

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 1, 1955

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, met in the Council Chamber in City Hall, on Tuesday, November 1, 1955, at the hour of seven-thirty o'clock (7:30 P.M.) in regular session, with Councilman Porter presiding.

Members present: Carpenter, Griffith, Miller, Porter, Ramsey, Sims, and Van Meter

Members absent: None

Since Mayor Kelly was absent because of illness, on motion of Councilman Ramsey, seconded by Councilman Van Meter, Councilman Boyd Porter was elected to preside at this meeting.

On motion of Councilman Ramsey, seconded by Councilman VanMeter, the minutes of the Special Meeting, October 18, 1955, was approved as read.

On motion of Councilman Van Meter, seconded by Councilman Miller, the minutes of the regular meeting October 18, 1955, were approved.

The Council accepted reports from the following:

- Esther F. Leavitt, Clerk-Treasurer
- Horace Robertson, Fire Chief
- Roy Doub, Plumbing Inspector
- J. N. Gilmore, Street Commissioner

A letter was received from W. H. Snyder, Attorney, on behalf of Donald F. Overbay, regarding action of the Council concerning the parking area at 404 South Fess Avenue, asking that the Council reconsider their decision in this connection. After discussion, on motion of Councilman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Miller, a meeting was to be arranged between Mr. Overbay and the Council at the location of the dispute in an attempt to reach an agreement.

A petition from Dr. Donald C. Tyte was received requesting permission to cut the curb at 302 North Washington to enlarge a driveway to a parking area. Councilman Sims, as chairman of the Committee on Public Works, reported this petition has been investigated, and with the approval of the Committee, moved that it be approved and permission be granted for the curb to be cut, with the work to be done under the supervision of the City Engineer; Councilman Griffith seconded motion; motion carried.

Burton Woolery Post #18, The American Legion, requested permission to cut curb and sidewalk to provide entrance to their property at 421 South College Avenue. Councilman Sims reported this petition has been investigated, the Legion Post has permission from the State Highway Department, and with the approval of the Committee, he moved that permission be granted with the work to be done under the supervision of the City Engineer. Councilman Griffith seconded motion; motion carried.

The Indiana Bell Telephone Company inquired if the City would pay the monthly charge for electric current used by lights installed in the telephone booths located on City property. They pointed out the installation of the light would cost about \$350 each; the utility bill each month to be about \$1 each. After discussion, on motion of Councilman Sims, seconded by Councilman Ramsey, the Council rejected this request.

The Council received a letter from Consoer, Townsend, and Associates concerning the clearing contract for the reservoir area.

A letter was received from George W. Henley, Attorney for the Monon Railroad, assuring the City of the donation of a right-of-way to provide additional parking space east of the railroad station as follows:

"Honorable Emmett Kelly, Mayor  
Bloomington, Indiana

Henley & Bunger  
Attorneys and Counselors  
at law  
Bloomington, Indiana  
October 25, 1955

My dear Mayor:

You will recall that shortly after your election you took up with me the question of whether the Monon Railroad would dedicate still further

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of its land lying east of the passenger station in order to relieve the traffic load on Gentry Avenue (also sometimes known as Monon Drive). At that time, you pointed out that the narrow width of the driveway, even after making it "one way" constituted a traffic hazard; also, that it made it difficult and inconvenient for service purposes at the rear for the businesses fronting on the drive from Fourth to Fifth Streets. Another factor you pointed out was that taxicabs were entitled to parking positions on the west side of the drive in order to serve the railroad and bus traveling public.

We and the other officials of the railroad to whom you appealed agreed that your presenting a substantial problem which you were presenting in good faith on behalf of the citizens of our city. On the other hand, they pointed out that originally the Monon owned all of the land to the east of the depot between Fourth and Fifth Streets right to the property line where the walls of the buildings now stand. A request was made for the railroad to donate a narrow alley way, which it did. Years later as buildings were modernized, further requests were made for more railroad land for a rather wide sidewalk, then finally the request to cut back more of its landscaped lots so that a driveway wide enough for two vehicles to pass. This also was given. The railroad thought these previous land donations was about all they could stand.

However, as you pounded away at this problem, I am pleased to advise that the Monon has agreed to help out by donating an additional strip off the entire west side of its grass plot and present concrete curb. This undoubtedly will take care of the problem you have presented. Incidentally, you recall that the Monon has cooperated wholeheartedly with your water, street and engineering department in granting easements through the right of way for the laying of water mains in connection with your program of improving water service with good pressure to the city limits. The history of the Monon and Bloomington could be written in the same book as they grow up together during the last century. It wants always to be a good citizen of Bloomington.

I am happy to relay this information to you. The railroad Board of Directors, of which I am a member, has acted favorably on the last donation; however, since this involves divesting itself of lands subject to bond mortgages, formal consent has to be obtained from the Trustee under the bond mortgages. This is a mere formality and the consent in such cases is always granted, but the red tape takes time. You can assure the council that the matter is settled finally.

GWH:rcm

Very cordially yours,  
Geo. W. Henley /S"

A letter from Charles B. Heiser, Jr. complimented the Council on the installation of new 4-way stops on East First Street, and requested consideration of making a 4-way stop at South Fess and East Second Street. This request was referred to the Traffic Commission for investigation and report on motion of Councilman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Van Meter.

Communications were received from the State Highway Department in answer to recent requests by the Council. These advise that it was not possible for them to change the 40 mile speed zone on East Third Street to a 30 mile per hour zone at this time. The Highway Department is investigating the problems at Eleventh and College, Rogers and Kirkwood, and South Walnut near the High School and will report on these later.

On motion of Councilman Griffith, seconded by Councilman Carpenter, Councilman Rotha W. Sims was assigned to the same Council Committees and Chairmanship which were held by George Donham, who has resigned.

The Committee on City Utilities reported on their investigation of petitions for street light in the 800 block of South Madison Street. After discussion, on motion of Councilman Sims, seconded by Councilman Miller, and passed by a vote of five to two (Ramsey and Carpenter opposing) the installation of a street light at this location was approved.

Councilman Griffith commented concerning the proposed Weights and Measures Ordinance.

On motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

*Edna J. Lewis*  
City Treasurer

*Boyd C. Porter*  
Presiding Officer