

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 7:30 pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over the Organizational Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2009

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Sandberg gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Isabel Piedmont-Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year and said her positive outlook for the year was dampened because of a shooting near the bus depot on 4th Street. She extended her condolences to the victim and police who were involved, adding that she hoped for the best outcome for this serious incident.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Piedmont-Smith noted that there is no such thing as clean coal. She said that on December 22, 2008 in Tennessee a pond that was holding coal ash sludge sprung a leak and more than 1 billion gallons of sludge were released from a Tennessee Valley Authority coal plant. She said that this covered nearly 300 acres of rural community and has contaminated water in the area. She noted that a side of coal use that we don't see, is an implication for the wet sludge retention pond in which the company could have converted from wet sludge to dry sludge, which is more easily contained. She said the clean up costs, and costs of health issues involving this spill will be much more than the cost would have been for using safer methods of drying the sludge. She noted the implications for the long term well-being of our society, and hoped that regulators on the state and national levels would take a cue to invest in alternative energy sources rather than building more coal plants.

Andy Ruff wished a Happy New Year to all and hoped that 2009 would bring about a lot of positive changes in this country and in people's lives around the world.

Tim Mayer wished all a Happy New Year.

Chris Sturbaum said his happy thoughts were the prospect of President Obama, and that as he came to the meeting tonight the Hoosiers were winning.

Steve Volan wished all a Happy New Year, and said as parliamentarian he had been very interested in rules of the council, and referred to the report from last year's Rules Committee. He said that the council needed to keep rules of formality, addressing comments to the chair, and using title and surname for people addressing the council. He said the point of these rules was not to restrict people or to be formal, but to treat everyone with the courtesy and respect that they deserve. He said that at the outset of 2009 he would like to reaffirm this idea and asked that his colleagues join him in upholding the standards of this forum for the benefit of public discourse.

President Susan Sandberg said that this was a good time to put a spotlight on the accomplishments of the past year as we look to the future and delivered the following statement:

2008 has been an exciting year because of the historic presidential election with record voter turnout here in Bloomington. All American cities face challenges in 2009 and we will have our share. However, changing times and fortunes always provide opportunities to think things through from a new

- Outgoing President's Report

perspective, and that we must do. Last year we were asked to dig deep into community resources as the news broke of the future closing of GE. The GE Task Force continues its work toward meaningful responses to this bad economic news. We've experienced plant closure before, and we are poised to do our best in the wake of yet another.

Also on the horizon are changes in the future of Bloomington Hospital. The City of Bloomington will remain vigilant and active in offering solutions to ensure that Bloomington Hospital thrives and yet remains a major resource for the citizens of Bloomington who rely on its commitment to a healthy community.

We've forged new partnerships for economic development in both technical and life science arenas and we expect to do more. In both social services and the arts, opportunities are ripe to lead with our strengths and create more jobs to meet changing needs in a new economy. The emerging B-Line trail and all the activity and commerce it will bring remind us of our potential for manageable growth. Its development represents a vibrant City with a heart for people and the political will to be the best we can be with respect to environmental concerns and a sustainable quality of life.

We welcome future opportunities to partner with our colleagues in Monroe County to look for efficiencies in government and areas for city/county collaborations in meeting constituent needs. The strong educational institutions of Indiana University and Ivy Tech are fundamental to the ongoing success of Bloomington, and it is our privilege to partner with them in solving community problems and identifying shared strengths and resources.

With this as our framework, 2009 will bring more opportunity for economic development and effective public policy. In the context of economic adversity, we'll do what we must to tighten our belts, hunker down, and reach out to one another for ideas and support. I'm optimistic, because this is Bloomington, a very special place with generous citizens and dedicated community leaders. By necessity we will need to carefully analyze resources and future needs in order to prioritize our agenda. That requires us all to be good listeners to hear all voices in our community and heed the advice of professionals as we approve legislation and craft public policy to shape the future of Bloomington.

On New Year's Day as we observed our County colleagues taking their oaths of public office, we were reminded of our own promise to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Indiana. As council members we serve Bloomington to the best of our skills and abilities, and we've accomplished much in this past year. There have been a number of legislative highlights in addition to the basic budget oversight that keeps Bloomington ahead of the curve.

And here's a review of the best of 2008:

The Council and Mayor worked together to adopt a budget for 2009 that looked ahead to the needs of the City in the coming year while recognizing fiscal restraints. Soon we'll meet with the administration to discuss our budget priorities for 2010.

With respect to Council administration, we instituted a Rules Committee to improve meeting procedures and travel policy.

The Council Sidewalks Committee deliberated with City staff in their recommendations for infrastructure improvements.

Promoting economic development we authorized expenditures from the ~~Indiana~~ Industrial Development Fund for Cook Pharmica, IEC, LLC, and Predictive Physiology & Medicine. We approved the annual tax abatement report.

To improve social services delivery and alleviate poverty we approved bonds for renovation of Henderson Courts Apartments and waived payment in lieu of taxes for the Housing Authority. Allocations were approved for Community Development Block Grants and the Jack Hopkins Social Service Funds. As community need grows, so does our commitment to increase funding for social safety nets.

In planning and zoning, we amended the Woolery Farm Parcel G and Clarizz PUDs. We amended the Growth Policies Plan to adopt a new bicycle and pedestrian transportation and greenways systems plan. Planning meetings have been underway to evaluate the Unified Development Ordinance.

Industrial
Development
Fund
2/10/09

In the public interest, the City of Bloomington vacated right of ways to support Fairview School, Cook Pharmica and Indiana University.

To support neighborhoods and historic preservation, we established the Prospect Hill Historic District and approved the Preserve America Designation.

With great respect for the work of our award-winning Parks and Recreation Department, we approved acquisition of land for the Cascades Park Budget.

To improve traffic and public safety we passed the Omnibus Traffic Ordinance and the Fire Prevention Code. Seeing results from past legislation, we welcomed the opening of the new small arms training facility in support of the Bloomington Police Department and other first responders.

In regard to interlocal cooperation, we approved the animal care and control agreement with Monroe County and Ellettsville.

We amended the enabling legislation for the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability with respect to residency requirements and voting status of its members. We reenacted the Tree Ordinance and amended legislation for the Tree Commission. We were pleased to expand the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women, and extend the Peak Oil Task Force. This year we established the Economic and Sustainable Development Department.

The Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District continued to grow with the emergence of new public art projects. Colorful building murals are starting to appear along with artwork on downtown stoplight utility boxes. Along the B-Line we welcome the whimsical metal sculpture, Animal Island, created by the artists of Stone Belt. We were pleased with the announcement of a new limestone sculpture by Dale Enochs called Bloomington Banquet that will soon grace the Showers Plaza along the B-Line. The new bridge above 3rd Street is a sleek and attractive addition to the city landscape. The Bloomington Community Arts Council will continue to expand their "artnerships" through grants for local arts nonprofits and downtown commercial entities.

In regard to broader statements on state and national affairs, the majority of Council opposed logging in the backcountry of Morgan Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. We signed a resolution in support of diplomatic solutions to conflict in Iran. While our main focus is on the daily business of Bloomington, we can't ignore the conditions around us that impact local citizens. We always welcome public comment and are pleased to offer our regular meetings as community forums for citizen input.

I'm proud of our collective commitment to local public service in the midst of a changing America. It has been my privilege to preside, and a greater honor to serve as an at-large representative and advocate for Bloomington. I end my year as President with a personal pledge to be a better listener in the coming year. I encourage my fellow council members to continue working with constituents, petitioners, city staff, and each other in an environment of mutual respect and civility.

I conclude with a heartfelt thank you to my council colleagues... our highly professional council staff, Attorney Dan Sherman and Stacy Jane Rhoads... our collegial City Clerk, Regina Moore... the Honorable Mayor Mark Kruzan and his capable administration, for all their hard work and vigilance on behalf of Bloomington. And let's thank the broadcast crew in the back room from Community Access Television Services who diligently cover public meetings from gavel to gavel, to the bitter end. If you would please join me in a round of applause for the professionals of CATS.....

Happy New Year all!

Mayor Mark Kruzan said it was important for the council, Board of Public Safety and members of the public to hear that the police department will be issuing a report about the shooting near the bus station that occurred today. He said that based on the original 911 call, the officer statements, and eyewitness accounts, the Bloomington Police Department responded professionally to the incident to protect citizens in the area as well as their own safety in the face of an armed assailant. He said the site was secured and an internal investigation begun.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

He said that the findings would be reviewed by the citizen members of the Board of Public Safety. He said he appreciated the job that all the public safety officials do every day, as they often put themselves at risk to protect the rest of us. He said he was sorry that an officer was put in the position where he had to act in the manner which occurred today, and added that the officers were sorry about that too. He said to be careful about the use of the term "victim" in this circumstance. He added that more information would be forthcoming about the entire incident.

He thanked the street department crews for their work, and added that the same folks who were in charge of paving and patching potholes were the same folks who were in charge of cleaning up after wind and ice storms, and picking up leaves and ice and snow control. He said sometimes three of these things were happening at the same time, and that the city would be catching up on leaf collection soon.

Kruzan noted that there would be a rush on Washington for any money available from an economic stimulus package. He noted that if money would come blindly to the state of Indiana, it could be directed to the construction of I-69, something that he would continue to oppose, and something that we need to communicate to our congressional delegation, White House and state representatives. He said if 2 billion dollars was available to this state, a portion of which could be made available to our community, we could fund so many projects rather than a highway. He added that options such as passenger rail travel would be among the better projects or road projects to be funded.

Kruzan thanked outgoing President Sandberg for her year of service as president of the council. He thanked her particularly for her advocacy of social services as economic developers in the community and advocacy for artisans adding to the culture and economy. He introduced Stonebelt's Director of Development Amy Jackson to deliver a piece of Stonebelt art. Jackson thanked Sandberg for her service and added appreciation for her demonstration that individuals with disabilities can be part of the artistic community, economic development and part of the community as a whole.

Sandberg thanked Jackson and the mayor and noted that this was the eighth piece for her collection and that these pieces made her happy

There were no council committee reports at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Michelle Cole noted that Bloomington Transportation Options for People would meet on January 8, 2009 for their annual planning meeting at the Presbyterian Church. She said that BTOP was committed to making Bloomington a more walkable city.

PUBLIC INPUT

Marc Haggerty heard about the shooting today and took some time to research the last two shootings that involved Bloomington Police Department. He said the shootings involved mentally ill young men. He said that the city should adopt a better crisis intervention program that would have better outcomes for both the police and citizens, and should have citizen evaluation. He noted the need for a community center on the near north west side of town, and said that we can't wait for Obama to fix these things; we need to fix them ourselves.

It was moved and seconded that following slate of officers be elected:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Andy Ruff
 Vice President: Isabel Piedmont-Smith
 Parliamentarian: Steve Volan

This slate was approved by a voice vote. Council Members changed seats in accordance with their new positions as assigned by the new president. New Council President Ruff thanked outgoing president Sandberg for her service, and presented her with an engraved gavel to commemorate her term as president.

Council President Ruff thanked his fellow councilmembers and assured them he would do his absolute best, and would strive to conduct meetings in a productive, efficient, respectful, collegial and expeditious manner while always encouraging thorough, thoughtful, and lively deliberations. He noted that the recent county elections provided all with the opportunity for a renewed and reinvigorated relationship with fellow county along with Indiana University officials and others, and that the council looks forward to this for the betterment of the entire community.

It was moved and seconded that the following persons be appointed to the following boards and commissions.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that the following appointments to various Council Positions be considered:

Citizens Advisory Committee (Community Development Block Grants)	
-Social Services	Susan Sandberg
-Physical Improvements	Timothy Mayer
Commission for Bloomington Downtown	Chris Sturbaum
Economic Development Commission (City)	Mike Satterfield
Economic Development Commission (County)	Regina Moore
Environmental Resource Advisory Committee	Dave Rollo
Metropolitan Planning Organization	Andy Ruff
Plan Commission	Isabel Piedmont-Smith
Solid Waste Management District	Stephen Volan
Urban Enterprise Association Board	Chris Sturbaum
Utilities Services Board	Timothy Mayer
Bloomington Economic Development Corporation	Susan Sandberg
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability	Dave Rollo
Peak Oil Task Force	Dave Rollo

The nominations were approved by a voice vote.

President Ruff appointed the following council members to the Council Social Services Funding Committee:

Mayer, Piedmont-Smith, Ruff, Sandberg and Satterfield

President Ruff appointed the following council members to the Council Sidewalk Committee:

Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Sturbaum and Satterfield

President Ruff appointed council members to Board and Commission Interview Committees as they served in the past year

It was moved and seconded that the rules be suspended to consider an item not on the agenda.

Motion to Suspend Rules

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that the Staff/Council internal work session scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2009 be cancelled.

Motion to cancel Work Session

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

This being the first meeting of the year, there was no legislation for consideration for final action.

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 09-01 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps to Designate 38 Acres in the Process of Being Transferred From the Monroe County to the City Planning Jurisdiction as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Allow Up to 38 Single Family Detached Dwelling Units - Re: 2865 East Rhorer Road (YFD, LLC)

Ordinance 09-01

Ordinance 09-02 To Amend Ordinance 08-15 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 2009 - Re: Positions in the Police Department, Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation, and Utilities

Ordinance 09-02

There was no public input at this juncture of the meeting.

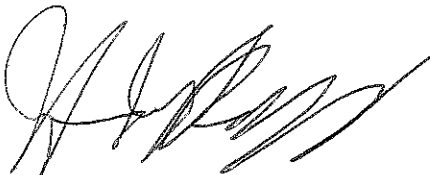
PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington