

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 6:34pm with Council President Dorothy Granger presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
October 10, 2018

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

ROLL CALL [6:34pm]

Council President Dorothy Granger gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:35pm]

There were no minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Steve Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 18-17 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Chief Deputy Clerk Stephen Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS
[6:36pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 18-17 be adopted.

Ordinance 18-17 An Ordinance
Fixing the Salaries of Officers of
the Police and Fire Departments
for the City of Bloomington,
Indiana, for the Year 2019

Caroline Shaw, Human Resources Director, presented the legislation to the Council.

Councilmember Allison Chopra suggested having a councilmember or staff member present during contract negotiations with the unions.

Council Comment:

Granger pointed out that the Council had already considered the legislation on the agenda over the course of the previous few months, noting that there might not be many questions remaining.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 18-17 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 18-17
[6:39pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 18-18 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Ordinance 18-18 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 2019

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

Shaw presented the legislation to the Council.

Sandberg clarified that the contract negotiations were ongoing.
Shaw said that was correct.

Council Questions:

Piedmont-Smith asked how many employees would see an increase up to the new living-wage level in 2019 and how many would remain below the living wage.
Shaw said she could provide the exact number later.

Piedmont-Smith thanked the administration for working with the Council to bring more positions within the city up to the living wage.

Council Comment:

Chopra also thanked the administration for its work on the issue.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 18-18 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 18-18
[6:45pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 18-19 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Ordinance 18-19 To Fix the Salaries of All Elected City Officials for the City of Bloomington for the Year 2019

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 18-19 be adopted.

Shaw presented the legislation to the Council.

Piedmont-Smith explained that the additional amounts to be paid to the Council president and vice president were allowed under city code. She explained that money was meant to compensate for the additional work that falls to the president and vice president.

Council Comment:

Sims agreed that the additional compensation for those positions was well deserved.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 18-19 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 18-19
[6:51pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Lucas read the legislation by title, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 2.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-03
An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates (Establishing 2019 Civil City Budget for the City of Bloomington)

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-03 be adopted.

Jeffrey Underwood, Controller, reviewed the highlights of the 2019 budget, and noted that the total budget, excluding utilities and transit, was just over \$91 million.

Granger asked if the bicentennial bonds would cost \$800,000 per year.

Council Questions:

Underwood stated that the bonds would be for \$10 million over 20 years. He said that \$800,000 would cover the principal and interest on that bond.

Rollo stated that he was concerned about having sufficient cash reserves in case of an economic downturn. He asked what was an appropriate amount of cash reserves.

Underwood stated that he believed there were sufficient reserves in the general fund and rainy day fund. He said that it was recommended to have at least two months worth of reserves, but the city was actually close to having four months worth of reserves.

Rollo asked Underwood to describe the contingency planning the city had done in case of another economic recession like the one experienced in 2008.

Underwood noted that cities typically experienced economic downturns 12 months after they started, which provided some extra time to plan. He stated that the city planned to conduct an annual exercise, to start before the end of 2018, where each department would make plans for various amounts of unexpected budget decreases or increases.

Rollo asked about the city's bond rates.

Underwood stated all bonds were fixed-rate bonds.

Granger asked when the exercise would take place.

Underwood said the last quarter of the year.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-03
(cont'd)

Sturbaum asked about the status of the 4th Street parking garage project.

Underwood said that the matter would be presented to the Redevelopment Commission soon and would then come before the Council.

Sturbaum asked about the cost of repairing and maintaining the current garage versus the cost of building a new one.

Underwood discussed the construction cost index and the cost of building a new parking garage in 15 years. He said there was still discussion and research to be conducted. He said there would be time to have a full discussion on the matter after the issue was considered by the Redevelopment Commission.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the bond for the parking garage was in the 2019 budget.

Underwood said no.

Volan wondered if the Council and the administration would need to rethink how it governed transportation if Bloomington Transit transitioned to a mobility management model.

Underwood stated that the mayor was looking into all alternative forms of transportation. He said that the city would keep flexibility and reuse in mind when considering the construction of new parking structures.

Volan asked what would happen if Transit began managing more than buses.

Underwood said that issue had not been discussed too deeply, but that Transit and the city had always worked together to find solutions to problems.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the bicentennial bond was contained within the budget for Parks and Recreation.

Underwood said yes, but noted that the Council would still have a say in how that money was spent. He briefly described the process.

Piedmont-Smith asked why all the money was contained in the Parks and Recreation budget when some of the projects would be completed by other departments.

Underwood explained that the Parks and Recreation department would serve as the overall project lead, and described where the bond funds would be located.

Piedmont-Smith asked if there were any problems with paying for staff time for one department out of the budget from another.

Underwood said that the bonds would only be used for construction related expenses, not to pay any city personnel directly.

Granger asked how the city determined which projects it wanted to fund with the bicentennial bonds.

Mick Renneisen, Deputy Mayor, stated that the overall purpose of the bonds was to leave a legacy for future generations. He explained that projects had been selected based on surveys of residents and input from the city.

Sturbaum asked where money would come from for a community charrette related to the old hospital site if the city did not hire a master developer for the project.

Underwood described various funding possibilities.

Sturbaum asked if a master developer might be selected before the city took control of the property.

Underwood said yes.

Sturbaum wondered if funding would be available if a community charrette needed to happen sooner rather than later.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-03
(cont'd)

Underwood said there were options available if that was the case.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment:

Rollo thanked Mayor Hamilton and the administration for a sound budget and for being responsive to requests made by the Council. He believed the new hires and the capital expenditures were much needed. He said the downtown alley improvements and the Kirkwood crosswalk and paving were much needed. He was pleased with the police acquisition of the mobile response unit. He was happy to see pay for seasonal employees increased. He thought that planning for economic downturns was important. He stated that police hires should be a focus for future budgets.

Council Comment:

Sandberg stated that the budget process was always a valuable exercise. She said she was proud of the budget and its vision for Bloomington's future. She thanked those who had worked on it. She spoke about the importance of public service and how vital it was to elect people who knew how to govern.

Sims stated that he was happy with the budget and thought it did a good job of making investments to improve quality of life.

Piedmont-Smith agreed with Rollo's comments. She thanked Underwood for his work on the budget. She stated she was not in support of the after-hours ambassador position. She said she was unconvinced that the position was needed and thought there were better things to spend money on. She said she was disappointed that there still was no proposal for public restrooms downtown. She said that Indiana University needed to pair up with the City to deal with students drinking late at night. She also did not support the bicentennial bonds. She thought there were more pressing issues in the community that deserved attention and funding.

Sturbaum thought the budget embodied a focus on quality of life. He stressed the importance of quality of life for the whole community.

Volan reiterated his appreciation for the budget being presented as a program budget. He did not agree with the placement of funding in the Council's budget for the sidewalk fund, Jack Hopkins funding, and Buskirk-Chumley funding. He reiterated his support to provide a living wage for seasonal and temporary employees. He discussed households that did not put out trash. He endorsed the net growth in staff for the city. He supported an after-hours ambassador. He stated that the city had not asked for another Parking Enforcement Officer and voiced concerns he had with enforcement of parking changes in general. He believed that trails would reduce the need for cars and parking. He stated that every street in Bloomington needed to be tamed and noted that the Transportation Plan proposed some radical changes that he endorsed. He stated that he planned to support the budget.

Ruff said he agreed with most of what had been said. He noted that investments in quality of life led to increased economic development, which in turn enabled the city to make more direct investments in social services. He had doubts about the new ambassador position, but he said there was an overall good balance of investments in the budget and he would support it.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-03 [7:41pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Lucas read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-04
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 2019

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-04 be adopted.

Vic Kelson, Utilities Director, presented the appropriation ordinance. He stated the proposed 2019 budget totaled \$44.9 million. He highlighted notable items contained in the budget.

Rollo asked if there was sufficient capacity at the water treatment plant for the foreseeable future.

Council Questions:

Kelson said yes. He stated that there was still substantial capacity available for expansion.

Rollo asked Kelson when he expected solar panels to be installed. Kelson said before the end of 2019.

Sturbaum asked for more details on the new stormwater position. Kelson described what the position would entail.

Piedmont-Smith asked about an adjustment to salaries for union members.

Kelson explained that there were ongoing negotiations related to the union contract, so the salaries in the budget had been adjusted to maintain the current year's salary levels.

Piedmont-Smith asked if it was safe to assume there would be an increase and where the money for such an increase would come from.

Underwood stated that the city used positional budgeting. He stated that they did not have an agreement so they could not put the increase in yet. He said once the agreement was made they would appropriate funds where needed.

Piedmont-Smith asked where the funds would come from and asked if the reserves would fall below 30%.

Underwood explained the possible funding sources and said he did not believe reserves would go below 30%.

Piedmont-Smith asked if stormwater was included as part of wastewater in the appropriation ordinance.

Kelson said yes, but noted they were funded separately.

Piedmont-Smith asked if there would be a forthcoming request to increase stormwater rates.

Kelson estimated such a request would come forward in December.

Sims asked how the department had been affected by the departure of long-serving staff members.

Kelson said the department had worked hard with the administration and the human resources department to hire carefully. He stated that all of the Assistant Directors in the department were new, so they had completed a lot of staff training. He said they had very talented and dedicated people in each position.

Sims asked what the department was doing to address threats to the water source, such as algae blooms and disinfectant byproducts.

Kelson explained they had changed the treatment process to not feed chlorine disinfectant into treatment basins during the summer. That recommendation arrived because of a benchmarking study. He said that change led to unintended algae growth, which the department had since been managing. He stated that the algae did not affect the quality of the water, but it did clog the filters. He added that they were instituting other changes, such as feeding powder activated carbon. He said there were regular meetings every two weeks to discuss process optimization.

Volan asked Kelson to comment on sanitary sewer overflows and to explain clear water reduction programs.

Kelson explained how storm water could enter the sewer system, and explained how clear water ordinances helped prevent that through various approaches.

Volan clarified that a sanitary sewer overflow was water that did not need to be treated. He asked if Kelson could give an estimate of the portion of water that was treated that might be divertable since it was clear water.

Kelson estimated it could be 15-20%, but it depended on the severity of the storm.

Volan asked if the city should be monitoring the impact of hurricanes to prepare for storms.

Kelson said the department did monitor for hurricanes and weather in general. He added that they proactively looked for sites where sanitary sewer overflows occurred to address those situations.

Rollo asked what homeowners could do or what help was available to deal with illicit connections.

Kelson said homeowners could examine their pipes or have a plumber do it. He said there was not assistance available from the utilities department, but they might develop some programs in the future.

Rollo asked if they measured nitrates, phosphates, and turbidity at the point where they drew water from the lake and if they had historical data.

Kelson said there was data for treated water but was unsure if they had that information for the raw water. He said they had records for levels going back to 1967. He said he would look into whether those levels were measured for raw water.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment:

Sandberg thanked Kelson and his department for their work and leadership. She hoped the A.F.S.C.M.E. negotiations went well.

Council Comment:

Rollo thanked Kelson and his team for improving water quality. He said there was still work to do to address chronic stormwater issues.

Sims said he was impressed with the community outreach and engagement. He said he was very excited for the new technology to help prevent the waste of water. He was concerned about the loss of staff but stated that they bounced back well.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-04
(cont'd)

Piedmont-Smith stated that she appreciated the grant program for neighborhood stormwater issues and the addition of the funds for the Lake Monroe Watershed Coordinator. She stated she would be voting in favor of the appropriation ordinance.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-04 [8:18pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Lucas read the legislation by title, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1.

Appropriation Ordinance 18-05
Appropriations and Tax Rates for
Bloomington Transportation
Corporation for 2019
[8:19pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 18-05 be adopted.

Lew May, General Manager of Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation, presented the 2019 proposed budget.

Rollo asked what route the electric bus would serve.

Council Questions:

May said that decision had not been made, but it would be on one of the downtown routes.

Rollo asked if Transit was continuing to install new bus shelters.

May stated there were just over 70 shelters, and they just took delivery of seven more. He stated that there were about 500 stops total, so a little over 10% of all stops had shelters.

Volan asked if Indiana University had consulted with Bloomington Transit about the master plan and a roundabout that would be constructed.

May said he had just been invited to a meeting to discuss the plan.

Volan asked about mobility management and if Bloomington Transit would manage mobility for the whole city.

May stated that his personal opinion was that Bloomington Transit would need to adapt to become not just bus providers but mobility providers. He said the industry had changed over the last few years. He cautioned that Bloomington Transit did not have the legal authority to regulate other mobility options.

There were no public comments.

Public Comment:

Volan thanked May for an excellent budget.

Council Comment:

Sturbaum wondered if scooters fit on the bicycle racks.

May said no. He noted that Transit had not had any major issues with scooters. He said they would probably entertain some rules about scooter use at the downtown transit center.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 18-05 [8:28pm]

Council Attorney Dan Sherman spoke about the upcoming council schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 31st day of October, 2018.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dorothy Granger, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington