

In the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., E.S.T., Monday, August 30, 1971, with Council President, Ralph L. Johnson, presiding. Called for the purpose of considering Budget for year 1972.

SPECIAL MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON,
INDIANA

Council President, Ralph L. Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present:

ROLL CALL

Robert L. Clegg, Jr., James Clendening, Clyde Day, Charles J. Faris, Robert E. Gray, Ralph L. Johnson, Jack Morrison.

Members absent:

Dr. Harry Day was attending the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress III at Bal Harbour, Florida; Councilman Fee was attending Army Reserve training for two weeks.

Mayor John H. Hooker, Jr., Howard A. Young, City Controller; Marian Tardy, City Clerk; James Cotner, City Attorney; James East, Chief of Police; Danny Fulton, Director of Redevelopment; Bill Wilson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Jim Sargent; Pat Patterson, Planning Department.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

Approximately 27 including members of the press.

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilman Faris moved that proposed Appropriation Ordinance No. 71-7 be advanced to second reading and read by the Clerk by title only. Councilman Clendening seconded the motion.

BUSINESS

Appropriation Ord. 71-7
Budget 1972

The Clerk read proposed Appropriation Ordinance No. 71-7 by title only.

There was some criticism on the proposal of a public information department and considerable discussion on the Parks and Recreation Budget. Vic Seidel criticized the spending of \$240,000.00 for Parks and Recreation.

Denny Griffey urged the council to ease the tax burden and requested that the Council go along with President Nixon's move to cut inflation by holding the line on taxes and spending.

Councilman Clendening moved to amend the budget by eliminating the proposed public information department. Councilman Jack Morrison seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes 2, nays 5 (Clegg, Faris, Clyde Day, Johnson, Morrison).

Councilman Faris moved that the amendment to the Budget be read by the Clerk. Councilman Clyde Day seconded the motion

The Clerk read the amendment to the Budget.

Councilman Faris moved that the Budget be adopted as amended. Councilman Clyde Day seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes 7, nays 0.

We have tried to keep pace with times and growth of community. I feel that a public information department will be a meaningful step in bringing forth more understanding and greater pride in Bloomington, not for this year; it is for the year 1972.

In the budget there are two items which represent a quarter of a million dollars-- the Police and the Fire Department pensions. We think that we have the finest Police and Fire Departments in the State of Indiana; they have done fine service in the last five years. They put in long hours and are called upon many times each day. We do not feel they are adequately paid. If the State of Indiana mandates levels of retirement, we feel the State of Indiana should assume financial responsibility; it should be carried on the State tax rolls and not local tax rolls.

I feel the State of Indiana should pass legislation which would not permit double taxation. The City has to pay taxes for County Plan Commission, county bridge fund, for the Indiana State Police Department, County Sheriff's Department patrol unit. For contractual items we have with the County--we pay the county one-half for landfill operation which the city uses and ambulance service for the county.

We feel there should be a more modern concept of local government; the form and function of local government needs to be brought in step with the times. This could be better expressed in a metropolitan type government. If the cities of Indiana, and especially the City of Bloomington would have legislation, that would make it more attractive for annexation. Large industries are outside the city; many areas below RCA are urban in character, and make a great deal of problems with annexation. Second Class cities, I feel, are some of the most valuable tax lands in the State of Indiana. We do not have the tax base, yet we have a low tax rate.

Once again the council has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and has performed its primary service to the City of Bloomington. It would be very easy to take the "easy road" in this election year and say there would be no increase, but cuts. It takes a great deal of statesmanship and courage for these gentlemen to once again demonstrate their dedication and leadership in making Bloomington a better place in which to work, play and live.

The meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT