

In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building held on Wednesday, October 2, 1996 at 7:30 PM with Council Vice President Cole presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 2, 1996

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

ROLL CALL

Vice President Cole gave the agenda summation.

AGENDA
SUMMATION

The minutes of September 18, 1996 were approved by a voice vote. Service noted that her budget comments were not addressed in the minutes and Clerk Williams said that part of the meeting tape was blank. Council member Service's comments would be added.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Sabbagh disagreed with the recent decision to implement "class basketball" for high schools on a state level.

MESSAGES FROM
THE
COUNCILMEMBERS

Pizzo said that it is fair for the small schools to be separated for in this day and age, the chance of being a Milan High School is less than remote.

Young commented on the concerns about communication with the RCA officials and hoped that we would be proactive in voicing our community concerns about the plant remaining in Bloomington.

Kiesling said the decision to privatize belongs to the French government and she hoped that they would be concerned about all the other plants in the US. She congratulated Barb Lentz and Liz Feitl from the CWA for their award as Outstanding Individuals in Support of Women at Work. She also commended Amethyst House for receiving a matching grant of \$340,000. She then recognized Jeff Stone from Housing Solutions.

Stone thanked Tony Pizzo for his 6 years of service to the Housing Solutions Board and he presented him with a commendation for his years of quiet, wonderful support of "the little guy". Pizzo said that the board has accomplished much in the last 6 years with the completion of almost 29 homes as well as rehab projects in the community.

Banach said that recently annexed Browncliff residents are concerned about sewer hooks on questions and he said he would be happy to organize a neighborhood meeting with appropriate city officials to help answer those questions. He noted the recent HT article about the sale of the old Municipal Building and a resolution passed in 1993 saying that the process from the sale of that building would be used to pay down the debt on the new Showers City Hall. Also coming up will be discussions about the relocation of the Farmers Market. These are just a few things that are coming up in the future and he urged people to come down and get involved in the discussions. Letters sent to the council are great, but coming to the meeting in person is better.

Cole echoed Banach's comments about participatory democracy. She thanked Code Enforcement, particularly Kelly Crouch and Mike Ryan for their hard work in organizing the Near West Side Clean Up program

Deputy Mayor McNamara said that the administration has been meeting with the RCA Thomson corporate officials and making every effort to stay on top of the rapidly changing scenario with the French governments decision to privatize the company. The city is also working closely with the IBEW and he assured the council that the city would do everything possible to persuade the officials to remain in our community.

MESSAGES FROM
THE MAYOR

Clerk Williams announced a vacancy on the Animal Control Commission.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 96-43 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by title only.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 96-43 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

Susan Montgomery, Legal Department, briefed the council referring to the synopsis of the ordinance. The Bloomington Police Department does not retain a staff towing operator and contracts with private towing companies. This ordinance represents an increase in the cap that towers can charge and said this increase is the first since 1993. Proposed changes include daytime fees from \$35 to \$45 and nighttime increases from \$45 to \$55 maximum. Motorcycles would have a set limit of \$50; and an on-scene arrival would be \$25; a night time call out would be \$15 maximum and a storage fee/day is \$8.50.

Banach asked who determines if a car is to be towed. Deputy Chief Hostettler said so far this year there have been about 135 calls for mostly abandoned vehicles. The attending officer is the one who makes the determination if a car is to be towed. Bannock asked about other charges that a citizen might incur.

Service asked if the fees reflect the actual costs of towing a vehicle. Hosteller said that about 60% of the vehicles that are towed are abandoned and the tower incurs various costs and charges associated with having to get rid of the car.

Rick Mitchell, representing the tow companies, thought that the fees are not that high considering the fact that each truck represents about a \$60,000+ investment as well as other costs of doing business. He outlined all the procedures and costs

necessary depending on the type of vehicle that is being towed as well as scheduling and work loads involved with each towing operation. He restated that this is a fee structure for city towing only, and does not include other pricing arrangements with private businesses.

Scott Tibbs, citizen, asked if the records, paper work and costs were available to the public.

Banach thought the idea of making the costs public was a good idea and would be supportive of the towers.

Pierce asked how these charges compared to the open market charges and if we are in the "zone of reasonableness". Mitchell said he didn't know if there was a set

price among wreckers, it depends on what and where the tow is from and where the car has to go. There is no set market price but the tow charge to the city is cheaper than a private tow/contractor.

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

It was moved and seconded that the following legislation be introduced and read by the Clerk by title only for First Reading before the Common Council.

Ordinance 96-25 To Amend the Preliminary Plan re: 3501, 3524 and 3547Stoneybrook Drive (Church of God, Petitioner).

Ordinance 96-30 To Vacate a Public Parcel. Re: Part of a Recorded Easement between 1007 and 1013 Countryside Lane (Charles R. Short, Petitioner).

Ordinance 96-41 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps from RS3.5/PRO6 to PUD re: 1401 East Hillside Drive. (City of Bloomington, Petitioner).

FIRST READINGS

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

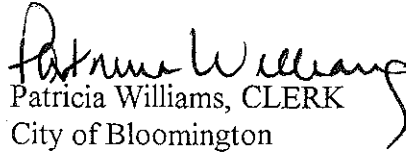
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:



Patricia Cole, Vice President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST;



Patricia Williams, CLERK
City of Bloomington