

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday,  
November 28, 2007 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo  
presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
NOVEMBER 28, 2007

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Rollo welcomed a Boy Scout troop that was present for the  
meeting.

REPORTS:  
COUNCILMEMBERS

Brad Wisler congratulated Coach Sampson and the IU Basketball team for winning the recent ACC Big Ten Challenge, and praised Coach Lynch and the IU Football team for their outstanding season. He noted that the impact of the winning seasons had a city wide effect.

Wisler added that the following evening there would be a transit expert giving a speech in the Council Chambers, as well as another meeting at City Hall with neighbors of the 17<sup>th</sup> and Crescent area regarding a development project. He said he hoped long overdue infrastructure improvements would come to the area as a result of this project. He encouraged other residents in that area to contact him or the Planning Department with any input they might have.

Steve Volan announced that he would be giving the second of a two part talk on ‘the college driven metropolitan area’ at Alumni Hall on the following Tuesday. He invited anyone who was interested to attend.

Susan Sandberg noted that she had been working for months with community members on Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District’s Strategic Plan and said they were putting some finishing touches on plans for the next three years. She said that arts recognition and economic development would boost the downtown and encouraged folks to stay tuned for more updates.

Chris Sturbaum seconded Wisler’s comments regarding future mass transit, adding that it was important to think about the future but also deal with the present in terms of infrastructure. He also welcomed the Boy Scout troop and encouraged them to add any comments they might have during the public comment portion of the meeting.

There were no reports from the mayor or city offices at this meeting.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Tim Mayer announced that council members had been in contact with constituents regarding sewage rates. Mayer commented that the Utility department had not been aggressive enough in the past, according to the State Board of Accounts, in collecting sewage fees that were owed. He noted that the Utilities Service Board now had policies in line with state statutes, and that Utilities was billing landlords for their tenant’s unpaid bills. He said he understood the frustration of people who had received a bill for large sums of money but that the department had decided to waive any bills below \$40. He added that he personally has had to pay Utilities under this new sanction.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Sturbaum commented that he also had to pay a Utilities bill due to tenants not paying it themselves.

Environmental Commission Chair Heather Reynolds gave a presentation on greenspace trends in Bloomington from 1993 to 2007, an updated version of a report given in 2003. The current report found that the city's greenspace had declined by more than 2,000 acres since 1993. Greenspace was defined as vegetated, permeable land greater than one contiguous acre in size, and at least 10 feet from any manmade development.

Reynolds said that greenspace was important to track because it hosts ecological systems, is essential for food production, allows habitation for wildlife, and increases real estate value, as well as being aesthetically pleasing. She added that vegetation produces oxygen and absorbs carbon dioxide, and filters and improves water quality. She implied that 'nature deficit disorder' was a real problem among youth as their environments had insufficient green and natural areas.

In preparing this report, the Environmental Commission used Geographic Information System (GIS) software was used to obtain aerial photographs of Bloomington's greenspace. The standardized boundary for the study was 16,707 acres, and was set by the 2007 Planning Jurisdiction.

She noted that "in play" greenspace, which was mostly private property, had decreased by about 38 percent since 1993. IU's greenspace had declined by 5 percent since then, while Bloomington's park greenspace had increased by nearly 28 percent. Reynolds informed the council that by measuring the current rate of greenspace lost per year, in 27 years the rest of the "in play" green space would be lost.

Reynolds showed a map of the city divided into quadrants and indicated that most of the current lost greenspace acreage was from the south and northwest areas. It was found that the majority of greenspace lost was due to residential development. She shared that IU had made strides to acquire and protect greenspace. She said that the City of Bloomington had acquired deeds from Utilities, but Utilities currently had no more land to give.

Reynolds announced the Environmental Commission's recommendation of reserving at least \$500,000 per year for greenspace acquisition, as well as the formation of a Greenspace Taskforce.

Councilmember Volan thanked Reynolds for an interesting presentation. He then asked her if she knew at what rate the county was losing green space. She replied the Commission did not have that data, but wanted the inventory to be extended to the county by way of a Taskforce.

Volan then asked what the loss of greenspace had been in the last three to five years. Reynolds answered that it was nearly the same as previous years, but that the City of Bloomington was recently doing slightly better in acquiring green space.

Volan further inquired about annexed land affecting the greenspace boundaries over the period of the study. GIS Specialist Chuck Winkle responded that the planning jurisdiction boundary had remained fairly stable.

Wisler wondered how many actual acres of greenspace were lost to residential development, as opposed to just giving a percentage. Reynolds responded that slightly less than 2,000 "in play" acres were lost, which is about one-third of Bloomington's total "in play" acreage.

Wisler said he was trying to understand if the residential development

#### PUBLIC INPUT

- Environmental Commission Report on Greenspace

PUBLIC INPUT (cont'd)

rate was equivalent to population change over the time of the study. He noted he did not believe that the city's population had increased. Reynolds agreed that was an important issue, but said she wasn't sure who was filling all the new residences that were being built. They speculated it had to do with student renters moving into older homes, and permanent residents buying newer ones.

Wisler questioned how the greenspace being developed compared to how much land was being redeveloped in the area. Reynolds noted that because greenspace continued declining, it suggested that not much redevelopment was occurring. She noted also that was not specifically an issue the Environmental Commission had addressed in their report.

Andy Ruff inquired about how much of the remaining greenspace was suited for agricultural production. Reynolds said 1700 acres of remaining greenspace was not wooded, which was the most precise data she had to answer his question.

Ruff wondered how many of the services provided by the city's greenspace infrastructure were significantly impaired by conversion to agricultural land. Reynolds responded that it would not be good to have only agricultural land, but that that type of land was permeable and provided storm water control, stored carbon in the soil, and was important for ecosystems.

Ruff asked Reynolds if she agreed that greenspace should be kept preserved even if an immediate use for it was not known. She agreed that it was essential for the present as well as future generations.

Volan noted that a large percentage of people from the surrounding Owen and Greene counties commuted to Bloomington to work and were considered by the government to be part of the Bloomington Metropolitan Area. He asked if the Environmental Commission thought the greenspace in the other counties should be protected as part of Bloomington's extended land.

Reynolds expressed the need for sensible planning that would break municipal boundaries to expand greenspace awareness county-wide as well as regionally. She said the Environmental Commission would advocate greenspace awareness on a larger scale, but currently was taking smaller steps within the city.

Volan stated that he supported the Environmental Commission advocating greenspace preservation over a larger geographic area.

Sturbaum noted that greenspace was valued differently on a city and county level, and said that by extending to other counties there would be discrepancies as to how to preserve certain areas. Reynolds said that she personally would like to see a city/county growth plan that would address this issue. She added that it was important to figure out what density levels the city, county and region could support while existing sustainably.

Rollo said that he wanted to see a prioritizing of what types of greenspace should be preserved. He said it should be a priority that all Bloomington residents have some type of greenspace near them. He inquired as to whether or not there was a specific area lacking significant greenspace. Reynolds replied that the southeast was being depleted of greenspace and what was left should be protected.

Rollo noted that the July 1st ending of the report did not account for the 60 acres the city had acquired for preservation in September. Reynolds said the Environmental Commission appreciated that land being preserved.

Rollo thanked the Environmental Commissioners for their work, and noted that the Commission's report could be viewed online at the city's website.

PUBLIC INPUT (*cont'd*)

Citizen David R. Grubb said there should be a protection factor for children so that they are not affected by the pollution of the environment.

- Other Citizen Comments

Citizen Jennifer Mickel said that she was a landscaper and was worried about greenspace in Bloomington, as well as the transit system. She said she felt the city wasn't being wise with money or the environment in terms of mass transportation. She said she felt that a horse and carriage system would be a productive way to incorporate animals into the downtown, as she had seen in Chicago, and would be a good opportunity for stable businesses.

Citizen Marc Haggerty spoke to the issue mentioned earlier by Councilmember Mayer regarding Utilities billing. Haggerty stated that he owned a house and had rented to a man who skipped town without paying several months worth of rent. Haggerty said that he was left to clean up the man's mess, and was recently told he had to pay his Utility bill or his house would be foreclosed. Haggerty announced that he refused to pay the bill because he had no contract with the Utilities department to do so. He said the state had no business sending a sheriff to collect on a water bill, and read from the Indiana Constitution to exemplify the Utilities issue as unfair policy.

There were no appointments at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION  
APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-13 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, stating that there was no committee recommendation. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-13 be adopted.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND  
READING

Resolution 07-13 – To Approve the  
Use of Revenues from Municipal  
Building Vending Machines for City  
Employee Functions

Controller Susan Clark said the resolution allowed the concession funds for employee recognition functions in 2007 and 2008. She noted that historically a retirement party might be paid for by a department head or co-workers personally. She said that the city administration would like to use the funds for this purpose as well as the traditional employee recognition in general. She gave the current balance as \$7600.

Volan asked what the money was currently used for. Clark said that the funds were used to supplement the Employee Services General Fund budget that provides the employee picnic each summer. Volan asked if Fund was depleted by that use, to which Clark replied that there was money left after that expense, which explained the balance in the fund.

Sturbaum asked what the amount deposited to the fund annually. Clark said she did not know the exact figures, but explained that this was the 'profit' from the vending machines in city facilities.

Mayer asked if this was an annual event. Clark said it was, and that due to the timing of this request, the 2008 request was included this year. She said that this was typically viewed as a housekeeping item of legislation.

Mayer asked if this fund was used for the monetary gifts for years of recognition of service to the city. Clark said that those monetary awards were taken from the payroll fund, but this new request would be for a cake and supplies for a city wide retirement party.

There were no public comments or final council comments on this item.

Resolution 07-13 (cont'd)

Resolution 07-13 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, 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

Appropriation Ordinance 07-06 – To Specially Appropriate from the General Fund, Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Cumulative Capital Improvement – Rate Fund, Fleet Maintenance Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Risk Management Fund, Redevelopment Lease Rental Bonds of 1991 Fund, and Parking Facilities Lease Rental Bonds of 1992 Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating Various Transfers of Funds within the General Fund for Animal Care & Control, Clerk's Office, and Fire; Appropriating Transfers of Funds within the Fleet Maintenance Fund and the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for Clerk, Police and Information Technology Services; Appropriating Funds from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund, the Cumulative Capital Improvement – Rate Fund, the Risk Management Fund, the Redevelopment Lease Rental Bonds of 1991, and the Parking Facilities Lease Rental Bonds of 1992 Fund)

Appropriation Ordinance 07-06

Ordinance 07-26 – To Vacate a Public Parcel – Re: A 12-Foot Alleyway Running East/West for 132 Feet Between 622 and 626 North Morton Street (ERL6, LLC, Elliott Lewis, Petitioner)

Ordinance 07-26

It was moved and seconded to withdraw Ordinance 07-26 pursuant to the written request of the petitioner.

Motion to Withdraw Ordinance 07-26

Volan asked if there was any indication that the petitioner would request that the item be reconsidered before the end of the year. Sherman noted it would not.

The motion to withdraw Ordinance 07-26 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Ordinance 07-27 – To Designate an Economic Development Target Area - Re: 626 N. Morton Street, Morton Place Condominiums (ERL-3, LLC, Petitioner)

Ordinance 07-27

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-27 be withdrawn pursuant to the written request of the petitioner.

Motion to Withdraw Ordinance 07-27

There were no questions or discussion on the matter.

The motion to withdraw Ordinance 07-27 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

There was no public comment at the end of the meeting.

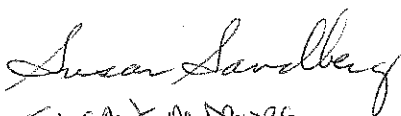
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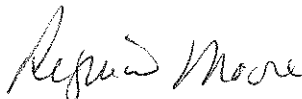
The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:





SUSAN SANDBERG  
Dave Rolfe, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington