In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 7:30 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

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

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation

There were no minutes to be approved.

Chris Gaal noted Congressman Sodrel's recent constituent mailing regarding eminent domain, calling it another example of the tactics of fear used by the current federal administration and said that the report used the words "the recent Supreme Court ruling could end the American right to hold property as we know it." Gaal, a practicing attorney, said this statement greatly exaggerated, if not misrepresented the recent Supreme Court ruling which was argued in the name of economic development.

Gaal said it was ironic that Congressman Sodrel and his Republican Party were, with the same economic development argument, promoting the most massive use of eminent domain affecting our local community and state in decades, the biggest threat to private property rights on the horizon: I-69.

Gaal noted several independent studies which estimated the cost of each new job that the highway would create in four rural southern counties was \$1.65M per job. Gaal said that other rural economic development tools such as rural enterprise zones, business incubators, public works projects could create jobs in those counties with an average cost per job of \$1,000 to \$5,000, noting that the highway was not a cost effective economic development strategy.

Gaal noted that tourism and recreation were part of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation's strategic plan, gave statistics on the economic impact on Bloomington, and asked what types of economical and psychological impact a toll road would have on this industry. He added that while INDOT did not specifically address the question, he believed there would be a great impact.

He reminded citizens that the council had passed a resolution expressing its belief that I-69 would undermine Bloomington's strategic economic comparative advantage, our quality of life. He suggested that proponents of the new highway construction take a second look to see if their arguments still made sense in the context of a toll road, and suggested that people concerned about property rights worry more about Mike Sodrel than the Supreme Court.

Chris Sturbaum reported on celebration of downtown projects, specifically Opie Taylor's and Black's Mercantile adding that these projects received statewide attention recently. Sturbaum noted the newspaper articles did not mention the city's funding incentives for projects like these. Sturbaum commented on Donovan Rypkema's recent visit to Bloomington and his lecture on historic preservation and restoration. He said that that Rypkema gave Bloomington very high marks in this area.

Steve Volan acknowledged Chris Smith's work on the Opie Taylor building and Mike Black's work on Black's Mercantile and their commitment to downtown Bloomington. Comments on the idea of a mixed-use downtown environment and the challenges of finding money for those projects. COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION October 19, 2005

ROLL CALL

AGENDA SUMMATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS:

COUNCILMEMBERS

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David Sabbagh echoed Volan and Sturbaum's comments. He reflected on the effects of the smoking ordinance on Mike Black's other establishment, the Video Saloon, and praised Black's choice of opening another business to compensate for business lost because of the smoking ordinance.

Dave Rollo recapped the above comments. He announced information regarding sidewalk discussions for Nancy Street in District 4. He also praised the recent local events held in conjunction with the Bioneers National Conference in California.

Deputy Mayor, James McNamara, introduced Officer Brad Siefers with the Bloomington Police Department. Siefers, a native to Bloomington, was following in his father's footsteps to become a police officer.

Officer Siefers cited his 13 year service, and thanked council members for their support in his presentation. He proceeded to present an award to the City of Bloomington and Mayor's Office from the National Guard Bureau for recognizing and supporting Siefers and his family during his recent deployment overseas.

Mayor Kruzan accepted the honor and mentioned that Siefers was a student of his in 1989 and that Siefers said he wanted to be a police officer even then. Kruzan also recognized and thanked all local firefighters that were recently deployed. He reflected on how pleasant it was to be able to provide a sense of peace of mind to those deployed with the security that the jobs they leave will be there for them when they return.

Lisa Abbott, Assistant Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development department, read a proclamation regarding lead poisoning and the health and safety of families, especially children. The week of October 23rd represents Lead Poisoning Awareness in Bloomington as initiated by our Mayor Mark Kruzan. She cited that new testing techniques have been developed and must be completed by licensed risk-inspectors. She introduced Mike Arnold, a HAND lead inspector, and said that their department was ahead of the game and new testing requirements with certified employees able to implement these requirements.

Mike Arnold described a grant received to determine if specific cleaning practices were successful in reducing lead hazards. Arnold said that 100 homes were assessed and that homeowners were educated on lead poisoning risks and safety measures. He said that twenty homes were chosen in a six month study to of EPA cleaning guidelines, and that five homes were from the study joined CAP's Weatherization Program. Arnold reported that the results show if information is given to home-owners and the instructions followed properly, lead risks can be reduced.

Volan asks for a statistic on how much of Bloomington is affected by the risks associated with lead paint to which Arnold responded that 60% of the housing stock in Monroe County was at risk. Volan asked if reports were complied reflecting homeowners that have worked on solutions, to which Arnold said they were not.

Mayor Kruzan said that he believed Volan's comment about having his own awareness increased is a crucial component of solving this problem. He said he believed this was a public health issue, not just an environmental one. He cited that lower income regions across the state struggle more with this problem and find it more challenging to receive information on how to protect themselves. Thanked the HAND department for efforts on raising awareness locally. Reports from Councilmembers (cont'd)

 MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

 National Guard

Award

• Report from HAND on lead poisoning McNamara read another proclamation from Mayor Kruzan regarding residents of our community who are disabled. Mentions that Mayor Kruzan declared the month of October was dedicated to raising awareness of the barriers that exist both physically and socially for those who are disabled. In addition, McNamara said that Kruzan also declared that October 19th, 2005 was Career Exploration Day in Bloomington. McNamara presented the declaration to Susan Ross from Stonebelt Center.

Ross showed pictures of the celebration this day adding that events such as these to increase awareness of employment of people with disabilities and improving awareness with local business people.

There were no committee reports.

David R. Grubb spoke on his recent experience in jail with missmanaged medication distribution, relayed his thoughts on environmental issues across the country and locally, and made comments on the conditions of service people in the current war.

It was moved and seconded that Shirley Davies be appointed to the Animal Control Commission. The appointment was approved by a voice vote.

President Ruff thanked Ms. Davies for her willingness to serve on this commission.

It was moved and seconded that the <u>Resolution 05-20</u> 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 <u>Resolution 05-20</u> be adopted.

Lisa Abbott, Assistant Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development reported on the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone Association giving background to the association and an overview of its work. She highlighted the Historic Commercial Buildings grant.

Sturbaum mentioned his support of the program and that the incentives to downtown are important because an owner learns a great deal about preservation of historic buildings. He cited this was not a partisan issue but an issue of what is best for the future of our community.

Resolution 05-20 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that the <u>Resolution 05-19</u> 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 <u>Resolution 05-19</u> be adopted.

Danise Alano, Assistant Director of Economic Development, gave details of the resolution that would authorize a \$25,000 non-profit initiative grant from the Business Investment Incentive Loan Fund and gave more details of the particular project of making capital improvements to the former Coca Cola Bottling plant on South Washington Street. She noted that this project will allow for Middle Way House to expand its services to those who need it and add employees.

Toby Strout, Director of Middle Way House, complimented Alano's presentation and offered to answer questions.

 Proclamation on disability awareness

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES
- PUBLIC INPUT

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

<u>Resolution 05-20</u> Resolution of Support for the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone and Association

<u>Resolution 05-19</u> To Approve Application and Authorize Grant from the Business Investment Incentive Fund (Middle Way House, Inc., Petitioner)

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Gaal noted that this was not only an investment in an important social service agency but also an investment in the fabric of our downtown, and said he was happy to support the resolution.

Diekhoff points out how the improvement to the Coca-Cola building will be a major facelift for the area around the Third Street park.

Rollo said that long before the city spoke about sustainability, Middle Way House was practicing it. He extended congratulations to Strout on her appointment to the Sustainability Commission.

Sturbaum recounted that the Economic Development Commission unanimously supports this resolution.

Resolution 05-19 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no legislation for first reading at this meeting.

There was no public comment at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK City of Bloomington

in Moore

Resolution 05-19 (cont'd)

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT