In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 6:31pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
October 11, 2017

Roll Call: Sturbaum, Chopra, Granger, Sandberg, Volan, Piedmont-Smith, Sims, Rollo
Absent: Ruff

ROLL CALL
[6:31pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION
[6:32pm]

There were no minutes for approval at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Dorothy Granger moved and it was seconded to appoint Chris Sturbaum to Downtown Bloomington, Inc. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sturbaum).

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Steve Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-36 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy City Clerk Stephen Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 7-0-0.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS
[6:34pm]

Ordinance 17-36 – An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, for the Year 2018

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-36 be adopted.

Jeffrey Underwood, Controller, said the ordinance reflected raises that the City had agreed to in the collective bargaining agreements with the police and fire departments.

Council Comment:

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith noted that the Council discussed the ordinance thoroughly during its budget hearings and previous committee meeting.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-36 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Ordinance 17-36
[6:37pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-37 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 7-0-0 for Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37, which would divide the ordinance into Parts 1 and 2, which received Do Pass recommendations of 4-0-3 and 6-0-1 respectively.

Ordinance 17-37 – An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, for the Year 2018

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-37 be adopted.

Caroline Shaw, Director of Human Resources, introduced herself, briefly explained the purpose of the ordinance and said she was available for any questions.

Amendment 02 to Ordinance 17-37

Councilmember Allison Chopra moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 17-37.

Amendment 02 Synopsis: This amendment is co-sponsored by Cms. Chopra and Granger. It was prepared by the Administration in response to questions raised at the Committee of the Whole on September 27th and makes changes in regard to the Common Law Positions located in Section 2 L.

Chopra explained that the amendment was meant to correct a table contained within the ordinance.

Council Questions:

Volan asked for a few examples of the positions that were affected by the amendment.

Shaw explained that a few previously-listed positions had not been filled in years, such as Youth Counselor in Training and Cashier. She also provided some examples of positions that had an increase in salary.

Volan asked if the goal of the change was to move closer to getting all positions in the City to a living wage.

Chopra said no and explained that the wrong table had been used in the ordinance.

Piedmont-Smith clarified that the goal of moving all positions to the city's living wage had a two-year time frame.

Council Comment:

Granger acknowledged that the amendment was correcting an error but also said that the Council was committed to raising all salaries in the City to the living wage.

Vote on Amendment 02 to Ordinance 17-37 [6:45pm]

The motion to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 17-37 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: Cm. Sims is married to one of the department heads in the City. This motion was prepared by the Council Office in order to allow Cm. Sims to participate in the consideration of this salary ordinance without having to vote on his wife's salary grade. It divides the ordinance into two parts: First, the Council will vote on the entire salary ordinance except the Director of HAND. If that vote fails, then the ordinance is defeated. If that vote passes, then second, the Council will vote on the salary grade for the Director of the HAND department.

Council Attorney Dan Sherman explained that the amendment would divide the question on the ordinance into two parts. He said the reason for the division was that Councilmember Jim Sims was married to a department head and did not want to vote on his spouse's salary. Sherman explained how the Council could go about approaching the amendment and subsequent parts of the ordinance if divided.

Council Questions:

Granger asked if Sherman had received a response from the Department of Local Government Finance (DLFG) regarding the ordinance.

Sherman explained that the question sent to the DLGF was relevant to one of the appropriation ordinances.

Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37 (*cont'd*)
Council Comment:

Sims said that his wife was head of the Housing and Neighborhood Development department. He felt he should abstain from voting to avoid any appearance of impropriety. He explained the steps he and Sherman had taken to explore how he might avoid such a conflict in the future.

Volan said he appreciated Sims' statement and the work he and Sherman had done to allow Sims to vote on the portion of the budget that did not involve his wife's salary or her department's budget.

Vote on Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37 [6:54pm]

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 17-37 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Council Comment:

Volan commented on the timelines for various contract negotiations and hoped there was a way to arrange those negotiations so they would not all occur during the same year. He said he supported the budget.

Vote on Part I of Ordinance 17-37 [6:56pm]

The motion to adopt Part I of Ordinance 17-37 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Vote on Part II of Ordinance 17-37 [6:56pm]

The motion to adopt Part II of Ordinance 17-37 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Ordinance 17-38 – To Fix the Salaries of All Elected City Officials for the City of Bloomington for the Year 2018

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-38 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 7-0-0.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-38 be adopted.

Shaw briefly summarized the ordinance.

Vote on Ordinance 17-38 [6:58pm]

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-38 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Resolution 17-37 – Resolution Proposing an Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Allocations in Monroe County and Casting Fifty-Eight Votes in Favor of the Ordinance – Re: Adjusting the Allocations between the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and General Public Safety Purposes Tax Rates Without Changing Other Allocations or the Total Expenditure Tax Rate

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 17-37 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 17-37 be adopted.

Sherman explained the ordinance brought forward recommendations made by the Public Safety Local Income Tax (PS-LIT) Committee. He provided a brief explanation of the process the committee followed in reviewing applications for funding. He noted that the public comment portion related to deliberation on the resolution was part of the statutorily-required public hearing.

Council Questions:

Piedmont-Smith asked what the certified shares portions of the local income tax represented.

Sherman said it was an allocation to taxing units of local income taxes and was used for general purposes.

Council Comment:

Granger said the Council had discussed the matter extensively at the previous week's meeting.

Resolution 17-37 (*cont'd*)

Piedmont-Smith said the vote of the PS-LIT Committee was 4-3 and explained she was part of the minority vote. She said the reason she voted against the allocation was because she felt Washington Township should have received $50,000 that the Committee wanted to allocate the previous year but was unable to do so because of a technicality. Despite that, she thought the funding for the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) would benefit the entire county.

Sandberg thanked those that participated in the PS-LIT process. She said that the PSAP request had taken priority that year, as it involved projects that would benefit the entire community. She noted that the process had revealed certain inefficiencies within the existing system and hoped that future consolidation and sharing of resources would help to stretch public safety funding.

Chopra said she viewed the PS-LIT process as providing an opportunity for political subdivisions to apply for funding but she said the funding for the PSAP was first priority. She thought there were many inefficiencies in the county regarding dispatch and fire protection. She thought the PSAP proposal would benefit the entire community. She thanked the other members of the PS-LIT Committee and others who had helped with the process.

Volan thanked the members of the Committee for their work.

Vote on Resolution 17-37 [7:14pm]

The motion to adopt Resolution 17-37 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 – An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Establishing 2018 Civil City Budget for the City of Bloomington)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 6-0-1.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 be adopted.

Underwood noted that the budget process began five months prior to the meeting, and involved all of the departments and numerous staff members, whom he thanked. He noted that the Council had considered the budget during public hearings in August and during a meeting two weeks prior. He said he was available for any questions.

Public Comment:

Daniel Bingham spoke in support of the Affordable Housing Loan Fund and other affordable housing initiatives.

Council Comment:

Chopra explained that she would not be bringing forward two amendments she had previously proposed.

Volan commended the administration for focusing on affordable housing issues. He said he was also interested in the fate of the potential Community Development Finance Institution. He responded to and shared thoughts on a few answers he had received from the administration to his submitted budget questions. He thanked the administration for its responses and said he was happy to support the appropriation ordinance.

Rollo said he supported efforts to help with affordable housing.

Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 (*cont'd*)

Sturbaum said the Council was interested in affordable housing solutions and suggested that naturally-occurring affordable housing should be encouraged.

Sandberg said the Council had been discussing affordable housing issues during its consideration of the proposed Comprehensive Plan. She said she was pleased with those discussions and with the focus on affordable housing. She also commented on the Buskirk-Chumley and said she was glad that the city's support for the theater was in the Council's budget. She suggested the appropriated money be used for programming at the theater.

Vote on Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 [7:36pm]

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 17-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Appropriation Ordinance 17-04 – An Ordinance Adopting a Budget for the Operation, Maintenance, Debt Service and Capital Improvements for the Water and Wastewater Utility Departments of the City of Bloomington, Indiana for the Year 2018

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 6-0-0.

Underwood said he would appreciate the Council's approval of the appropriation ordinance.

Council Questions:

Rollo asked if there was any exposure to changing interest rates on the debt service for utilities.

Underwood said interest rates for both civil city and utilities debt were fixed rates.

Rollo asked if the city had taken advantage of lower rates.

Underwood said yes and provided a brief explanation of recent bond refinancing efforts as well as ongoing efforts to reduce the cost of financing.

Vote on Appropriation Ordinance 17-04 [7:39pm]

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 17-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims) (Sturbaum out of room).

Appropriation Ordinance 17-05 – Appropriation and Tax Rates for Bloomington Transportation Corporation for 2018

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Lucas read the legislation by title, giving the Do Pass recommendation of 7-0-0.

Lew May, General Manager of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation, introduced himself and explained there had been no changes to the budget since it was introduced to the Council in August.

Council Questions:

Volan and May discussed the fees charged to commercial bus lines and shuttle services using public transit stations, as well as the possible bus routes that might service the new hospital

Rollo asked May to comment about a recent autonomous bus demonstration that had taken place.

May said the demonstration had been very successful and thanked the city for its work on the event. He said it was a new technology very early in its development that had great potential and might become the standard in the future.

Rollo said he was intrigued by the idea but also concerned about replacing people and leaving them without job prospects.

May said he did not anticipate using the technology within the next ten years.

Piedmont-Smith thanked May and the Public Transportation Corporation Board of Directors for taking the first steps to extend the BTaccess service on Sundays.

Appropriation Ordinance 17-05 (*cont'd*)
Council Comment:

Rollo complimented May and the Board of Directors on the job they did despite funding challenges.

Volan found it interesting to hear what the cost was to dock at the transit center. He wished local shuttle services would consider docking there. He also said it would be important to have a bus stop at the new hospital and hoped a solution would be in place before the hospital opened.

Rollo hoped the new hospital might help support a bus stop near the location.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 17-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Vote on Appropriation Ordinance 17-05 [7:54pm]

Sherman reminded the Council of its upcoming schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 1 day of November, 2017.

APPROVE:

Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington