In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, May 06, 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, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan
Councilmembers absent: none

Council President Stephen Volan summarized the agenda.

Councilmember Sims noted that it was Nurses’ Day, and gave thanks for all essential workers.

Councilmember Sgambelluri thanked everyone who attended her constituent meeting and note that her next one would be held on June 6th.

Councilmember Sandberg discussed Global Giving Day and the importance of donating to organizations. Sandberg also discussed the upcoming John Hopkins Social Service Funding Committee deliberations.

Volan discussed Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb’s five step reopening plan. Volan encouraged Monroe County to delay reopening the county to keep people safe.

Mayor John Hamilton spoke of the decisions made by the governor and county to slowly open the area back up to consumers. Hamilton spoke of the need to limit nonessential travel and activities and the importance of maintaining social distancing to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Beverly Calender-Anderson, Community and Family Resources Department Director, provided an update on the COVID-19 Social Services Working Group regarding emergency food provisions, isolation shelters for those experiencing homelessness, childcare, and personal health and safety.

Alex Crowley, Economic and Sustainable Development Director, provided an update on the Economic Stabilization and Recovery Working Group. Crowley spoke of the number of applications started, submitted, and processed. Crowley discussed the funding commitments to approved businesses.

Erin Predmore, President and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, provided an overview of the Bloomington Back to Business initiative. There was brief council discussion following the report.

Sgambelluri said that she invited members of the business community to the council meeting. Sgambelluri introduced Talisha Coppock, Executive Director of the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center; Mike McAfee, Executive Director of Visit Bloomington; and Mike Campbell, President of the Convention and Visitor Commission.

Campbell spoke of the uses of the innkeeper’s tax and the importance of promoting tourism. Campbell provided an overview and prediction of future tax collections.
McAfee said that the market for hotel and short term rental sales have significantly decreased compared to last year. McAfee said that as a college town, Bloomington was dependent on the sales and tourism associated with college students and their families.

Coppock spoke of the changes restaurants and stores had made to maintain some revenue. Coppock spoke of the importance of maintaining trust between consumer and businesses.

Jim Shelton spoke of the need for Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

There were no appointments.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-06 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Rollo away from room). Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Resolution 20-06.

Sims read Resolution 20-06. Sims discussed the importance of Bloomington adopting Resolution 20-06, and advocating for social justice.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Resolution 20-06.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Cm. Volan and provides additional information about the killing of an Indiana University Student that occurred near the IU Bloomington campus.

Volan presented Amendment 01 to Resolution 20-06.

Piedmont-Smith spoke of the importance of adopting Resolution 20-06 and stated her support for it.

Smith said that Resolution 20-06 was an important message for Bloomington's beliefs.

There was no public comment on Amendment 01 to Resolution 20-06.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Resolution 20-06 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sandberg stated her appreciation and support for Resolution 20-06.

Rollo stated his gratitude to Councilmember Sims for taking initiative to create Resolution 20-06. Rollo spoke of the need for the community to take a stance against white supremacy and discriminatory actions.
Councilmember Kate Rosenbarger spoke of the importance of creating an inclusive city and condemning white nationalism and white supremacy. Rosenbarger said that policies needed to be changed to prevent systemic discrimination.

Piedmont-Smith spoke of how well written Resolution 20-06 was and the importance of inclusivity within Bloomington. Piedmont-Smith said that action was needed to replace discriminatory policies.

Flaherty stated his support for Resolution 20-06 and spoke of the need to continue making change to dismantle discriminatory policies.

Volan spoke of the importance of a written document and the need for Resolution 20-06.

Sims spoke of the importance of taking action to dismantle the historic and systemic racist practices and structures within society. Sims said that Resolution 20-06 was an important first step in his call to action.

The motion to adopt Resolution 20-06 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 20-02 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-08 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

There was no additional public comment.

Stephen Lucas, Deputy Council Attorney, reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

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

Vote to adopt Resolution 20-06 as amended [8:22pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING AND RESOLUTIONS [8:23pm]

Appropriation Ordinance 20-02 – To Specially Appropriate from the Local Income Tax Special Distribution Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund, and Cumulative Capital Development Fund Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated

Ordinance 20-08 – An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 19-21, which Fixed Salaries for Appointed Officers, Non-Union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All the Departments of the City for the Year 2020 - Re: Adding a Position in the Information and Technology Services Department and Changing the Title in One Position and the Grade in another Position for Two Divisions within the Police Department

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:34pm]

ADJOURNMENT [8:36pm]
APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 2nd day of June, 2021.

APPROVE:

Jim Sims, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington