In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, 22 July, 2020 at 6:30pm, Council President Stephen Volan presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council. Per the Governor’s Executive Orders, this meeting was conducted electronically.

Councilmembers present via teleconference: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo (arrived at 6:53pm), Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan

Councilmembers absent: none

Council President Stephen Volan summarized the agenda.

There were no minutes for approval.

Piedmont-Smith said that Bloomington needed to rethink its public safety strategies.

Sandberg spoke of the importance of maintaining safe health practices when IU students return in the fall. Sandberg also spoke of the Waldron Arts Center’s future.

Sgambelluri mentioned her next constituent meeting scheduled for August 1, 2020. Sgambelluri applauded all constituents who reached out to the councilmembers to express their opinions on masks, the pandemic, and social rights issues.

Sims spoke of the opening of the Stride Coalition, an organization that provided aid to those with substance use disorders. Sims also spoke of his wife who recently had knee replacement surgery. Sims spoke of the honor of being awarded an Eagle Scout and the passing of Congressman John Lewis.

Smith commented on the importance of persevering in the current political and health climate of the U.S. Smith spoke of the importance of looking out for one another.

Rosenbarger expressed the importance of starting conversations to dismantle the current systemic racism in policies at the federal, state, and local level.

Flaherty spoke of his upcoming constituents meeting held on July 25 at noon. Flaherty stated of the importance of anti-racism training.

Volan spoke of the importance of creating an anti-racism training program for everyone.

Mayor John Hamilton said that he heard all of the council’s comments pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of maintaining safe health practices. Hamilton spoke of the restrictions placed on restaurants and social gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

There were no council committee reports.
Greg Alexander expressed the importance of creating and maintaining alternative forms of transportation, specifically the need for proper sidewalk construction etiquette.

Jim Shelton spoke of the need for CASA volunteers and explained the process for volunteering.

Jennifer Crossley spoke of the need for anti-racism training of staff officials at the city and county level.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to reappoint Eoban Binder to the Parking Commission retroactive to February 1, 2020. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-11 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Resolution 20-11.

Mayor John Hamilton provided an update on the spread of COVID-19 in Bloomington, and spoke of the importance of adopting a mask requirement, as well as taking steps to ensure the safety of residents. Hamilton explained of the capacity limits for social events and public spaces.

Rollo asked if Hamilton anticipated any enforcement challenges.

Hamilton said that there would be some enforcement issues, but he believed most of the enforcement would come from institutions, such as restaurants and stores.

Piedmont-Smith asked if an enforcement phone number would be set up for constituents to call if there were any issues.

Hamilton said that it was important to work alongside the county officials. Hamilton said that a phone number would be set up for any noise complaints or compliance issues, but an individual could call the non-emergency policy phone number.

Sims asked if the city or county was going to provide masks to residents.

Hamilton said the county had stated that it was an individual’s responsibility to provide their own mask.

Volan asked if the city needed to implement a new ordinance regarding new health goals, and how the Council could help in maintaining the city’s public health.

Hamilton said that a city ordinance would not be needed once the county’s mandatory mask order went into place. Hamilton stated that Indiana had a low-ranking health system and additional funding towards improving the health system would be beneficial.
Piedmont-Smith asked about the role the Bloomington Police Department would play in encouraging and educating citizens on the importance of wearing masks. Hamilton said that there was a limit to what the Bloomington and IU Police Departments could do because they were not health officers. Hamilton said that the police department’s main role would be to stop social events that go against the public health order.

There was no public comment.

Sandberg commented that everyone wanted to return to life before the pandemic, but that masks were crucial in helping people stay safe and preventing further infection. Sandberg spoke of the importance of compliance with the mandatory mask order.

Rollo said that other countries had been able to manage the COVID-19 pandemic because they had enforced the use of masks. Rollo said that if Bloomington wanted to fully open up the economy, people needed to take initiative to wear masks and enforce safe health practices.

Flaherty stated his support for Resolution 20-11 because it would protect workers and members of the public entering public facilities. Flaherty spoke of the importance of outdoor seating and creative uses of space.

Piedmont-Smith stated her support for Resolution 20-11. Piedmont-Smith said that people needed to wear masks to protect one another because it was the responsibility of citizens.

Sims spoke of the importance of keeping other people safe by wearing a mask in public.

Volan stated his support for the mandatory mask order and spoke of the scientific evidence that masks were effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The motion to adopt Resolution 20-11 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Flaherty asked if the Committee of the Whole meeting would be held that evening to discuss Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 or if it would have to be delayed.

Stephen Lucas, Deputy Council Attorney, said that the public was aware of all possibilities for council deliberations regarding Appropriation Ordinance 20-03.

Volan said that Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 should be referred to the Sustainable Development Committee because the legislation largely dealt with economic recovery, and that the second reading must be held no later than August 12, 2020.
Piedmont-Smith stated that Sgambelluri, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee, sent an email to council members soliciting questions regarding Appropriation Ordinance 20-03, to be asked at the Sustainable Development Committee meeting.

Sims stated his concern for not allowing the Committee of the Whole to discuss and evaluate Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 because the legislation dealt with such large sums of money.

Flaherty asked what the procedure would be if the council decided to hold another committee meeting after the initial Sustainable Development meeting.

Volan clarified that the Sustainable Development Committee would have to make its recommendation to the Council. Volan said it would be the Council’s decision at the second reading to refer Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole for its next meeting.

Smith commented that Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 should be referred to the Committee of the Whole because the legislation dealt with a broad number of issues.

Sgambelluri said that she believed it made sense to refer Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole.

Sandberg asked what councilmember would chair the Committee of the Whole meeting following the Regular Session.

Lucas said that the next council member in rotation to chair the Committee of the Whole meeting was Smith. Lucas stated that the President could announce that the Committee of the Whole would evaluate Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 at the meeting held on July 30, 2020 and August 5, 2020.

Volan spoke in opposition to the motion to refer Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole because deliberations should be spread over a decent amount of time, with different council members.

Sims said that he believed referring Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole was the best decision and that it did not reflect on Sgambelluri’s work in the Sustainable Development Committee.

Rosenbarger asked if the Transportation Committee meeting would be rescheduled to another night if the Committee of the Whole had to evaluate Appropriation Ordinance 20-03.

Smith stated that if debate could be limited during the Committee of the Whole meeting; the Transportation Committee could meet as scheduled afterwards.

Volan commented that the decision to limit debate time was the decision of the Committee Chair.

Smith said that the first round of debate could end by 9pm.

Flaherty spoke of his reasoning for dividing the question regarding an appropriation ordinance in the past and the importance of deliberating specific sections of a piece of legislation. Flaherty explained that he was in favor of voting on each section of the Appropriation Ordinance 20-03, which was referred to as dividing the question.
Sandberg mentioned the importance of allowing two Committee of the Whole meetings to discuss Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to address the concerns voiced by constituents.

Sims clarified that his previous comment regarding dividing the question on an ordinance was not directed at Flaherty and he had no intention of insulting him.

Sgambelluri stated that she did not mind sending Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to be deliberated by the Committee of the Whole.

Volan said that he did not believe that a good reason had been given for referring Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole.

It was moved and seconded to refer Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Volan, Piedmont-Smith), Abstain: 0.

Volan asked which councilmember would Chair the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 5.

Lucas stated that it was in alphabetic order.

Volan said he believed Flaherty would be the chair.

Lucas reminded the council that Resolution 20-12 accompanied Appropriation Ordinance 20-03.

Volan said that he intended to refer Resolution 20-12 to the Committee of the Whole that night meeting, and that it did not have to be introduced.

Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 (cont’d)

Vote to refer Appropriation Ordinance 20-03 to the Committee of the Whole [8:24pm]

Resolution 20-12 – To Review and Approve the Intra-Category Transfer and Expenditure of $100,000 or More Within a Covered Fund Under Ordinance 18-10 (Additional Fiscal Oversight By The Commission) Re: A $250,000 Transfer from Line 399 (Other Services and Charges) to Line 396 (Grants) within the Housing Trust Fund (#905) and Expenditure of Transferred Funds
Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-12 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Bolden read Ordinance 20-12 by title and synopsis.

Ordinance 20-12 – To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” Re: Amending Chapters 15.12.010 (Stop Intersections); 15.24.010 (Increased or Decreased Speed Limits); and 15.40.10 (Locations) to Change “Trades Street” and “Trades St.” to “Maker Way;” 12.32.080 (No Parking Zones) to Add Several No Parking Zones; 15.32.090 (Limited Parking Zones) to Change a Limited Parking Zone; and 15.32.100 (Loading Zones) to Add a Loading Zone; and 15.32.186 (Motorcycle Parking Restrictions) to Add Parking Restrictions for Motorcycles and Mopeds; and 15.36.085 (Reserved Residential On-Street Parking Permits ) to Add Temporary Visitor Parking Permit; and 15.40.019 to Add Garage Parking Space Reserved for Electric Vehicles; and 15.40.010 (On-Street Metered Parking Locations and Maximum Hourly Rate) to Add Three Locations; and 15.24.020 (Increased or Decreased Speed Limits) to Remove and Add Some Locations; and 15.12.010 (Multi-Stop Intersections) to Add and Change Some Locations; and 15.12.030 (Signalized Intersections) to Add One Location; and 15.16.010 (One-Way Street) to Remove One Location.

There was no public comment.

Lucas reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:30pm]

ADJOURNMENT [8:33pm]
APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 21st day of October, 2020.

APPROVE:

Stephen Volan, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Sofia McDowell, CLERK
City of Bloomington
Sofia McDowell,
Chief Deputy Clerk