In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, December 16, 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 via Zoom.

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

Council President Stephen Volan summarized the agenda.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of March 25, April 1, April 7, June 3, June 10, and June 17 of 2020. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith spoke about the removal of tents at Seminary Park the previous Wednesday night and expressed her disagreement with the action. She said there was not appropriate notice to the individuals or to the community organizations that provide services. Piedmont-Smith referenced guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that camps should not be cleared during a pandemic. She spoke about requests she made to the administration.

Flaherty stated that he shared Piedmont-Smith’s sentiments and that the bare minimum of hygiene resources was needed, though he understood it was complicated. Flaherty referenced recommendations by local organizations.

Smith commented on the Sidewalk Committee’s plans, and the Planning and Transportation department was going to factor in socio- and economic equity for sidewalk projects.

Sgambarluri thanked city staff for their work in District 2 including Christina Smith, Special Projects Coordinator; Devta Kidd, Director of Innovations; Paula McDevitt and Mallory Rickbeil in Parks and Recreation; and Eric Greulich, Senior Planner.

Volan spoke about the Indiana Supreme Court decision on annexation, which was in favor of the City of Bloomington. Volan also spoke about an email from Erin Predmore regarding the Monroe County Medical Reserve Corp.

Doris Sims, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development department gave a report on the Housing Development Fund. There was brief council discussion following the report.

There were no council committee reports.

Vaubxx Booker spoke about the housing encampment, CDC guidelines, and his draft of the Unhoused Bill of Rights he sent to council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
December 16, 2020

ROLL CALL [6:30pm]

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:31pm]

March 25, 2020 (Special Session)
April 01, 2020 (Special Session)
April 07, 2020 (Special Session)
June 03, 2020 (Regular Session)
June 10, 2020 (Special Session)
June 17, 2020 (Regular Session)

REPORTS
- COUNCIL MEMBERS [6:35pm]

- The MAYOR AND CITY OFFICES [6:55pm]

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- PUBLIC [7:12pm]
Stephen Lucas, Council Attorney/Administrator, read a statement from Sam Dove expressing that they were sorry Doris was leaving her job.

Michelle Henderson discussed the removal of tents from Seminary Park, and thanked Piedmont-Smith for her comments and Doris Sims for her report. Henderson urged council and the administration to protect the downtown houses and not rezone.

Peter Dorfman commented on the zoning map,plexes, and urged council to vote against the map.

Wendy Bernstein spoke about multifamily houses, density, and zoning.

Edward Bernstein commented on upzoning, affordable housing, density, diversity, and rental properties.

Jan Sorby stated that the changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the zoning maps were disappointing.

Cathi Crabtree thanked Piedmont-Smith and Flaherty for speaking up about the removal of tents at Seminary Park, and the addition of hygiene services. Crabtree thanked Jackie Scanlan, Development Services Manager, for disseminating information about the UDO.

Jean Simonian expressed her disappointment in the mapping of the UDO because it changed decisions that were already made.

Greg Rago discussed upzoning, which he found unacceptable, and which would destroy neighborhoods.

Dave Stewart stated his dismay in the change in zoning and that the process was now undemocratic.

Tom [inaudible] expressed his concerns with zoning map and the stress on infrastructure.

Cynthia Brethiem discussed core neighborhoods, plexes, and affordable housing.

Ramsey Harik spoke about plexes in the core neighborhood, the data on housing crisis, and single-family home ownership.

Barbara Moss commented on upzoning and the process of mapping.

Abraham Morris stated his opposition to the zoning map in the proposed UDO because it would destroy core neighborhoods.

Nathan Muchler referenced September 11, 2001, housing, and urged council to make the city have affordable housing.

Kathleen Myers discussed core neighborhoods, irrevocable changes, and the timing of the zoning map.

Abby Ang spoke in support of the unhoused neighbors and against the decision to evict them from parks.

Alex Goodlad commented on the encampment, housing policy, and in support of the unhoused. He also stated that the zoning map discussion should include those who do not have a home.
Beau Valence spoke against the rezoning for core neighborhoods, and stated that it felt rushed and undemocratic.

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to extend Public Comment by ten minutes, with one minute per speaker. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

David Keppel spoke about climate crisis and the need for housing density.

Elizabeth Cox Ash spoke against plexes.

Marshall Bailey discussed Seminary Park and urged council to be more in control.

Lesa Huber expressed her disdain for upzoning.

Russ Skiba stated that upzoning did not increase affordability.

Greg Alexander spoke about the unhoused and their needs.

Nicole Johnson discussed housing and assistance for those in Seminary Park.

Gail Weaver stated there was a divide in the community and spoke about housing.

Jennifer Crossley urged all elected officials to work together to end the war on the poor and the unhoused.

Robert Meadows spoke about participatory democracy.

Sharon Yarber commented on plexes and development.

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-18 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-18 be adopted.

Philippa Guthrie, Corporation Counsel, Legal Department, presented the legislation. Guthrie described the collective bargaining agreement, base salaries, the calculation of the longevity payments, command appointments, the removal of caps and other limitations, acting pay, and the increase in clothing allowance.
Sims presented the Public Safety Committee’s report regarding Resolution 20-18. He discussed the collective bargaining agreement process, the fiscal impact, and commented that Fire Chief Jason Moore was asked to report on the gender and racial diversity on his team. Sims stated that there was 3-4% Black or people of color.

There were no council questions on Resolution 20-18.

There was no public comment on Resolution 20-18.

There was no council comment on Resolution 20-18.

The motion to adopt Resolution 20-18 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-32 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-32 be adopted.

Caroline Shaw, Human Resources Director, presented the legislation. Shaw summarized the base salary increases, the elimination of annual caps, changes to longevity pay, PERF contributions, mandatory training pay, new command appointments, clothing allowance, and the decrease in the required days to receive active pay.

Sims presented the Public Safety Committee report.

There were no council questions on Ordinance 20-32.

Elizabeth Cox Ash spoke in favor of firefighters and police.

Robert McWhorter thanked the Public Safety Committee and council and spoke about the Metropolitan Union firefighters.

Sgambelluri thanked Guthrie and Shaw, and those involved in the negotiations.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 20-32 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-19 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Resolution 20-19 be adopted.

Kaisa Goodman, Special Projects Manager, Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD), presented the legislation. Goodman summarized the survey and feedback of business owners in the downtown area including parklets, closure of sections of Kirkwood Avenue, and the process for the extension included in the legislation.
Rollo asked for more detail regarding modifications to parklets and pick up zones, and if any businesses felt that they were not accommodated.

Goodman stated that the parklets and pick up zones had been adjusted based on feedback from businesses and that there was no dissatisfaction. She stated that for the Kirkwood closures, city staff had worked with the Kirkwood Community Association and that a consensus was desired for the closure dates. Goodman stated that there was not 100% consensus.

Rollo asked if there was feedback from the public.

Goodman stated that there were some comments, and that most had been positive.

Talisha Coppock thanked the city and mayor, ESD, public works, and council for their prompt attention during the pandemic.

Nathan Mutchler spoke in favor of Resolution 20-19 and asked the city and council to extend the same considerations for the unhoused.

Sims asked Goodman for the survey report.

Goodman stated she would share that with the council and public.

Rollo thanked Goodman for her work.

Volan also thanked Goodman and the administration for working with local businesses during this extraordinary time.

The motion to adopt Resolution 20-19 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-28 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Ordinance 20-28.

Eric Greulich, Senior Zoning Planner, Planning Department, presented the legislation.

Aaron Stang, Landmark Properties, provided additional details.

Kendall Knoke, Smith Design Group, highlighted the coordination of civil related components including a new sewer and water main, potential walking routes, pedestrian easement, and the project schedule.

Jack Foreman, Senior Design Partner, BKV, spoke about the design of the project.

Piedmont-Smith presented the Land Use Committee report and summarized the topics discussed, including the removal of existing buildings, green space, addition of balconies, affordable units, the parking ratio, mixed-use district, and other uses than housing in the project. She described other community engagement and security components, including one unit being offered, free of charge, to a local police officer. She noted the do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 3, Nays: 1, Abstain: 0.
Rollo asked if the proposed project was preliminary approval and if council would see the proposal again, or if it would go to the Plan Commission.

Piedmont-Smith responded that it was a rezone and would not return to council.

Rollo asked if the final approval would be done by the Plan Commission.

Greulich confirmed that was correct.
Rollo asked the composition of the panels.
Foreman stated it was fiberboard.

Sims asked if the affordability portion was for the life of the property.
Greulich confirmed the commitment was in perpetuity.

Smith asked who paid for the infrastructure improvements.
Greulich stated the petitioner would be doing the improvements including utility lines, sidewalk installation, curbing, and tree plots.

Piedmont-Smith asked about her request for a written commitment to affordable units at 120% of Area Median Income (AMI).
Greulich confirmed that staff had it as a written commitment.
Piedmont-Smith asked how many units were workforce and how many were affordable.
Greulich explained the bedroom breakdown for affordable units for those earning less than 120% AMI, which were a mix of studios, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedrooms.

Piedmont-Smith asked for more clarification based on the petitioner stating that 1/3 would be workforce housing and 2/3 would be affordable housing.
Greulich clarified that workforce housing was for the 80-120% AMI.
Stang explained the percentages of total bedrooms, where 10% would not exceed 100% AMI, and 5% would not exceed 120% AMI.

Volan asked if the proposal included total units or total bedrooms.
Stang confirmed it was total bedrooms.
Volan asked which units would be offered as affordable.
Stang stated it would be studios, 1 bedrooms, and 2 bedrooms.
Volan also asked what the petitioner’s oldest, large apartment complex that they built was.
Stang responded that the oldest building was in 2003.
Volan asked how the petitioner maintained their oldest buildings.
Stang stated that there hadn’t been substantial problems, but that they maintained reserves, and also used third party contractors.
Volan asked Greulich how the parking ratio was established.
Greulich explained that the petitioners proposed the ratio, and it was within the minimum and maximum per the UDO. Greulich stated the maximum for student housing was 0.75 spaces per bedroom.

Rollo asked if there had been a discussion about the longevity of the proposed structure, given that old buildings were being razed.
Greulich stated the petitioner believed it was a 90 year building design.
Stang stated it was closer to 100-150 years, based on building design, and products used.
Rollo also asked about the emphasis of the use of native species in the green space.
Greulich stated that the petitioner would have to meet all the requirements in the UDO and that the plan was to use 95% native species.

Elizabeth Cox Ash asked about the sewer system, and if the developer would pay for it.

Nathan Mutchler commented that embedding a police officer in a residential neighborhood didn't make everyone feel safer, and a mental health worker or social worker was ideal.

Greg Alexander spoke about the huge improvement in process and also spoke about sidewalks and gaps in sidewalks.

Lisa Podulka spoke in favor of the project and affordable housing, and about the Covid-19 vaccination.

Marc Teller spoke about the unhoused residents in the city.

Nicole Johnson discussed public safety and the subsidized units in the project, and stated that not everyone felt safe with a police officer embedded in the neighborhood.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the sewer line improvements.

Greulich stated that the improvements would be paid for by the petitioner between their property and the line they were connecting to.

Piedmont-Smith asked if city staff reviewed the line the petitioner would connect to verify it would not be overburdened.

Greulich confirmed that the Utilities department conducted a review to ensure adequate capacity.

Piedmont-Smith asked if it was a standard review that the city did.

Greulich confirmed that it was.

Volan asked about the water flow around the proposed project.

Greulich stated that the water shed located there flowed north and there was a large hill that divided water flow.

Volan asked if the plan was to improve the sewer main up to the bypass and also asked if the main before the improvements was large enough to not need improvement.

Lucas read Knoeke's Zoom chat and confirmed that the water flowed north to the north treatment plant, and that they had received a will-serve letter from City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) who evaluated the sewer line to the plant and were requiring improvements where needed, and that all other areas were adequate. (Clerk's note: Kendall Knoeke was having audio difficulties and typed his comments into the Zoom chat.)

Flaherty commented that the 35-36 year lifespan of the previous building was disappointing, but that the higher quality of the building going forward was good. He also expressed appreciation for the affordable housing components. Flaherty discussed inclusionary zoning which was banned by the state of Indiana and thanked the petitioners for working with the city to include the percentages in the project.
Piedmont-Smith thanked the developers for the commitment to having a silver-level green building certification, and she hoped they could make it gold-level. She also expressed appreciation for the affordable housing component. Piedmont-Smith thanked the member of the public who spoke about the concerns of having a police officer embedded in one's residence. She also spoke about the situation with police where they often could not afford to live in city limits. Piedmont-Smith asked the developers to consider the timing of sending workers to tear down the old buildings during a pandemic.

Volan stated that the project was the largest, off-campus housing project ever built in Bloomington, by a factor of more than 40%. He commented that it would be 1071 beds. Volan commented on other large housing units and stated that the project would have an effect on the demand in single family neighborhoods. He also spoke in favor of the percentage of affordable housing bedrooms, and the wrap-around parking garage. Volan said that the amount of parking and the lack of public transit provided by the project inhibited him for voting in favor of the project. He explained that the parking ratio was too high, especially for student housing, and stated that students were the most avid users of public transit. Volan stated that the parking garage would encourage students to bring their cars.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 20-28 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Volan), Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-29 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Ordinance 20-29.

Bolden presented Ordinance 20-29 and provided the history of the city seal and logo. Bolden described use of the city seal, and thanked those who worked on the legislation.

There were no council questions on Ordinance 20-29.

There was no public comment on Ordinance 20-29.

Piedmont-Smith thanked Clerk Bolden for noticing the discrepancy and for working to correct it.

Volan echoed Piedmont-Smith and thanked Clerk Bolden.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 20-29 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.
Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 20-30 be read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis, giving the committee do-pass recommendation of Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Ordinance 20-30.

Volan presented Ordinance 20-30 and provided a history of the district map which was council-driven and summarized the proposed commission.

Piedmont-Smith asked how full-time student was defined.
Volan explained that it was 15 credit hour undergraduate student and 6 credit hour for graduate students.
Piedmont-Smith stated that even 1 credit hour for graduate students counted to defer loans.
Volan clarified how the members would be chosen and that during the interviews, it would be determined if a student was full time or not.
Piedmont-Smith also asked about the definition of immediate family member.
Volan stated that he thought of it as spouse, children, parents, and siblings.
Lucas stated that there wasn’t a statutory definition in the context that Volan was operating under for redistricting.
Volan stated that he would add language if it was helpful.
Piedmont-Smith stated that she was not overly concerned but that she wanted to point out that there were a few terms that were unclear.
Lucas explained that when a term goes undefined, the default was the common definition.

Sgambelluri asked if the employees of an elected official were restricted from serving on the commission.
Volan confirmed that was correct.

Sims questioned what the rationale was for excluding employees.
Volan clarified that it was based on the League of Women Voters recommendations to avoid conflict of interest.
Sims asked for further clarification.
Volan stated that the restriction would only apply to the elected official’s employees.
Sims also asked about the rationale for excluding those who were candidates for an elected position, or had worked for the city within the previous 10 years.
Volan explained that it was based on the recommendations of the League of Women Voters. He stated that he was amenable to lowering that period, if needed.

Sandberg moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 20-30.

Amendment 01 to Ordinance 20-30 [10:06pm]

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Sandberg and states that the three at-large councilmembers, rather than an executive committee of the Council, shall help conduct the commission’s selection process.

Sandberg summarized Amendment 01.
Volan stated that he endorsed Amendment 01.

There were no council questions on Amendment 01 to Ordinance 20-30.

There was no public comment on Amendment 01 to Ordinance 20-30.

Piedmont-Smith thanked Sandberg for the changes to Ordinance 20-30 in Amendment 01.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 20-30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sgambelluri moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 20-30.

Amendment 02 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Sgambelluri and revises the membership qualifications such that the voting record requirements are the same for all members (student or non-student).

Sgambelluri summarized Amendment 02.

Volan stated that he was ambivalent about Amendment 02, but was not opposed.

There were no council questions on Amendment 02 to Ordinance 20-30.

There was no public comment on Amendment 02 to Ordinance 20-30.

There were no council comments on Amendment 02 to Ordinance 20-30.

The motion to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 20-30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 03 to Ordinance 20-30.

Amendment 03 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Volan and states that the ranking (longest serving) at-large councilmember, rather than the City Clerk, shall determine and administer the method of random selection.

Volan presented Amendment 03.

Rollo asked for clarification on the pool of 18 applicants where 9 are chosen, where three are Democrats, three are Republicans, three are independents, and three are students.

Volan clarified that one of each Democrat, Republican, and Independent must be a student.

Rollo asked if a random drawing resulted in more Democrats, if that applicant was discarded.

Volan explained that two, of each Democrats, Republicans, and Independents would be chosen from a pool of four, and for each category, one student would be chosen from a pool of two.
Piedmont-Smith clarified that the at-large, ranking member for the current council was Sandberg.

Volan confirmed that was correct.

Rosenbarger asked why the Clerk would be replaced with the ranking at-large councilmember, and why was the language for how the randomized sample would be fixed.

Volan responded that the language was in Ordinance 20-30. He also created Amendment 03 per a request by the Clerk.

Bolden explained that she reviewed Ordinance 20-30 and declined to be a part of the process or to establish that for future clerks.

Lucas read a public comment submitted via Zoom chat. The comment, by "Jeff's iphone," asked if the randomized sample could result in all white men being selected.

Lucas read a public comment submitted via Zoom chat by the B Square Beacon (Dave Askins), which asked for clarification on the step by step process if there were three students in a pool of six, and how that selection would occur.

Bolden stated that she noticed that in Section (c)(3) where students were referenced, that it specified Indiana University Bloomington, but that there were two colleges in Bloomington.

Flaherty asked who would be the ranking at-large member when there were two or more councilmembers of the same seniority.

Volan stated that they would flip a coin.

Sandberg stated that the commission was tied to the census so the discussion was moot. She also commented that it would be transparent, in a public meeting, and would abide by code.

The motion to adopt Amendment 03 to Ordinance 20-30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Rosenbarger), Abstain: 0.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 04 to Ordinance 20-30.

Amendment 04 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Volan and corrects a misspelled word in the tenth Whereas clause.

Volan presented Amendment 04.

There were no council questions on Amendment 04 to Ordinance 20-30.

There was no public comment on Amendment 04 to Ordinance 20-30.

There were no council comments on Amendment 04 to Ordinance 20-30.

The motion to adopt Amendment 04 to Ordinance 20-30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.
Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 05 to Ordinance 20-30.

Amendment 05 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith and removes reference to specific months during which the commission would otherwise have to meet.

Piedmont-Smith presented Amendment 05.

Rosenbarger asked for clarification on the intent of bimonthly, which could mean twice a month, or every other month. Volan clarified that bimonthly only meant every other month and not twice per month.

Lucas read a comment submitted via Zoom chat by Paul Russell, which stated that both meanings of bimonthly were in many dictionaries, so why not clarify.

Volan commented that the commission would have to submit a map by September for there to be enough time for the council to consider it. He said therefore it did not make sense to have the commission meet on the even numbered months. Volan clarified that for the year 2022, the commission would need to meet in September and November.

Piedmont-Smith stated that the commission could meet in the even months in the first year, and in the odd months in the second year. She also asked if she could amend Amendment 05 to state every other month rather than bimonthly.

Flaherty asked if a vote was necessary for the amendment to Amendment 05. It was confirmed that it was.

There were no council questions on Amendment 05 to Ordinance 20-30.

There was no public comment on Amendment 05 to Ordinance 20-30.

There were no council comments on Amendment 05 to Ordinance 20-30.

The motion to amend Amendment 05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Volan), Abstain: 0.

The motion to adopt Amendment 05 as amended to Ordinance 20-30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sgambelluri asked about including Ivy Tech and if it mattered that it was not within city limits. Volan stated that the reason he excluded Ivy Tech was because it was not a residential college. He further explained how a student is determined to be a resident of the city.

Sims commented on the program at IU that houses students in residence halls, but attend Ivy Tech, and asked how that would be addressed.
Volan responded that those students would be excluded, and described the approximate 40,000-42,000 IU students. He stated that they should have a say in how districts were drawn.

Sims asked about the potential for a serious lack of diversity on the commission.

Volan stated that it would be up to the selection committee, but that through the randomized selection it would be possible to ensure it would not be a commission of all white males.

Sandberg agreed and stated that reviewing the applicants was the only opportunity to address diversity but that the random selection was to be random.

Volan stated that for each group; Democrat, Republican, and Independent would have to balance gender and diversity, and that while it would be challenging, it could be addressed.

Lisa Podulka spoke in favor of ensuring diversity on the commission and urged council to have representation on the commission that matched Bloomington's political affiliations.

Lucas read a comment submitted via Zoom chat by Paul Russell who asked about publicity and recruiting for the commission.

Lucas read a comment submitted via Zoom chat by Dave Askins who asked about the possibility of having more than two students in each pool of candidates.

Sandberg reiterated the need for having objective commissioners to ensure that the districts were designed by an independent body who would draw the lines in an equitable way.

Volan commented that partisan seats on the commission was based on suggestions by the League of Women Voters, and was not a state code. He said the intent was to move away from gerrymandering or partisan district mapping. Volan said Jeff Ellington had challenged Volan to do objective districting at the local level.

Piedmont-Smith thanked Volan for Ordinance 20-30.

Sims also thanked Volan for Ordinance 20-30 and commented it would show others, like the state, how to objectively draw districts.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 20-30 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

There was no legislation for first reading.

There was no additional public comment.
Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to suspend the rules so that the 2021 Council recess may be scheduled as provided for in the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule.

There was brief council discussion.

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

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule.

Lucas presented the proposed schedule. There was brief council discussion.

There was no public comment on the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule.

There were no council comments on the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule.

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

Sims moved and it was seconded to hold a Special Session at noon on December 21, 2020.

There was brief council discussion.

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

Rollo wished everyone to stay well.

Volan also wished everyone to stay well and safe.

Bolden reminded councilmembers to sign and turn in the nepotism forms prior to the end of the year.

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

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [11:01pm] Motion to suspend the rules [11:01pm]

Vote to suspend the rules [11:02pm]

Motion to adopt the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule [11:03pm]

Public comment:

Council comments:

Vote to adopt the 2021 Annual Council Legislative Schedule [11:09pm]

Motion to add a Special Session on December 21, 2020. [11:10pm]

Vote to add a Special Session on December 21, 2020 [11:16pm]

ADJOURNMENT [11:18pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 2 day of February, 2022.

APPROVE:  

Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:  

Nicole Bolden, CLERK  
City of Bloomington