

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:30pm, Council President Sue Sgambelluri presided over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 17, 2023

Councilmembers present: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan  
Councilmembers present via Zoom: Dave Rollo  
Councilmembers absent: Kate Rosenbarger

ROLL CALL [6:30pm]

Council President Sue Sgambelluri gave a land and labor acknowledgement and summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION  
[6:30pm]

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES [6:32pm]

Flaherty mentioned the application for the Residents Academy. He noted his upcoming constituent meeting. He spoke about the next meeting of the Special Committee on Council Processes (SCCP).

REPORTS [6:32pm]  
• COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beth Rosenbarger, Assistant Director, Planning and Transportation (PT) department report on the College Avenue and Walnut Street corridor study. She provided an overview of the study including its goals, process, and timeline. The purpose was to assess and enhance safety, accessibility, efficient use of public space, community goals and feedback, and adopting plan recommendations. She gave additional information and examples for each topic.

• The MAYOR AND  
CITY OFFICES  
[6:35pm]

Volan thanked staff and asked what triggered the study.

Rosenbarger stated it was staff workload and about the process itself.

Council questions:

Rollo asked if the conceptual design was done by city staff or a consultant.

Rosenbarger said that there was a consultant, Tool Design Group, and they would lead the charrette. There would not be an appropriation needed.

Sgambelluri asked if it was possible to have public 'walk and talk' events in the evening and not just during the day.

There were no council committee reports.

• COUNCIL  
COMMITTEES  
[6:56pm]

Matt Austin, Commission on Sustainability member, urged the city to select Rumpke instead of Republic such as a closer landfill, methane capture from landfill, and the more recycling options.

• PUBLIC [6:56pm]

[Unknown] discussed the options for making downtown Bloomington more appealing and valuable for the city.

Daryl Ruble thanked veterans. He noted Curtis Gilstrap's care and courtesy at Rosehill Cemetery and other city staff. He was concerned with people crossing at the border.

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke about National Police Week and noted the shortage of officers.

Justin Foster commented on his concerns for council's behavior in meetings, greenways, and spoke against the Hawthorne greenway.

Ash Kulak, Assistant Council Attorney, read a comment submitted via Zoom chat by Sam Dove concerning social media posts.

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

APPOINTMENTS TO  
BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS  
[7:27pm]

LEGISLATION FOR  
SECOND READING  
AND RESOLUTIONS  
[7:27pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 23-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Deputy Clerk Susan Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Appropriation Ordinance 23-04 – To Specially Appropriate from the General Fund, ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, Parks and Recreation General Fund, and Motor Vehicle Highway Street Fund, Expenditures Not Otherwise Appropriated (Appropriating a Portion of the Amount of Funds Reverted to Various City Funds at the End of 2022 for Unmet Needs in 2023)  
[7:24pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 23-04 be adopted.

Jeff Underwood, Controller, summarized the legislation including reversion requests, technical corrections, and two additional requests.

Cheryl Gilliland, Director of Auditing and Financial Systems, Office of the Controller, described the request for reversions for departments.

Council questions:

Piedmont-Smith asked for clarification on the appropriation of \$626,100 and what happened to the rest of the money.

Gilliland said that there would be cash reserves and target reserves.

There was discussion on how the reserve percentages were calculated.

Underwood discussed the motor vehicle highway funds and the State Board of Accounts' (SBOA) requirements for restricted and unrestricted amounts. He gave brief reasons on the steps taken to satisfy the requirements.

Underwood presented the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriations including raising firefighter pay to be in alignment with other civil city staff, and a home buying program that allowed up to ten fire fighters and ten police officers to receive assistance for purchasing homes in the city.

Emily Fields, Interim Director, Human Resources, said there were currently four firefighters and sixteen police officers using the rental assistance program. There were four firefighters and one police officer that expressed interest in the home buying program.

Piedmont-Smith asked there was \$500,000 for police and \$500,000 for fire for the home buying program.

Underwood said yes. A final agreement with a local bank would have an escrow account to rebuild the fund, since the program distributed \$10,000 per year.

Rollo asked what the obstacle was for advancing the home buying program.

Underwood stated it was dependent on the agreement with the bank.

Sgambelluri asked how close the city was to having an agreement and the five staff members that had expressed interest.

Beth Cate, Corporation Counsel, understood that the agreement with the bank would hopefully be finalized and the program could start.

Appropriation Ordinance 23-04  
(cont'd)

Piedmont-Smith understood that the fire department had many staff leave for other cities, et cetera, and asked what the administration had in mind for 2024 given that the union contract was up at the end of that year. How did the extra pay for 2023 factor into the current firefighters' salary.

Underwood said that the administration would look at the budget request for firefighters carefully and noted it was very early in the process. 2024 would also have a new mayor, and many new councilmembers.

Deputy Mayor Mary Catherine Carmichael added that there were many ideas being discussed with the goal of retaining staff. She noted that there were also many firefighters retiring.

Dave Askins, Be Square Bulletin, asked about the number of firefighters to be hired in the coming year and if they would be included in the extra pay.

Public comment:

Piedmont-Smith asked if new firefighters were hired at the previous pay rate.

Council comments:

Fields said the new employees would not receive the premium pay rate but would receive the \$500 extra pay.

Piedmont-Smith stated her support for the use of funds.

The motion that Appropriation Ordinance 23-04 be adopted received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 23-04  
[7:52pm]

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING  
[7:53pm]

Rollo moved and it was seconded that Ordinance 23-11 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.

Ordinance 23-11 – To Amend Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Health and Sanitation” – Re: Updating and increasing fees for service and harmonizing Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 6 of the Bloomington Municipal Code [7:53pm]

Sgambelluri referred Ordinance 23-11 to the Committee of the Whole to meet on June 07, 2023 at 8:00pm, following the Regular Session.

There was additional discussion on councilmember participation virtually and scheduling.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [7:59pm]

There was no additional public comment.

Kulak reviewed the upcoming council and committee schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:00pm]

Sgambelluri adjourned the meeting with no objections.

ADJOURNMENT [8:01pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Isabel Piedmont-Smith, PRESIDENT  
Bloomington Common Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bolden, CLERK  
City of Bloomington

For Approval