

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 11, 2007

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of May 2, 2007 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brad Wisler gave kudos to the street crew who recently worked on sections of Kinser Pike and the bypass saying that they did a good job keeping traffic moving during the t road improvement.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Wisler said he was involved, along with other business owners and investors, on a project to develop high tech office space targeted towards high tech start up businesses. He said that there might be an opportunity to interact with the city, but he didn't expect there to be council interaction or approval. He asked that the council accept his Disclosure of Financial Conflict of Interest.

Motion to Accept Disclosure of
Financial Conflict of Interest

It was moved and seconded to accept Wisler's Disclosure of Financial Conflict of Interest, and the motion received a roll cal vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Wisler).

David Sabbagh noted that he recently attended a performance of the Beaux Arts Trio, led by Menachem Pressler, and congratulated them on a wonderful performance.

Chris Sturbaum noted the Equal Exchange products sold at Bloomingfoods had sensitized him to the issues of globalization.

Tim Mayer noted that Mary Ellen Solt, former Bloomingtonian, scholar and poet, had passed away. He also noted that former County Council member Tom O'Brien had passed away.

Mayer stated that both Jim Lang and Jack Davis, long time City of Bloomington employees had retired and would be missed for their work and senses of humor.

Mayor added that the new City of Bloomington Utilities building had been opened and thanked board members for their contributions with the project.

He ended by thanking the street department for their street paving and marking efforts this season.

Mayor Mark Kruzan thanked Wisler and Mayer for acknowledging the work of the street department. He also acknowledged the presence of Postmaster Jim Mennel and former Postmaster Larry Jacobs at the meeting. He said they were present, as well as other representatives of the US Postal Service, to give official notification of the intent to move the downtown postal facility and to relocate it and to solicit site offers. He noted that the post office lease expires in March of 2009 and the site selection decision making process will take place at a regional and national level. This hearing was the initiation of a community input process which actually began in December with the notification by USPS that they would be leaving their present site. He said that city officials, area businesses and citizens had a strong desire for the post office to remain downtown and appreciated the post office defining their boundaries for the site. He said it was important to downtown businesses and residents, and for the identity of the downtown to keep

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

USPS Public Hearing

the post office centrally located. Kruzan noted that the USPS could only respond to sites that were offered to them. He introduced USPS Real Estate Agent Richard Drury.

Drury said he was employed to assist in locating a site for the main post office and introduced Brad Metter, manager of real estate from the Great Lakes Facilities Service Office, Mennel, Jacobs, and Robert Helfrick. He said the purpose of this hearing was to inform the community of the intended actions, to explain the process, and to get feedback from the community about these things. He gave some information on the current post office location saying the building footprint was 24,119 gross square feet and the lot size was 207,068 square feet or 4.75 acres of usable land. He said community feedback would be reviewed before any advertisement, 30 days from this date. Metter said offers would be shown to the community with another comment period on those sites, and that a site review would follow with a final selection after that. He noted that the original intent was to have a retail facility only, but now they wanted to combine this with a carrier distribution facility and needed the entire 4.75 acres.

Rollo asked for council questions to be followed by any public comment on this item.

Sturbaum asked about the sizes of the new building and new site, to which Drury said the site would have to be bigger. Larry Jacobs, former postmaster, said that the present building was 29,700 square feet in size (including the dock area). Drury said that the new building would be 4-5000 square feet smaller but the property site would be 4 times larger. He said that vehicular and pedestrian access to the site would need to be better for customers and delivery vehicles alike. He said there needed to be staging areas for the 18 wheelers and bobtails at the new site. Sturbaum expressed concern that the site would be so large that it might not be able to be located in the central city and asked about satellites or smaller service post offices.

Postmaster Jim Mennel said a larger site was needed to accommodate all the carriers currently working out of downtown instead of splitting up their bases of operation.

Wisler asked what would happen if a site could not be found within the search area; Drury said they would expand the search area while consulting with the City. Wisler asked if the facility could be more than one level; Brad Metter, Director Of Real Estate for the USPS based in Chicago, said that a two story building was no longer functional for post office operations.

Volan asked if there could be a small retail facility in the center of town with a processing center on the Westside of town. Mennel said that these were called contract stations. Volan said there was a real need for a retail facility in the downtown, and urged the USPS personnel present to keep a presence in the downtown.

Ruff asked if the contract stations would have PO Boxes and wondered how the smaller station would meet needs. Mennel said there were over 2000 Post Office boxes in the downtown post office and that they required much space for a contract station.

Ruff asked about news that communities who fought post office relocations from town centers to the edges of their towns near highways. Metter said that the current open site selection process was a result of the failure of some of those cases. He noted that one community put together a suitable relocation parcel from several landowners where they

wanted the post office to relocate and the USPS bought that particular land for the new location.

Sturbaum asked the public process for revisiting the 5 acre requirement for the site. Drury said it was a USPS decision. Metter said that the decision had been made in by USPS officials in Indianapolis and Chicago.

Mayer asked if the site needed space for large trucks. One of the post office delegation folks nodded from the audience to this question.

Rollo urged the public to call or comment to the Post Office and provided contact information. He asked officials to leave informational leaflets with the City Clerk.

Public comment on the Post Office issue:

Shodo Spring, member of Elders for Earth Children, said she appreciated the intelligent questions asked by the council. She asked the council not to beg the Post Office for anything, and said she believed that the 5 acre requirement could be negotiated. Spring commented that she was disappointed in the direction of the Sustainability Commission's work, saying that she'd hoped it would direct the city in its efforts towards sustainability, not work with individual homeowners. She worried about the effect of adding new buildings and not using older ones. She said that each decision that the council made should be with the future generation and the sustainability of our lifestyle in mind.

Jerry Sutherlin, a letter carrier at the Post Office, said that boundaries of the service areas affected by the postal facilities should be considered differently.

Trent Deckard, Field Director from Congressman Baron Hill's Office, thanked Mayor Kruzan and Danise Alano for keeping their office in the loop on the relocation process. He offered the congressional office's help to Post Office and the City officials in the relocation process.

Talisha Coppock with Downtown Bloomington, Inc., said that the Post Office was very important to the downtown as an employer and it attracted people to the downtown. She said DBI was ready to do whatever they could to help the Post Office in the downtown.

Buff Brown, President of Bloomington Transportation Options for People, said that the operations of the Post Office as planned for a large parcel closer to the edges of town would cause more driving for citizens. He said a downtown location created walkers and worked well, and he encouraged revisiting some of the parameters of the relocation process.

Christy Steele Gillenwater with the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, said that they were happy to participate in discussions of the relocation. She said the retail presence of the Post Office downtown was important for all of their 1000 members. She offered help and assistance to making this happen.

Eve Corrigan, BTOP, said the Post Office's downtown location was a very important public space. She said that another way of making the downtown location work should be explored, especially with larger residential buildings coming into the downtown. She said Bloomington has an opportunity to model sustainability with this project and shouldn't make the parking be the priority.

Chris Sevenish, an employee of the USPS for 29 years working at the

downtown facility, read a statement from the American Postal Workers President who wasn't able to be present:

It is important that Bloomington have a post office within the downtown area. Bloomington's downtown area is continuing to grow with construction of apartment buildings and condos. Many thriving businesses are located downtown, not to mention Indiana University. These residents and businesses deserve to continue to be served by a post office that is close to where they live and work.

A downtown post office also lends its part to making Bloomington feel like a community rather than just a town or a city. A post office becomes a landmark, a way to identify yourself and your neighbors with your community. One of the first things many of our incoming residents and students find themselves doing is making a trip to the post office. Having a post office in the downtown instead of at the edges of the community helps them feel this is vital to their community. As the years pass, these students and townspeople continue to call on the post office to acquire passports, pick up their packages and mail presents to loved ones. A post office located in a less central location will come to be seen as a detriment to the community – a chore, a hassle.

A post office located anywhere other than as close to downtown as possible will be a failure – a failure to serve the community and the greater world that the post office connects it to.

Sevenish added that the post office had known that this relocation was coming since 2000 and in that time many sites suitable for the post office have been developed in other ways. He noted that the old Mays Supermarket lot would have been ideal. He said that contract stations do not use postal employees who better know the post office changes and mail stream changes. He said trained and dedicated postal employees working in USPS retail units would give better service to retail customers.

Citizen Elsa Harik concurred with almost all the comments heard before her. She said that traditionally places such as the post office, library and possibly a tavern are at the center of a town bearing psychological and emotional importance. She said that the post office should be accessible to people should not be moved out into the Big Box Land. She added that one time she could, from her home, walk to several post office locations. She said she now must drive to the post office, but a significant portion of the citizens should be able to walk to it, in order to reduce our carbon footprint.

Joe Price, a 30 year postal employee from the downtown office, said that the amount of space needed for tractor trailers was overestimated in the post office site selection requirements. He said the contract stations have disappeared because they were difficult to run and find competent employees to staff the stations.

Christine Carver, citizen, commented that the use of mass transit, present and new routes, should be considered with the new post office site selection. She said that might reduce the amount of parking spaces needed.

Doran May, local businessman, said he would like to sell a parcel of land to the Post Office, but that while his lot was just about a block away from the present site, it was not 4+ acres in size. He said that his site, at the corner of Smith Avenue and Washington Street, was ideal for continuing the presence of the post office downtown.

Boice Tomlin, resident, said that changing the postal location to anywhere other than downtown was not acceptable. He added that the acreage requirement was ridiculous, and would like to know how the larger requirements could be changed.

Mr. Mettler from the Post Office said that the Post Office was moving forward wanted to work with everyone to find a solution.

There were reports at this meeting.

There was no public comment other than the above public comment on the Post Office Relocation at this point in the meeting.

There were no board or commission appointments at this meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-12 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-12 be adopted.

Director of Public Works Susie Johnson and Manager of Engineering Services Justin Wykoff said that this item came to the city as a request of the neighbors in the area.

Sturbaum asked about the number of passes available to residents of the area. Johnson said that any properly registered vehicle would be eligible a pass if the vehicle owner lived in the area. She also said that renters would need a lease to obtain a parking permit.

Sabbagh asked about parents dropping off their students at the nearby elementary school and coming back to the same block in that day. Johnson said that covered a small portion of people and hoped to be able to deal with them individually.

Sabbagh asked about teachers parking in the neighborhood. Johnson said that there was not enough parking for the teachers at the school and so teachers park in the neighborhood. This was one of the problems that the neighbors wanted resolved. She suggested that teachers buy a space at the Regester Garage and walk up to the school. Sabbagh asked about working the teachers into the parking area. Johnson said that in very specific instances some employers were authorized to buy permits in neighborhood parking zones. She said this would still need to be worked out, and Sabbagh encouraged her to follow through.

Wisler asked if the exemption for employers was actually in the code and also if the code specified that the employers have a right to a permit. Johnson said they do not, but that the city works with employers if need be.

Rollo asked if Johnson had been in contact with teachers; Johnson said she had not.

Buff Brown said he did not live in the neighborhood but thought that Smallwood residents may be using this area to park. He said that the timing was wrong and should be effective on September 1, 2007 to ensure that spaces in the Regester garage would be available. He said this was a perfect place to implement a Neighborhood Parking Benefit District where the city would sell parking permits (at a competitive price) and dedicate the sales proceeds to infrastructure improvements in the neighborhood. He said this had not been done in Indiana yet but was allowed under law, and could provide money for infrastructure.

Eve Corrigan said she had heard national parking expert Donald Shoop say those very comments last year. She said the Neighborhood Parking Benefit District would help solve the parking problem and would raise money for improvements at the same time.

Sturbaum said that this neighborhood was in his district and that he had heard from a lot of people who wanted the parking zone as presented in

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC INPUT

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 07-12 To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" – Re: Establishing a New Zone 10 Residential Neighborhood Permit Parking Zone for the Near West Side with Additional Two-Hour Parking Limits

Ordinance 07-12

the ordinance. He said that most of the people in this area cannot park anywhere but the street, and when all the residents park on the street there are no extra places to sell or lease. He said he would appreciate council support on this ordinance.

Mayer concurred with Sturbaum and thanked the staff for putting this together. He said he knew it took a long time to research and develop the plan and thanked Jack Davis who had retired the week before for his work on the issue.

Wisler said that he was concerned about the piecemeal approach to parking and traffic. He said that the city knew this would be displacing folks and wanted to make sure that this was taken into account when garage pricing was discussed. He said the effect of such decisions should be quantified, perhaps from the tickets that are being written there, and considered in garage planning and management.

Rollo said he supported this, and was intrigued by the Parking Benefit District, although it would take some time and negotiation with neighbors to work it out.

Ordinance 07-12 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-14 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-14 be adopted.

Director of Employee Services Daniel Grundmann introduced a new position, the Downtown Specialist, and said the job description had been preliminarily classed as a grade three. He added that the 2007 fiscal impact would be no more than \$19290, which would include PERF, FICA and Health Care.

He said the position would focus completely on the downtown area with such tasks as litter removal, working with merchants on graffiti eradication, monitoring People's Park, making sure that the lights and switchboxes were free of attachments, power washing alleys and garages, and would serve as a 'downtown ambassador' for the public.

Sabbagh asked about the 12 month budget for this position. Grundmann said that it would be about \$41,000 which would include all benefits.

Mayer clarified that the downtown specialist would not be working in the garages contracted out to REI for management.

Sturbaum noted that whoever filled the position would receive information about problems throughout the downtown, including garage conditions. He asked about graffiti. Grundmann said that the goal was to try to improve the downtown aesthetically as well as its friendliness to visitors, and said graffiti removal would be done in concert with property owners.

Sabbagh clarified that this position was not one associated with policy making.

Rollo asked if a periodic report could be presented to the council. Grundmann said that would be possible.

There were no public comments or further council comments on this Ordinance.

Ordinance 07-14 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Sabbagh).

Ordinance 07-14 To Amend
Ordinance 06-14 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 2007 – Re:
Position in the Public Works
Department

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 07-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 07-02 be adopted.

Controller Susan Clark listed the costs of items which would be covered in this ordinance from the general fund as radios for the animal care and control department, fire proof cabinets for 19th century documents, an education program to lower noise coming from cars, start up costs for Volunteers in Medicine Free Clinic, automatic external defibrillators for the fire department, 800-megahertz radios, simultaneous translation services for 911 phone calls, equipment for the small arms training facility and downtown specialist tools and truck, wages, FICA, PERF and insurance.

Clark listed items from the other funds as the public safety training facility site prep, small arms training facility building with evidence and class rooms, Maxwell Lane sidewalk continuance, asphalt for street paving, B-Line Phase 1 final design work, and demolishment of the Cascades motorcycle shop building and remediation of the site.

It was moved and seconded to divide the question into two parts. Part A provides exclusively for the position of the downtown specialist in the Public Works Department; Part B excludes the position of the Downtown Specialist in the Public Works Department but provides for multiple other appropriations covered in Appropriation Ordinance 07-02 so that each part could be voted on individually and the successful parts could be combined into one ordinance.

Sabbagh said he felt that the downtown specialist was a position and a person where the other items were one time expenses and therefore quite distinct in their nature of expenditures.

The motion to divide the question received a roll call vote of 2 (Sabbagh, Wisler) – 7, and thus failed.

Sturbaum asked about the budgetary impact of the appropriation. Controller Clark said that she had analyzed each line item in the funds that were affected and found that there were sufficient funds in every case.

Wisler asked why it was necessary to make the appropriation to demolish the motorcycle shop in Cascades Park, saying that he thought that Parks and Recreation had a fund for capital improvement projects. Clark said that the parks land acquisition fund received its revenue from the cumulative capital development fund. She said that expenses are periodically appropriated from this fund that are not included in the annual budget because there aren't regular expenses from the fund. She said that their non-reverting operating fund expenditures go through the Parks Board for approval.

Sturbaum asked if that was the fund used to purchase the property. Clark said that it was. Sturbaum asked when the police and fire facilities would be finished. Manager of Engineering Services Justin Wykoff said that pricing and bidding on the police training facility would be done in October. He said that the burn facility would be finished by September.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-02 To Specially Appropriate from the General Fund, Special Non-Reverting Improvement Fund, Alternative Transportation Fund, Local Road & Street Fund, Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Cumulative Capital Improvement – Rate Fund And Parks Acquisition Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for Animal Care & Control, City Clerk's Office, Community & Family Resources, Controller's Office, Fire, Police and Public Works; Appropriating Funds from the Special Non-Reverting Improvement Fund, Alternative Transportation Fund, Local Road & Street Fund, Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Cumulative Capital Improvement – Rate Fund and Parks Acquisition Fund)

MOTION TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION

Appropriation Ordinance 07-02
deliberation.

Rollo said that the site for the training facility was ideal and asked about the arrangements. Clark said that the location was ideal for on duty officers and that the Utilities department worked with the city to lease over 6 acres in part of the old Winston Thomas sewage treatment plant for the civil city.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-02
deliberation (cont'd)

Public comment brought Sergeant Faron Lake with the Bloomington Police Department to the council to thank the administration for their time and energy in the project. He thanked the council for putting money towards public safety and reminded the council that they were not only voting for a firing range or training center, but that it was a vote for public safety in regards to 'first responders.' He encouraged passage of the ordinance.

Jim Witmer from the Bloomington Police Department Training Division said that the facility was a true show of support for public safety by the council. He said that the community would be able to reap benefits from this fire fighter and police training center.

Sergeant Daniel Carnes from the BPD said that the officers were really looking forward to having a shooting range close by. He thanked the administration for this demonstration of commitment to public safety and thanked the council for their support.

Lieutenant Anthony Pope from the BPD also thanked the administration for their demonstration of commitment to public safety and thanked the council for their support.

Jim Parrot, President of Local 586 of the Bloomington Metropolitan Fire Fighters, agreed with the previous comments from police officers. He thanked the administration and council. He said that this made a perfect location for a regional state training site and that the state fire fighters union was looking at sites for training. He added that this would be a wonderful way to promote Bloomington as well. He said this was a step forward for firefighters, police and the community.

Alicia Graves, citizen of District 5, said that the Bloomington Municipal Code already addressed loud noises, cars, motorcycles and construction noises, and asked why the mayor and council were wasting time and taxpayer's dollars. She said that tax rates were skyrocketing and that this was the job of the law enforcement officers.

Battalion Chief of Training Rob Stumpf from the Bloomington Fire Department said he hoped that the council would support the ordinance tonight. He thanked the mayor and Corporation Counsel Kevin Robling for this ordinance. He said that he had first heard in 1956 that fire fighters and law enforcement officers needed a place to train. He said he had been the training officer for five years and likened it to running an auto repair shop without cars or tools. He said that one could not overstate the importance of this facility. He thanked many for their cooperative work.

John Kovach, President of Local Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 88, thanked the administration for the facility and their overall concern for public safety. He said that as an officer it was important, but it was important to the community, also. He also said that it was a winning situation in bringing other officers to Bloomington to train.

Sturbaum said that while government does a lot of things, this was one of the most important. He added that he was proud to be part of this effort.

Wisler said he was happy that the public safety officials were getting the tools they needed to do an effective job.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-02
deliberation (cont'd)

Mayer thanked the police and fire officers for coming to the meeting outside of their work hours to support the ordinance. He said that there was no doubt but that this would go forward.

Diekhoff said that while there was a lot in the ordinance, the bulk of the appropriation was about public safety. He said that training opportunities were very important and that the on-duty training was a key to not taking officers off the streets to train.

Sabbagh said that there were many good things in the ordinance and voiced his support.

Volan said he was proud and pleased to be able to vote for this ordinance.

Rollo thanked the administration, mayor, and the public safety personnel adding that it was important to hear their perspective.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9,
Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-05 be adopted.

Ordinance 07-05 To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" – Re: Amending Provisions Regarding Stop Intersections, Limited Parking Zones, Parking Garage and Lot Permits

James McNamara, Deputy Mayor, noted that this ordinance would codify a 4 way stop at the corner of 6th and Morton, a parking time limit change on 7th Street from Morton and Rogers, a hotel registration only parking area in front of the Hilton Garden Inn on College street, some small fees that have been previously included in some leased arrangements for parking permits, a statement that makes explicit that the provisions of Title 15 apply to any agent that the city might hire to do garage management, a provision for pro-rating annual parking rates, a violation for someone with a reserved space to park in a non-reserved space in the same facility.

It was moved and seconded that Amendment #1 be added to Ordinance 07-05. Council member Volan asked that the council consider this amendment which he said would keep the rates as they were before the ordinance was considered. He said that up until this point, the city had managed the garages with most of the spaces classified as reserved spaces. He said that there had been reports that the garages had been underused and that the city was now contracting with an outside vendor to manage the garage spaces and that many spaces would have to be converted to non reserved spaces.

Amendment #1 to Ordinance 07-05

His concern regarding the continual subsidy of parking plus the fact that there were 342 persons on a waiting list for garage permits prompted him to bring this amendment forward quickly.

Saying that, he said that he understood that people had not had enough time to study the figures, and would be withdrawing the amendment for the time being. He did caution, however, that the current price of reserved parking should be the new price of non-reserved parking to prevent subsidy and open up new unreserved spaces.

It was then moved and seconded to withdraw this amendment.

The motion to withdraw the motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8,
Nays: 1 (Mayer)

Wisler as if any issues of parking garage pricing was appropriate to discuss in light of the amendment being withdrawn. Council Attorney Sherman noted that the council had some latitude with that discussion.

Mayer asked if the administration members present could speak to some of the issues because they were in attendance at the meeting. He wanted to know if the issues were pertinent or not as it would be no surprise to any Bloomington citizen that the city subsidizes parking. He said he wanted to know the administrations position so that the council could carry on their work.

Sherman said that the president of the council could allow the council members to ask questions of the administration, and Rollo said it was absolutely pertinent.

Mayor Kruzan said that almost every city service is actually subsidized, and in fact, that is what government does, pay for services to be available to the public. He said that Volan had noted some time ago that parking spaces were being subsidized from \$700 - \$1100 per space. He asked Mayer and Rollo to be more specific about their questions so that he could more accurately address them.

Mayer reiterated that the city was aware that the garages were run as a deficit, and the mayor agreed. He then asked the mayor if that was an acceptable deficit.

The mayor said he didn't know if any deficit was acceptable but it was part of the entire discussion of why the city was considering fee structure in garages and on the street.

He said he would prefer for the amendment to be debated and prepared statements made but then withdrawn. He elaborated saying that he appreciated the intent of the amendment, and said that the administration would be approaching the Chamber of Commerce, BTOP, other groups and citizens who have given the city input on parking and solicit more input on the overall parking picture. He said the amendment issues would drive a healthy public discussion, but wanted to make sure that there was not a short deadline on that discussion and said that there had been some inaccurate information given to the council.

He said he viewed getting a parking pass for a 'guaranteed space' that a citizen already had with a new increase in price was a de facto increase whereas, he said, Volan disagreed with that philosophy. He said that a creation of a perception of that increase had taken place and would like to see a spirit of cooperation on the discussion of all parking matters.

He noted the psychology of parking and he was concerned about the emotional impact the perceptions had created in the downtown. He said he would like to see on-street parking with fees making the garages more inviting, but was concerned that any kind of perceived increase at this point would make the garages seem less inviting.

He reiterated that he was not opposed to the discussing the content of the amendment, but thought the timing needed to be considered with the above issues.

Mayer asked if he understood correctly that the administration philosophically accepted the deficit spending in garage management as acceptable as part of the public/private partnership.

Kruzan said that he accepted it as a reality for the time being, but that the REI, management company for the garages, would help the city

Ordinance 07-05 (cont'd)

attach market prices to parking spaces. He said that probably councilmember Volan's suggested rates would someday be reality. Kruzan said that his desire at this point was that when there was a fee for parking on streets in the downtown, that the first hour in the garage be free to send the message of welcome to citizens. He said that he was very concerned that decisions be made with attention to the psychology and emotion of downtown. He said he wouldn't accept that the city would always be subsidizing the cost of parking, but noted that there would always be city services that would be subsidized in providing them to tax payers.

Volan asked how REI would go about changing rates in the garages. Kruzan said they could not do this alone, but must make recommendations to the city about what market rates should be and the council would have to approve these new rates in their public meetings.

Volan asked about the frequency of suggested changes, to which Kruzan said he didn't know.

Volan asked why REI was not present to answer questions. Kruzan said that he didn't ask them to be present as REI was not yet hired by the city, and that the ordinance in question was the administration's proposal.

Volan asked how much less of a produce is a guaranteed non-reserved parking space compared to a guaranteed reserved 24/7 space. Kruzan said that his personal opinion was that it was a significant difference. He said that his personal impression was that a citizen would be getting less for the same money. He said that he'd like to have some basis for the amounts of the raises based on market research before any increases would take place.

Volan asked if there wouldn't be objections when prices are raised. Kruzan said there would be, but hopefully there would be a cooperative spirit in trying to find the right amounts. He said he was most concerned with managing the garages well, and then looking into street parking with new technologies, length of parking times, areas of parking enforcement before increases in parking garages take place.

Volan said asked if a charrette or other public meeting had been planned. Kruzan said that there would be a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce parking team to consider technology, geography, and duration of parking on streets. Volan asked if other persons could meet, to which Kruzan said that there would be public discussions as well.

Volan asked if Kruzan understood his motives for this amendment. Kruzan said he did, and concluded that the accomplishment of the amendment was a healthy public discussion.

Sturbaum reiterated that these rates were not set in stone and that upon future recommendations the council would be making decisions regarding pricing of parking. Kruzan said it was correct, and that this was a temporary shift in pricing.

Sturbaum said he that it was completely understood that before the garages went it that it would be a subsidy to help the downtown.

Mayer asked about the amount of time that it would take for the public to come to this consensus. Kruzan said that the technology discussions could happen at any time, but that counts and data would be collected daily, and that would contribute to the discussion.

Kruzan reiterated again that his concern was for the psyche of the downtown shoppers and merchants.

Wisler asked if the city's intent was to change reserved spaces to non-reserved spaces. Deputy James McNamara said that the administration would control the number and placement of spaces of each type of permit, but the council controlled the pricing of those spaces.

He asked how the projections from Susan Clark were developed. She said her estimates were conservative as if there might not be changes in this area.

Wisler asked what happened if he showed up to park and he didn't have a place to park. McNamara said that professional garage management would help in this situation. He said that avoiding this situation was their primary goal.

Wisler asked if there would be a raise in the price of a guaranteed reserved permit at some point. McNamara said yes, but that the point was not determined. Wisler confirmed that this decision would be made by the council, and after the conversion of some permits from reserved to non-reserved.

Wisler asked if the waiting list was interpreted as higher demand than the supply. McNamara said it was a result of the number of reserved parking spaces in the past years, and that non reserved spaces were not used as much. McNamara said that sometimes people put themselves on the waitlist for all three garages.

Volan asked if a meter ordinance would come forth with a change of garage changes. Kruzan said that garage management should be in place ahead of time and said that this was a multi-year project.

Wisler asked about price points to which Kruzan said that question needed to be answered before more downtown parking ordinances would be coming. Kruzan said he didn't have a specific time frame in mind at this point.

Talisha Coppock said she was impressed with REI management and appreciated councilmember Volan's withdrawal of the amendment. She said she was appreciative of the mayor and council's support of the downtown.

Citizen Greg Alexander said he, as a non driver, bore some of the costs of drivers in reduced safety, taxpayer subsidy of parking, and increased pollution.

Buff Brown, President of Bloomington Transportation Options for People, said that this ordinance was about parking availability and permits that doesn't meet demand, and this indicated that prices were too low. He noted that parking availability was the reason one employer left the downtown, and said that this problem could be solved quickly as outlined in the BTOP parking plan. He urged the council to vote on the amendment, or table it for a week, but the ordinance should be reintroduced.

Sarah Clevenger, a citizen of Bloomington for over 50 years, said she did not want to subsidize the use of cars increasing pollution. She said that there should be more bus service and we should encourage the greening of the transportation.

Jim Murphy thanked Volan for withdrawing the amendment and asked

Ordinance 07-05 (cont'd)

that it be thoroughly discussed and understood after REI has had some time as management. He said that he had spoken with REI and was comfortable with the company and their plans. He concluded by saying that parking was always going to be an issue downtown.

Boice Tomlin said the amendment should be voted on, or that the ordinance should be tabled for a week. He said that parking should not be subsidized and that this ordinance was a mistake in pricing.

Bill Hayden said there was no plan for parking in garages and on street and that there was no plan at this point. He supported raising fees to market rates, and said the parking fees should cover the management, and maintenance of the garages. He spoke against parking subsidies for parkers.

Bob Costello, the chair of the parking committee for the Chamber of Commerce said that this was a philosophical discussion instead of a discussion on the ordinance. He said there was not enough data on the demand of parking to make decisions on that at this point, and he said that this needs to be studied more. He invited council, BTOP and citizens to the Chamber parking committee meetings.

Christy Steele Gillenwater said that she supported the ordinance and suggested more dialogue in the future about parking pricing.

Eve Corrigan said she did not believe that there should be a lowering of the price of parking in the garage. She said that there was really no comparison between subsidizing parking and essential governmental services such as police and fire department services. She said that the ordinance should not be deliberated without the amendment, and asked that the ordinance be tabled until it could be included.

Wisler said that this measure would result in revenue in the parking operations, especially with having to pay for a garage management contract. He said that we should understand the entire market and was looking forward to that discussion.

Sturbaum said the downtown was a dynamic area and there would always be adjustments and that there was no perfect science to these formulas.

Mayer said that a private parking space in New York City cost \$225,000 for a year in a private building. He talked about the affordability of parking downtown, and talked about the hurdles of small businesses related to that issue. He said that it was too soon to start talking about rates and said that this ordinance was a good start to the problem.

Sturbaum added his thanks to those who care so much about the downtown, and thanked Volan for fostering the discussion and withdrawing the amendment, too.

Ruff said he enjoyed the passion and concern that councilmembers, citizens, business owners and chamber members who came tonight. He said there was frustration with not changing fast enough, but thought that there were small incremental changes happening democratically, carefully and deliberately to move the city in the direction that it needs to go.

Rollo noted that the alternative transportation fund subsidized and cared about biking and named several ways that this was done in the city and in the requirements for new developments. He agreed that the fees for parking could not be done at this point in time, but said it would be done with the due consideration that it deserves.

Sabbagh said he wished the city would come up with a substantive plan before another major downtown employer was lost.

Ordinance 07-05 (cont'd)

Volan noted that it was clear that there was no consensus for setting fees at this meeting. He asked if there would be complaints about prices when the issue finally did come before council. He noted that the parking garages probably wouldn't last the duration of their thirty year lease. He said that capital and interest on the two garages with outstanding leases is projected to be \$27M. He said that since there were 1245 spaces in these garages, the average cost for construction and capital and interest of more than \$22,000 per space. He noted that if the garage lasted for 40 years, the annual cost of the space would be \$562 that would not include the cost of maintenance which has been estimated at \$192 per year. He said that the cost for the parking permits were not near this amount.

He asked said that if the city would need to finance anything about parking, he suggested a circulator or a trolley. He called for a charrette to discuss parking issues with public, city administration and all others who are interested. He said that he did support the ordinance, but wanted to know how soon the pricing issue would be coming before the council.

Ordinance 07-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 07-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 6-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 07-03 be adopted.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-03 To Specially Appropriate from the Parking Enforcement Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Transferring Funds Within and Taking Additional Funds from the Parking Enforcement Fund for a Management Contract, Equipment and Signage for the Downtown Garages)

Controller Susan Clark said these expenditures were all related to the REI management contract related to the parking garages. She noted that personnel line savings would be available because of vacant positions this year. She noted the ordinance included money for parking related signage and additional equipment that would be needed for all three garages. She noted the management fee and personnel fee was included, as well as machinery, equipment repairs and maintenance for new equipment that REI might recommend.

Mayer asked about directional signage to the garage being compatible to the existing 'wayfinder' signs.

There was no public comment or council comment on this item.

Appropriation Ordinance 07-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-07 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 2-0-6. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-07 be adopted.

Ordinance 07-07 To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" – Re: Amending Provisions Regarding Signs, Speed Limits, Various Parking Restrictions, and Pedestrian Crossings

Manager of Engineering Services Justin Wykoff noted that the Maxwell Street segment of this ordinance was the one that had the most discussion in the committee meeting and limited his presentation to that area due to the lateness of the hour.

Wykoff said that the ordinance would prohibit parking 160 feet from Hillside Drive, add a double yellow line and allowing one parking space for the resident. He said he wanted to use a 90-day order to try the no parking situation and codify the changes at a later date.

Ordinance 07-07 (cont'd)

Wisler asked if this was a compromise met with a resident of the area. Wykoff said he had talked to the resident about what changes might be made and still satisfy his needs for the area. He said that if this created a problem to the south of this area, it would be taken to the traffic commission for modification of the parking in the area.

Mayer asked about 6th and Madison (sic) changes. Wykoff said that the change would be done at first with orange barrels to acclimate drivers in to the new four way the area before the signage was installed.

Pam White a resident of Maxwell Street said she hoped that this change would make approaching the intersection on Maxwell Street safer for residents.

Tim May, of 1527 S. Maxwell Street, said his problem was parking his truck and boat to park and needed 99'3" to park. He said that if the parking plan proceeded as proposed he would not have sufficient space to park especially maneuvering around any busses or other cars in the area. He said that the Day Care at the corner made this more of a safety issue for the area.

Jeff White, 1528 S. Maxwell Street, said there was a lot of traffic on Hillside and that it was congested. He also questioned one parking space for one resident and said the ordinance should institute no parking on either side of Maxwell as far south of Hillside as possible.

Mayer asked Wykoff if the proposal addressed the needs of the neighbors. He said it would address three issues but would support a request to extend the no parking zone further to the south from Hillside.

Rollo asked if these questions were discussed at Traffic Commission, and Wykoff said it was not, and that was the reason for the 90-day order which didn't have to be renewed if it was found to not rectify the problem.

Wisler noted that there might be an enforcement issue in the area if people were parking on the yellow curb area. Rollo and Wykoff noted that enforcement in this area was complaint driven. Wisler said that he felt this was a good compromise.

Ordinance 07-07 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

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 07-13 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps From Re To Planned Unit Development (PUD) and to Amend The Preliminary Plan for the Meadowood/Jill's House PUD – Re: 800 E. Tamarack Trail (Meadowood Retirement Community)

Ordinance 07-13

There was no public input at this wee hour of the morning.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 am on July 12, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington