

City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet

Wednesday, 03 June 2015

Regular Session

*For legislation and background material regarding
Ordinance 15-14 please consult the
[27 May 2015 Legislative Packet.](#)*

All other material is contained herein.

Office of the Common Council
P.O. Box 100
401 North Morton Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47402
812.349.3409
council@bloomington.in.gov
<http://www.bloomington.in.gov/council>

NOTICE AND AGENDA
BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 03, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SHOWERS BUILDING, 401 N. MORTON ST.

I. ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA SUMMATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR: March 04, 2015 Regular Session

IV. REPORTS (A maximum of twenty minutes is set aside for each part of this section.)

- 1. Councilmembers**
- 2. The Mayor and City Offices**
- 3. Council Committees**
- 4. Public***

V. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VI. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Ordinance 15-14 - To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, Entitled “Administration and Personnel” - Re: Amending BMC 2.18.050, Regarding the Rules and Bylaws for the Bloomington Redevelopment Commission, to Codify Certain Existing Internal Financial Controls**

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass 8 – 0 – 0

VII. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

None.

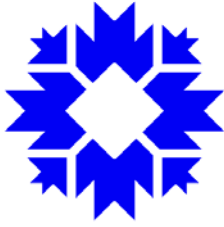
VIII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT* (A maximum of twenty-five minutes is set aside for this section.)

IX. COUNCIL SCHEDULE

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two Reports from the Public opportunities. Citizens may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed five minutes; this time allotment may be reduced by the presiding officer if numerous people wish to speak.

**Note: This ordinance was revised after it was released in the Weekly Legislative Packet and before it was introduced at the Regular Session on May 20, 2015. The revisions affected Section 1 by, first, correcting a grammatical error, and second, clarifying that the Commission requires staff to comply with the Controller’s standards when staff was acting under its authority and supervision.



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

To Council Members
From Council Office
Re Weekly Calendar -01-06 June 2015

Monday, 01 June

12:00 pm Board of Public Works – Work Session, Kelly
5:00 pm Bloomington Redevelopment Commission, McCloskey
5:00 pm Utilities Service Board, Utilities

Tuesday, 02 June

4:00 pm Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market, Corner of Sixth Street and
Madison Street
5:30 pm Board of Public Works, Chambers

Wednesday, 03 June

12:00 pm Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association, McCloskey
5:30 pm Commission on Hispanic & Latino Affairs, McCloskey
6:30 pm Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington, Hooker Room
7:30 pm Common Council – Regular Session, Chambers

Thursday, 04 June

4:00 pm Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee, McCloskey
5:30 pm Commission on the Status of Women, McCloskey

Friday, 05 June

12:00 pm Common Council – Internal Work Session, Council Library
12:00 pm Economic Development Commission, Hooker Room

Saturday, 06 June

8:00 am Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market, Showers Common, 401 N Morton St

Posted and Distributed: Friday, 29 May 2015

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 4, 2015

Roll Call: Rollo, Ruff, Sandberg, Volan, Granger, Sturbaum, Neher, Mayer
Absent: Spechler

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dorothy Granger mentioned that the Monroe County Community Foundation was celebrating their 25th year anniversary. She said they were sponsoring a dollar for dollar match for ten agencies for up to \$10,000 per agency. She encouraged the community's support.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tim Mayer thanked the employees of Public Works, Police, Fire, Utilities and Parks departments for their work in keeping the city running in the cold weather.

Andy Ruff reported that evidence was mounting that the US global drone terror-generating assignation program actually generates terror and terrorism and is act of terrorism itself. He said it did nothing to increase security or impact or reduce terrorism. He encouraged people to speak out and to contact the delegation in Washington to ask them to stop this program.

Steve Volan noted that snow made it difficult to pay parking meters and encouraged people to use the ParkMobile app to pay and then top-up the meter payment by mobile phone. He added that one didn't need a smart phone to use the system once an account was set up. He added that an 800 number could be used to initiate a parking session.

Chris Sturbaum noted the hospital moving and added that it was not in the best interest of the city for the hospital to move to a new location on the far west side of town. He suggested that they build to the west of the current hospital, noted that construction would take three years and certain buildings could still be used at the same time. He wanted these facts to be known.

Jacqui Bauer, Sustainability Coordinator, gave an update on the 2009 Green Building Ordinance and plans for more evaluation and certification of buildings by 2022. She noted the legislation stated that any investment in LEED certification would have to be paid back in ten years. She said that City Hall was LEED certified in 2011. She noted Twin Lakes Rec Center would not qualify because of an antiquated HVAC system. She said the Utilities Building was in the process of upgrading one system that would hopefully allow for certification, and the new Transit Building was being evaluated and possibly would receive a LEED Silver Rating.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

Jacqui Bauer,
Sustainability Coordinator on
Energy Use Update

She noted that the council would see these investments in the next budget presentations in that Police Headquarters, Banneker Center and Recertification of City Hall were next on the list.

Bauer noted that the Energy Inventory from 2010 to present showed a 4% reduction in energy use which resulted cost savings of \$200,000.

Bauer briefly mentioned the Monroe County Energy Challenge adding that a \$5,000,000 prize would be awarded after 2 years with 50 communities around the country competing in the challenge.

Volan asked what LEED levels would be awarded. She said that City Hall was not able to achieve Silver, the new Transit Center would most likely get Silver and the Twin Lakes center HVAC upgrade would increase the likelihood of some certification but it could not be determined which level at this time.

Mayer said that the utilities energy usage was high because of moving water from the lake to the community, treatment of water before delivery and after use. He added that IDEM and EPA regulations needed to be met, and that this was part of the challenge of bringing down costs.

Rollo asked about the water conservation plan, its process, evaluation, and update. Bauer said the plan was updated with an energy management plan component.

Byron Bangert, Chair of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, asked that the council update the Human Rights Ordinance so that it would include housing status and status as a veteran to the list of protections. He spoke of the work of the commission, and the Human Rights Award. He presented the 2015 Human Rights Award to Reverend Bill Breeden for his convictions and actions regarding human rights.

Byron Bangert, Chair,
Human Rights Commission.

Reverend Breeden said he was honored to receive the award, noting that Reverend Hal Taylor deserved it more for his untiring work for the homeless. He thanked the Unitarian Universalist Church for their support, and in honor of Women’s History Month and human rights for women around the world, thanked his co-minister there, Mary Macklin. He thanked his wife, and family, and Guy Loftman for their support, and said while he didn’t live in the city of Bloomington, he was proud to be a part of the Bloomington community. He said he liked a city council that would speak beyond what some would consider its purview because they understand that human rights are not separated by any boundaries.

There were no reports from council committees at this meeting.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES
- PUBLIC

Gabe Rivera thanked the council for giving Reverend Breeden the Human Rights Award. He wove this award into his message regarding the need to end the war on drugs in this country.

It was moved and seconded to reappoint Kent McDaniel and Alex Cartright to the Public Transit Corporation Board. The reappointments were approved by a voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS
AND COMMISSIONS

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING AND RESOLUTIONS

Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, noting that there was no committee recommendation on the item. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-05 be adopted.

Resolution 15-05 To Approve
Recommendations of the Mayor for
Distribution of Community
Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Funds for 2015

Lisa Abbott, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Department, explained the background and purpose of the funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She said the allocation would be \$797,468 and the department would be adding \$16,943 of program income for a total allocation of \$814,411. She explained that no more than 15% of the total grant allocation could be used for social services and no more than 20% could be used for administering the grant. She noted the remaining portion of the allocation was used for physical improvements to provide decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities for people of low to moderate income in urban areas.

Abbott said that part of the HUD requirements included a Consolidated Plan that the city updates every five years. She said the 2015-2019 Plan would be posted for public comment on March 3, 2015 for thirty days and then sent to HUD for review and approval.

Abbott reviewed the subcommittee membership, and the process of application reviewing and decision making. She noted that the Citizen's Advisory Council worked very hard in their review and decision making because there is always more demand for money than funds available. She expressed her gratitude for their work.

Abbott read the resolution's list of recipients, their program and the allocation proposal for 2015.

She thanked members of her staff, Marilyn Patterson, Bob Wolford and Dan Niederman who shepherded the whole process.

Volan asked if the sidewalk program listed was part of the fund that the council allocates in the Sidewalk Committee. Abbott said the curbs and sidewalks allocation did not come from the city general fund and was in addition to the Sidewalk monies the council allocates. Volan asked if the curb and sidewalk allocation had been a regular request. Abbott said that it had been used for quite a while for sidewalks in census tracts that were qualified. Volan asked if the sidewalk allocation was to repair or build new sidewalks. Abbott said that they did both with affordable housing projects, and noted that Country Club side path was built with these funds in the past as well as ADA curb cuts in census tract eligible areas.

Rollo asked about the amount of funding over time, wondering if it had increased or decreased and by how much. Abbott said the city was getting \$49,000 less than last year, but the amount varied depending on the federal budget. She said the formula used to be based on census information, and that couple of years after a new census, funding levels could be predicted with more certainty. She noted that the information for the formula now came from the American Community Survey (ACS) which is a five year rolling data set. She had no prediction for next year.

Rollo noted the downward trend of the HUD funding and the fact that Jack Hopkins funding was increased each year. He asked if Abbott believed these increases were necessary to compensate. She said that it was necessary and expressed appreciation for the mayor and council's efforts to keep the fund healthy and viable for projects.

Volan asked what the general philosophy behind the ratio of allowed expenses between Physical Improvements and Social Service Operating Funds. Abbott said this ratio was in the law. Abbott added that the process used by the city of Bloomington was very citizen driven and that in other cities the mayor and person who administered the grant would make the decisions and they might not use all the social service money.

There were no public comments on this issue.

Council comments:

Mayer thanked Wolford, Patterson and Abbott for facilitating the process.

Granger noted that Abbott always acknowledged the fact that our process was very citizen driven and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to involve citizens in funding that she said could impact citizen lives. She said it reflected our community to be inclusionary in this process and thanked Abbott for the process.

Sandberg acknowledged that Sue Sgambelluri, a member of the Redevelopment Commission and the Social Services CDBG

commission, was present for this hearing. Sandberg said Sgambelluri would also serve on the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee of the council which Sandberg would chair. She also noted that it was a chance to fill in gaps due to shortages of CDBG funding. Sandberg added it was incredible that the city made the social services allocations in the JHSSF a priority even in the face of criticism. She said that there could not be enough services available to low to moderate income residents and was happy to be from a community that was so generous.

Rollo said he was appreciative of Abbott's work and the difficult decisions that had to be made in light of the great need and short funds.

Resolution 15-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis. She noted that Resolution 15-01 was passed on February 18, 2015 with a vote of 7-1-1. She said that action triggered the need for this Confirming Resolution.

Moore also noted that the public comment portion of the deliberation on this item would serve as the public hearing which had been advertised.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-02 be adopted.

Jason Carnes, Assistant Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, reviewed the confirmatory resolution and explained the purpose of the resolution. He reviewed the history of approvals of the project from the Economic Development Commission and the previous council resolution. He noted the project was targeting renters without vehicles with bicycle parking. He said the taxes on this property would increase with the investment of close to \$2M, and would amount to over \$40,000.

Carnes recapped the sustainability features in the project which included a white roof, LED lighting, Energy Star appliances and HVAC system, locally sourced building materials, single machines for washing/drying clothes in some units with the above bicycle storage facility.

He noted that this project was included in the area of the Downtown TIF with no public investment for infrastructure needed. He added that current TIF revenues would be adequate to pay current debt obligations.

Carnes showed a schedule for the proposed three years of the tax abatement. He also told how this proposed project would fit the city tax abatement general standards by providing some retail space, adding two additional parking spaces on-street, using sustainability features, and enhancing the character of the streetscape.

Carnes noted that the Memorandum of Understanding would define substantial compliance and the clawbacks if compliance was not met with details of each.

Rollo noted that the item was heard and discussed extensively in the past meetings.

Volan noted that both the council and the EDC resolutions had the same number and numbering system. He suggested a change on one of the systems. He asked why there needed to be a second resolution on this issue.

Danise Alano-Martin, Director of Economic and Sustainability Department, said that by statute the first resolution was a declaratory resolution which declared the intent to grant the abatement and intent to set terms and schedule for that abatement. She noted that the resolution

Resolution 15-02 To Confirm Resolution 15-01 Which Designated an Economic Revitalization Area, Approved a Statements of Benefits, and Authorized a Period of Tax Abatement for Real Property Improvements - Re: Properties at 338 S. Walnut Street (Big O Properties, LLC, Petitioner)

Resolution 15-02 (cont'd)

also required a second hearing for the public to remonstrate. She noted that the second one provided that actual hearing and that the actions for this resolution included the choice of confirming the first, modifying the first or rescinding the first.

There were no public comments on the item, thus concluding the public hearing on this resolution.

Volan noted the two resolutions required for tax abatements caused the council to have to discuss the issue more than usual. He noted that the two parking spaces would cost the city over half of the amount of the abatement, and that the city would reap the revenue of those two spaces. He said the building fit with the surrounding areas in its height of three stories and fit what planning documents dictated for the area, with the addition of covered bike parking and handicap accessible units. His concern was that there was no affordable housing included in the project. He said that affordability requirements were a discussion to be had in the future.

Sturbaum said that this type of project was the illustration of what was needed in the area with street retail space and apartments above. He said it made the street alive and viable. He added that the city had more work to do on balancing the income level of all who want to live downtown. He said some people were afraid to build in this area, and this was a good expense of public money.

Granger said she would pass on this item because it didn't include any affordability, and that needed emphasis and incentivizing.

Ruff said he agreed with Volan, and appreciated the developers adding features to the project that were consistent with city goals. He said that in combination with the creation of parking spaces at the developers expense made this a worthy project. He noted his usual skepticism of residential project abatements, but thought this one met his high bar with its shorter time period and above mentioned reasons.

Rollo said there were clear benefits gained by the community in this project and noted the increased valuation of the property, the sustainability features, a short three year abatement and the targeted demographic sector. He said he would be interested in the compliance report on this project when it was done, and asked that it be made available.

Resolution 15-02 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain:1 (Granger)

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the committee recommendation of do pass 7-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 15-03 be adopted.

Tom Micuda, Director of the Planning and Transportation Department, noted that there had been a good discussion of the resolution in the committee meeting, and recapped the resolution.

He said it was proposed that five of the Tax Increment Financing districts would be consolidated and that the boundaries would also be expanded. He said that the individual economic development plans for the five TIFs would be merged into one overall development plan with sixteen objectives that included community wide development goals that included the switchyard park, convention center, certified tech park and other more general policy goals. He mentioned diversity of incomes and

Resolution 15-03 – To Approve and Issue the Plan Commission Order Found in Plan Commission Resolution 15-01 – Re: Taking Steps to Authorize the Bloomington Redevelopment Commission to Extend, Expand, and Consolidate Five of the City's Six Economic Development Areas

demographics in housing developments, historic preservation, tech sector growth, and business development.

Micuda outlined the process noting the Redevelopment Commission started this process with their call for consolidation and expansion of the TIF. The Plan Commission then was tasked with determining if the Economic Plan and accompanying maps were consistent with the Growth Policies Plan. He said their vote was 8-0 and thus a written order was sent to the council to make this change.

Micuda said the Plan Commission saw the major corridors could all use some investment. He added they found a number of vacant properties in the Tapp Road TIF that could use commercial or employment development. He said the Plan Commission found that the development objectives were reflective of the community values and goals and objectives in the GPP.

Micuda said if this proposal were approved, the next step would be to notice a final public hearing of the Redevelopment Commission for April 6, 2015. He said that all property owners within the current and expanded property areas would be notified of the meeting. He said the Redevelopment Commission would then pass a confirmatory resolution which would then close that process.

Micuda noted that there would be some bonding and appropriation issues to work out after that point. Finally, he referred to a document that the council received in response to questions that had been raised in earlier meetings.

Neher asked Jeff Underwood, Controller, about bonding capacity, and asked if the city had \$32M of obligations in the TIF while the email document above mentioned \$22.7M. He wondered about that discrepancy, and asked about the additional capacity of bonding.

Underwood said the bonding capacity available at this time was \$48M, which was in addition to the four outstanding obligations. He said two were garage leases, one for the CTP that went to the 2030s and there was one more obligation to pay off in 2017. Neher noted then that the total bonding capacity was \$70M which would include outstanding obligations.

Neher referred to a statement in a recent administrative memo regarding oversight relationship by the council. He asked for a clarification of: "*as a practical matter council will be involved in the approval of all RDC obligations.*" Underwood said that if a bond issue was under \$5M or had a payback of less than three years the RDC could issue debt under current statute. He said that practically speaking, all debt had always come to the council for approval. Neher asked if this included all expenditures, noting that they were different from obligations. Underwood said the council would authorize issuance of debt, and in that discussion they would also examine the projects that would be funded by that debt.

Neher asked if there was spending that the RDC could do, excluding bonding, that could not be subject to council scrutiny. Underwood said there could be money spent without council approval and that those expenditures would come from the revenues of the TIF.

Volan asked Micuda if the city could support a major project with TIF funds. Micuda said that TIF funds could be used as an incentive for keeping the hospital on site, Volan's example in his question.

Volan asked what projects the administration was planning to fund with upcoming bond issues. He also wanted to know what the amount would be for the largest single project. Underwood said the Switchyard Park would be the largest project to be funded with new bonding. Volan asked for an amount, and Underwood said it would be in the seven

figure range. Volan asked if the proposal would max out the bonding capacity. Underwood said the number had not been determined at this point, but added that there would be a saving in a large issue, and also a saving due to very low current interest rates.

Sturbaum asked about unintended consequences of people who were included in the TIF zone. He said a new project was having its tax credit changed from UEA to TIF and thus creating a different and reduced tax reduction for the investment. He asked the status and process of this situation. He asked about a fair way to deal with this situation. Alano-Martin said that the UEA had the Enterprise Zone Investment Deduction (EZID), a tax deduction. She said the statute was revised to include a city council approval if this property would also lie within a TIF district. She said EZIDs were also applied for after the investment was completed, rather than before the investment as in a tax abatement. Sturbaum posited that the inclusion of a property in a TIF would make the investment incentive less predictable for the development. Alano-Martin said EZIDs could be applied almost automatically with proper paperwork and documentation of the investment.

Ruff asked Micuda when the greenfield areas were identified as employment growth areas. Micuda said they were identified as employment centers in the 2002 Growth Policies Update because of their proximity to Route 37.

Ruff asked if these greenfield employment growth areas above and beyond existing and vacated underused properties plus the infill areas that were more centrally located. Micuda said the locations near Highway 37 would provide larger building footprints for manufacturing and warehousing and would be considered a benefit. He said Hoosier Energy specifically wanted this type of site, although smaller offices and other employers could use infill areas and vacated properties.

Rollo said a new Growth Policies Plan would be adopted, and might include green space acquisition as part of the infrastructure. He asked if TIF funds could be used for that. Micuda said the properties in question totaled about 190 acres which included about 90 undevelopable acres. He said preservation of green space set aside as a priority of the community was possible.

Ruff continued the discussion of property adjacent to a major thoroughfare as having a value for large scale or commercial uses. He asked if green space in a heavily used corridor, especially downwind from a community, could have special value to environmental quality.

Micuda said the question was how the area should be preserved and if there was public funding to that preservation. Ruff asked if a green space buffer adjacent to a major highway that lies upwind of a community have 'special' environmental buffer value. Micuda said they did, and also special environmental benefits within themselves, in addition to larger community benefits.

Volan noted the overlap of an EZID and TIF, and asked why there would be a problem approving an EZID if these two designations happened close together in time. Micuda said there might be consideration of the special circumstances of the EZID in the TIF depending when the TIF was created and the baseline for the assessed value was determined. Alano-Martin clarified that the new hypothetical project didn't exist when the TIF was created. Volan said it was a good question to consider. Sturbaum asked if a grandfathering could exist in this situation, and what was fair. Alano-Martin addressed the issue of fairness in the situation by saying that the final decision remained with the council. Sturbaum said he was satisfied with that answer. Ruff asked about a study released from Ball State University on impacts

on residential property growth in terms of units and property values. He noted the shift in tax burdens to the non-TIF areas. He asked if the unintended consequences of increased housing cost as a result of this proposal. Underwood noted that the study looked at TIF areas over the state of Indiana and other states. He said that in attracting commercial and industrial activity into the TIF, properties in the TIF experience an increase in value. He added that our TIF was performing well and didn't have an unintended consequence on residential markets.

It was agreed that there are residential areas in the proposed consolidated TIF, and Micuda said they were W. 17th Street beyond the city roundabout and some contiguous areas that bridge TIFs.

Ruff asked if the shift in tax burden would result in an increase in housing rental costs in those areas. Underwood said that it would not play out that way. Ruff asked about cost being passed on to renters by property owners. Underwood said rents usually don't go down and that property taxes are part of that, but other costs are included also.

Rollo asked about aggregation of funds in regards to oversight in priorities of the RDC, and oversight in how money is appropriated, expended and reviewed. He asked for Underwood to explain these processes and how the council oversight worked. Underwood said the process the RDC uses to spend TIF money is no different whether the areas are consolidated into one pot of money or whether the RDC uses six pots of money. He said any bonding the RDC would propose would come to the council in a bond ordinance with specific projects identified and be subject to council review, and debate and approval. He said that the process used by the RDC would include review, approval and issuance of contracts for components of the projects. He added that the contracts were approved by the RDC and the controller would oversee the spending.

Rollo asked about the Controller serving as Treasurer of the RDC and when that provision came into law. Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, noted that the statute was passed about two years ago, although the Controller had been acting in that capacity for some time.

Rollo asked if the RDC would be amenable to bringing their August annual report to the council for a public presentation. Underwood said that would be fine.

Public comment:

Scott Wells said the proposal for the aggregated TIF didn't take into consideration the needs of the one remaining smaller TIF, which would lose identity. He said smaller projects would be overlooked. He said that TIF money would not pay for general fund needs for police and fire protection as the area develops. He said tax abatements in TIF areas were a not good idea.

Justin Fox, developer of a property at 422 S. Washington, said the project had started two years before with the intent of promoting downtown living for professionals. He noted this was the project that Sturbaum referred to earlier in the meeting. He said the council would now decide on their tax incentives, but maintained that the incentives within the UEA worked as an incentive to help them build this project. He wanted the council to understand the money that had been invested and their expectation of deductions for that investment in the Enterprise Zone.

Further council questions:

Volan noted that Mr. Fox was about to file for an EZID, but could not complete the application before the TIF would be aggregated. He asked the date of the aggregation. Micuda noted it would be sometime after

April 6th. Volan asked about the completeness of the project in regards to application timing. Alano-Martin said the project needed to have an assessment. She said sometimes the Assessor would assess a property before the completion of the building, as long as there was some new assessed value on the parcel. Volan asked if Mr. Fox could apply for the EZID before the aggregation of the TIF. Alano-Martin said they could.

Neher asked if there was any other mechanism for a tax incentive if they did not file until after the aggregation took place. Alano-Martin said they could still apply for the EZID, and the council would review and make a decision on the tax deduction.

Council Comments:

Sturbaum noted Mr. Fox's building was near First and Washington. He noted the particulars of the building as related to him in an email from Fox, who said he was absolutely counting on the investment deduction. He said he wanted to get this situation explained in light of unintended consequences.

He added that he was excited about the TIF aggregation to build public commons for the community, something he said only government can do. He said the community had helped plan these projects and he looked forward to the fruition of them.

Volan noted the council was to be fair to everyone in the city, not just individual developers. He noted the TIF and city budget were also 'commons.' He said he was concerned that the expectation set previously would be betrayed by the vote to consolidate. He said there was a mechanism for Fox to apply for the EZID. He noted Wells' concern about the lesser areas that would make up the aggregated TIF. He suggested the smaller TIFs didn't have much money, and the aggregated TIF would allow a project to be done there that might not otherwise be able to be funded with fewer TIF dollars. He compared this situation of consolidation and smaller TIF areas to the overall council sidewalk fund that was for new sidewalks, and not really relevant to his District 6 which already had all sidewalks filled in. He said that it was not inappropriate to be thinking of large projects, relocation of the hospital and Switchyard Park, with these funds. He said these things could only be done with aggregation of TIFs and their funds. He noted the timeliness of the bond issue as another reason to pass this resolution.

Neher supported consolidation, and noted Wells' comments and Ruff's questions offered cautionary messages on priorities. He said individual TIF projects should be kept in mind while oversight and communication on the projects should be continued. He cautioned to avoid over eagerness to prevent being over-extended for future projects. He added that with expanded opportunity came greater responsibility.

Granger expressed support, especially saving fees with one bond issuance. She said it would encourage economic development in the future and added the big picture to the development of the community.

Ruff said noted the pros of the proposal in extending the years of life of the funding source as the increased flexibility and mobility of project concentration. He said the cons included the proposal having a lower oversight and accountability that he was not entirely comfortable with. He said that he had experienced the will of the council subverted and was skeptical of this process. He said the Ball State study raised questions about the down sides of TIFs. He said the cautionary principle dictated a more conservative approach.

Ruff noted that he did understand the benefits, but since his questions were not answered in a timely enough manner for him to thoroughly review and digest the information he would not vote in favor of this proposal.

Sandberg said the benefits would outweigh the pitfalls of this proposal. She said that the smaller projects should not be forgotten, that jobs should be created, and that more attention should be given to those which would need more help. She said that with growth comes costs, and realized that public sector services would also need to be supported. She said she would vote for this proposal and asked that all proceed with great caution and collaboration.

Mayer said that the state legislature added a huge burden to cities and towns by putting a cap on property taxes. He listed projects that the city needed to fund, and added that the city no longer had the tools to do those projects, and thus needed the tool of expansion of the TIF. He said adding the Switchyard Park and creating the Technology Park would add to the quality of life and opportunity for the community.

Ruff said he was aware of the state legislature's action, and appreciated Mayer's statement. He asked if the community couldn't invest without the changes proposed.

Rollo said he did have concerns about consolidation with possible passing over of a project in a small TIF for a larger, more attractive project. He said he felt that some projects that were priorities would not be able to be completed without the additional bonding. He said he also appreciated the timing of the issuance with regards to low interest rates. He said he was hopeful about the vigilance of the council in scrutinizing the projects as they came forth. He also said he would be sensitive to not compromising infrastructure that would be needed for public safety, which he said could be more important than an additional public park.

Rollo said he appreciated the memo sent by the administration earlier that day, but added it would have been better received earlier for better understanding and review by the council members. He thanked the administration for including the City of Bloomington Environmental Resources Inventory (COBERI Report) in the proposal as he felt that the 'green infrastructure' and environmentally sensitive areas should also be worthy of investment.

Resolution 15-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 1 (Ruff)

Ordinance 15-05 – To Amend Title 4 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Business Licenses and Regulations" - Re: Chapter 4.16 (Itinerant Merchants, Solicitors and Peddlers – deleted and replaced); Chapter 4.28 (Mobile Vendors - added); and Chapter 4.30 (Pushcarts - added)

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING
Ordinance 15-05

There was no public comment at this portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Sherman, Council Attorney/Administrator, suggested a change in the published council schedule to accommodate upcoming agendas.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

It was moved and seconded that the council shift the Committee of the Whole from March 25th to April 1st and shift the Regular Session from April 1st to April 8th.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington