

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 6:30pm with Council President Dorothy Granger presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
August 29, 2018

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

ROLL CALL [6:31pm]

Council President Dorothy Granger gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

Councilmember Susan Sandberg moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of August 8, 2018. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:33pm]
August 08, 2018 (Regular Session)

Sandberg moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of August 15, 2018. The motion was approved by voice vote.

August 15, 2018 (Regular Session)

Councilmember Dave Rollo read the following letter for the record:

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
[6:34pm]

"We, the undersigned members of the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, write in support of the Friends of Lake Monroe in their effort to obtain funding to hire a Watershed Coordinator for Monroe Reservoir.

Lake Monroe is an invaluable resource for our community, and communities throughout Southern Indiana. Historically, Bloomington has been consistently challenged by scarce water resources. Indeed, without the establishment of Lake Monroe, it is unlikely that our city would have continued to develop and flourish. With the addition of the reservoir, our city has become a major employment center for Monroe County and surrounding counties, providing water, which has enabled Indiana University to continue to grow and has enabled Bloomington to become a health care hub, through the several pharmaceutical companies that have established themselves here. Additionally, Lake Monroe is a destination for recreation for many Hoosiers, bringing in many millions of dollars to our region in tourism. Without a doubt, Lake Monroe is critical to our quality of life.

Despite a heavily forested watershed, Lake Monroe is affected by runoff that negatively impacts its water quality. The City of Bloomington Utilities Department is challenged to purify our drinking water due to periodic algal blooms; these contaminants may also affect recreational fishing and swimming. The problem with algal blooms has become chronic and requires a multi-jurisdictional approach to improve our impaired lake. Undoubtedly, the key to rescuing Lake Monroe is to focus on the sources that are responsible for the algae and to identify and reduce these inputs to the greatest extent possible.

This effort requires a professional with experience in watershed evaluation and management. Friends of Lake Monroe is an ideal organization for the employment of a Watershed Coordinator as they have been actively involved in conservation and protection efforts for Lake Monroe. The Friends also have considerable professional resources for oversight within their organization. We unanimously support their application for a grant to aid in this hire, and are willing to bring municipal funds to assist in the effort to improve our community's only water source."

Sandberg moved and it was seconded to approve the letter of support for the Friends of Lake Monroe Watershed Grant.

Preliminary Matters (*cont'd*)

Councilmember Steve Volan asked why the statement of support was written in the form of a letter and not a resolution.

Council Questions:

Rollo said he asked the Council what it preferred and the majority favored a letter format.

Rollo commented that it was in everyone's interest to improve the water quality of our only drinking source and that several jurisdictions were providing letters of support for the grant.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment:

Volan said he preferred resolutions instead of letters for matters of Council support.

Council Comment:

Councilmember Allison Chopra thought a letter was better than a resolution. She thanked Rollo and the staff for being so responsive to the issue and staff.

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum said he supported the letter.

Councilmember Andy Ruff spoke about the importance of groups like Friends of Lake Monroe. He thanked them for their work on behalf of the larger community.

Sandberg supported the intent of the letter and thanked her colleagues for their work.

Rollo thanked Friends of Lake Monroe for their advocacy. He said they were well placed to make a difference. Rollo said that getting a Watershed Coordinator would save money in the long run and thanked his colleagues for their support.

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith thanked the Friends of Lake Monroe and noted that they came and spoke at a previous meeting during public comment. Piedmont-Smith spoke about the importance of having a watershed management plan to ensure the longevity of our water resources. She thanked Rollo and everyone else for their support and hoped the letter would ensure the grant being awarded.

Granger thanked Rollo and said that she preferred the letter format. She said she looked forward to having a watershed management plan. Granger shared the website, friendsoflakemonroe.org, for people who were interested in getting more information.

Volan repeated that he thought a resolution would have been more appropriate and thanked Rollo.

The motion to approve the letter of support was approved by voice vote.

Vote to approve letter [6:48pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 18-14 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.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 18-14 be adopted.

Council Attorney Dan Sherman presented the legislation to the council.

Sturbaum asked the committee to explain the discrepancy between the amount requested by the Van Buren Township Fire Department and the amount granted to it.

Granger said that she thought request was disproportionate. She also noted that Van Buren said they would make the purchases if the committee did not fully fund them.

Piedmont-Smith said that the committee used County Councilmember Cheryl Munson's method of estimating what funds were needed. Piedmont-Smith said Van Buren's request included a large amount for personnel which made the committee uncomfortable because it was an ongoing need with no guarantee of funding for the following year.

Volan asked how departments determined what equipment was needed.

Granger said that the equipment had a limited lifespan and a lot had reached the replacement point. She said that the departments determined the numbers requested.

Volan asked why there was a difference in the requested amounts of Van Buren and Perry Clear Creek.

Granger said that it was because the equipment funding was not the only funding requested.

Volan said the table was misleading.

There was no public comment.

Chopra thanked her colleagues who served on the committee.

Sandberg said it was a difficult process. She said the funding had to be carefully weighed and that there was a great need for the equipment. She said the local income tax was a gift to be allocated carefully. She hoped that the committee would establish criteria to make the requests more predictable. She said she was comfortable with the decisions made that year.

Sturbaum thanked the committee members for their work and for finding funds for everyone who asked.

Volan said that the chart shown seemed to imply that the amounts requested had a direct correlation to the equipment needs. He said that documents needed to be clearer. He thanked the members of the committee for their work. He suggested Council recess be moved to June so all the councilmembers could have a break during the summer recess.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 18- 14 To Vote in Favor of an Allocation of Public Safety Local Income Tax to Fire Departments and Volunteer Fire Departments that are Operated by or Serve Political Subdivisions not Otherwise Entitled to Receive a Distribution of Public Safety Local Income Tax as Provided By IC §6-3.6-6-8(c)

Council Questions:

Public Comment:

Council Comment:

Piedmont-Smith said as a member of the committee it was a difficult decision every year. She noted that the Public Safety Local Income Tax was instituted mainly to fund central dispatch and that was the top priority. She noted that dispatch served the entire county and having well trained and fast responses to the emergency services was essential. She said it was the second year of a communications plan to make sure the entire county used the same equipment. She said all of the townships benefitted from the centralized dispatch even if they did not receive funds directly. Piedmont-Smith said this was one of the only committees that included all of the governmental entities in the area. She said she learned a lot about the townships and how they make their budgets.

Resolution 18-14 (cont'd)

The motion to adopt Resolution 18-14 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Resolution 18-14 [7:08pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole immediately following the Special Session. The motion was approved by voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [7:10pm]

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

ADJOURNMENT

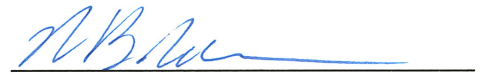
APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 05th day of September, 2018.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dorothy Granger, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington