

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, January 5, 2004 at 7:30 pm with Council President Gaal presiding over the statutorily required Organizational Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION
January 5, 2004

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Gaal gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Sturbaum thanked those who voted to put him on the council, said he would do the best job he could, and asked folks to keep him on his toes.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS

Andy Ruff welcomed Sturbaum and Stephen Volan to the council and Mayor Kruzan to city government and said it was good to have James McNamara back, too. He noted the end of 150 years of rail service to Bloomington, adding that this industry was important to the history and economic development of Bloomington as it served the limestone industry and the Showers furniture factory. He said that we should mark the ending of this era as significant just as we would an opening or ribbon cutting.

Michael Diekhoff welcomed Volan, Sturbaum and Mayor Kruzan to City Hall.

Timothy Mayer wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, welcomed Sturbaum and Volan and Mayor Kruzan, and said he was looking forward to working with the new members of council to accomplish good things.

David Sabbagh welcomed new council members and offered to fill them in on anything they needed to know. He welcomed Mayor Kruzan and added that he hoped that he would be present at council meetings many times in the future.

Sabbagh outlined goals for this year as:

- Streamlining the council agenda with regards to public and council comments so that business isn't begun too late in the evening.
- Broadening the membership of boards and commissions along with a review and reauthorization of city boards and commissions.
- Re-establishing a council committee to study affordable housing issues with the administration and other interested parties.
- Establishing a council committee to work with the Mayor and the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation to study economic development in the city.
- Studying and developing tax abatement guidelines.

Dave Rollo welcomed Sturbaum and Volan and said it would be an honor to work with the Kruzan administration in this next term of office.

Stephen Volan thanked those who made him and Sturbaum feel so welcome. He thanked those who worked on his campaign and especially mentioned his parents and Catherine Stafford and her family among others. He also thanked Judge David Welch who administered his oath of office and who inspired him to 'step up' to public service. He mentioned the passing of IU Swimming Coach Doc Counsilman and said he would be missed.

Chris Gaal said that even though there were seven out of nine members returning to the council, this was, indeed, a new council because of the new dynamic with two new council members added to those with experience. He stated that he, along with many other citizens, look forward to a new and more positive relationship with the administration and the new mayor. He ended by saying "Let the honeymoon begin!"

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS (cont'd)

Mayor Kruzan teasingly said he hoped that he and the council would continue the best "Reality TV" in the city of Bloomington by calling the show Mayor Survivor where proposals from the second floor would be voted out and not down. He thanked Gaal for the challenge of high expectations and said he looked forward to living up to them. He said he had respect for legislative bodies, and understood that there would be differences of opinion, but added that he and would never forget that he serves the same voters as the council, and they deserve the same information and input as the mayor. Kruzan noted that he stated at his very first staff meeting that he understood the council to be as much of a constituency of the administration as the voters themselves. He noted his responsibility to council members as they represent voters in districts adding that he takes politics and governing very seriously.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Kruzan said that the newspaper report on the demise of the CSX railroad attributed the rail closing to the project that the city was pursuing, which he said was wrong. He clarified that this was going to happen anyway and that the closing was not the result of the previous administration or council action on the switchyard conversion project.

He wished everyone a Happy New Year and a Happy Four Years to all.

Sturbaum asked if the door to the mayor's office was always open; Kruzan responded that he would take it off the hinges.

Bud Bernitt said the switchyard was out of control because it didn't have a specific monetary amount attached to it, and that the environmental mediation was questionable. He said that there were too many important issues in the community to dedicate money to and specifically mentioned Martha's House homeless shelter. He added that that former Mayor Fernandez' project drove CSX out of Bloomington.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bernitt said that council member Mayer had made fun of him during the last meeting because he'd talked to an out of state consultant about a trolley system in the rail way. He said that the consultant didn't charge him anything for the advice, while the council and former administration had a consultant they paid \$780,000 to report heavy karst was present in the area.

He said Mayer had also made fun of Gray Brothers Cafeteria and their closing and said he found those comments rude with respect to the restaurant's investor and workers. Bernitt said that the project was a reuse of an older building, but that the City of Bloomington had required \$.5M of trees on the parking lot, and that the City also required a \$22,000 hook on fee for sewers for this reuse project. He asked council members to stop and think about their actions and words and how they affected citizens. He concluded by announcing that his property had recently been annexed into the city and that he would be back for the next four years.

It was moved and seconded that the following officers be nominated for the following offices for 2003.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Mike Diekhoff
Vice President Andy Ruff
Parliamentarian Timothy Mayer

The nominations received a roll call vote (as requested by Council Member Banach) of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

Council Members exchanged seats in accordance with their new positions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (cont'd)

President Diekhoff assigned council members their seats for the year and presented outgoing president Chris Gaal with a gavel to commemorate his service as council president.

Gaal thanked everyone who supported him as president in the last two years, said he had a lot of fun doing it and felt that the council was able to accomplish a lot of great things for the City of Bloomington during that time.

It was moved and seconded that the following appointments to various Council Positions be considered:

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Citizens Advisory Committee (Community Development Block Grants)	
-Social Services	Chris Gaal
-Physical Improvements	Timothy Mayer
Commission for Bloomington Downtown	Michael Diekhoff
Economic Development Commission (City)	Chris Sturbaum
Economic Development Commission (County)	Regina Moore
Environmental Resource Advisory Committee	Chris Gaal
Metropolitan Planning Organization	Andy Ruff
Plan Commission	Dave Rollo
Solid Waste Management District	Stephen Volan
Urban Enterprise Association Board	Stephen Volan
Utilities Services Board	Timothy Mayer
Bloomington Economic Development Corporation	Mike Diekhoff

The nominations were approved by a voice vote.

President Diekhoff appointed the following council members to the following council committees:

- Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee --
Chris Gaal, Tim Mayer, Dave Rollo, Andy Ruff, David Sabbagh
- Council Sidewalk Committee --
Tim Mayer, Mike Diekhoff, Chris Sturbaum, Dave Rollo

This being the first meeting of the year, there was no legislation for final action.

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 04-01 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps from RS3.5/PRO6 to PUD and to Adopt the Preliminary Plan for the Adams Grove Planned Unit Development – Re: 1201 S. Adams Street (Millennium Property Management, Petitioners)

Ordinance 04-01

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Michael Diekhoff, President
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington