

In the Common Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, held on June 2, 1977, 7:30 p.m. with Councilpresident Middleton presiding over a special session of the Common Council.

SPECIAL SESSION
COMMON COUNCIL
June 2, 1977

Present: Councilmembers Middleton, Richardson, Kinzer, Morrison, Towell, Young, Blume, Olcott.

ROLL CALL

Approximately 100 others were present.

Councilmember Richardson moved and Councilmember Towell seconded a motion to nominate Tomelia "Tomi" Allison to fill the Council seat vacated by Councilmember De St. Croix.

ELECTION OF NEW
COUNCILMEMBER

Councilmember Richardson spoke of publicity which arose from the Democratic nomination. He mentioned that he had been assured by Councilmember Morrison that there would be no controversy over the Democrat's choice. Councilpresident Middleton was said to concur with this pledge. He noted that statements were made recently in the press regarding Ms. Allison's qualifications which must be regarded as presumptuous since they were written without any personal knowledge of the nominee. In summarizing his attitude toward the selection process, he noted that much diligent effort had been given to the ultimate nomination of Ms. Allison. He said that to nominate and discuss other candidates would do harm to Ms. Allison, to the Council's image, and to City Government in general. He stressed the fact that he was not angry about opposition which had arisen toward the nomination of Ms. Allison, but, rather, was disappointed that earlier pledges of support were not honored. He spoke of his acquaintance with the nominee through the years, noting that he had always been quite impressed by her active involvement in the City's government. Much positive feedback had been received regarding her nomination and her laudable qualifications for the Council seat.

Councilmember Towell acknowledged that he had known the nominee for many years, being impressed by her intelligence, organization, and maturity, qualities which he felt would add a great deal to the Council.

Councilmember Blume emphasized the fact that the choosing of Ms. Allison as the Democratic nominee was not a haphazard process. Rather, there were numerous meetings with much discussion and healthy compromising. He was confident that Ms. Allison would work well with the present Council.

Councilmember Olcott nominated Dick Behen, a Democrat who had served previously on the Council. He noted that he wanted a choice of nominees for the Council. Councilmember Morrison seconded the nomination, noting that he had served with Mr. Behen as a Councilmember and had been very impressed with the nominee's abilities.

Councilmember Young noted that he felt that it was important that in an election one be given a choice of candidates, and supported the nomination of Mr. Behen. He added that he was encouraged by the nomination of a man to fill a Council seat vacated by a man. He expressed dismay with the process by which the nominee was selected, since all men were eliminated as well as those who had lost in a previous election.

Councilmember Richardson responded to Councilmember Young's comments, noting that no one was eliminated for the reason of having lost a prior election. Rather, such candidates were eliminated because of their failure to attain a 4-vote consensus of Democrats. He stressed the fact that one of the final applicants considered was a former candidate, and that men were among the final applicants.

Councilmember Towell moved and Councilmember Kinzer seconded a motion that nominations be closed.

In a ROLL CALL VOTE, the following votes were made: Allison: Towell, Kinzer, Blume, Richardson, McCloskey; Behen: Young, Morrison, Olcott, Middleton.

Mayor McCloskey noted, upon casting the tie-breaking vote for Ms. Allison, that he felt she was an outstanding candidate and would make an outstanding Councilmember.

Clerk Dolnick then issued the oath of office to Ms. Allison, who then took her seat on the Council.


SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:


Thomas O Middleton, President
Bloomington Common Council


Nora M. Connors, Dep. City Clerk

Approved upon this 16 day of June 1977.

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