

In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building held on Wednesday, February 17, 1993, at 7:30 P.M. with Council President Hopkins presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

Roll Call: Sherman, Miller, Hopkins, Cole, White, Service, Kiesling, Swain.
Absent: Fernandez.

President Hopkins gave the agenda summation.

The minutes of February 3, 1993 were approved by a voice vote.

Sherman announced a Public Hearing on Monday, March 1 regarding the various options/plans for Sanitation/Recycling collections.

Service commended the IU Foundation for not extending the Noxubee County Hazardous landfill land option.

White reported on a recent IACT meeting he attended, a ride with a police patrol on Friday evening, thanked Rep. Mark Kruzan for contacting him regarding city funding priorities and informed people of city police officer Bill Parker's wife's sudden death.

Kiesling announced Solid Waste District/IDEM public hearings that will take place tomorrow and then on Tuesday, February 23 the State Board of Tax Examiners will be here to talk with Enterprise Zone residents/businesses about tax benefits within the zone.

Mayor Allison also expressed the condolences of the entire city to Sgt. Parker upon the death of his wife Cheryl. The Shriners also presented a Mayor of the Year award to Tomi as well as \$1,000 to the MCCSC Strategic Planning Committee

Steve Sanders presented a Human Rights Commission report/finding based on a public hearing that took place last fall on violence in our community and in particular an event that took place in which a young man, who was thought to be gay, was badly beaten by a group of youths at Griffy Lake. As a result of that public hearing in which many citizens as well as law enforcement officials took part, the Human Rights Commission drafted a report to the council and made several general recommendations among them some type of education program in the school system. It was repeated several times that this was a recommendation and not an actual resolution or ordinance before the council.

Hopkins read a letter from John Fernandez in response to the many phone calls received by councilmembers about the forementioned report.

Numerous people talked about the report:

Rev. Jimmy Mahurin, representing a group of ministers was against any gay awareness education programs in the schools as well as any "hate legislation" that the legislature was considering to prevent churches from speaking out against this life style.

Lee Meads, an IU student, spoke in favor of the report. He said he was taught about love in the Baptist church he attended in Indianapolis and said it was wrong for anyone to not give the same rights to everyone.

Adam Crew was here to speak about Noxubee County but commented instead in favor of the report.

Susan Hicks, a high school student, said she felt discriminated against in school because she is a christian and carries her bible and people make fun of her.

Wesley Stevenson spoke against the report and encouraging gays to talk to students in the school system.

Paul Patton was also against the report's recommendations, quoted the bible and was against the report in general.

Hopkins stated that the twenty minute period for public comment was up and

that it was time to move on.

Service answered many questions concerning the crowd, tried to clarify situation regarding status of report and the power of council, expressed personal opinions of theology, stated that council is the wrong forum for religion, clarified goal of report, and expressed need for focus on that goal. Swain observed that crowd was alarmist and should reread newspaper article. White discussed phone calls he received, feels public input is the important thing in this situation, particularly regarding diversity.

Jim Sherman left at this time.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 93-8 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the resolution by title only. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 93-8 be adopted. The synopsis was given. There was no committee report.

Cam Trampke, representing the Chamber of Commerce, said MCCSC, the Chamber, the City and ABB began a strategic planning program to establish lifelong educational priorities several years ago.

Ann Cady, schoolboard member and parent, spoke in support of the resolution and how important it is that education does not work in isolation but with the community at large.

John Sullivan, Chairman of Partners in Education for the last 4 years, said the need for education is not directed to any one element in the community but to everyone.

Kiesling thought the testing language should be more thoroughly defined and wondered by the Richland Bean Blossom school district was not involved. Sullivan said they were embarking on a similar program of their own. White said this report hits on many of the ideas and goals that have been slightly lost as we live our daily lives and it is important that business and government have joined together as a team.

Cole said that as a participant in this program it has been exciting to see how well this has gone; it is really needed and it is the community that will ultimately define the needs of the community and how education is a life long commitment.

Service spoke in favor of the resolution as did Miller.

Swain asked about service clinics within the school system and thought this issue belonged in an Herald-Times article and thought that many of the points made were self-evident redundancies and wondered why we were hearing this.

Mayor Allison responded that this resolution was directed by the Task Force.

Swain felt this was aimed at those with low education levels and questioned the types of classes taught. Our schools reflect the community and consensus is desired, said the mayor.

John Sullivan agreed with Mayor and reiterated certain points.

Glen Robinson wondered about cost of program, who would pay?

Jean Patton felt the "lifelong learning" concept was a cliché and was opposed to the resolution.

Bob Clendenning wondered if the council was mandating MCCSC?

White said that yes, it the resolution is a "feel good" resolution and was an important piece of legislation.

Swain stated he would vote against resolution, expressing problems with some specific clauses.

Hopkins said we must use all resources to educate children and establish an ongoing partnership with education.

The resolution received a roll call vote of Ayes:6, Nays:1 (Swain).

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 93-2 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

Norm Merrifield synopsized the resolution and discussed it's relevance to the Master Plan.

Service was pleased that passive recreation was included and wondered about Latimer Woods, Atwater Park and the tree nursery.

Merrifield said it would be relocated and would combine city and park nurseries.

Miller thanked Merrifield for his efforts.

Hopkins asked for additional fiscal information and Merrifield said it would be provided.

The resolution received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:0.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 93-01 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by tile only.

It was moved and seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 93-1 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

Chuck Ruckman, City Controller, spoke about the ordinance.

Service asked for additional information on the parks portion of the ordinance.

White asked about the grant and Steve Sharp, Police Chief, said that the grant he received would be used for overtime.

The ordinance received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:0.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 93-9 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the resolution by title only.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 93-9 be adopted. The synopsis was given.

The Mayor addressed this resolution urging the state legislature to provide fiscal reports on legislation they are passing so that municipalities and legislators would have better information on costs before mandates are issued.

Swain said the legislature also does not understand the impact on different kinds of communities.

The resolution received a roll call vote of Ayes:7, Nays:0.

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

Clerk Williams read the legislation.

Ordinance 93-4 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps from RE to BA, Grant PCD Designation and Approve Outline Plan re: 201 Gordon Pk (Michael Long/Carol Burk, Petitioners).

Ordinance 93-7 To Amend the Bloomington Zoning Maps from RL to BA, Grant PUD and PCD Designation and Approve Outline Plan re 123 S. Kingston (Teblock, Petitioner).

Ordinance 93-9 To Amend Title 15 of the BMC Entitled Vehicles and Traffic re: S. Walnut St.

Ordinance 93-8 To Amend Title 15 of the BMC Entitled Vehicles and Traffic re: 3rd and Atwater St.

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Chris Crabtree addressed the Human Rights Commission report and said the concept of values belongs in the home and should not be taught by the school system. That is what the council should be doing. We don't need to make certain laws for certain people and we all deserve to live a good life.

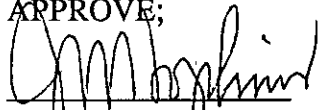
Tim Ward said that as a MCCSC student he was subjected to what he called Christian bashing because he carried a bible in school.

Sandra Percifield was against any kind of resolution.

Michael Douglas thought the council should separate their personal viewpoints from that of a public official.

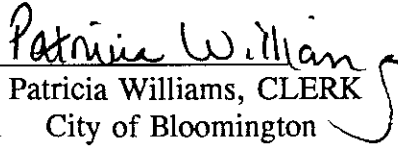
The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

APPROVE;



Jack W. Hopkins, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST;



Patricia Williams, CLERK
City of Bloomington

To: Council Colleagues, Mayor Allison, Members of the Human Rights Commission and members of the public,
From: John R. Fernandez, councilmember at-large
Date: 17 February 1993

RE: Human Rights Report to the Council.

First, I wish to apologize again for my absence from tonight's meeting. As many of you know, I am in my final week of preparation for the bar exam. With a little luck, I should be back in action by the end of next week.

To the members of the Human Rights Commission and all who participated in last year's legislative hearing on the issue of violence in the community and particularly, the incidence of "gay bashing" in Bloomington, I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation for your efforts. Our community is a better place to live because of your on-going commitment to protecting all of our human rights.

While your findings are troubling and down right depressing, I fully support and embrace the recommendations put forth within your report. And I urge my colleagues on the council and all people of good conscience to read and truly "hear" its contents.

Most of us know that our community is tainted by bigotry, hatred, intolerance and ignorance. Thus, this report does not contain any genuine surprises. However, I hope for those in our community who have chosen to avoid these truths, that this report will serve as a catalyst for your conscience.

Despite my awareness of intolerance within our community, I did not expect the degree of hostility, although somewhat orchestrated, which has been generated by a mere report documenting a number of problems experienced by people living in our community. While I may not be completely surprised by this reaction, I find it depressing and troubling as well.

CH-10

The legislative hearing and subsequent report were the response to acts of violence against other human beings within our community. People, real people, some of our friends, singled out by hate-mongers merely because they did not conform to the white heterosexual constructs imposed upon them, were victims of violence. No one in our community should condone such incidents.

More importantly, as elected representatives, we must not only condemn such conduct, but we must have the courage to step forward and stand together with those victimized. We must embrace all members of the community. We must have our own personal anti-discrimination code, and it must be our moral compass in everyday life.

Not surprisingly, the issue which seems to be the source of the most anxiety among some members of the community, is what we may or may not do to protect the rights of gay and lesbian people who live in Bloomington. The swiftness and extent of this response only reinforces the depths of fear and intolerance that exists within our community.

I for one, want everyone in Bloomington, gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight, to know that I will stand up and fight for the equal rights of everyone I represent. Moreover, I believe it is the moral obligation of all of us elected to "represent" Bloomington to do the same.

I find it incredible that in a country which rightly places so much importance on our constitutional protection of the freedom of association, that this freedom should be limited when it comes to the personal choices we may make in regard to our own lives.

So often we celebrate the importance of our freedom of association. We, as a society, are even willing to tolerate the rights of our people to freely associate in truly obnoxious and dangerous organizations such as the K.K.K.

Yet, our society cannot seem to truly embrace the freedom of association when it comes to the personal lives of others. If we are not free to make such choices, then how free are we?

Is there any more important or basic human right than the right to choose who we will love? Or who we will live with, with whom we choose to celebrate our accomplishments or share our grief?

We are all human beings. Regardless of religion, race, gender or sexual preferences we share the same human needs and feelings. When we are hurt, we all cry real tears. When we are victims of violence, we all shed real blood.

Now more than ever we must work to educate the ignorant. We must find a way to humanize these issues, to teach people that all of us, despite our sexual orientation, are very real people and have a tremendous amount of good to contribute to society. If not, acts of violence will continue to be acceptable.

Now more than ever our society needs to be a society of humane and compassionate people.

I hope that my absence tonight will not be viewed as a measure of my commitment to the protection of human rights within our city. Let me assure you, that I will continue to be heard on these issues as long as I am a member of this council.

To my colleagues on the council, I hope you will join me in this fight against bigotry, intolerance and ignorance. We must stand strong and not let fear and ignorance force us collectively back into the closet.