

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, December 06, 2017, at 6:35pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
December 06, 2017

Roll Call: Sturbaum, Ruff, Chopra, Granger, Sandberg, Volan, Piedmont-Smith, Sims, Rollo  
Absent: None

ROLL CALL  
[6:36pm]

Council President Susan Sandberg gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION  
[6:36pm]

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of November 15, 2017. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
November 15, 2017(Regular Session)  
[6:38pm]

Councilmember Dave Rollo spoke about the importance of net neutrality.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS  
[6:39pm]

Councilmember Jim Sims encouraged citizens to continue to approach him for impromptu discussions and thanked those who had already done so.

Councilmember Steve Volan wished everyone happy holidays.

Sandberg spoke about the importance of the recent Time magazine designation of "The Silence Breakers" as the annual persons of the year.

Shelley Sallee, Chair of the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, presented the commission's annual report to the Council. Sallee asked if there was anything that the Council would like to see more of from the Commission.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:44pm]

Sandberg said that the Council would like to see more opportunities for engagement with the Council, and thanked the Commission for its work.

Scott Robinson, Planning Services Manager, introduced Gerry Salzman of Desman Design Management (DDM). Salzman said that the city started its parking study that day and would be working on it for several months with staff and local partners.

Councilmember Dorothy Granger asked if DDM would use the parking commission report that the Council had recently received.

Salzman said that part of the agreement was to use information provided by staff and the commission report to conduct the study.

Volan asked how the counts of services and parking spaces that were not metered would be conducted.

Robinson said that staff provided neighborhood counts and that parking enforcement was conducting survey information.

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum asked about downtown church parking.

Salzman said there was a wide spectrum of solutions, and DDM would be looking into them.

Elizabeth Cox-Ash spoke about the Comprehensive Plan.

- PUBLIC [7:07pm]

Brian Hancock spoke to the Council about the need for students to have more interactions with city government.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to appoint Julian Carillo to an advisory seat on the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs. The motion was approved by voice vote.

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. City Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 8-0-1.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 be adopted.

Jeff Underwood, Controller, presented the legislation to the Council. Underwood explained that there were a number of transfers in the departments to keep the overall impact to the general fund at zero dollars. He gave an overview of the various requests, and explained that the overall total request was \$750,800.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment corrects typographical errors in "Whereas" clauses 4-7 by shifting the word "desire" to "desires" and by adding two missing words in "Whereas" clause 8.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 17-06.

Piedmont-Smith explained that the amendment was intended to correct grammatical errors.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Rollo asked if there was a timetable for evaluating the fee for the rental inspection fund.

Underwood said the goal was to review all of the fees in 2018 and bring them before the Council all together rather than one at a time.

Rollo asked if Underwood knew the longevity of the radios being purchased with monies from the parking meter fund.

Underwood said that Chief Moore said five years, and that the goal was to standardize the equipment in all of the departments.

Rollo asked if they would be a recurring expense.

Underwood said they would be replaced regularly, and that the city tried to apply for grants to help defray the costs.

Granger asked if there was a list of vehicles that would need to be replaced in the following year.

Underwood said that the next batch of vehicles would be replaced in 2019, not 2018.

Volan asked how long the city expected cars to last and how long the cars being replaced had been in service.

Underwood said cars should last five to seven years, sometimes less because of wear and tear. The cars being replaced had been in service for seven years.

Piedmont-Smith thanked Underwood for his work and for bringing a visual for the Council.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:14pm]

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:15pm]

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 within 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)

Vote on Amendment 01 to Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 [7:20pm]

Council Questions:

Council Comments:

Vote on Appropriation Ordinance 17-06 as amended [7:25pm]

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, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 17-42 – To Establish the Common Council Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Program Non-Reverting Fund [7:25pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-42 be adopted.

Underwood presented the legislation to the Council.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-42 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Ordinance 17-42 [7:27pm]

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, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 9-0-0.

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 17-43 be adopted.

Jason Moore, Fire Chief, presented the legislation to the Council. Moore explained that the legislation would allow the Fire Department to recoup some of the costs for providing specialized training.

Volan asked if the fire department was generating any revenue from the special training that it provided.

Council Questions:

Moore said it was not.

Volan asked if the fire department was just trying to recover the costs of the training that it had to provide or chose to provide.

Moore said that was correct and that some of the training was required and some was a matter of choice.

Volan asked how large the fire instruction fees portion of the budget would be in three to five years time.

Moore said that he did not know.

Piedmont-Smith asked why the instructor fees were calculated based on overtime rates.

Moore said it was the highest price that he would have to pay to provide instruction, although the goal would always be to avoid doing so when possible.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the department would charge less if there were enough advance notice to schedule staff to do the training as part of their normal work hours.

Moore said that the department would charge less.

Piedmont-Smith asked how the department differentiated everyday training versus specialized training that would generate a charge.

Moore said that if the department had to bring in special instructors or equipment it would qualify as specialized training. He noted that the instructor rates were aimed toward future trainings for city staff to teach classes rather than bringing in outside instructors.

Piedmont-Smith asked how the city would recoup the cost of an outside instructor from partner organizations.

Moore said that it could be charged under a facility-use fee.

Councilmember Allison Chopra asked if there was another department that had fees for training.

Moore referred to his previous community and to Jasper. He said that it was fairly common practice for fire departments who did not want to pass the burden of trainings on to the taxpayers.

Chopra asked what would happen if area fire departments chose to hold their own trainings.

Moore said that the department was building the plan to minimize the cost to the city.

Sims asked if there were certifications involved with the trainings.

Moore said there were both state and national standards for trainings.

Sims asked if there were any other facilities like the city's in the area.

Moore said the city was aiming toward making its training facility a regional training center.

Sims asked if the goal was not to make money but to mitigate costs.

Moore said that was correct.

Sims asked who the anticipated customer base would be for the facility.

Moore said that it would be some of the smaller departments, businesses, and local leaders.

Volan said he was pleased with the progress of the fire department and hoped the department would develop a fire school.

Ordinance 17-43 [cont'd]

Council Comment:

Granger said it was smart business and was glad to take the burden off of the taxpayers.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-43 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Sturbaum of the room)

Vote on Ordinance 17-43 [7:47pm]

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, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 9-0-0.

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 17-34 be adopted.

Underwood presented the legislation to the Council.

Council Questions:

Piedmont-Smith asked why it took until December to fix the problem.

Underwood said that it was discovered earlier in the year, but the decision was made to bring the legislation along with the the other appropriation ordinances.

Piedmont-Smith said the officers had been underpaid.

Underwood said that was correct, but it was a small amount, and they did not notice it.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-34 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Sturbaum of the room)

Vote on Ordinance 17-34 [7:51pm]

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, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of 9-0-0.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 17-44 be adopted.

Mick Renneisen, Deputy Mayor, presented the legislation to the Council.

Chopra asked if there were any liability issues with someone making less than the corresponding job grade range.

Renneisen said that someone at the bottom of the pay grade in 2017 they would be moved up to at least the minimum amount of the new pay grade in 2018.

Chopra asked if anyone on staff had checked every salary to ensure that it would not be a problem.

Underwood said that it appeared the two percent raise would take care of almost every city employee. He said if an employee who fell below the minimum of his/her salary range he/she would be given priority in adjusting his/her salary, and the raise would be retroactive.

Chopra asked when the legislation would go into effect.

Underwood said that it would go into effect on January 1, 2018. He said that anyone who fell below the job grade minimum would be made whole within the first quarter of the year and there would be no action to take against the city.

Renneisen said that in practice very few people are at the minimum level of their job grades.

Granger said that she had the same concern and that she would feel better if she knew there was not anyone who would fall below the new job grade minimum.

Renneisen said he did not think anyone would fall below the new minimums. He also said that if there was anyone who fell in that position, the city would make that person its first priority in bringing his/her salary up to the appropriate level.

Volan asked if all salaries would be reviewed and adjusted by the end of the first quarter if necessary.

Underwood said that was correct and that anyone who was below the minimum for their job grade would be brought up to the minimum for their job grade.

Volan asked if the ranges would have a cost of living increase every year.

Underwood said that the ranges would be reviewed on a regular basis, but likely not every year.

Sims asked if the city had enough money to adjust salaries with the money set aside in the 2018 budget.

Renneisen said there was enough to get the salaries up to the minimum, but it would take several years to get all of the salaries up to market rates.

Chopra asked why the city could not wait to proceed until the salaries had been reviewed.

Renneisen said that this legislation was the first step to allow for the salaries to be reviewed.

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 2018 – Re: Adjusting the Non-Union Salary Ranges Set Forth in Section 2.A. as the Result of Recommendations from a Salary and Benefits Study

Council Questions:

Chopra asked what the biggest salary jump the city would have to make to correct any issues would be. Ordinance 17-44 [cont'd]

Renneisen said that he could not answer the question as posed, but the city was prepared to bring people up to their minimum salary grade.

Piedmont-Smith said that she was confident in the work of the consultants and staff.

Council Comment:

Granger said that she supported raising staff salaries and saw the legislation as a good first step. She was concerned about voting in favor of the legislation because she did not know if anyone fell below the minimum job grades.

Chopra said that she would vote yes because her concerns had been allayed.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 17-44 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Granger).

Vote on Ordinance 17-44 [8:16pm]

There was no legislation for first reading.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Volan moved and it was seconded to hold a Special Session immediately before the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. The motion was approved by voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bolden, CLERK  
City of Bloomington