

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:45pm, Council President Dave Rollo presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
May 15, 2019

Members present: Ruff, Piedmont-Smith, Granger, Rollo, Volan, Sims, Sturbaum, Sandberg
Members absent: Chopra

ROLL CALL [7:45pm]

Council President Dave Rollo summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [7:45pm]

Councilmember Dorothy Granger moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of April 3, 2019 as corrected. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [7:46pm]

April 3, 2019 (Regular Session)

Councilmember Steve Volan spoke on the passing of Michael Brooks, who had been hit by a vehicle while commuting on his bicycle at night.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [7:47pm]

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum spoke about the importance of affordable housing owned by local residents.

Granger reminded people to take vacations.

There were no reports from mayor or city offices.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES[

There were no council committee reports.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Kaleb Crain spoke about the need for better information about construction taking place around the city.

- PUBLIC [7:15pm]

Alex Goodlad spoke about concerns related to scooters.

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to appoint Jennifer Smallwod to the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. The motion was approved by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriations Ordinance 19-03 be 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: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 6.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:25pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Appropriations Ordinance 19-03 be adopted.

Appropriations Ordinance 19-03 - To Specially Appropriate from the Food and Beverage Tax Fund Expenditures Related to the Convention Center Expansion, and Making a Standing Request for Recommendations from the Food and Beverage Tax Advisory Commission as Future Needs for those Expenditures Arise

Mick Renneisen, Deputy Mayor, presented the legislation to the Council. He explained that the food and beverage tax could only be used for certain purposes. He described the need for an expanded convention center, and noted the next steps that would be taken in the process. He said the requested appropriation would not exceed \$200,000 and would help complete necessary steps for issuing a bond against the tax.

Sturbaum asked if approving the appropriation ordinance would be a signal that the Council approved of the larger options for expansion of the convention center.

Council Questions:

Renneisen said no, it would just allow the city to explore what options were available.

Volan asked if the city would receive more design options beyond the four it had already received.

Appropriations Ordinance 19-03
(cont'd)

Renneisen described the potential design options that the city was considering.

Volan asked if there was a comparable city that Bloomington was trying to emulate.

Renneisen said there were similar cities around the state, but Bloomington was unique. He said the focus was on making the center the right size.

Volan asked what the range would be.

Renneisen said the existing center had about 44,000 square feet. He thought the expansion would add between 40,000-80,000 square feet.

Volan asked how large the four design options were.

Renneisen said three options were an additional 80,000 square feet, while one option was an additional 40,000 square feet.

Alex Goodlad voiced concerns about the impact of the expansion on surrounding areas.

Public Comment:

Piedmont-Smith said she was opposed to the use of any funds other than the food and beverage tax for the expansion of the convention center.

Council Comment:

Ruff said he shared Piedmont-Smith's concerns about overbuilding the project. He expressed concerns about the impacts of growth on Bloomington and the surrounding regional area.

Sims said he supported the appropriation ordinance. He wondered if revenue generated by the convention center could be used to help pay for the expansion. He said he would like to see more design options that were in between the sizes of the existing options.

Granger said the city should stay within the budget that the food and beverage tax would provide. She said she did not support a huge convention center.

Volan said it appeared the food and beverage tax would only fund the low end of the size range needed for the expansion. He said he did not think regional concerns should stop Bloomington from expanding the convention center. He said the convention center should also operate as a civic space for local groups.

Sturbaum said the convention center needed to be expanded, but he wanted to make clear that the center should not be overbuilt.

Ruff clarified that considering regional areas was an idea included in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 19-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 19-03 [8:21pm]

There was no legislation for first reading.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Valerie Merriam spoke about open door laws and concerns with recent decisions made by the city.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [8:22pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to cancel the Committee of the Whole scheduled for May 22, 2019. The motion was approved by voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:24pm]

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this
12 day of June, 2019.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

