

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.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
October 19, 2005

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Ruff gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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.

REPORTS:

▪ COUNCILMEMBERS

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.



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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 was Career Exploration Day in Bloomington. McNamara presented the declaration to Susan Ross from Stonebelt Center.

- o Proclamation on disability awareness

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.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

David R. Grubb spoke on his recent experience in jail with miss-managed 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.

- PUBLIC INPUT

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

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

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

It was moved and seconded that the Resolution 05-20 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 05-20 be adopted.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 05-20 Resolution of Support for the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone and Association

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 Resolution 05-19 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 05-19 be adopted.

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

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.

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.

Resolution 05-19 (cont'd)

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.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST  
READING

There was no public comment at this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Andy Ruff, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington