

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
April 4, 2007

Roll Call: Wisler, Ruff, Sandberg, Rollo, Sturbaum, Volan, Sabbagh
Absent: Mayer, Diekhoff

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation.

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of February 21, 2007 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brad Wisler stated he was pleased to report that the Indiana State Senate passed the bill regarding passenger rail to Bloomington. He stated originally they had been in contact with local legislators to amend Senate Bill 105 which passed unanimously, and will now go back to conference to reconcile the differences between the house and the senate version. He is pleased with the outcome and gave thanks to our local legislators.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

David Sabbagh reminded folks about the local Homeward Bound 5 K Walk to Provide Housing and Fight Homelessness. He encouraged the community to participate.

Andy Ruff announced a program called the Pick-It-Up Campaign sponsored by the Housing and Neighborhood Department (HAND). He stated this campaign would provide free blue trash bags to neighborhoods to encourage people to clean up litter in individual neighborhoods. He said this was a program that needed more awareness and he encouraged folks to get involved. He also stated that he was encouraged to hear Council Member Wisler talk about rail transportation because this would reduce negative environmental impacts and lessen our dependency on foreign oil.

Susan Sandberg recognized community activist Charlotte Zietlow who was named the 2007 Business and Champion Treasure. She stated that Zietlow was a local treasure from her groundbreaking service on the City Council in the '70s and as the founder of the downtown shop Goods for Cooks. She said Zietlow's dedication and work on behalf of Middle Way House showed excellent opportunity for the future of women. She stated that Zietlow had paved the way for a better Indiana. Sandberg also encouraged folks to give food items to the Bloomington Food Bank and hoped community members would be generous.

Chris Sturbaum thanked the business community and the City for making the effort to work more closely together. He is happy about all the great things happening downtown and stated it takes a team effort.

Dave Rollo reminded council that it was the one year anniversary of the City Council's adoption of the resolution of the Kyoto protocol and the Mayor's signing of the climate protection agreement. He announced "Step-It-Up," which is a national day of action on global warming on Saturday, April 14. He said that 1200 communities in all 50 states would be acting that day to focus on green house gas admissions and global warming. The Bloomington event would begin with a march to the Bloomington Farmers Market by several community groups with a rally at 10:00am. The program would include speakers, information tables and music. Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan, Congressman Baron Hill, Singer/Songwriter Carrie Newcomer, and Author Scott Russell Sanders had been invited to address the public at the event. He invited all to come.

Rollo asked the council to move to accept a Disclosure of Conflict of Interest in regards to the deliberation on Resolution 07-03 because he and his wife are members of Bloomingfoods and loaned money for the Bloomingfoods project.

The Motion to Accept Dave Rollo's Disclosure of Conflict of Interest received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0.

Housing and Neighborhood Department Director Lisa Abbott announced a downtown "clean up" on May 1, 2007. She said this would be a joint effort from various City departments and downtown businesses and volunteers. She invited citizens to come out and help clean up the downtown.

Abbott reported that HAND and Bloomington Housing Authority were working jointly on a national campaign called *Housing America 2007*. She said the goal of this national campaign was to promote and raise awareness on affordable housing. She then proceeded to read a proclamation from the Mayor.

Vicki Provine is the co-chair (with Darrell Stone of IU) of the Homeward Bound Walk and spoke about the annual event which will take place Sunday, April 15th. She stated the purpose of the walk was to raise awareness of housing issues and homelessness. She said that 100% of the funds go directly to 13 agencies in Bloomington. She encouraged folks to go to www.homelesswalks.org to learn more about the event.

There were no reports from committees at this meeting.

Pedro Roman asked the council to do all it could to oppose a Ku Klux Klan rally in Bloomington. He noted that the Klan had announced its intention of holding a rally in Bloomington, and stated that the Bloomington community should not support the Klan's right to protest fully robed and hooded. He encouraged the city to pass an ordinance making it illegal to rally with faces covered. He likened the Ku Klux Klan to terrorist groups such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, and respectfully requested that the city stand up to them, though it might mean a lawsuit.

There were no appointments at this meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-0. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-03 be adopted.

Director of Economic Development Danise Alano explained the nature of this loan, and gave a brief history of the petitioner's past business activities and their opportunities for supporting the City's activities in the downtown. She noted that the grocery would serve the downtown neighborhoods, and would be of benefit to the entire downtown. Bloomingfoods General Manager George Huntington was present for questions.

Volan asked if this was the first loan applied for from the Business Investment Incentive Load Fund in the past 7 years. Alano said she didn't think that there had been any loans in that time, but that there were grants to non-profits that had been awarded from this fund. Sturbaum noted that there were loans turned down last year when he served on the Economic Development Commission and advocated grants rather than loans from the fund. They noted that interest is accumulating, but there was \$675,000 in the fund currently.

Resolution 07-03

Motion to accept Dave Rollo's Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC INPUT

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 07-03 To Approve Application and Authorize Loan from the Business Investment Incentive Fund (Bloomington Cooperative Services, Inc., Petitioner)

Resolution 07-03 (cont'd)

Sturbaum noted that this was a leftover fund from funds that were given to the city by Westside industries in lieu of their annexation into the city. Volan said that there were no plans to use all the money; Alano agreed. Volan asked what other businesses besides groceries lend themselves to co-operative arrangements. Huntington noted that rural electric and farm co-ops were examples of providing goods and services that members want. He noted that conventional business models operate to have a return on investment, while the core values that drive the co-ops are different. Volan asked if there was a greater market for the products that Bloomingfoods sells. Huntington noted that societal awareness of health, good diets and the desirability of locally produced foods has increased. Volan asked if this business model would be untenable in the future. Huntington said he believed that that because co-ops were owned by the members of the community, the members would want to support their own interests.

Volan asked about the most spectacular failure of a cooperative. Huntington mused that savings and loans, or credit unions might be examples.

Volan noted that one of the functions of local government was solid waste recycling, and that glass recycling was problem with transportation of the goods. He mused that maybe a glass crusher might be modeled after the co-op model. Huntington said that Bloomingfoods was interested in cooperative endeavors, and talked about the Bloomington funeral alliance that they had consulted with. It was noted that perhaps Bloomingfoods could provide some research assistance with Volan's idea. Volan then asked Alano, if the BIIF funds could be used to give a prize to someone who would want to start a glass crushing business. Alano noted that the funds were for loans and small grants to non-profit or for profit businesses, and that for this to occur the BIIF guidelines would have to be rewritten.

Sabbagh said this used to be called the West Side Fund, and was given to the city to NOT annex the west side industries. He made a point that this is not a venture capital fund and that we want the money back to reinvest.

Alano noted that the fund was originally called the Industrial Incentive Fund, and was formed in 1986. She said the guidelines were rewritten in 1999 to support downtown business retention and expansion, and to retain the character of the downtown. She noted that there was a business disruption lending program that was used during the BIG DIG Public Works project on Kirkwood.

Wisler asked if the fund balance of \$675,000 was actually in the bank or if it was committed to the fund and collections of loans were being pursued. Alano said that this was money in the bank and that the single outstanding loan was for under \$20,000.

Volan noted that venture capital was not the same as a prize grant for creative thinking in business ventures and asked if Sabbagh didn't agree. Sabbagh said it wasn't a question for discussion now and he would defer answering until a later date.

There was no public comment on this legislation.

Sturbaum said when he was a child his grandmother took him shopping with a little two wheel cart and planned to use it at the Bloomingfoods market.

Sabbagh said he and his wife supported the Bloomington market.

Volan said his questions earlier were to take advantage of cooperative

experts in asking if this money could be used to “incentivize” a model of service for solid waste facilities. He thanked the council for their indulgence in his musings.

Resolution 07-03 (cont'd)

Resolution 07-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0. NOTE: Dave Rollo did not participate in discussion or vote on this item.

There was no legislation for first reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING

A motion to cancel the scheduled meeting for April 11, 2007 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.

Cancellation of next committee
meeting

There was no public comment at this meeting.

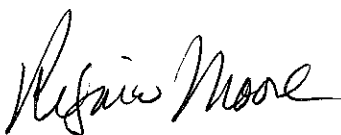
PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington