

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:30 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 6, 2009

There were over 100 students, teachers, parents and citizens at this meeting.

Roll Call: Mayer, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo (7:37), Ruff, Sandberg, Satterfield, Volan (7:43), Wisler  
Absent: Sturbaum

ROLL CALL

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Sandberg noted that Indiana University's graduation weekend was coming up and congratulated all who were receiving degrees. She also noted the weekend's Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger food drive and encouraged citizen participation in this event. She mentioned the good theater in the area and encouraged folks to attend the live performance of Doubt and the Argentine Tango presentation.

REPORTS:  
COUNCILMEMBERS

Isabel Piedmont-Smith said that she was encouraged to hear several items she could support in Mayor Kruzan's recent State of the City Address. She specifically mentioned inclusionary zoning and limiting chain establishments on Kirkwood and the downtown square. She commended the mayor on his vision.

Tim Mayer congratulated all high school graduates. He congratulated Public Works Director Susie Johnson on her college degree.

Mayor Mark Kruzan read a proclamation recognizing May 2009 as Mental Health month. Jennifer Bass with the Mental Health Association and Lee Strickholm from the National Alliance on Mental Illness accepted the proclamation and spoke briefly about the importance of advocacy, understanding and research regarding mental illness.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES  
Proclamations:

- Mental Health Month
- Science Olympiad Day
- Bloomington South Panthers Day
- JR Holmes Day
- Jordan Hulls Day

Mayor Kruzan spoke specifically to the students in the council chambers who came to be honored by the city. He told them that while elected representatives were proud of their student athletic and academic accomplishments, they were actually serving as Ambassadors of the City of Bloomington.

Kruzan read a proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2009 as Science Olympiad Day honoring the Bloomington High Schools North and South Science Olympiad Teams as they travel to national competitions on that day. Ramin Rajaii, Elizabeth Sherrill, and Adam Nichols thanked the mayor for honoring them, saying they were proud to represent Bloomington at the upcoming competition.

Kruzan read a proclamation proclaiming Wednesday, May 6, 2009 as Bloomington South Panthers Day in honor of the tremendous accomplishments of the school's boy's basketball team during the season. Coach JR Holmes accepted the proclamation and noted that almost every player was present for the reading of the proclamation. He introduced the assistant coaches and team members and they stood to be recognized. Jordan Hulls thanked the mayor for the proclamation.

Kruzan read a proclamation recognizing BHS South Men's Basketball Coach JR Holmes as USA Today Coach of the Year, leading the team to

the school's first ever undefeated season, IHSAA State Championship and number 3 spot in the nation, and that proclaimed Wednesday, May 6, 2009 as JR Holmes Day in the City of Bloomington. Holmes, in receiving the proclamation said that the school administration, coaches and players all shared in the honor.

Kruzan read a proclamation recognizing Jordan Hulls as an outstanding BHS South boy's basketball player, as the 2009 Gatorade Indiana Boy's Basketball Player of the Year, as Mr. Basketball for the State of Indiana named by the Indianapolis Star, as a nominee for National Player of the Year, and as a student holding a 3.9 grade point average. The proclamation announced that May 6, 2009 was Jordan Hulls Day in the City of Bloomington. Hulls thanked everyone for their support and thanked the city for the honor.

Kruzan congratulated all on their accomplishments, making special mention of the fact that both academics and athletics were present in support of each others achievements and awards.

President Andy Ruff noted that parents who have nurtured these talented students deserved a mention along with the students.

Bet Savich, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network Coordinator, announced the following **Be More** Award winners:

Be More Sustainable Award	Cathi Eagan
Be More Knowledgeable Award	Arletha Dabney
Be More Creative Award	Michelle Davenport
Be More Energized Award	Bella (Peach) Caruso
Be More Phenomenal Award	Dr. Eric Bannec
Be More Dedicated Award	Pat & Dotti Riggins
Be More Involved Award	IU Kelley School of Business Civic Leadership Development Program
Be More Collaborative Award	Hand in Hand, a Stone Belt Project
Be More Bloomington Award	Pat Wilson
Honorable Mention Awards:	
• Carolyn VandeWiele	
• Natalie Cabanaw	
• Harold "Hal" Taylor	

Savich explained each award category and noted each awardees' activities. She said photos, CATS coverage and more about each award winner and nominees were posted at the city website.

A brief adjournment was used to clear the council chambers at this time.

There were no reports from council committees at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC INPUT

Randy Paul spoke about his concerns regarding the BT Access service, the renewal of the contract for this service between Area 10 Agency on Aging and Bloomington Transit. He said he was concerned that the renewal process was being used politically to bust the new union of drivers. He noted that drivers were told that if they continued to support the union, the contract would not be renewed and the drivers would be out of work.

Paul said that he had been concerned for some time about the safety of the service, pointing out that while a training program was mandated by the contract, and that there were training managers listed, the training program did not, in fact, exist outside of a brief shadowing of a veteran driver. He referred to his email to the council that detailed his own experience of getting drenched in a thunderstorm while the wheel chair lift got stuck when the driver didn't know how to manually override the system.

Paul said that the drivers had not had a raise in over 5 years, and said that the drivers were taken advantage of in this instance. In case the contract was dropped by Area 10, he asked the council to help facilitate the hiring of the current drivers by Bloomington Transit. He said that these drivers were unsung heroes in doing this type of work.

Sherlyn Reynolds, a client of BT Access due to legal blindness and memory impairment, asked the council to consider intervening on behalf of the drivers. She said that the drivers often went above the call of duty on their jobs to take care of their passengers according to their abilities and problems. She said that she could not live independently in this town if it were not for this service and the dedication of the drivers.

Dan Combs, Perry Township Trustee, presented a report prepared by Perry Township that studied emergency assistance for housing in the township. Trustee Combs said that the results were counter-intuitive and therefore wanted to make sure that the council was aware of these findings.

Special Public Comment:  
Perry Township Trustee Emergency  
Assistance Report

Combs said that his office studied two years of data from September 2006 to August 2008. They looked at the number of assistance requests in both non-subsidized housing (single room occupancy, mobile home parks, market rate complexes and primarily student complexes) and subsidized housing (both HUD housing such as Henderson Court, Walnut Woods and the Rise and what he called "Affordable" housing such as Country View Apartments, Canterbury House, Bradford Ridge and Arbor Glen).

Combs defined "Affordable" housing as a cooperation of governmental entities that use Federal Income Tax Credits, Tax Exempt Bonds and reduced assessment values to create homes for those folks who are otherwise self-supporting but have few financial reserves. He said that when these folks hit a financial crisis, there is no one they can turn to. He noted that HUD housing is already income-based and those recipients have more resources such as food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, and other cushions built into place.

Combs noted that the Township has an emergency assistance program for one month or two's worth of help. He said that when folks in need of help come into the office for help, they are already at the end of their resources. Since the township program is not intended for maintenance, there is rarely money for help for a second month, yet the folks in the "Affordable" housing situation are in peril if they get evicted as the downward spiral begins.

Combs noted that the bulk of the money used for emergency assistance during the years of the study went to those in the "Affordable" housing

category where one might think that folks would have more stability and financial resources than in other categories.

He said that he intended this study and presentation to help start a discussion about affordable housing, not just as an entity, but a means to start to build things into the resource that would give people a cushion. While not making a specific suggestion, he said that a rent assessment or some kind of a developer pool might be investigated. Combs said that he hoped this study would also help with planning since once their budget cap was reached there is no more money to help with emergencies.

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

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS  
LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

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

There was no legislation for first reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Motion to suspend the rules to take up an item not on the original agenda received a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

Motion to cancel the Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> was approved by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO CANCEL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

There was no public comment at this point in the meeting.


PUBLIC INPUT

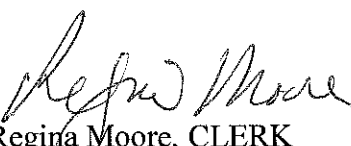
The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

  
Isabel Piedmont Smith, Vice President  
~~Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT~~  
Bloomington Common Council

  
Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington