

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 7:30 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 13, 2005

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Sturbaum announced the recent acquisition and demonstration of thermal imaging cameras for the Fire Department. He said it was amazing technology that would help save lives, and was thankful that our fire department would have this tool to work with.

REPORTS:

▪ COUNCILMEMBERS

Sturbaum noted that the county commissioners of Randolph County, Indiana, had voted to tear down their courthouse. He asked local elected officials to sign a letter saying that we were in the same position 25 years ago. The letter would urge them not to tear down the building only to put up a picture of the old historic courthouse in the new one.

Steve Volan told a story of a nationally known musician playing in Bloomington who made fun of a newspaper headline indicating that the city was 'baffled' about the loss of population. He said that headline writers should take more care in their product, and that he, for one, was not baffled by this statistic. He said, in fact, he didn't believe it because there never has been a decennial census where the population of the city, the university or county didn't increase. He said he looked forward to the next census in 2012.

Volan then wished Mike Diekhoff a happy birthday in advance of the occasion.

Tim Mayer, reacting to Sturbaum's statement about firemen, noted that women also work as firefighters in the city.

Ruff said he was confident that the council would wholeheartedly condemn the recent firebombing of the local mosque. He added a personal opinion that the role of the current federal administration in their policies of words and actions had fostered a deepening of hatred. He said that misleading information perpetuated by the federal administration and media had to do with the misplaced hatred of fellow human beings.

Ruff announced that Terry Stotts, a fellow Bloomington North graduate had been named the new head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks. He noted that City Clerk, Regina Moore and her husband, Don, had served as Stotts' guardians while he lived in Bloomington, and that the community shared in their pride of his accomplishments.

There were no reports at this meeting.

▪ MAYOR and CITY  
OFFICES

It was moved and seconded to approve a revision in the budget hearing schedule for Tuesday, July 19, 2005. This revision reordered the departmental presentations.

▪ COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The motion carried with a voice vote.

Jim Sherman, former council member from district four, was concerned about preservation of things local, especially local businesses and noted the closing of a small locally owned business, Pizza Queen. Sherman reported that it was difficult for local businesses to compete with national chains, and that something should be done to help local businesses compete. He stated that the council in 1991 ran for election on PCBs, in 1995 they ran on the issue of affordable housing, yet nothing had really been done on those issues. He reminded the council that in the last election issues focused around local businesses and asked what this council had really done to help local business. He said the sustainability commission was a good idea, asked if it would actually help local businesses.

▪ PUBLIC INPUT

Marc Haggarty presented a citizen's report from Citizens for Effective Justice, a group that formed after the death of James Borden in the jail. He said that his death could have been averted on at least six points during his intake and that the fault was systemic in the criminal justice system. He said the group had interviewed many citizens and inmates in studying the Crisis Intervention Program, and acknowledged the help of Captain Diekhoff in that effort. He noted that the US Constitution stated that the penal system should be based on reformation and not vindictive justice and noted that this was not happening in the system today noting the 70% recidivism rate. He called for a moratorium on the use of Tasers in the system. He also questioned the bonding system, saying that the poor are punished more than the well off.

Vid Beldavs supplemented comments Haggarty made during his report on the activities of Citizens for Effective Justice. He said the system fails in so many points that there is a need for a systemic study and solution involving the jail, courts, probation and schools in order to reduce recidivism. He stressed the need for literacy and addiction programs, with follow up programs with volunteers in churches, schools, etc. He asked that the city and county look at a long range strategy and involve the citizens in the program.

Pat Steele, President of the Monroe County Public Library Board, delivered the Annual Report along with Cindy Gray, the Director and Kent Owen, Board Vice President. She said their visit was a part of a tour of outreach. She reported that the library is now hiring Spanish speakers, has recently sent surveys and reports to the southern and western part of the county, and had a retreat to brainstorm on the augmentation of income that is dropping because of funding drops. Prompted by a question from Mayer, Steele said the Friends of the Library was intimately involved in funding and supporting the library.

Steele also noted that she had been the next door neighbor of the Moores while Stotts lived with them, remembered him with much fondness, and said he was a tribute to our community.

Gabe Rivera, with Citizens for Effective Justice, passed out literature from the group.

It was moved and seconded that Marlene Newmann, the mayor's appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission, be affirmed as required by law.

BOARD AND COMMISSION  
APPOINTMENTS

The motion carried with a voice vote.

There was no legislation for second reading.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND  
READING

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 05-17 To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" - Re: Inserting Section 2.26.070 which Establishes a Restricted Donation Fund

Ordinance 05-17

Ordinance 05-18 To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" (Amending Chapter 2.26 (Controller's Department) in Order to Authorize Acceptable Financial Instruments, a Surcharge for Dishonored Checks, Drafts, Orders, or Like Instruments, and a Fee Schedule for the Providing Copies of Public Records; and, Amending Chapter 2.21 (Department of Law) in Order to Authorize the Purchase of a Blanket Bond or Crime Insurance Policy and Fixing the Amount of the City Controller's Surety Bond)

Ordinance 05-18

There was no public commenting at this time.

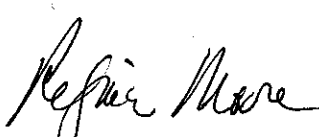
PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington