

In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building held on Wednesday, March 6, 1996 with Council President Sherman presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 6, 1996

Roll Call; Banach, Kiesling, Young, Cole, Sherman, Pizzo, Sabbagh, Service, Pierce.

ROLL CALL

Sherman gave the agenda summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of February 7, 1996 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Pierce said that HB 1261 has been passed by the legislature that allows traffic calming devices to be implemented by communities that desire them.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS

Service congratulated persons who mad the decision to file for elective office, and wished them well. She also thanked the Chamber of Commerce, Hiron & Co and TIS for sponsoring the "Your are what you think" contest for middle school students in Bloomington.

Sabbagh commented on a recent Romeo and Juliet performance and hoped that the current discussions regarding a Shakespeare Festival become a reality. He congratulated BHS South Academic Decathlon Team for their recent state championship and wished them well as they leave for the nationals in Atlanta, Georgia.

Cole talked about the Sycamore Land Trust and the fine non profit program that sets land aside in a trust so that it remains a green space. Most holdings are open for public use and one particular fragile site is available for educational purposes only. It is important to understand the value of set asides for future green space use.

Young thanked everyone who participated in the CDBG hearings, and made the tough decisions to allocate the reduced resources throughout our community.

Kiesling expressed disappointment that the state legislature did not provide cities and counties with any street and road funding relief this year as well as text book cost relief. JPTA and Title 2 funds have also been cut. These are youth programs that serve income eligible students. Last year we served around 60 students - this year maybe only 6. The year round program was cut 80% and that will represent a severe cut.

Everyone wished Banach a Happy Birthday.

Banach welcomed Boy Scout Troop #120, visiting the council meeting this evening and working on their Citizenship badge, and thanked them for taking the time to come to the meeting and learn how government works. He discussed letters and phone calls from Matlock Heights residents regarding stop signs on Glendora/Fritz Drive and he has talked with Engineer Mike Leavitt and letters will be forwarded to the Traffic Commission to address this concern. Another concern is trash on the streets and what we need to do to make sure that they understand the neighborhood collection days. He thanked everyone for the birthday card.

Kiesling said that one of the things the Solid Waste District is working on is an "Adopt a Road" program and that might address some of Banach's points.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Sherman said that a city newsletter reaches every household with trash/recycling information.

It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the following appointments to boards and commissions be made:

APPOINTMENTS TO
BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS

Animal Control	Brian Alano	*	
Human Resources	Wendy Perry	*	
Human Rights	Mary Ellis	*	
	Fritz Lieber	**	
Urban Enterprise	Dann Small	*	4yr.
	Claire Arbogast	*	4yr.
	Ric Hohimer	**	4yr.
Bike & Ped	Jim Rosenbarger	*	
Environmental	Kevin Komisarck	*	
	Jeff Ehman	*	
	Christopher Butler	**	
	John Neel	**	
Traffic Commission	Sid Smith	*	
	Jim Rosenbarger	*	

Legend: * indicates a reappointment
** indicates a new appointment
all appointments, unless indicated are for a two year term.

Cole commended Jim Rosenbarger for the superb job he has done with bringing traffic calming devices and issues to the forefront and educating us all so well.

Sherman thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on these boards and commissions and donating their time and expertise to their community.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 96-3 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the legislation by title only. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 96-3 be adopted. The synopsis was given. There was no committee recommendation.

LEGISLATION FOR
SECOND READING/
VOTE
RESOLUTION 96-3

Doris Sims, Redevelopment Director, highlighted the allocations for a little over a million dollars in expected revenues, about a 10% reduction from last year. A maximum of 15% may be used for social services agencies (\$153,630), 20% may be used for administrative services (\$204,000) and a 65% balance (\$460,000+) for physical improvement projects. A Citizen Advisory Committee is required by law that reviews all the social service agency requests as well as the physical projects requests. The process was a difficult one because the allocation requests from social service agencies amounted to over \$428,000 and only 30% would be available for funding this year. 70% of the CDBG funding has to benefit low and moderate income people within HUD targeted areas of the city. The actual funding for this year has not been received because congress has not yet passed a budget, so HUD does not have a budget which receives our block grant funding. Under a continuing resolution we will receive 45% of our funding, however that resolution expires March 15, 1996 and if another continuing resolution is not passed we will only have that 45% of the million dollars we are considering tonight.

Banach asked if we are looking at a worst case scenario, if additional funds are not approved. Sims said that was

a possibility, since we only have 45% of the funding for the fiscal year that starts June 1, 1996. He asked about the \$104,000 "cushion" in physical improvements. Sims said that there just were not that many suggested projects and that the money can be made available for other physical improvement projects in the future (after review and approval by the Redevelopment Commission). Sims said that if we receive 10% more or less the expected dollar amount, then the directive has been determined that the process would go back to the CAC and review the funding levels. Sims said the social service sub-committee said that in the event of a 10% change, that the agencies be cut or increased by that 10% and said that the physical improvement committee made the same directive.

Kiesling asked if transitional housing or rehabs could be done under the physical improvements lines. Sims said that would still fall under the maximum set aside for physical improvements. Sims iterated numerous physical projects that have been undertaken and that benefit social service agencies...roads, streets, sewer projects.

Sabbagh asked about curb and sidewalks, especially along Hillside. Sims said that kind of project would probably be a combined Public Works/Redevelopment project, however that particular project was not submitted.

Young asked about the construction project process and who decides what projects are considered. Sims said the Capital Improvements Committee looks at long range projects by fiscal years and then applications are submitted based on their priority. The design is done and then the project to put out to bid.

Jeff Stone, Executive Director of Housing Solutions, talked at length of how the process failed this year and as a member of the CAC committee he outlined a number of points. One of his applications (social service side) was cut by 67% from last year allocation.

The decision was made to fund the low end needs, like emergency care services and he questioned if that is what actually occurred. The issue of affordable housing was a big issue of the recent political election and he felt that he represented that affordable housing that political candidates talked about last year.

That is exactly what has been cut out. On the physical projects side of the process, Housing Solutions requested monies to rectify some design flaws that they inherited with the Autumn View housing trust. They now have lots that are difficult to sell as well as build on and are potential drainage hazards. He commented on the presentation in front of a poorly attended initial committee hearing and a committee that actually suggested that that was not the request that the committee wanted the agency to make and was suggesting other more worthy projects. The final hearing was restricted to a 2 minute presentation before the Redevelopment Commission and a commission that seemed to indicate that they did not want to amend or modify what the CAC had already determined.

He said the process has just been a very discouraging and disappointment process.

Sims said that the process is not a perfect process and there are measures being considered to improve it. She pointed out the Mr. Stones project was not for housing, but to build bridges on some of the lots to allow for access to an area for grass cutting and the committee did

not think that was a viable use for block grant monies. The property owners were aware of the peculiarities of each lot and other types of arrangements that might have to be made in order to cut the grass on the other side of the ditches.

Cole said that as the council representative to the physical improvements committee, she did not feel that every dime had to be spent for every proposal that came before the committee. The \$100,000 that is left over and if we get it will be eligible for other worthy projects that will come up over the year.

Pizzo said the full social service committee was present at all times, spent every penny that will be coming and needed three times as much more.

Stone reponed that his remarks did not apply to the social service committee and he apologized for any confusion. He pointed out that the homeowners at Autumn View do not own the lots just the houses and selling off the unusable parts of lots would have to be approved by the BZA as a variance. He hoped that the council would understand that the process fell short this year and he did not mean to castigate anyone. Proposals could have been look at with a little more scrutiny, especially with the physical improvements part of the process finding itself with left over funds.

Toby Strout, Middle Way House Director, was also unhappy with the process as well as the decision of how/what gets funded. She said that Middle Way House is one of two agencies that fulfills all the criteria of the CDBG program. Middle Way House was cut by 30%. She agreed that committee members worked very hard and the decisions were difficult and that the process is deeply flawed. The process does not provide enough input and the committee does not have enough information to make the decisions it needs to make. Because MWH is seen as successful and well endowed with grant monies. They have had a lot of experience applying for monies and there are much better processes out there that create a process that provides a "scoresheet" and an agency can look at that sheet and see just where the agency falls short and why they didn't get whatever grant they applied for. She urged that the process be revised. MWH has 22 different grant funding sources that they have worked very hard to develop because these different programs are needed to serve their clients. This, however, is not money for basic shelter. MWH is not a rich agency.

Pizzo said he would like to see Strout's recommendations and talk with her about some of the suggestions she made.

Banach said he would like to hear from committee members about the process and how it can reviewed and improved.

Cole defended the process and thought it was a good one with a lot of people involved that talk out the proposals and exchange input. She said she would support improvements, but thought it was basically a good process.

Young asked about the Redevelopment Property Acquisition Program and Sims said this program acquires right of way as well as structures as they come available, rehab them and then sell them.

Service was concerned about some of the comments about attendance, open give and take and time limits. She was glad it was being re-evaluating it. However, she was not in support of re-opening the process in the event of additional funds becoming available.

Young asked why we are doing this now, without the full allocation of monies. Sims said that the process begins in September and at that time they don't know what the exact amount of money they will receive. It is mostly an estimate.

Mayor Fernandez said that we usually have a good idea of the amount of money we will receive. This year is different and congress has not even started to work on the next resolution that must be passed by March 15. The administration is committed to improving the process with the uncertainty of if these funds will continue to flow. He encouraged everyone to contact their representative and urge them to get on with the business of government.

Young asked why/if we needed to make this decision now if we don't really know. Fernandez said that unless something drastic happens, we should expect at least 40% of the funding by June 1, 1996.

Sabbagh was concerned that this process does not measure the success of programs as part of the decision making process and do we penalize successful programs and fund other programs that are ok but not necessarily successful.

Sherman said he had no intention of trying to second guess decisions that have been made after many hours of input, that the process should look at the prior success rate of particular programs, that money should not be taken away from the most successful programs, we should give them more money because they are getting the best bang for their dollar.

Pizzo thought the entire community should feel some responsibility for these agencies, not just the government of the city of Bloomington.

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

There was no legislation for First Reading.

FIRST READING
NONE

Helen Inari, representing Shelter Inc, invited the councilmembers to tour some of the facilities they have funded this evening to better understand some of the really great success stories and programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the council would not meet next week for a Committee of the Whole due to Spring Break.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE;

ATTEST;



Jim Sherman, President
Bloomington Common Council

Patricia Williams, CLERK
City of Bloomington