

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:30pm, Council President Stephen Volan presided over an Organizational Meeting of the Common Council. Per the Governor's Executive Orders, this meeting was conducted electronically.

COMMON COUNCIL  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
January 6, 2021

Councilmembers present: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan  
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:31pm]

Council President Stephen Volan summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandberg commented on the chaos and national tragedy that occurred in the nation's capital.

REPORTS

- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:33pm]

Smith discussed being shocked at the recent events, worried at national, state, and local levels, and hoped people would work together.

Flaherty spoke about members of the community experiencing homelessness, housing and zoning, and thanked the Hopewell Group.

Piedmont-Smith discussed homelessness and short-term solutions, and the disgraceful attack on the democratic institutions in Washington, D.C.

Sgambelluri commented on the actions of protestors who violently stormed the capitol building, and spoke about equity.

Rosenbarger echoed her colleagues and reflected on the last year as a councilmember.

Sims commented on the event that happened in Washington D.C. and compared that to other protests, like Black Lives Matter.

Volan spoke about the history of Bloomington's Common Council and reflected on his time in Bloomington as well as the pandemic and the violence in Washington D.C.

There were no reports from the Mayor or city offices.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES

There were no council committee reports.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Jim Shelton spoke about the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) training and services.

- PUBLIC [6:42pm]

Greg Alexander commented on homelessness, the Trades District parking garage, car and pedestrian transportation, sidewalks

Molly Stewart discussed homelessness and solutions available, and her work with the Bloomington Homeless Coalition.

Nathan Mutchler asked people to reflect on being homeless in the middle of winter and discussed homelessness.

Marc Teller spoke about homelessness and the death that occurred after clearing an encampment.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to extend the public comment period to accommodate all speakers. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to Extend Public Comment Period [7:13pm]

Renee Miller discussed the need for bathroom facilities at encampments, and asked the city to put a "Port-a-John" up for citizens in the community.

Public comment: (*cont'd*)

Alex Goodlad spoke about homelessness and listed demands to help the unhoused.

Tyna Hunnicut commented on homelessness and the upcoming eviction of an encampment at Seminary Park.

Marshall Bailey discussed homelessness and urged the council to act.

Mark Sturdivant spoke about living with Bipolar Disorder and his experience with Centerstone.

Heather Lake commented on the eviction at Seminary Park, homelessness and the need for bathrooms and sanitizing stations.

Nicole Johnson talked about the housing crisis, safety, solutions, and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

Shelby Querry discussed homelessness, and commented on her experience in helping those experiencing homelessness.

Sam Dove commented on homelessness during the winter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS [7:45p...

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to suspend the rules to conduct the election of council officers and appointments to boards and commissions, in the following manner:

Motion to Suspend the Rules [7:48pm]

- A candidate for president, vice president, or parliamentarian of Council shall require a nomination and second by other members.
- A candidate for appointment to a board or commission may express their interest in the position without need for a nomination or second by another member.
- All Council officer positions with only one nominee shall be determined by a single rollcall vote, followed by a separate vote for each office with two or more nominees.
- The same procedure shall be used to determine the appointments to all board and commission seats.
- Members may ask questions and discuss the nominations of any seat before a final vote is taken.

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

Vote to Suspend the Rules [7:50pm]

Sandberg moved and it was seconded that the following slate of officers be elected:

Motion to Approve the Slate of Officers [7:51pm]

President: **Jims Sims**  
Vice President: **Sue Sgambelluri**

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that the following officer be elected:

Parliamentarian: **Matt Flaherty**

The slate of officers was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to Approve the Slate of Officers [7:52pm]

The councilmembers took virtual new seats as assigned by the new president. Council President Jim Sims presided for the remainder of the meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:58pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 21-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Resolution 21-01 To Consolidate Standing Committees of the Common Council

There was extensive council discussion.

Council questions:

Sandberg moved and it was seconded that Resolution 21-01 be postponed until January 13, 2021.

Motion to Postpone Resolution 21-01

There was brief council discussion.

Council discussion:

Sandberg withdrew the motion to postpone Resolution 21-01 until January 13, 2021.

Withdrawal of the Motion to Postpone Resolution 21-01

Volan presented Resolution 21-01.

There was extensive council discussion.

Council discussion:

Alex Goodlad commented on council committees.

Public comment:

Mark Stosberg spoke about the Sidewalk Committee.

Dave Askins commented on council committees.

Cathi Crabtree commented on council committee appointments.

Janna Arthur spoke about homelessness.

Volan stated that Resolution 21-01 did not affect the Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission. Volan expressed that the legislation was about consolidating standing committees and not reconsidering them.

Council comment:

Piedmont-Smith commented that the Housing Committee and that the Climate Action and Resilience Committee should both remain as standing committees. Piedmont-Smith stated that Utilities and Sanitation folding into Community Affairs was fine, as was

eliminating the Sidewalk Committee. Piedmont-Smith expressed that Jack Hopkins as a full committee was ideal. Piedmont-Smith also expressed that it was fine for the Public Safety Committee to make appointments to the CAPS Commission.

Council comment: (cont'd)

Rosenbarger commented that it made sense to combine the Climate Action and Resilience committee because there were several meetings that councilmembers couldn't attend because it would constitute a quorum and would've needed to be noticed. Rosenbarger stated that task forces could be used instead. Rosenbarger stated that she was in support of dissolving the Sidewalk Committee because it was inequitable and takes an abundance of multiple staff time.

Smith discussed his view on Resolution 21-01 and that he wanted to take time to think about it more. Smith stated that perhaps additional committees were needed such as homelessness, finance and budget. Smith also stated that if there were not going to be standing committees in the future, then perhaps the discussion was moot, but that he wanted a good process in place.

Flaherty reiterated that for the CAPS Commission, Resolution 21-01 only clarified where that commission was placed within the standing committees. Flaherty stated that there was some non-controversial items, like dissolving Utilities and Sanitation, and elevating Jack Hopkins to a full committee. Flaherty also stated that he did not have strong feelings about the Housing Committee and Climate and Resilience Committee because it did not change the importance of those committees. Flaherty discussed the Equity Audit Report on Sidewalks by Mark Stosberg, and stated that it made sense to fold the Sidewalk Committee into the Transportation Committee. Flaherty also stated that the Committee of the Whole was still a tool that was available, and that there was legislation heard in that committee last year.

Rollo commented that council should refer to the report provided by council staff on the utility and time spent on having standing committees, and that it made a compelling case to return to the Committee of the Whole. Rollo stated that the Sidewalk report by Mr. Stosberg had useful information but did not consider historical context, such as the paucity of sidewalks and the general trend of developers not building sidewalks or storm water drains in the 70s and 80s. Rollo expressed that it would be a mistake to turn the funding allocation, of the Sidewalk Committee, to staff because it was hard won funding. Rollo stated that very large projects would still need to find other funding, and that councilmembers knew what was needed in their district.

Volan stated that Resolution 21-01 was drafted to be amendable by striking language, and that there would be changes to appointments. Volan also stated that the Committee of the Whole was supposed to be an exceptional tool. Volan commented on Cm. Smith's comments on additional committees. Volan explained how he chose the standing committees the previous year, and stated that, for example, having a standing committee on finance and budget would be beneficial to the council. Volan clarified that the purpose of standing committees was to better handle legislation, and stated that some standing committees worked better than others and urged councilmembers to fix them.

Sims stated that while the discussion was important, he supported the Committee of the Whole. Sims commented that those councilmembers who were opposed to standing committees, tried their best to make them function. Sims stated that it was his preference to abolish the standing committees, though there was merit in some standing committees, and stated that Cm. Flaherty had suggested a hybrid model of standing committees, which was more collaborative. Sims explained that time was needed to consider the legislation and amendments, and that the delay in the consideration of Resolution 21-01 was ideal. Sims spoke of the Sidewalk Committee and that staff was going to update criteria and look at the equity issues.

Council comment: (*cont'd*)

Sandberg moved and it was seconded that Resolution 21-01 be postponed until January 13, 2021. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to Postpone Resolution 21-01 [9:48pm]

Sims announced the new seating order, starting from his left, which was Sandberg, Smith, Piedmont-Smith, Flaherty, Sims, Sgambelluri, Rosenbarger, Volan, and Rollo.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

Sims announced Council appointments to the following list of Boards and Commissions be approved:

- Citizens Advisory Committee-Community Development Block Grants-Social Services **Smith**
- Citizens Advisory Committee- Community Development Block Grants-Physical Improvements **Rosenbarger**
- Commission for Bloomington Downtown, Inc. **Sgambelluri**
- Economic Development Commission (City) **Rosenbarger**
- Economic Development Commission (County) **Smith**
- Environmental Resource Advisory Council **Flaherty**
- Metropolitan Planning Organization **Volan**
- Solid Waste Management District **Piedmont-Smith**
- Board of the Urban Enterprise Association **Rosenbarger**
- Utilities Services Board **Sims**
- Bloomington Economic Development Corporation **Sims**
- Bloomington Commission on Sustainability **Flaherty**
- Parking Commission **Volan**
- Public Safety Local Income Tax Allocation Committee **Piedmont-Smith, Sgambelluri, Sims, and Smith**
- Monroe County Food and Beverage Tax Advisory Commission **Smith**

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to accept those appointments. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, (Rollo out of the room).

Vote to Accept Appointments to Boards and Commissions [10:18pm]

Piedmont-Smith and Sandberg read their statement of interest to serve on the Plan Commission and in consideration of appointment.

Statement of Interest for Appointment to Plan Commission [10:18pm]

There was council discussion about the Plan Commission appointment.

Cm. Sandberg was elected to the Plan Commission by a roll call vote of Sandberg: 5 (Rollo, Sgambelluri, Sims, Smith, Sandberg), Piedmont-Smith: 4, Abstain: 0.

Vote to Appoint Councilor to Plan Commission [10:36pm]

Jesse Graves spoke of his military service and homelessness.

PUBLIC COMMENT [10:37pm]

Janna Arthur spoke about homelessness.

Cathi Crabtree discussed homelessness and that she supported a moratorium on the removal of the encampment at Seminary Park.

Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, reviewed the upcoming schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [10:45pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Sims adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [10:50pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 3 day of March, 2021.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Sue Spambelluri

~~Jim Sims, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council~~

Sue Spambelluri  
Vice President  
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK  
City of Bloomington