In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 6:30pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
November 15, 2017

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

ROLL CALL
[6:30pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION
[6:31pm]

Councilmember Steve Volan moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of November 1, 2017 as corrected. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:34pm]
November 1, 2017 (Regular Session

Volan spoke about the first Parking Commission Report, and thanked his fellow commission members for their hard work in putting it together.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:35pm]

Sandberg encouraged people to listen to the radio that evening to hear fellow Councilmember Andy Ruff and his son give an interview.

Riley Zipper, SPEA Fellow, presented the Environmental Commission Report on Habitat Connectivity to the Council.[1]

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:38pm]

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith asked a question about the maps and the City of Bloomington Environmental Resource Inventory (COBERI).

Zipper clarified that the COBERI data was on page 15 of the report.

Volan asked how the commission made a distinction between wildlife and invasive species and if the terms were defined in the report.

Zipper said that native species were defined as those that were in place before human contact while invasive species were those that crowded out space for beneficial native species.

Nick Kappas, Environmental Commission Chair, added that the definitions were about behavioral impact. He said a native species could also be considered invasive based on its behavior with surrounding species, whether it was plant or animal.

Volan thanked the commission for its work and said he was looking forward to incorporating some of the recommendations into the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Jim Sims asked what the proposed corridor length was between Clear Creek and Lake Griffy and if it would be acceptable as a deer habitat.

Zipper said that it was about half a mile to a mile. He said they had not anticipated larger species like deer receiving a lot of benefit from their efforts, but thought that smaller species like birds would.

Sims asked how much the area would expand with the additional corridor.

Chris Neggers, Environmental Commission, said that it was unlikely that the habitat areas would expand beyond existing green space, but that they would be linked together.

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[1] Available at bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment under "Reports"

- PUBLIC [7:09pm]

David Schleibaum thanked the Council for upgrading the smoking ordinance.

Jim Blickensdorf spoke to the Council about parking.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:14pm]

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to appoint Sheryl Woodhouse Keese to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to appoint Ricardo Martins to the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs. The motion was approved by voice vote.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:16pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-40 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. City Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 4-0-3.

Ordinance 17-40 – To Amend Title 9 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Water" (Non-Recurring Rate Adjustment)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-40 be adopted.

Vic Kelson, Utilities Director, presented the legislation to the Council.

Council Questions:

Volan asked what the Council response should be to the new system development charge, considering rate payers are being asked to pay for historic costs.

Kelson said that the system development charge was calculated using the equity method, which meant that users paid for their share of the infrastructure that provided the capacity. He said that new users were paying in for the equity just as other users have over the years.

Volan said that the phrasing in the presentation was misleading.

Angie Steeno, Crowe Horwath, explained that new customers were not being asked to pay for historical costs, and that those costs had been removed from their calculations.

Missy Waldon, Utilities Finance Manager, said that when the presentation referred to the plant, it was referring to the entire water system.

Volan asked about the increase in the service call fees.

Kelson said that there was a customer assistance program for people who had trouble paying their water bills.

Volan asked how people could find out about the program.

Waldon said the city offered payment programs and advertised assistance. She said that people had to miss at least two monthly bills before their water was disconnected. She said the city tried to connect with people.

Volan asked if people had to pay a deposit to get reconnected.

Waldon said that it was in the city code but that they were not requiring it at that time.

Councilmember Dorothy Granger asked if the fees would impact most water users.

Kelson said that users who never received more than two overdue bills would not have to pay the charge.

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum asked about apartment hookup costs.

Kelson said that the costs would be wrapped into the connection costs for the development instead of the unit costs.

Volan said he was satisfied and encouraged.

Council Comments:

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-40 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Ordinance 17-40 [7:39pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-41 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 5-0-2.

Ordinance 17-41 – To Amend Title 10 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Wastewater" (Non-Recurring Rate Adjustment)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-41 be adopted.

Kelson presented the legislation to the Council.

Council Questions:

Piedmont-Smith asked Kelson to give more details about the connection fee increase for wastewater and how it differed from the system development charge for water.

Kelson said that there was not previously a system development charge on the water side, but there was a connection fee. He said the legislation would amend the connection fee to a number that was based on the new system development charge, and the money could be treated the same way.

Piedmont-Smith said she was confused because there was a hook on fee for water also.

Steeno explained the different types of terminology used.

Waldon said that in wastewater all of the terms were rolled together and called connection fees, and they had never been separated out. She noted that it was very confusing.

Granger asked whether the legislation increased the charge to cover what connections actually cost.

Steeno said that was correct.

Council Comment:

Granger said that she understood that the city was trying to get to a place where it was charging customers what the service cost to provide.

Piedmont-Smith said that the legislation was a facet of fiscal sustainability. She said services could only be provided to the community if the city could pay for them. She said it was a smart move.

Sandberg thanked everyone who presented, and said they would revisit the issue more frequently to avoid sticker shock in the future.

Vote on Ordinance 17-41 [7:46pm]

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-41 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 – To Specially Appropriate from the Police Education Fund, Alternative Transportation Fund, Cumulative Capital Development Fund and Rental Inspection Program Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating Various Transfers of Funds with the General Fund, Parks General Fund, Fleet Maintenance Fund, Police Pension Fund, Public Safety LIT; and, Appropriating Additional Funds from the Alternate Transportation Fund, Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Parking Meter Fund, Police Education Fund, Rental Inspection Program Fund)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-34 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 17-34 – To Amend Ordinance 16-25, which Fixed the Salaries of Officers of the Police and Fire Departments for 2017 – Re: Increasing the Salary for Probationary Officers in 2017 to Coincide with the Increase for Firefighters under the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-42 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 17-42 – To Establish the Common Council Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program Non-Reverting Fund

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-43 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 17-43 – To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" – Re: Amending Chapter 2.26 (Controller's Department) by Inserting Section 2.26.120 (Fire Instruction Fees)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-44 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 17-44 – To Amend Ordinance 17-37, which Fixed 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 20 – Re: Adjusting the Non-Union Sa y Ranges Set Forth in Section 2.A. as the Result of Recommendations from a Salary and Benefits Study

Volan moved and it was seconded to reschedule the Internal Work Session for Friday, November 17, 2017 to December 1, 2017 and to allow the Council President to cancel that meeting if necessary. The motion was approved by voice vote.

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 6th day of December 2017.

APPROVE:

Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington