

In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, August 7, 1973, at 7:30 p.m., with Council President Charlotte T. Zietlow presiding.

SPECIAL SESSION
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON,
INDIANA

Present: James Ackerman, Richard Behen, Wayne Fix, Sherwin Mizell, Al Towell, Charlotte Zietlow.

ROLL CALL

Absent: Jack Morrison and Hubert Davis were out of town; Brian De St. Croix was convalescing.

Mayor McCloskey; Ted Najam, Assistant to the Mayor; Martha Sims, Controller; Marvard Clark, Assistant City Engineer; Grace Johnson, City Clerk.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

About 4 people including members of the press.

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilpresident Zietlow noted that this meeting had been called for first reading of Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-7 - the 1974 budget.

MEETING CALL

Mayor McCloskey addressed the Council:

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I guess as everyone realizes the long awaited city budget ordinance is here. I would like to speak very briefly to several main points and relatively new discoveries. First I would like to thank the council for its input over the last several months, not only as to the recommendations I will make on the city budget but the help on the salary ordinance was very helpful. I would note that revised city budgets do contain recommended appropriations sufficient to handle everything that was done in the salary ordinance. I think one very happy point that we realized just about midnight last night and checked and rechecked on Martha's adding machine today, the good news is that even with a very conservative and definitely low estimate of assessedvaluation for next year a very realistic prudent but yet you know healthy but functional city budget being submitted to you will result in at least a 34 cent decrease on the tax rate. The figures as you will get them tonight take the tax rate from the mid 380's to about 352. When we get the new assessed valuation. And it would go at least several cents lower I am sure. So I do think that this is probably a unique situation in the overall county situation right now at least. I would note that I think as we examine these figures over the next several days it will be obvious that this is because for one thing there is a definite increase in estimated city revenues. For example, the bus service is going up and that will be going into the general fund; legal fees, fines and so forth. Also there is a relative straightening out of our situation with utilities - we faced the gun last year with the 386 rate paying off those utilities debts and the mounting bills that were some three or four years old at the time, many of them and we are in a much more enviable position this year, there is no fifty thousand judgement for example on the police pension fund so it will mean a good healthy decrease in the city tax rate. I would also note that the budget as proposed to you contain no ordinary revenue sharing - rather, no revenue sharing funds for ordinary operating expenses. I think this is very important and that over the next several months and over the next year, by prudent use of revenue sharing and cumulative capital and local funds we should be able to do several major capital and social priority programs. I think perhaps to note several innovations in these budgets, perhaps in random order, the police department budget will contain a request for five new vehicles, there will be some ten thousand dollars for a local match for a radio base station and it would also contain recommendations for you to decide on as to a more equitable salary structure, paying the police department lower ranks somewhat of a higher percentage than upper ranks and so forth. The fire Department budget as it is submitted

to you will contain a fifty thousand dollar appropriation for a new pumper which will fill a definite need - we do need it now, the other pumper is some fifteen years old and we are told it will result in an improved insurance rating with the Indiana Rating Bureau. I would also note that this budget does contain a continuing local commitment to a continuing redevelopment program - I think with tax base funds in the redevelopment department with some revenue sharing and perhaps some cumulative capital and hopefully down the pike community development revenue sharing we will be able to do some very progressive things in developmental and redevelopment areas. I will also note, as you know, the budget contains recommendations for an expanded staff capability for the common council; in the planning department the overall budget is significantly down but it does feature increased staff and I would also note as you know, and I think the council has recommended, it contains a recommendation for a more professional controller's office, increasing personnel and getting a different type of specialist as deputy controller. Also in the board of works budget there is an appropriation that will enable the addition next year of some two hundred additional street lights I think with the major annexation program we are on that this will be a major community service and innovation. Also less significantly as far as expenditure goes but there is also a \$1000 appropriation for the economic development commission to fund itself, have a little work-study and so forth. Also there is a commitment to the telecommunications council to get that commission working in this very important expanding technological area. I think this budget as submitted to you also contains a commitment of continued support of the bus service. I would note that our ridership figures are going up - last Friday the ridership did hit a thousand and I don't expect it to significantly go down and I would imagine we will see some fifty or sixty percent increase once Indiana University is back in the Fall. Also in the revenue sharing area there is a continued strong commitment to resurfacing, there is at least one hundred thousand dollars to continue with resurfacing. Also a provision to beef up the street department to continue the resurfacing program and also to continue a major commitment and in the area of sidewalk expansion also I am going to recommend that we appropriate some \$25,000 dollars for a curb rebuilding or building program I think the best way to do that logistically would be to start from the center city area and work out. There is also a recommended appropriation of \$10,000 in the revenue sharing area for trees. I think we would like to get a lot of input from the environmental commission from people who have an expertise and an interest in that area to make a major commitment in that major environmental area. Also, upon the recommendation of the plan department I am going to ask that next year we do have a special census. That would cost some fifteen thousand dollars. You probably know there is a continuing appropriation request to fund the drug coordinator and also there is a request for some six thousand dollars for the indigent health care program as submitted by the community action people. You will also be requested to appropriate as you did last year late in the year some two hundred thousand dollars in cumulative capital - I recommended some hundred thousand dollars for services contractual and a hundred thousand dollars for construction. Also somewhere down the pike we will be appropriating one hundred and 85 thousand dollars for purchase and rehab of the old library site. There are various significant and basic decisions to be made over the next several months as to revenue sharing and cumulative capital. I think most of these the Council is very familiar with and has all the information that we have so far, but just to gear your thinking and hopefully the community's thinking, the third street and atwater thoroughfare improvement program recommendation should be in in about a month. I've asked Mrs. Zietlow and others to give us a definite proposal. I would expect that we could do a major commitment in the housing subsidy area. Perhaps as much as \$100,000 to help rehab homes on the westside and miller drive area and so forth and I have asked the engineering department and the planning department to as soon as possible to give us a detailed estimate and drawings as to what it would take to extend the Kirkwood Mall concept all the way up to the university gates. I think that is really about all I have to say. I would like to note that it was a pleasant surprise to be able to reduce the requested rate. I think this will be a welcome news in the business community and throughout

neighborhoods in Bloomington. I would also note that as you examine the individual budgets and we decide these things over the next several weeks you will see that it is an overall very well coordinated program and it will have us moving ahead in numerous areas. Thank you.

Councilman Towell moved that Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-7 be introduced and read by the Clerk. Councilman Behen seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-7

Grace E. Johnson, City Clerk, read Appropriations Ordinance No. 73-7 in its entirety.

Mayor McCloskey: The departmental final budgets are being retyped now and the Council can have them probably starting tomorrow afternoon. Because of some changes, there will have to be new justifications recommended. That will be several days before the justifications will be ready but the departmental budgets are about done in the final drafts now.

Councilpresident Zietlow announced that the council will start with public hearings on the budgets next Monday, 8/13, with Tuesday reserved should there not be enough time on the 13th - and also the following Monday. So, August 13th for sure, August 20th for sure and August 14th is in reserve, as well as August 21. The hearings will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Councilman Behen asked why some of the budgets, such as Rosehill, came out higher than the initial request. Mayor McCloskey said that a lot of that is salary - trying to bring wages up.

Councilman Mizell: I would like to comment that the mayor's office either has geniuses or magicians. It looks like a great budget.

Mayor McCloskey: I really think it is, I think it is - quite frankly I think it is a fantastic budget. We are in the enviable position of expanding services and decreasing taxes. I think there has been some good money management involved and I would stress that the only differences of note in the budgets that you will get, other than some trimming we have done is the insertion in light of the overall funding situation - the insertion of some things we were talking about from revenue sharing or cumulative capital - fire trucks and police vehicles and so forth. And that just frees up that much more revenue sharing money to use for social services and capital improvements programs. So I think it is a very good situation to be in. I don't think the administration really realized itself how bad things were last year with the artificial fiscal situation that we did inherit. Our revenues are up and we have the bills off our back. We have the police pension judgement off of us now, and the utilities situation is about even so overall we are really - with the help of the council in working out the workable program I think we can do very well over the next two years.

Councilman Mizell: Do we still owe the utilities any money?

Mayor McCloskey: We are even on utilities right now. But we will be borrowing throughout the year as any city would have to do. And our cash flow situation is much better than it was. I do think when we consider it's a highspeed resurfacing program and to continue a major commitment to sidewalks, a new curb program - I am sure we will have some kind of day care operation, some help for the health services bureau. I think, obviously the transportation department is doing very well and we can have some sort of housing rehab program that will be of real neighborhood significance and still

drop taxes - the tax rate in the area of forty cents which I would guess is one of the lowest in Indiana for a second class city.


Councilman Towell: I would just like to thank everyone concerned for putting a large number of hours in over the last week or two.

Mayor McCloskey: I really want to thank the council for its cooperation with these budgets and one these budgets all the way. I think everyone got my statement on the workable program appointments - that is very important, particularly as to capital budgeting, besides the developmental problems and I think we should get together very soon and just block things out in every area as to just how we want the administration to go next year and even the following year - we can really see ahead at this point.

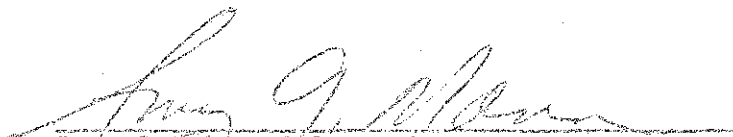
Councilman Fix: Some of us met today with the State Board of Tax Commissioners and the State Board of Accounts and I think we got some good answers, particularly as to how the council is going to have to work with the utilities service board.

Councilman Towell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Councilman Behen seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Charlotte T. Zietlow, Councilpresident

ATTEST:


Amy G. Mann, Secretary