

In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building held on Wednesday, February 19, 1992, at 7:30 P.M. with Council President Service presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 19, 1992

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

ROLL CALL

The minutes of December 18, 1991 and January 15, 1992 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hopkins told the council/public about an upcoming trip to our sister city in Nicaragua during spring break, a dance that will take place to help finance the trip and provide eyeglasses that the group plans to take along.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS

Swain said that we are in the midst of Black History Month and he commended those teachers and administrators who make this an active part of their curriculums.

Fernandez informed people who need income tax service of the programs available, that assistance is available.

Kiesling said the Citizens Information Committee met with the EPA last week. The public comment period regarding Fell Metal and Iron is coming to a close and must be made by the end of this week.

Cole said that the EPA and Near West Side Neighborhood Assoc met for a very good discussion of the Fell Metal and Iron disposal methods under consideration with the neighbors. She urged people to contact her with street paving requests/questions to be forwarded to the Street Dept.

White updated everyone about the recent IACT meeting pertaining to legislation recently approved by the general assembly.

Sherman congratulated BHS-S for the Basketball SCC title and more importantly to Ruth Granich and the winners of the South Academic Decathlon team for winning the state championship. He also commented on the Qualtec presentation regarding a PCB cleanup method.

White welcomed members of two Boy Scout troops in the audience this evening. They are working on their Citizenship badges.

Service said the Monroe County Museum is always looking for items for their Black History exhibit, she thanked Miller for the plants recently placed in the council chambers, and White for his involvement and organization in the weekend Wendell Willkie events here in Bloomington, and the asphalt plant location concern and that as we consider our master plan implementation procedures, there are certain environmental considerations that we need to be mindful of.

Mike Davis mentioned that Dr. Janice Ewing will be collecting glasses for our sister city Polsetega. He also said that the Westside Community Center will have a variety show on February 29 recognizing Black History Month and he too congratulated BHS-S Academic Decathlon for their 4th victory in five years. The Boys Club programs has now been expanded to the Henderson Court area.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Fernandez said that the Urban Enterprise Association Board had their first meeting this week and said the first agenda item is an interim director and move forward with the process for a permanent director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 92-4 be introduced and read by title only. Clerk Williams read the ordinance by title only.

LEGISLATION FOR
SECOND READING
ORD 92-4

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 92-4 be adopted. The synopsis was given. There was no committee recommendation.

Fernandez said that the intent of the ordinance is to try to move part of the public comment "up" on the evenings agenda so that people do not have to wait for the entire meeting to speak. There would still be an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting as well.

Sherman asked about grouping speakers and Service thought that would be up to the chair of the meeting.

Kiesling asked Clerk Williams about Section 2 of the ordinance.

Williams said the code currently requires posting at buildings other than the municipal building of legislation under consideration. Over a period of years, it has not been generally acceptable to hang large packets on bulletin boards around town and it seemed an appropriate time to amend the code when we were considering an agenda order change. We do put out 21 packets for each meeting, there is considerable media coverage and we inquired at the Indiana Room of the public library and that provision was agreeable with them. Kiesling also pointed out the BCAT coverage and changes over the years in Open Door procedures and the availability of information.

Hopkins said this ordinance was originated by a member of the public who waited almost four hours to speak at a recent meeting. This will be more efficient providing the chair really controls the process.

Miller said that an agenda is established for petitioners who have already gone through a long process to reach the council and we are dealing with people who might be paying for representation sitting through public input periods, that councilmembers are accessible to the public already and the forum is already a very open one.

White did not agree with the proposed change, that an agenda is set for a reason, items are advertised ahead of time and interested parties are here for that particular issue in as timely a manner as possible.

Prolonging the process does not serve the people who have business before the council. He did not believe that it is our responsibility to be a weekly town meeting for a range of different issues. There is a very legitimate place for town meetings but in this instance there is an agenda prepared for a meeting. There are always resolutions that the council can initiate. He felt that we already go to great lengths to make sure that everyone is heard from in this community.

Fernandez disagreed and thought the public forums are our responsibilities and if not here, where and when will people have that opportunity. Resolutions would simply delay discussions. He thought that the number of weeks that there would be speakers at both parts of the session would be infrequent.

Swain said we would review this change on a yearly basis and evaluate how things are working.

Cole said this is basically chopping the Privledge of the Floor into two separate comment sessions and she agreed that it was better.

Rodney Ward was pleased that the council was taking this step.

Tim Sutherland was also pleased that the Privledge of the Floor was scheduled at the beginning of the meeting as well as at the end.

Kiesling said she thought there would be a trial period rather than changing the code immediately and clarifications are in order regarding time limits and public comments should not relate to items on the agenda, and she too would like it reviewed annually. A number of citizen comments suggested leaving it like it currently is.

White offered a Now Here This...that he didn't want to go down as the councilmember against public input, he simply feels that an agenda

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order should be maintained.

Service presented the historical perspective on the Privledge of the Floor and how it came to be that it was changed to the end of the council agenda.

Mona Row was glad the change was made as she is a Bloomington Transit customer and she can now come to meetings and still make the last bus.

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

Jason Rowland told the council about the problems with the Eastern Heights water pressure as well as the road cut on the north side of S.R.46 for the development on that side of the road. It is presenting a real problem for people getting out of Eastern Heights. Mike Davis said he would look into the questions raised by Mr. Rowland.

PRIVLEDGE OF THE FLOOR

Tom Kinley talked at length about the proposed asphalt plant on S. Rogers St. and expressed the concerns of neighbors, the school, the hospital, day care and traffic that would be affected by the plant. He asked for a public meeting.

Ron Burkhart, Violet Shelton and Jack Paul all spoke against the plant and begged the council to do what they could to influence its relocation somewhere else.

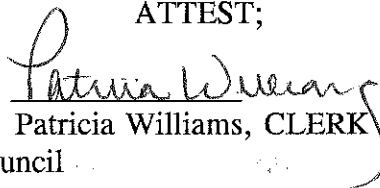
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE;

ATTEST;





Pam Service, President
Bloomington Common Council

Patricia Williams, CLERK