

In the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building held on September 20, 1979, with Councilpresident Tomilea Allison presiding over a regular session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 1979

Councilmembers present: Allison, Blume, Middleton, Morrison, Olcott, Richardson, Towell, and Young.
Councilmembers absent: Kinzer

ROLL CALL

Councilpresident Allison read the agenda summation.

AGENDA SUMMATION

Towell said he was pleased to see the Plan Commission defeat a proposal to allow high rise development in the east-central neighborhood, but said the alternative proposal to allow four-story buildings has possibilities, however. He continued that the incentive behind the proposal - to redevelop older areas of the city, is a good one but not appropriate in the area proposed. He suggested that Planned Unit Developments for blocks of residential neighborhoods may accomplish the same goal.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS

There were no messages from the Mayor.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

There were no petitions and communications.

PET. & COMMUNICATIONS

Towell moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Resolution 79-30 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 79-30
Encomium for Stuart
Reller - Senior
Planner

Clerk Connors read Resolution 79-30 in its entirety.

Towell said that he has known Stu Reller for many years, and he has been an excellent City employee and professional planner. He said that his talents will serve him well in his new job as a consultant in Indianapolis.

Blume agreed, and added that he was on the Plan Commission when Stu was first hired, stating that Stu has served the community well in an area that is extremely complicated.

Richardson moved and Towell seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 79-30 by acclamation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Richardson said that Janet Weber is leaving the Youth Shelter to move to Colorado. He wished her luck and said she did a very good job as director of a new program. Second, he agreed with Towell's remarks concerning high-rise development in the east-central neighborhood. Third, he thanked Otis Elevator for donating soccer goals for W. Second Street Park, stating that he is very glad to see industries helping the community's youth. Fourth, he spoke in favor of P.S.I.'s recent proposal to build no more nuclear power plants in Indiana. He said with questions concerning disposal of nuclear wastes, who will pay for cost overruns, etc., he does not think it is feasible to continue building Marble Hill. He concluded that he is not anti-nuclear, but is concerned about the public's safety, noting that a disaster in Madison would have an effect on Bloomington.

MESSAGES FROM
COUNCILMEMBERS
CONTINUED

Olcott moved and Richardson seconded a motion to introduce and read Resolution 79-29, in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 79-29
Encomium for Doc
Councilman

Councilmember Olcott then read Resolution 79-29.

Olcott moved and Richardson seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 79-29 by acclamation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Allison congratulated the Second Baptist Church and Ernie Butler on the church's twentieth anniversary.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Resolution 79-23 in its entirety.

SECOND READINGS
RESOLUTION 79-23
Inducement Resolution
for EDC Bonds for
Agency for Instruc-
tional Television

Clerk Connors read Resolution 79-23 in its entirety.

Olcott moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 79-23, and Councilpresident Allison read the synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, noting a Do Pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. He reiterated that the City has no liability for the bonds.

Jean Patton addressed the Council opposing the approval of the resolution (statement attached to minutes). Donald Sandburg of the Agency for Instructional Television was present but said he had no comment on Ms. Patton's remarks.

Blume said that Ms. Patton's concerns about the dangers of the influence of television are not really relevant to the issue at hand - bonds for the A.I.T.

Towell said he is concerned about the possibility of the educational television industry going broke for lack of federal funding and asked what would happen to the building if this were to happen.

Mr. Sandburg said that instructional television is alive and well. They have a good, solid base of support with the Board of Directors being members of the State Board of Education Chiefs. In addition, they are not completely tax-supported. He said they plan to add 130 new employees over the next few years, and hope to hire even more than that.

Olcott said Ms. Patton is very knowledgeable in her field, but the Council does not have the power to make decisions about the educational television industry. He said 130 new jobs would be a big contribution to the community.

Middleton agreed, stating that he has used A.I.T.'s materials, and they are excellent. He said the economic impact of the bonds is the Council's main consideration.

Resolution 79-23 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Resolution 79-25 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 79-25
Inducement Resolution for EDC Bonds for Peck, Inc.

Clerk Connors read Resolution 79-25 in its entirety.

Richardson moved and Olcott seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 79-25, and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, with a recommendation of Do Pass by a 4-0 vote.

Young said the issuance of EDC bonds for Peck, Inc. are more desirable to him than for A.I.T. because Peck has a product to sell. He said he hopes companies don't use the bonds then go bankrupt.

Tim Mitchell said that this is a very large bond issue with a company that has been in Bloomington since 1947. He said he had met with the President of the company last week, and they have had positive responses from the banks. He noted that this company does not actually make paper products; they do printing only so there are no dangerous effluents. This company will have approximately 200 employees.

Olcott and Blume praised Tim Mitchell and the City for working well together on the project.

Resolution 79-25 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Appropriation Ordinance 79-12 by title only.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 79-12 Funds from Parks & Rec. for Bryan Park Pool Bubble Repair

Clerk Connors read Appropriation Ordinance 79-12 by title only.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 79-12, and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Towell asked why the bubble is being repaired when it will not be used. Bill Wilson, Parks Director, responded that it may be used in the future, and in addition, it protects the pool from winter freeze and thaw.

In answer to a question from Middleton, Wilson said that BHSS's pool will not be ready until winter. He said he does not know about scheduling, but anticipates heavy usage. He explained that the City has been prevented from using the pool bubble due to the winter energy crunch, adding that it cost the City about \$3,500 to heat the bubble.

Appropriation Ordinance 79-12 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-72 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-72
Budget Transfers
Court, Fire, and
Sanitation Depts.

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-72 by title only.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 79-72, and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, with a Do Pass recommendation of 4-0, with one question about the use of equipment funds for the Fire Department.

Larry Fleener, Fire Chief, explained that the funds would be used for preventative maintenance for hoses, fire extinguishers, etc. He said hose is very expensive, and they will look into the possibility of salvaging it.

Ordinance 79-72 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Olcott seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-50 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-50
Traffic Amendments

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-50 by title only.

Richardson moved and Olcott seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 79-50. Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, noting a Do Pass recommendation of 4-0 as amended to delete Section II to remand it to the Traffic Commission for their preliminary consideration. Also, Section III should be amended to add 400 "and 500" block. He then moved and Richardson seconded a motion to amend Ordinance 79-50 as recommended in committee. Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Towell moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 79-50 as amended. Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-70 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-70
Amend Zoning Maps
re: Herald Telephone
Property to ML & UF

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-70 by title only.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 79-70. Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, noting a Do Pass recommendation of 4-0.

Ordinance 79-70 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Resolution 79-27 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 79-27
Budget Transfers re:
Planning & Engineering
Departments

Clerk Connors read Resolution 79-27 in its entirety.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 79-27. Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Olcott gave the committee report, recommending Do Pass by a vote of 4-0.

Resolution 79-27 was then adopted by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

Richardson moved and Olcott seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-75 by title only.

FIRST READINGS
ORDINANCE 79-75
Amend BMC to Raise
Salary of USB Members

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-75 by title only and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-76 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-76
Budget Transfer
Planning Dept.

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-76 by title only and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-73 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-73
Ratify in Lieu of
Annexation Agreement
w/Westside Industries

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-73 by title only and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Richardson moved and Olcott seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-74 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-74
Create a Special Non-
Reverting Improvement
Fund

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-74 by title only and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to introduce and read Ordinance 79-77 by title only.

ORDINANCE 79-77
Amend BMC re: City
Parking Lots and
DT Resident Parking
Permits

Clerk Connors read Ordinance 79-77 by title only and Allison read the legislative synopsis.

Richardson moved and Morrison seconded a motion to approve the minutes of July 19 and July 31, 1979, as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:
July 19 & July 31,
1979

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES approved this 18th day of October, 1979.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Tomilea Allison
Tomilea Allison, President
Bloomington Common Council

Nora M. Connors
Nora M. Connors, City Clerk

Resolution 79-23

STATEMENT OPPOSING TAX-EXEMPTION FOR AGENCY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION'S
BOND ISSUE

20 Sept 1979

I oppose tax-exempt status for an A.I.T. bond issue for two reasons:

First, I think it an economic injustice to the private sector to grant ditional tax advantages to an organization which is already entirely supported by tax funds and by grants from tax-exempt foundations. Investment capital should be encouraged to flow into the economic activities which provide tax funds — not to organizations which are already supported by tax-funds.

Second, the economic future for this particular industry is poor. The public schools — who are the customers for educational television — are caught between tax ceilings and inflation. When teachers' salaries are not raised, we see teachers picketing schools. In this situation, educational television is doomed.

At the same time, the demand for Basic Education is becoming insistent. The grassroots demand for a return to tested teaching methods in reading, penmanship, spelling, composition, and arithmetic will become more insistent. Tested teaching methods require doing, not watching. (No-one would try to teach swimming by having swimmers watch television; writing requires continuous practice, too.)

Television — even so-called "educational television" — is at last being recognized as injurious to learning. Dr. Jerome Singer and Dr. Dorothy Singer describe the effect as follows:

"... it seems possible that [producers] are actually creating a psychological orientation in children that leads to a shortened attention span, a lack of reflectiveness, and an expectation of rapid change in the broader environment

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, Mar 1979 pp 56,59-60

They also express alarm over television's stunting of imagination and reflective thought.

Neil Postman, professor of media ecology at New York University, phrases it this way:

"One of the more serious difficulties teachers now face in the classroom results from the fact that their students suffer media-shortened attention spans and have become accustomed, also through intense media exposure, to novelty, variety, and entertainment."

Neil Postman, "Order in the Classroom"
Atlantic

Please note that I chose experts who write for "liberal" audiences; we always prefer to let our adversaries speak for themselves.

Most City Councils across the country would regard it as peculiar to have Samuel Johnson quoted at them, but this council will regard it as quite normal. Dr. Johnson spoke with experience about teaching; he had been an unsuccessful teacher himself.

"Every man that has ever undertaken to instruct others, can tell what slow advances he has been able to make, and how much patience it requires to recall vagrant inattention, to stimulate sluggish indifference, and to rectify absurd misapprehension"

"Life of Milton"

Television cannot rectify absurd misapprehension; indeed, it often spreads confusion, misunderstanding, and shallow conceit.

When a medicine proves to have bad side effects, it is taken off the market. When a food-additive is suspected of causing cancer, whole industries are shut down. The educational side-effects of television are now being associated with declining academic standards. Drastic reductions of educational-television use must come.

Municipal exemption of interest on bond issues is justified as a method of increasing local employment and stimulating the economy. ATT plans to increase its payroll from 80 to 130. Present trends in education make this prediction unrealistic. I oppose granting exemption.

Thank you for your attention.

Jean Patton