

May 16, 1961

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, met in the Council Chambers in City Hall, at the hour of six-thirty o'clock (6:30 P.M. C.S.T.) on Tuesday, May 16, 1961, in regular session with Mayor Thos. L. Lemon presiding.

Members present: Sikes, Chitwood, Peace, Graves, and Faucett.

Members absent: Hickman and Shertzer.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Councilman Graves.

Councilman Peace moved, seconded by Councilman Chitwood that the minutes of the last regular meeting of May 2, 1961 be approved as submitted to each individual councilman; motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Sikes presented Ordinance No. 17, 1961 for second reading by the Clerk-Treasurer, and moved, seconded by Councilman Chitwood that Ordinance No. 17, 1961 be read by title only. Upon a roll call vote the motion was unanimously carried. After second reading by title only, Councilman Graves moved, seconded by Councilman Faucett that Ordinance No. 17, 1961 be duly adopted. Upon a roll call vote Ordinance No. 17, 1961 was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Sikes introduced Ordinance No. 18, 1961 for first reading by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Several people appeared to voice their opinions on Urban Renewal.

Jack Fellows, Director of the Christian Center, read a letter to the Common Council opposing federal aid for urban renewal as is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Jules Hendricks, representing the Chamber of Commerce, read a letter to the Council opposing federal aid for urban renewal which is on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

The Clerk-Treasurer then read the following letter from Mrs. D. J. Bowden, Chairman of the Christian Center Board:

May 16, 1961

To the Clerk of the Common Council,
City of Bloomington,
Bloomington, Indiana

In view of the present confusion concerning the relation of the Christian Center to plans for improving housing in the area it serves, the Board of the Christian Center wishes to make the following statement:

- (1) A part of the Christian Center's concern is for improved living conditions in the area, but it is not tied to, or committed to, any particular plan for effecting such improvement.
- (2) The recent statement of the Christian Center Director was published (May 15, 1961) without consultation with the Board or any of its members. It does not represent the position of the board.
- (3) The Christian Center does not own or hold title to any houses or lots other than the two buildings and the grounds of the institution itself, nor does it have any money invested in houses and lots in the Northwest area of Bloomington. All the properties in question are owned personally by the Director.
- (4) The Board has permitted its Director to spend part of his time in organizing a program of home improvement for residents of the neighborhood. It has also given him permission to renovate several houses which he himself purchased - with the agreement that all such properties should be deeded to a non-profit foundation distinct and separate from the Christian Center Board, said foundation to hold and sell to residents of the neighborhood on a non-profit basis. We have repeatedly insisted that this be done, beginning in May of 1959.

- (5) Permission was granted to recruit volunteer labor for the projects and to use teen-age boys of the neighborhood who were out of school and otherwise unemployable, in order that they might learn building skills, and render a service to the community.
- (6) However, the Christian Center has not projected any large scale or general housing improvement project for the area. Its only concern in this activity has been to encourage residents to improve their homes, and to promote a demonstration of the feasibility of such improvements.

The above statement is by unanimous vote of the Board present.

Signed,

Mrs. D. J. Bowden
Mrs. D. J. Bowden,
Chr., Christian Center Board

After a lengthy discussion of the Urban Renewal program the Mayor then read his statement to the Council that is also on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

The Mayor then recessed the meeting for ten minutes.

The meeting was called back to order by the Mayor.

Councilman Peace presented the following Traffic Commission recommendation for action by the Council:

BLOOMINGTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION

TO: The Mayor and the Common Council of Bloomington, Indiana.

The Bloomington Traffic Commission at the May 9, 1961 meeting approved the below recommendation and herewith presents such to the Mayor and the Common Council for consideration and action.

- (a) Recommends the curb be painted yellow for a distance of three (3) car lengths on the southwest corner of Dodds and Morton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Bernard I. Loft, Chairman
Bloomington Traffic Commission

Councilman Peace moved, seconded by Councilman Graves that the recommendation of the Traffic Commission as read above be approved and that the traffic schedule of the traffic ordinance be amended accordingly; motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Graves moved, seconded by Councilman Peace that the owner of the Stork Shop at 113 South Grant be permitted to construct off-street parking under the supervision of the City Engineer and the City Attorney be instructed to draw up the proper legal documents to protect the City; motion unanimously carried.

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting a present Mayor of Wabash, Indiana, Mayor Robert Mitten.

The Mayor presented a map and plan for the City to buy the property on the southwest corner of Sixth and Lincoln for use as an off-street parking lot by the City. The property is now owned by Drs. Gieger and Sibbitt. Councilman Chitwood moved, seconded by Councilman Peace that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare an ordinance for the purpose of issuing revenue bonds for the parking lot at Sixth and Lincoln; motion unanimously carried.

Reports for the month of April, 1961, were received and placed on file from the Rosehill Cemetery, Park and Recreation Department, Sanitation Department, and Police Department.

Mayor Lemon told the Council that if Sixth and Seventh Streets one-way plans were carried out the City would need an additional appropriation out of the Parking Meter Funds and that it would be handled by the Council and would not need to go before the State Tax Board.

Mayor Lemon presented the Council with a map of the property adjoining Cascades Park property to the north of the Cascades Drive-in Theatre. The owners of Blue Ridge Estates are willing to trade that property containing approximately 22 acres for City Water Department property of approximately 17 acres. The Mayor read the following letter from the Park and Recreation Board:

May 11, 1961

Mayor Thomas L. Lemon and
Members of the City Council
Bloomington, Indiana

Gentlemen:

The Board of Parks and Recreation recommends that the City of Bloomington, (Water Department), secure through land trade the acreage presently owned by the Blue Ridge Estates Corporation - West of Highway #37 thereby insuring its availability for future development as Park and Recreation area.

The Board of Parks and Recreation makes this recommendation contingent upon the fact that our community badly needs additional Park and Recreation areas to meet the needs of our rapidly expanding community.

Respectfully Submitted,
S/ Lloyd W. Olcott
Lloyd Olcott, President
Board of Parks & Recreation
LO/ds

The Council will meet together with the City Engineer at 2:00 P.M., Thursday, May 18, 1961 for a survey of the sites involved.

Councilman Chitwood moved, seconded by Councilman Faucett that the claims presented for payment May 17, 1961 be approved as submitted; motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned.



Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Clerk-Treasurer