

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at 7:30 pm with Council President Diekhoff presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION  
March 10, 2004

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Diekhoff gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

Mayor Kruzan read a proclamation commemorating the American Red Cross Month in the City of Bloomington during the month of March. Carol Bentley, Executive Director of the Red Cross Chapter, received the proclamation and thanked the city for flying the Red Cross flag during the month.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 04-05 be moved to the end of the agenda. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Motion to move Resolution 04-05 to the end of the agenda.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 04-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 9-0. It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 04-03 be adopted.

Appropriation Ordinance 04-03 To Specially Appropriate from the Telecommunications Non-Reverting Fund (infrastructure) Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating Funds for Maintenance and Repair of the City's Fiber Infrastructure, Installing Fiber Optic Cable, Purchasing Line-Locating Equipment for the Bloomington Digital Underground, and Installing Telecommunications Wiring for the Animal Shelter Expansion)

Greg Volan, Chief Information Officer for the City of Bloomington, stated that he was the brother of Stephen Volan, Council Member from District 6 and added that he believed that there was no conflict of interest since neither of them had any financial interest in this legislation.

He outlined the purposes and amounts of expenditures as:

- \$6,000 maintenance contract for emergency repair for the fiber optic infrastructure
- \$10,000 reserve fund for cost of repair in the event of a fiber cut
- \$7,500 installation of fiber and new conduit through the CSX Switchyard
- \$1,500 line locating equipment for the fiber optic infrastructure
- \$12,000 installation of wiring at the new animal shelter.

There were no comments from the public or council at this time.

Appropriation Ordinance 04-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 04-07 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 9-0. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 04-07 be adopted.

Ordinance 04-07 To Amend Ordinances Which Fixed the Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the Civil City (Ordinance 03-20) and Utilities (Ordinance 03-21) for the Year 2004 – Re: Positions in the Mayor's Office, Information Services, Parking Enforcement, Traffic, Engineering, and Utilities Administration

Daniel Grundmann, Director of Employee Services, outlined the changes that the ordinance would authorize:

To add a Professional Engineer to the Civil City staff who will also serve on the Plan Commission perform other PE duties.

To add an engineering specialist with primary duties of soil erosion control inspection, enforcement, and education

To move the Communications Director to the Mayor's office from the Information Services Department

To add a Council Liason/Special Projects Manager to the Mayor's office

with the primary duties of responsiveness and efficiency of the Mayor's office with regards to action and information requests from the Mayor, Council Members and constituents, and assist the deputy mayor in preparing, researching, and tracking legislation coming before the council and state legislature and tracking and monitoring ongoing projects of city departments.

To add a Business Advocate to the Mayor's office with the primary duties to develop, conduct and review a business impact report that would analyze the impact of city policies on businesses and to act as an ombudsman for the business community.

To convert a seasonal part time position to a full time Account Clerk position in Parking Enforcement

To convert three labor positions to Motor Equipment Operators in order to reflect better the actual duties performed

To add a half time Utilities Engineer position, shared with the city engineer department

To add a Deputy Director in Utilities to help with the management of the four major divisions in the department

To delete the Environmental Projects coordinator which had not been filled for the last two years.

Sabbagh asked if the upgraded position in the Parking Enforcement Division would allow the candidate to have benefits. Grundmann said the Account Clerk would be eligible for health benefits.

During the Council Comments Banach said that additions and reclassification of positions are a serious matter and should be scrutinized carefully. He added that the Mayor, however, should be given the tools to implement his plans for administration of the city. He said he would support this ordinance.

Sturbaum said he was pleased with the changes in the Mayor's office and said that Mayor Kruzan ran on an open door policy which would benefit information flow to the council, the community and businesses.

Gaal said it was natural to expect changes with a new mayor, and added that a new administration deserved the chance to implement changes. He said he appreciated the Mayor coming to the committee meeting and engaging in extensive dialogue with the council, giving the rationale for new positions and changes. He said he believed the Council Liaison would enhance the effectiveness of the Mayor and council working together. He added that the Business Advocate would make city government more user friendly and more responsive to the needs of local business and small businesses in the community. He concluded by thanking the Mayor, and saying he looked forward to how these changes would make a difference over the next several years.

Rollo said he, too, believed that the Business Advocate would particularly advocate for small and local businesses, and would like to have occasional reports from the advocate regarding their activities.

Sabbagh said he agreed the Mayor deserved the opportunity to create his own administrative structure, but was particularly pleased with the reinstatement of the City Engineer position.

Volan said he also would like to see any reports from the Business Advocate, and was particularly interested to see what comments come forward as a result of that person's actions. He said he was a small business owner as well as council member and would be dismayed if anyone with a small business continued to say Bloomington was not business friendly if they hadn't taken advantage of the new Business Advocate to address their concerns.

Mayer, who is the council member on the Utilities Service Board, reported that the board approved the administration's proposals for the assistant director and engineering positions. He thanked the Mayor for making government friendlier towards citizens and businesses.

Ordinance 04-07 (cont'd)

Ordinance 04-07 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 04-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 9-0. It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 04-02 be adopted.

Appropriation Ordinance 04-02 To Specially Appropriate from the General Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for New Positions in Engineering and the Mayor's Office and Transferring Funds within the General Fund to Accompany a Transfer in Position)

Susan Clark, Interim Controller, said that the appropriation ordinance was the funding component to Ordinance 04-07 allocating and transferring monies for those positions.

Bud Bernitt said the new positions with special mention of the engineer, could be a good thing. He welcomed Mayor Kruzan saying that there had been some pleasant changes in city administration and hoped it would continue. He added that the city was now heading in the right direction in regard to the city's atmosphere of being business friendly. He cautioned against city spending on consultants and outside engineers, especially those from outside the state.

Appropriation Ordinance 04-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 04-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 9-0. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 04-05 be adopted.

Resolution 04-05 To Approve Recommendations of the Mayor for Distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for 2004

It was moved and seconded that Amendment #1 for Resolution 04-05 be adopted.

Amendment #1 This amendment corrects allocations for four agencies and totals for one category.

Mayer read the changes in allocations that had been incorrectly printed on the original resolution.

Lisa Abbott, Assistant Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, said that the City of Bloomington was an entitlement community and the recipient of annual Community Development Block Grant funds. She outlined the monies available this year, the allocation of the funds for physical improvements, social services and administration, and the process of recommendations by the Citizen's Advisory Council, Redevelopment Commission and the Mayor.

Liz Grenat, Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, said this group had been a recipient of funds in the past, and thanked the city for allocating 15%, the maximum allowed, for social services. She said other communities didn't do this. She said Susie Johnson, Lisa Abbott and Bob Wolford were particularly helpful in the process.

In responding to Banach's question about the recent fundraiser "Bowl For Kid's Sake," Grenat joked that the session in which the council's team participated was the longest session in the 17 year history of the event.

Rhonda Moore, Bloomington Housing Authority, thanked everyone for consideration of their funding application and specifically thanked Bob Wolford for all his help.

Amendment #1 to Resolution 04-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes:9, Nays: 0.

Vote on Amendment #1 to Resolution 04-05

Resolution 04-05 as amended.

Mayer noted that the CDBG allocations were citizen driven, and that this was a choice of this community. He said that the citizens recommendations were rarely, if ever, changed from the original recommendations. Mayer outlined the funds recommended for physical improvements, noting agencies, funds allocated and how the money would be used for each program. Gaal thanked the citizens who served on the CAC and then similarly outlined the allocations for the social services program.

Sturbaum commented that social service groups do wonderful work for the community, and said upon closer inspection one would gain even more insight into the programs that serve these needs. He said he recently visited Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Food Pantry and gained a greater appreciation for their special niche in the social service community regarding perishables, natural foods and nutrition education. He said he was pleased to have a part in funding these agencies, and hoped to work to increase funding in the future.

Volan said he looked forward to supporting this resolution and said he enjoyed taking part in the "Bowl for Kid's Sake" with Hank Ruff.

Sabbagh said he had great respect for the social service agencies, but added that it was government's obligation to give them all the help it could to help the most fragile of our society. He applauded the agencies, and said he supported the resolution.

Mayer thanked the citizen participants in the CDBG process and thanked the HAND staff for their help in guiding the process along, and for administering and monitoring the programs during the year.

Diekhoff thanked citizens, adding that he knew first hand that it was time consuming and required much work. He thanked the HAND Department and staff for their help. He recognized the importance of agencies that didn't get funding to reapply for next year.

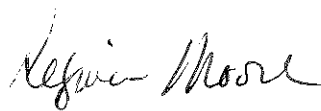
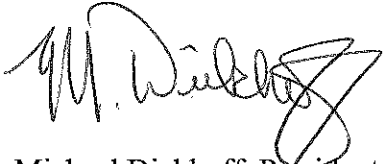
Resolution 04-05, as amended, received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Michael Diekhoff, President  
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK  
City of Bloomington