coming oil scarcity and the disruptions that would occur.

Reports from Councilmembers
(cont'd)

Susan Sandberg noted that the Community and Family Resource Commission will sponsor another event in the "No Place Like Home" series on October 5, 2010. She said it would cover Section 8 housing and would be targeted to housing providers and landlords.

Sandberg noted that Cardinal Stage was producing John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* starting on September 2, 2010. She noted their outreach and educational programs that would allow local students to attend performances.

She reminded folks of the 4th Street Arts Festival, and called it one of the best things Bloomington, and also noted the Women of Lotus Concert on September 16th.

Piedmont-Smith spoke about ballot questions in the fall election. She noted that Public Question #1 on the ballot would be an amendment to the Indiana Constitution that would cap property tax percentages at current levels. She said that these percentages were already law, had been in effect for two years and the effects had not been good as it had caused local governmental units across the state to struggle to pay for basic services such as fire and police protection. It also proposed to exempt two counties from this cap until 2019.

She said specific fiscal policy should not be included in the state constitution, especially when the policy was new and had been shown within a small amount of time to be so detrimental to fiscal health. She noted that such caps really benefit those at the upper income levels and with more expensive homes. She encouraged folks to vote no on this item.

Piedmont-Smith noted that Public Question #2 was a request from the Monroe County Community School Corporation for additional funding for public schools. She noted schools, which used to be funded through property taxes, were now funded through state sales and income taxes; both sources of revenue have been reduced due to the recent economic downturn. She listed outcomes of this funding reduction, and said that there was a need to restore lost positions, reduce class sizes and restore programs for at-risk youth. She noted that the referendum asked approval for a tax levy of \$.142 per \$100 of assessed property value. She asked citizens to support the referendum and vote 'yes' on this question.

There were no reports at this meeting from the Mayor.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Mayer reported that the Utilities Services Board met recently and approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the city Parks Department and Housing and Neighborhood Development Department for restoration work at Griffy Lake. He said that work would include the evaluation and repair of the Griffy Lake Dam, evaluation and repair of the Griffy Lake Dam Outlet Works, evaluation and repair of the Griffy Lake Sluice Gate, shoreline restoration, and evaluation and relocation of siltation in Griffy Lake.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

He said the State approached the Utilities and Parks Departments because they had money for restoration of the dam and to prevent erosion and deterioration. He added that the \$2M grant had an excellent chance of being secured.

He said they also approved a ground lease between the Utilities Department and the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District at the Dillman Road Wastewater Treatment Plant for a recycling site there. He said this was a good relationship with no money exchanging hands.

Piedmont-Smith read the council rules for Public Comment.

PUBLIC INPUT

David Keppel, member of the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change of the Unitarian Universalist Church, noted the trees that had been felled for the widening of the SR 45/46 Bypass. He said it was too late for these trees, but hoped that the state could agree to modify the plan so that it would be more consistent with Bloomington's goals of having a more diversified transit mix along this corridor.

He also noted the problems with inattention to driving when texting while driving. With this in mind, he said that perhaps speed limits could be reduced on some roads within the city to reduce accidents. He also recommended that a ban on texting while driving should be investigated.

Buff Brown talked about an upgrade to the intersection of 17th and Jordan Avenue. He said that intersection improvements might actually make it easier to speed through this area and that speed humps or bump outs should be considered to slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians. Brown also apologized for any past incivility on his part while speaking to the council.

Gabe Rivera spoke of heaven on earth, and the need to end the war on drugs.

Greg Alexander, talked about the merge between Bloomington transit and IU transit. He said a business professor had students study what would happen if the two systems merged and became the largest in the State of Indiana. He said the formula for funding would add \$2M a year for this combined system and could fund Sunday service or express routes. He was, however, concerned about a change in that formula based on pressure from other bus systems in the state, and said that the group that would lobby the state legislature for a change was the Indiana Transportation Association.

He said that the executive director of that group was up for reappointment to the Bloomington Public Transit Board. He said that these two positions created a conflict of interest and urged the council to find another PTC board member.

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

There was no legislation for final action at this meeting.

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.

Appropriation Ordinance 10-02 An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Establishing 2011 Civil City Budget for the City of Bloomington)

Appropriation Ordinance 10-03 An Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Operation, Maintenance, Debt Service and Capital Improvements for the Water and Wastewater Utility Departments of the City of Bloomington, Indiana for the Year 2011

Ordinance 10-09 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2011

Ordinance 10-10 An Ordinance Fixing 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 2011

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Appropriation Ordinance 10-02

Appropriation Ordinance 10-03

Ordinance 10-09

Ordinance 10-10

Ordinance 10-11 To Fix the Salaries of All Elected City Officials for the City of Bloomington for the Year 2011

Ordinance 10-11

Ordinance 10-12 An Ordinance Reviewing and Adopting the Budget of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation for the Year 2011

Ordinance 10-12

Ordinance 10-13 To Amend Title 2 Entitled "Administration and Personnel" (Changing the Name of Chapter 2.22 from "Employee Services Department" to "Human Resources Department" and Reflecting this Change in Various Other Sections of that Title)

Ordinance 10-13

Legislation for First Reading (cont

Ordinance 10-14 To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" Re: Amending BMC 2.04.380 (Order of Business for Regular Sessions)

Ordinance 10-14

There was no public comment at this point.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

PUBLIC INPUT
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Isabel Piedmont-Smith PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington