COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2020

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 6:30pm, Council President Stephen Volan presided over a Special 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, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers absent: none

Council President Stephen Volan summarized the agenda.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that council suspend its rules to conduct this meeting and future meetings electronically during the public health emergency in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09, and any future executive orders or related guidance provided by the Public Access Counselor of the state of Indiana. As part of this motion, Piedmont-Smith also moved that the council affirm the decision to conduct this meeting electronically and to suspend the state requirement of explicitly adopting a policy for electronic participation and to allow members to participate in meetings electronically pursuant to applicable state guidance and instruction.

There were no council questions.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Volan explained that the executive orders from the Governor required that all business conducted by council had to be considered essential or should not be taken up. Volan affirmed that per Bloomington Municipal Code §2.040.070, the matters on the agenda were essential matters critical to operation of the city government.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to suspend the rules of the Bloomington Municipal Code §2.040.050 (Regular Meetings) and 2.040.380 (Order of Business at Regular Session) and any other rule hindering the conduct of essential business at this time of a public health emergency. In addition, the Council President shall have the authority to cancel or reschedule any meetings deemed non-essential or as necessary to conduct essential business. The council may also, by majority vote, decide how to place time limits on matters or speakers before the council including delegating such authority to the presiding officer. Such suspension of the rules shall last until the expiration of the Governor’s Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.
Mayor John Hamilton provided a report on the public health emergency and gave examples of new protocols and programs in response to the pandemic.

There was council discussion related to the mayor’s report, testing data, personal protective equipment, agency coordination, and safety protocols.

Flaherty, Chair of the Climate Action and Resilience Committee, reported that the committee would be working on community resilience in the face of the public health emergency, and provided examples. Flaherty also reported on the consideration of the local income tax, as proposed by Mayor Hamilton at the State of the City.

Rollo reported that the Continuity of City Government (COCG) group had made a lot of progress and that it was developing subgroups to determine needs and actions. Rollo explained he was on the supply subgroup, along with Fire Chief Jason Moore, Police Chief Michael Diekhoff, Director of Utilities Vic Kelson, Director of Bloomington Transit Lew May, and Director of Information Technology Services Rick Dietz, and explained the purpose and planning of the subgroup.

Sandberg reported on the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding (JHSSF) processes including the extension of the application deadline, that the applications would be reviewed and vetted virtually, and on the priorities of the funding. Sandberg stated that the technical assistance meeting did not occur. Sandberg listed the members of the committee as Mark Fraley, Tim Mayer, Sue Sgambelluri, Ron Smith, Matt Flaherty, and Sandberg.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-05 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 that Ordinance 20-05 be read by title only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title.

Volan explained that for Ordinance 20-05 to be considered, it required unanimous consent and that if there was not, the legislation would need to be sent to committee.
Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that the council introduce and consider Ordinance 20-05 for adoption at the same meeting and on the same night it was introduced.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-05 be adopted.

Jeff Underwood, Controller, presented the legislation and explained the refinancing of the four outstanding bonds into one, and discussed the savings to the city.

Buzz Krohn, Krohn & Associates, provided additional details on the bonds, legislation, and the savings.

Bruce Donaldson, Barnes and Thornburg, explained that the Utilities Service Board adopted a resolution recommending the legislation to the council.

Vic Kelson, Utilities Director, discussed the legislation.

There was council discussion.

There was no public comment.

There were no council comments.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 20-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-05 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Resolution 20-05.

Volan presented the legislation.

Alex Crowley, Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) Director, spoke about the short- and long-term economic impact. Crowley spoke about the group comprised of Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, Dimension Mill Inc., the city’s Economic and Sustainable Development department, and CDFI-Friendly Bloomington.

There was council discussion related to funding, scheduling, covered businesses, employee support, and fund distribution.

Erin Predmore, President and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the legislation.

Curtis Cummings, Switchyard Brewing Company, thanked the council and spoke in support of the legislation.

Chris Martin, Director of Operations, Finney Hospitality, spoke in favor of the legislation.

There was additional council comment.
The motion to adopt Resolution 20-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sims moved and it was seconded to cancel the Regular Session scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to schedule a Special Session on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Sims stated his appreciation for Clerk Bolden for her part in facilitating Zoom for the virtual meeting.

Volan thanked Andrew Krebbs and Stephen Lucas for their part in coordinating the meeting.

Rollo moved and it was seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved by voice vote.