

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, September 10, 1997 at 7:30 PM with Council President Pizzo presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Pizzo gave the Agenda Summation.

AGENDA SUMMATION

Please note that the audio tape of this meeting does not begin until the discussion of the Civil City Budget.

Mayor Fernandez introduced Mayor of our Sister City, Posoltega, Felicita Zeledon, and shared the Declaration of Friendship document with the council and television viewing audience. Mayor Zeledon thanked everyone for their kindness, hospitality and generosity toward her and her city.

MAYORAL MESSAGES

The Mayor then presented the 1998 Civil City Budget for final approval to the council and urged them to support what has been a very careful and thoughtful budget process. He said that he understood that councilmembers would have differences with some of the priorities that the administration thought were important but that basically it was a strong budget with a heavy emphasis on capital projects, infrastructure and services. He thanked the council for all the hours of careful deliberation and said that he thought the process had been a good one.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-28 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the legislation by title only.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-28 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 7-2 was given.

LEGISLATION FOR  
SECOND  
READING/VOTE  
ORDINANCE 97-28

Controller Jeff Underwood was available for questions.

There was essentially no discussion about this ordinance. Young said that once more he did not agree with a lot of the mayor's priorities and some of the things he has done, and he thought that the mayor was definitely underpaid.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:2 (Young, Banach).

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-29 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the legislation by title only.

ORDINANCE 97-29

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-29 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 6-3 was given. [There was an amendment submitted at the Committee of the Whole meeting to delete five of the new positions called for in the 1998 budget as well as this corresponding salary ordinance. That amendment was not supported at committee and received a Do-Pass recommendation of Ayes: 3, Nays:6. The sponsor, councilmember Sabbagh, did not forward the amendment for final council consideration.]

Sabbagh explained that the amendments were a small attempt to stop the growth of government and that his amendments were submitted based on facts not partisanship. He said that while he was not 98% in agreement with this budget, he agreed with the emphasis on capitol improvements.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:2 (Young, Banach)

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 97-1 be

APP ORDINANCE 97-1

introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by title only.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 97-1 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 6-3 was given. Please see the above bracketed statement regarding amendments to this ordinance.

Mayor Fernandez stated his support for this budget, the steps forward for the social services, the capital investment, public safety, and finally the resolution of the police department space needs.

Banach said that this was a well thought out budget and that this was not an opportunity to "nit pick" but that the budget process, rather than other day to day council business, are when the strongest political positions are expressed; that there are some true philosophical differences of opinion - too many board and commission positions, fruitless studies, too many attorneys, and then the proposed improvements to this very new council chambers.

Young thought that while staff did a good job with this budget, it was the one they (the council) had to work with it and was not one that he would have created and that he too supported the concept of fewer employees and thought it might then be possible to give our employees more money for the good job they do for our city. He said it was hard to vote for leaf removal programs, the vague ideas for People Park renovations, and that we should do a better job of timely storm water drainage problems solving, infrastructure and other choices.

Service said that she could agree with Young about this budget not being one that she would draw up, but that she agreed with the administration that the services and priorities that have been provided for in this budget are supportable. She suggested that for all the people who are so "ProGrowth" in the community, it is now time to pay the piper, so to speak, and that services to support all of this growth cost money. "The coin has two sides" Service said.

Pierce supported the budget and the priorities as innovative and has examined what we are doing and seeing if it makes sense.

Young talked about the high cost of living in Bloomington and when we spend a lot of money each year, and things go up and we hire more people it costs more money to live here.

Sherman was disappointed in the budget process rhetoric that has taken place, that there seemed to be a clear goal of opposing the budget with a lot of old rhetorics and ideas. He said that the differences that were raised, Peoples Park expenditures, five grant writing positions, mayor's salary (too low), were all explained very carefully and well. He thought it was a creative budget and urged everyone to support it.

Sabbagh said the issue is "is there a better way to spend the money"; are positions being added and thereby taking money away from the services we all want and need? No one is opposing the additions to the police and fire departments. He said he would support the budget, but he did not want to cloud the issues and the reasons people have given are valid issues.

Cole thought it was a good budget and was supportable. She talked about some of the program changes that are being proposed at the Banneker Community Center and she hoped that while changes are taking place, that

city employees who are in administrative positions will always listen to the constituents that they serve.

Mayer thanked everyone for a good budget process.

Pizzo was also disappointed at the lack of collegiality of the council during this budget process, and felt that it was a good budget for the citizens of Bloomington.

Robert Miller, a Johnson Avenue resident, asked the council to look into a traffic signal for the intersection of West Third Street and Johnson Avenue. He then talked at length about banking problems at the People's State Bank related to Social Security check deposit times and then bank fines and fees when deposits are delayed and personal checks are not then covered.

The Civil City Budget for 1998 received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:2 (Young, Banach).

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-30 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by title only.

ORDINANCE 97-30

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-30 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 7-0 was given.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:9, Nays:0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 97-2 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by title only.

APP ORDINANCE 97-2

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 97-2 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 7-1 was given.

Mike Phillips, Utilities Director, was present and available for questions.

Sabbagh thought this was a good budget, hoped that everyone could support it and that we not minutely search and find some little item that we don't like and then vote against this. [Laughter, applause, touche']

Service said that she has voted against the Utilities Budgets for 18 years and with all the money we have given away because of rebate practice we could have had the best ice rink the world has ever known.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:8, Nays:1(Service).

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-31 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the legislation by title only.

ORDINANCE 97-31

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 97-31 be adopted. The synopsis and committee recommendation of Do-Pass 8-0 was given.

Dave Gionet, PTC Manager, was present and available for questions. Cole thanked Gionet for the good job he and the entire department does for the city.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:9, Nays:0.

It was moved, seconded and approved by a roll call vote of Ayes:9, Nays:0, that Ordinance 97-32 (Noise Control Ordinance) be postponed. Pierce, the ordinance sponsor, said that members of the building industry have requested more time to respond to the proposed changes and thereby come forward with a comprehensive ordinance that everyone can support. A

ORDINANCE 97-32  
(POSTPONED)

committee discussion will take place on September 24, 1997.

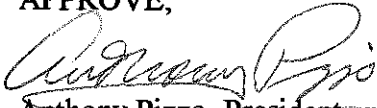
Mr. Miller returned to the podium to continue with his discussion points and concerns.

PUBLIC INPUT

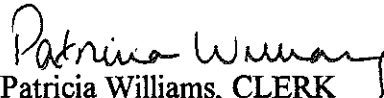
The council adjourned at 8:45 PM and reconvened as the Committee of the Whole.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE;

  
Anthony Pizzo, President  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST;

  
Patricia Williams, CLERK  
City of Bloomington