

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, November 03, 2021 at 6:30pm, Council President Jim Sims presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council. This meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
November 03, 2021

Councilmembers present via Zoom: Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan (arrived at 6:50pm)
Councilmembers absent: Matt Flaherty

ROLL CALL [6:33pm]

Council President Jim Sims summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:34pm]

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:39pm]

Sgambelluri mentioned her upcoming constituent meeting.

REPORTS

Piedmont-Smith announced her monthly constituent meeting.

- COUNCIL MEMBERS
[6:39pm]

Rollo commented on the Zoom link for the meeting.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded to amend agenda to set aside the time limits for reports from City offices. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to amend agenda [6:42pm]

John Zody, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, presented the Housing Report. He discussed affordable housing, homeownership, rentals, rental assistance, rental inspections, Housing Development Fund, and the redevelopment of the Bloomington Hospital Site.

- The MAYOR AND CITY
OFFICES [6:42pm]

Rollo asked for further information pertaining to homeownership, city assistance, and funding.

Council discussion:

Zody explained that there was a program, primarily for first time homebuyers that would provide up to \$50,000 for down payment assistance. He provided additional details regarding those currently in the program. Zody said the funding was in HAND'S Housing Development Fund.

Volan asked about building new units and replacements.

Zody referenced a study and its replacement schedule, which was projected to be one hundred and sixty five units by 2030.

Smith asked if the affordable housing data included students.

Zody said yes, and it included all rentals.

Smith asked if the data could separate out students.

Zody said that was not possible since it included all rentals.

Sandberg asked how community members could apply to the assistance programs.

Zody provided details regarding the requirements of the programs, as well as application processes.

Piedmont-Smith asked if there was a number of units that would have accessibility requirements.

Zody said it would not be a requirement. He explained accessibility issues, fair housing, the Human Rights Commission, and the Community Development Block Grant's (CDBG) Home Modification for Adjusted Living program.

Sgambelluri asked for clarification on the rental challenges and the data regarding students.

Zody explained that the rental information included students and provided additional details about households in Monroe County that were cost-burdened.

Sgambelluri asked if HAND knew the number of students in that data.

Zody said he could gather that information.

Sgambelluri asked for additional information about the eviction moratorium.

Zody spoke about the federal moratorium, and Monroe County Court's Eviction Diversion program. The Indiana Supreme Court Services had recommended not having a mandatory eviction diversion program, so it was currently not mandatory. He explained mediation services in the city.

Sims asked for further information about the Summit Hill Community Land Trust and its investment.

Zody explained that it was an effort to increase homeownership. He further explained funding, consultants, and future plans.

Volan asked about the total number of rental units in the city.

Zody explained the rental inspection cycle and rental permits. He said that HAND was up to date with the inspections.

Volan asked if all units in large multifamily buildings were inspected.

Zody said that all units would be inspected according to the permit.

Sgambelluri asked about the number of households in Monroe County that received assistance.

Zody stated that it was five hundred and thirty seven households.

Sgambelluri said there were many households that had not received assistance. She asked about additional demographics from those who had received assistance.

Zody said he would request that information.

Rollo asked for clarification on the strategy for increasing housing stock for the city.

Zody said that HAND was collaborating with the Planning and Transportation Department constantly. He referred to the contributions that the city was making towards infrastructure and the development on 17th Street by Trinitas.

Sims asked about the designation of the Kohr Building.

Zody said that affordability was being considered in conjunction with preserving the building and that it was ongoing.

Sgambelluri wondered about rental assistance and aspiring homeowners.

Zody explained that there were forty eight units by Switchyard Park, for rental housing, of which ten would be affordable units. The focus between rental assistance and homeowner assistance was different. HAND was focusing on both.

Sgambelluri commented that homeownership was important for building equity.

Zody agreed and explained some challenges.

Mallory Rickbeil, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in the Planning and Transportation Department, presented the Sidewalk Equity Improvement Report. She commented on her experience at an event hosted by the Council for Community Accessibility titled, "Increasing Transportation and Mobility Options for All." She spoke

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES (*cont'd*)

about sidewalk equity, desired paths, walking scores, sidewalk funding, compiled data on walkability, and additional mapping tools. She also discussed information pertaining to city-maintained roads, median income within the city, and possible recommendations. She explained mechanisms used, and suggestions for data collection, for recommendations for sidewalk improvement.

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES (*cont'd*)

Rollo wondered if sidewalk network density was analyzed.

Rickbeil responded that there was a score for kilometers of missing sidewalk per census block group.

Rollo asked for further clarification.

Rickbeil said that staff preferred that every street had sidewalk though staff also recognized that some sidewalks would be used more. She explained that there was limited mapping data.

Rollo commented that cutting out redundancy in collecting the data was ideal. He provided examples.

Piedmont-Smith asked if Rickbeil if she had developed the mapping tools as a guide for the council's Transportation Committee in allocating the sidewalk funding.

Rickbeil said that it was the inspiration, and that the same methodology could be done for any type of public resource with a limitation of funds.

Piedmont-Smith said it was for pedestrian transportation.

Rickbeil confirmed that was correct.

Smith asked if there was a master list of sidewalks within the city including missing sidewalks, and those in need of improvement.

Rickbeil responded that the mapping tool could be used but that a master list needed to be created.

Rosenbarger commented on connectivity, prioritization, and pedestrian safety. She provided examples of pedestrians needing to cross the road to access a sidewalk.

Rickbeil agreed that it was context specific, and referenced West Bloomfield Road which had 20,000 cars per day and a sidewalk only on one side of the road. She said that walk potential was a valuable data point and that the preference was to prioritize where there was an emphasis on demand.

Rollo asked about the expression on harm reduction and commented that it was important not to remove the community's availability to request sidewalks. He asked how harm reduction was measured.

Rickbeil said the harm reduction data included posted speed limit and street width, but that measured speed was not included. She hoped there would be more data to include into the expression or methodology. She clarified that the best way to address things like speeding was traffic-calming tools.

Rollo asked Rickbeil for her thoughts on a neighborhood's ability to request sidewalk.

Rickbeil clarified that staff was reconsidering having only a request-based system. In the past, requesting a sidewalk was the only way to be considered for sidewalk funding. A request should be considered in conjunction with other data points. She provided examples and said it was an effort to eliminate bias with sidewalk funding.

Sims said that, in the interest of time, he would plan to meet with Rickbeil at a later date to discuss sidewalk equity in the city.

There were no council committee reports.

Greg Alexander commented on sidewalk equity, impoverished neighborhoods, and missing sidewalks. He provided examples.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that James Sanders be reappointed to seat C-2 to the Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Celebration Commission. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Shelby Ford be appointed to seat C-11 on the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to remove Matthew Diaz from seat C-2 on the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission due to non-attendance. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

There was no legislation for second reading.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-41 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. City Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sims referred Ordinance 21-41 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on November 10, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-41 be discharged from the Committee of the Whole.

There was brief council discussion.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 4 (Volan, Sgambelluri, Piedmont-Smith, and Rosenbarger), Nays: 4 (Rollo, Sandberg, Sims, Smith), Abstain: 0. FAILED.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-42 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sims referred Ordinance 21-42 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on November 10, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Volan explained that he would not be making a motion to discharge legislation from the Committee of the Whole and would not be attending it.

Sims encouraged councilmembers to attend every meeting, but to please notify the Clerk, President, and council leadership.

Volan reiterated his objection to the Committee of the Whole since it was not an obligatory meeting.

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES [8:33pm]
- PUBLIC [8:36pm]

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [8:41pm]

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [8:46pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [8:46pm]

Ordinance 21-41 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Refunding of Certain Outstanding Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of the City; Authorizing the Issuance of the City of Bloomington, Indiana Sewage Works Refunding Revenue Bonds of 2021 to Provide Funds for Such Refunding and the Payment of the Costs Thereof; and Addressing Other Matters Connected Therewith [8:46pm]

Vote to discharge Ordinance 21-41 from Committee of the Whole [8:53pm]

Ordinance 21-42 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Refinancing of a Certain Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement of the City; Authorizing the Issuance of the City Of Bloomington, Indiana General Revenue Annual Appropriation Refunding Bonds of 2021 to Provide Funds for Such Refinancing and the Payment of the Costs Thereof; Appropriating the Proceeds Derived from the Sale of Such Refunding Bonds, and Addressing Other Matters Connected Therewith [8:54pm]

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-43 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sims referred Ordinance 21-43 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on November 10, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-43 be referred to the Transportation Committee to meet on November 10, 2021 at 8:00pm.

Rosenbarger stated that she had no questions pertaining to the four pieces of legislation that were included in first reading that evening, and was ready to vote on the legislation. She appreciated the information in staff's memos as they were thorough.

Volan agreed with Rosenbarger and said the legislation was very straightforward and not controversial.

Piedmont-Smith explained her reasons for making a motion to refer Ordinance 21-43 to the Transportation Committee.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 2 (Piedmont-Smith, Rosenbarger), Nays: 5 (Rollo, Sandberg, Sims, Smith, Sgambelluri), Abstain: 1 (Volan). FAILED.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 21-44 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Sims referred Ordinance 21-44 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on November 10, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, explained that in the earlier public comment period, Greg Alexander was given only three minutes despite the agenda indicating it was five minutes.

Greg Alexander spoke about B-Line Heights apartments and accessibility.

Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney, reviewed the upcoming schedule and legislation.

Sims adjourned the meeting without objection.

Ordinance 21-43 - To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" - Re: Amending Section 15.32.090 to adjust the time of a limited parking zone on Second Street; Sections 15.12.010, 15.12.030, 15.16.010, 15.20.020, 15.32.080, 15.32.100 and 15.37.020 to reflect the changing of the name of Jordan Avenue to Eagleson Avenue; Sections 15.32.030 and 15.32.080 to add angle parking and no parking zones to Illinois Court; Section 15.32.100, and Schedule O, "Loading Zones," to add one loading zone to E. Seventh Street [8:58pm]

Vote to refer Ordinance 21-43 to Transportation Committee [9:06pm]

Ordinance 21-44 - To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" - Re: Amending Chapter 15.32 to add a new schedule for reserved motorcycle parking; Section 15.37.210 to clarify that the parking services director or designee may sell up to 80 employee parking permits, total, in zones 4 and 5; Section 15.40.019, to provide that vehicles with accessible decals, placards or plates may park in accessible parking spaces designated for electric vehicles, whether or not the vehicle is electric or is being charged; and Section 15.48.070, to delete the administrative fee for towed vehicles [9:08pm]

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [9:09pm]


COUNCIL SCHEDULE [9:12pm]

ADJOURNMENT [9:16pm]


APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this
 18 day of January, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington