

In the Council Chamber of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, July 16, 1997 at 7:30 PM with Council President Pizzo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
JULY 16, 1997

Roll Call: Mayer, Young, Cole, Pizzo, Service, Sabbagh, Sherman, Pierce.
Absent: Banach.

ROLL CALL

Council President Pizzo gave the Agenda Summation.

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pierce commented on the College Mall Road project, that people still fundamentally misunderstand this project, in spite of City Traffic Engineers taking a new, different and welcome approach on this project. There has been a lot of concern expressed about traffic speed. He iterated that the medians are not just for aesthetic purposes, but are natural barriers so that pedestrians can manage this crossing, which in turn will slow traffic and encourage more bikers and walkers. He mentioned the A to F service rating and that the three to five lane expansion will not change this rating (of C), nor would it improve the time taken to travel this stretch. Additionally, three lane is much less expensive than the five lane, about \$81,000 cheaper, so in terms of running the city as a business, three lane makes more sense. Its really important for people to understand and give input on this project. People who are advocating for five lanes should go to Indianapolis, in Castleton, where five lanes doesn't move traffic more efficiently. Finally, in this entire discussion, Pierce has been puzzled and disappointed that the bike and walking advocates here in Bloomington have been so silent. People who have been vocal in the past are not now supporting the city in this effort, so he encouraged citizens to support the city and traffic engineers in their innovative efforts.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS

Sherman said hello to one sure viewer who watches every Wednesday -- his mother. His mother lives in College Mall Apartments behind Mr. D's, and that a five lane road would surely isolate her from the mall, that she would be unable to cross. Then, her son would drive to take her to the mall, creating more traffic. He stated that building five lanes to accommodate traffic will encourage more traffic.

Sabbagh stated that it seems that the median dies at the intersection so he doesn't see how this helps pedestrian crossing, respectfully disagreeing with Pierce. He expressed tremendous disappointment that property taxes were not examined at the state level. Also he cited a report says 95% of income tax collected in 1994 came from top 50% ranked income earners, and the top 1% of individual tax payers forked over 28% of individual income taxes in 1994. The top 5% paid about 47% of taxes in 1994, so given these figures, its hard to see where tax loopholes for the rich are located. Finally, he made a anti-capital gains statement.

Service added her support to the College Mall Road project plans. She commented that perhaps the silence of bike and walking advocates speaks to the positive efforts being made. Also, she commented on a Herald Times letter to the editor, that the new public library was a "half empty facility" and a waste of space. She strongly disagreed, stating that the library is still new, will last a long time for the community, and that this type of anticipation for space demands in the future is good. Particularly at the county level, she expressed being proud of the library for having provided for these demands.

Cole acknowledged the good deeds and brave rescue efforts of two westside residents, Steve and Misty Baston, after lightening struck and created a smouldering fire in Mr. Gould's home on June 30th, taking the 87 year old

gentleman to safety. This incident is a tremendous example of selfless neighborhood concern and care for the elderly.

Young spoke out in favor of expanding College Mall Road to five lanes, that the businesses there have spoken out about the need to expand and we need to work with them and use the property already there. He cited Henderson, the 46 Bypass and 3rd Street as examples where lack of planning leads to bottlenecks, and iterated that we need to put up walk signals and crosswalks if we want to encourage pedestrian use. We still have a way to go before a good plan emerges.

Pizzo said no one talks about the aesthetics of five lane, reminiscing on Kirkwood Avenue being covered by trees, stating that he would sacrifice speed anytime for green space and putting trees back up on College Mall. Regarding property taxes relief, he expressed hope that IU's study committee would bring real reform in the next legislature. Lastly, citing Dow Jones and Bill Gates wealth index, he commented that capital gains taxes have not hurt the wealthy, that we shouldn't lower them and in fact we should increase it. He commented that in spite of the economy's prosperity, we still have gaps between the rich and poor, the hungry, homeless, underemployed and insurance-less.

Mayor Fernandez, pointing out that the flag is at half-mast, expressed his sympathy and regrets over the death of Donna Knox, a young and dedicated member of the Bloomington police force. She was married to Roger Kurr, a firefighter with the city. On behalf of the city and its employees, John expressed deepest sympathies.

MESSAGES FROM THE
MAYOR

Scott Keene and Laura Haley gave a brief presentation on the use and information gathering capabilities of the City GIS system.

MESSAGES FROM CITY
DEPARTMENTS

Cole asked how far do we graph the GIS, about access to the system within departments and for the public.

Keene answered that at least one computer in each department has access, that licensing and software demands were so large it was not very PC compatible.

Pierce asked what barriers there were to making it more publically accessible, noting it is difficult for state law to keep up with digitally available information that is rightfully public record.

Young asked about access to the system for council members.

Service iterated that all information on the GIS is still available elsewhere in paper form, for anyone not computer friendly.

Randy Lloyd presented Activity Summaries for the Industrial Incentive Loan Program, as well as the Tax Abatement Program.

The Industrial Incentive Loan currently has eight outstanding loan amounts, although one of those has just made the last payment. All the others are current with the exception of a day care facility. Lloyd highlighted October Interactive Loan, with a total loan of \$50,000, has only used \$35,000 and for now has decided not to exercise the remaining \$15,000.

Sabbagh asked if the other \$15,000 committed to October is now back in the hopper for use.

Lloyd didn't remember by what date this was to have been decided, the money is available to October if needed but had no conclusion on this.

Sabbagh asked if that \$15,000 doesn't go in, what are the loan balances outstanding and how much is left in the hopper to loan out.

Lloyd had not tallied an overall amount. The program can only loan out \$400,000 total. With MCUM approval and two other loans approaching total payment in full, \$300,000 dollars are now loaned out. There are a couple of applications cued up and ready to submit to EDC. Lloyd said he had been working on guidelines to submit to EDC for further recommendations and was available for further questions.

He went on to point out that none are in non-compliance but that council might be interested in:

1. Candle Wax Building, Council has consistently approved since 1991, happy to announce it is near completion.
2. Independent Packaging, extended tax abatement to include additional \$3.7 million in equipment.
3. Doug McCoy, previously known as Gables and owned by Carrithers Construction. McCoy has purchased with intention to lease, attempting for two years to sell condominium, investing over \$25,000 to complete the interiors. Lloyd said he thought it met requirements based on the spirit of providing downtown housing.
4. Bloomington Advancement Corp. donated to Bloomington Community Foundation, leases to IU Trustees, part of IU Research Park.
5. Madison Park Condos of CFC flagged last year. Construction has begun on the remaining eight units.
6. Thompson Consumer Electronics has voluntarily terminated any tax abatement requests they are receiving with March 1997 assessment date.

Service asked about the nature of Lloyds document. Were these the official conclusions regarding the compliance or not, and who gave official statement. Lloyd answered the Council ultimately makes that decision, so the document from Lloyd just contained his recommendations. He said when the decision came, the council would then have more information. He also iterated that the Council has statement of benefits on file, and it should be available in council office.

It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that Patrick Murphy be reappointed to Public Transit Corporation Board..

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 97-08 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the resolution by title only.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 97-08 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

Mayer Fernandez encouraged the council to support this resolution, as it is an extremely creative use of space and assets. It retains the benefit of a very unique location close to the park, Boys Club & Girls Club, giving opportunities for outreach and community involvement in law enforcement efforts. Now the city can accomplish a joint dispatch facility and is able to launch enhanced service in January 1998. He pointed out the tremendous cooperation with county and enhanced services to citizens of Bloomington, without having to raise additional taxes. Thanks to Linda Runkle, who has worked very hard to keep this on track and is home recovering from surgery. He wished her a speedy recovery.

Service questioned how much parking in the Municipal Building lot would be regularly available to the public at different times.

APPOINTMENTS TO
BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS
LEGISLATION FOR
SECOND READING/VOTE
RESOLUTION 97-8

Chief Kennedy said the parking lot between the building and 220 East 3rd is public parking at all times. The easternmost lot will be dedicated for police vehicles, 36 in the current fleet.

Service said her concern was in the evenings and weekend parking. Parking demands are after hours for activities at the Boys & Girls Club and events at the park.

Chief Kennedy said the lot on the western end should essentially be empty after 2:00 p.m., pointing out that due to police shifts, between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. there are tremendous demands on parking space.

Cole asked if we had discussed the parking with the businesses there, saying it would be good if contact with the neighbors was made.

Young stated he can support this use of the building if it is seen as a temporary thing, since the police department will eventually outgrow it. He asked what was the use life of this facility for the police department, given increased staff needs.

Kennedy, at current rate of growth of city population and department, estimated a ten year life span.

Young asked what is more of the true cost. The renovation doesn't cost additional tax money but represents approximately one million dollars that will not be taken off the price of Showers Center, a savings which will not be passed on to taxpayers.

Sherman said to consider the alternative. The city could sell the building for a million dollars, and then would need to find another place for police department, which would likely cost more than a million.

Cole stated she didn't think the city should be selling this building, that it was publicly owned property and perfect for the police department use. During the People's Park incident, improved access to the police department was obviously necessary. To get the police department out of the basement of the Justice Building will be a vast improvement.

It was moved and seconded that the following amendment be considered acknowledging the 1993 resolution that the proceeds from the sale of this property be used to offset the new city hall debt and that this is now a better use for the building.

The amendment received a roll call vote of Ayes:8 Nays:0

Mr. Hilliard, from one of the businesses there, stepped forward and said he pays for a parking permit there and has never seen a city car get a ticket at any of the metered spots and that he anticipated traffic headaches for the city.

Janet Jackson, a business at 314 S. Washington expressed concern that there is no access to downtown parks for people driving in. She felt that a strip of parking spaces should be reserved for park use, since this was the spirit of the original land donation for Third Street Park.

Mayor Fernandez pointed out that with police functions there will be less demand for parking there than there was during its use as municipal use, pointing out that since that time, that park usage and Kids City has grown and that growth has not been hindered. This property is zoned downtown commercial, in which case if it was sold to a private developer, the entire lot

could potentially be built up, because of the zoning.

Cole asked about the parking lot classification, has it historically been a city lot, with the city making those spaces available to businesses.

Jack Davis said it is Municipal Lot 6, with 19 meters.

Cole asked how many of the 36 cars in the fleet are in use or are just stored.

Chief Kennedy said most of those 36 cars would be in and out but coming in they would need a place. He iterated that the park entrance is being extended, that the concept is to put the police unit as part of the park, not isolated from it.

Mayer iterated he didn't think that parking was the main issue, given the point that Mayor Fernandez has made about private development and that the lot has been free parking for the public, essentially, since the move to the Showers Center. Also he suggested going to sub-stations, having a main and a sub-station for the department, doesn't seem to him that we need police coming to one building all the time, also could extend the building to the west. Stressed the flexibility in what was being discussed.

Service pointed out there are additional park deed restrictions that state that there is a 3 foot space at the north edge of the park that cannot be built on. Also there is a small parking lot to the south for park parking.

Sabbagh thanked Chief Kennedy for finding parking for city employees, unlike the situation here on Morton Street.

The resolution received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Absent: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-24 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-24 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

ORDINANCE 97-24

Chief Saunders introduced the content of the Ordinance.

Captain Tim Richards, President of Professional Firefighters of Bloomington, Local 3715 apologized for not attending last week's council meeting. Seventy-five percent of Bloomington's firefighting force is currently represented by the International Association of Firefighters. He expressed his support of the proposed changes.

Young thanked him for the job well done in the recent fire at Virgo Apartments, and made some comments about the poor water pressure downtown and the need for infrastructure improvements in the future.

The resolution received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Absent: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-21 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 97-21

ORDINANCE 97-25

ORDINANCE 97-26

ORDINANCE 97-27

ORDINANCE 97-32

ORDINANCE 97-33

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-25 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-26 be introduced and read by

title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-27 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-32 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-33 be introduced and read by title only. Deputy Clerk Young read the ordinance by title only, and the synopsis.

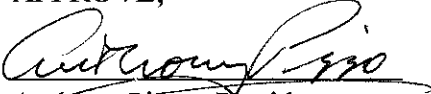
Pierce moved to postpone Ordinance 97-32 until September 10th Committee of the Whole meeting, final action on September 17th. Moved and seconded.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-25, Ordinance 97-26, Ordinance 97-27 and Ordinance 97-33 be postponed for final action during special session on Monday, July 28th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

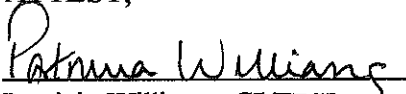
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE;



Anthony Pizzo, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST;



Patricia Williams, CLERK
City of Bloomington