

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 7:30 pm with Council President Chris Sturbaum presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 22, 2006

Roll Call: Banach, Diekhoff, Ruff, Gaal, Rollo, Sturbaum, Volan, Sabbagh, Mayer

ROLL CALL

Council President Sturbaum gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of February 1, 2006 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS:

Jason Banach informed students and their instructors who were in attendance that they had chosen a short meeting of the council to attend. He said that all council members had students in their districts and that they should not hesitate to contact them if they had any questions.

▪ COUNCILMEMBERS

Chris Gaal said a strategic plan by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that called for quadrupling logging in state forests was announced without any opportunity for input. He said there was little analysis done about the economic impact on either the costs or the benefits of increased logging. Gaal said there is a state statute that requires the DNR to do an environmental analysis, but that the law had been ignored. He said that a group of citizens recently filed suit against the DNR regarding this state statute. Gaal noted that a state legislator had introduced an amendment to an unrelated bill that exempted the DNR from this environmental law, and that our local representative, Matt Pierce, worked hard to get this amendment withdrawn. He said that that the law was passed, despite Pierce's efforts. Gaal summarized his disappointment and expressed his belief that this was another example of bad public policy from the State of Indiana.

Dave Rollo thanked Councilperson Gaal for his report. He read from an economic report that stated that President Bush had increased the national debt to \$9 trillion and spoke about various policy makers' positions on attempting to understand the magnitude of the nation's debt. He cited from a report that the nation's war spending was up 44% to \$9.8 billion a month. He noted that this financial burden would be placed on future generations.

Steve Volan talked about the recent deaths of restaurant owner John "Janko" Pouch and market owner Bud Farris. He also advocated saving the fraternity house on East Third Street from demolition.

David Sabbagh relayed details of his recent trip to Chicago and Milwaukee. He remarked on how well old architecture was blended with the new. He also mentioned how impressed he was with the new technologies at the local Shulte plant.

Tim Mayer provided a history of Farris Market. He also noted the recent passing of David Porter and talked about the composting work he did on his property. He encouraged city involvement in implementing ways to handle organic waste. Mayer also provided his support for the Homeward Bound Project.

Chris Sturbaum gave his appreciation to Councilperson Sabbagh for his comments on architecture. He also remarked on the new markets that have cropped up downtown.

James McNamara, Deputy Mayor, noted the City support of the Homeward Bound Walk and introduced Vickie Provine.

▪ MAYOR and CITY
OFFICES

Provine, HAND's Program Manager, provided a history about the 4th annual Homeward Bound Walk to promote awareness and help fight homelessness. She gave details about the upcoming walk.

Mayor and City Offices (cont'd.)

Bet Savich, Director of the Bloomington Volunteer Network, noted the graphic displays in the City Hall atrium and provided details on the artists and discussed how the displays were being used to promote volunteerism. She also announced the Heart and Hand Awards, a community wide volunteer recognition program.

Julie Geltmaker, Community and Family Resources Intern, spoke about the Teen Action Project and provided details about their recent funding awards.

There were no council committee reports.

▪ COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Jeannine Butler, member of the Historic Preservation Commission, read an encomium for Matt Reckard, an advisory member who was leaving the commission. Reckard received the encomium and expressed his gratitude.

▪ PUBLIC INPUT

Gabe Rivera, member of Grass Roots Alliance for Constitutional Empowerment, offered information on the current approaches to reducing recreational drugs and crime.

Scott Wells thanked councilpersons for their efforts to save historical properties in the community and efforts made to inform the public about peak oil.

Emily Cheney, Indiana University student and resident, informed the council of a petition she is spearheading that would propose the reduction of Coca-Cola soft drinks at the university and replace them with kiosks staffed by students offering Blue Sky sodas.

Joanne Stuchen, a Martinsville resident, spoke of her opposition to the demolition of the Kappa Sigma house.

Marlene Newman, member of the Historic Preservation Commission, offered support for Stuchen's comments and advocated for dialogue between IU and the city about the Kappa Sigma house.

There were no appointments made at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 06-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 8-0-0. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 06-04 be adopted.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Lisa Abbott, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND), outlined the block grant and provided the total dollar amount for the fund, \$157,438. She relayed some details on the disbursement of the funds as proposed.

Resolution 06-04 – To Approve Recommendations of the Mayor for Distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for 2006

Sturbaum asked for Abbot to explain the funding allocation decisions and factors in deciding disbursement for the benefit of the students in attendance in this evening's audience.

Abbott described the Citizens Advisory Council composition and the roles of the subcommittees that review the applications. She provided examples from past funding recipients and noted this year's recipients and their projects. She emphasized the important role this grant plays in

the health of our community.

Resolution 06-04 (cont'd.)

Rollo addressed the funding cuts to this program from the federal government and noted the significant financial burden those cuts created for the community.

Sabbagh offered details about the agencies involved in the fund distribution for the audience members. He advocated for volunteers to help at these agencies and thanked HAND for facilitating the process.

Gaal clarified that the block grants come from federal funds that are distributed by local governments. He also described the council's social service fund entitled the Jack Hopkins Fund.

Rollo noted that other communities that were not as fortunate as our community to have their own social service funding program. He said they are helpless against this type of federal social service funding cuts. He offered his thanks to HAND for their work on this effort.

Banach voiced his support of the resolution. He advised that federal and state administrations can be scrutinized in multiple ways and offered himself as a resource for discussing the objectives of those departments.

Sturbaum spoke of the general reductions in federal, state, and local funding for social services.

Resolution 06-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no legislation for first reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules to consider an item not on the agenda.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

It was moved and seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 29, 2006 since there was no legislation ready for consideration for that meeting.

Cancellation of Committee of the Whole meeting of 3-29-06

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no public input.

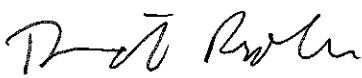
PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

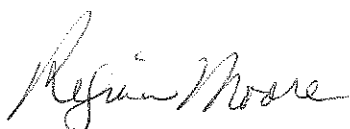
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



DAVE ROLLO VICE-
Chris Sturbaum, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington