

In Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, August 04, 2021 at 3:00pm, Council President Jim Sims presided over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
August 04, 2021

Clerk's Note: The Special Session commenced in City Hall Council Chambers, but was recessed and reconvened via Zoom due to the public health emergency.

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

ROLL CALL [3:02pm]

Flaherty stated that due to concerns for public health and safety, he moved and it was seconded that council recess at 4:00pm, August 04, 2021 and reconvene in virtual form only, continuing to use the Zoom meeting information available in the agenda and packet.

Motion to recess and reconvene [3:03pm]

Flaherty stated that in Monroe County, the Covid-19 vaccination rates were just above 50%, and that cases of Covid-19 and hospitalizations had been steadily rising over the last month. He explained that the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus was highly contagious, and was now responsible for a strong majority of cases in Indiana. He further explained that for those reasons, it was his view that hosting a potentially large, in-person gathering at City Hall, even with safety protocols in place, was not in the best interest of public health and safety of the community at the time. Flaherty apologized for the inconvenience to those who planned to comment in person today. He said that the uncertainty of Governor Holcomb extending the state of emergency, and the requirements for noticing the public of the public hearing on the proposed annexation, made it unfeasible to reschedule the meeting to be virtual prior to the motion. He stated that participants would still have the opportunity to share their comments in the virtual meeting and it did not diminish the critical importance of the meeting. He also stated that the council continued to welcome feedback from the public via email and mail to the council office.

Rollo stated that he agreed with Flaherty with regard to the motion, and commented on Covid-19 and the Delta variant. He stated that he would be supporting the motion.

Piedmont-Smith mentioned that if someone did not have access to the technology for Zoom, that the public library had public computers, and was open until 9pm. She stated that due to the public health concerns, she would be supporting the motion.

Volan commented that in the motion on how the meeting was structured, there was a half hour recess, which seemed to no longer be needed. He asked if was appropriate to move to remove the recess.

Sims stated that the motion to remove the recess would be entertained once council reconvened online.

Sandberg commented that the following day, Thursday, August 05, 2021 was being held as an overflow night, she hoped that it could also be dealt with that evening for the public's sake.

Rollo said that if in-person participants had a comment in writing, to give it to Council Attorney, Stephen Lucas, for distribution to the council.

Motion to recess and reconvene (cont'd)

Sims stated that there were contingency dates, but that council would wait to announce the dates, in case they were not needed. He said that the meetings had to be properly and publicly noticed, and when the night's meeting was scheduled, it was prior to the governor extending the emergency health order.

Volan asked how many individuals were participating via Zoom. Lucas stated there were 139 online, including staff.

Vote to recess and reconvene [3:16pm]

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

Clerk's Note: the following minutes were for the meeting reconvened via Zoom, on August 4, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Reconvening of Special Session [4:02pm]

Councilmembers present via Zoom: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Susan Sandberg, Sue Sgambelluri, Jim Sims, Ron Smith, Stephen Volan (arrived 4:16pm)
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [4:03pm]

Council President Jim Sims summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [4:03pm]

Sims stated that the meeting continued annexation proceedings that the City of Bloomington began in 2017, which was put on hold in 2017 as a result in changes of state law and subsequent litigation. He said that the city was now able to resume the annexation process and the council was at the required public hearing stage of that process, where all interested parties had the opportunity to testify to the proposed annexations. He continued that, not sooner than 30 days and not longer than 60 days following the completion of the public hearing, the council could vote on the annexation proposals. He explained that the council would not vote or deliberate on any of the ordinances at the meeting that day and there would not be back-and-forth dialogue with council and members of the public. He provided council's email address and street address. Sims also stated that submitted written comments would not be read at the meeting but would be circulated to council members and city staff. Sims explained that council would consider a motion to structure debate to allow speakers to comment on as many ordinances as they wished during one comment period, and not wait for each ordinance. He asked the public to keep their comments to the point since there were many people who wished to speak. He explained the timer, as well as other rules and structure, for public comment.

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to conduct the meeting in the following manner:

Vote to structure debate [4:14pm]

- The Council will hold a public hearing concerning the annexations proposed by Ordinance 17-09 through Ordinance 17-15, and Ordinance 17-17.
- Interested parties shall have an opportunity to testify as to the proposed annexations.
- Speakers will have one opportunity to speak for up to three (3) minutes, during which time the speaker may comment on as many of the eight (8) proposed annexation ordinances as they wish.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Volan arrived 4:16pm).

Vote to structure debate [4:14pm]

Flaherty moved and it was seconded to dispense with the previously scheduled recess from 5:45pm to 6:15pm, instead conducting this meeting without recess until the previously established end time. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Volan, arrived 4:16pm). Vote to dispense recess [4:16pm]

Nicki Williamson discussed a forthcoming amendment to remove Edgewood Hills from the annexation areas. PUBLIC HEARING [4:20pm]

Bart Farrell spoke against annexation.

Dan Williamson commented on growth in the city.

Jim Burton spoke against annexation for Area 7.

Jaimmie Ford was opposed to annexation.

Suzie Rimstidt spoke about accessible transportation.

Bob Rimstidt commented on his neighborhood and services in Area 1A.

Tom McGhie argued against annexation of his home in Area 1B.

Barbara Leininger spoke against annexation.

Jayme McCallister commented against annexation.

Andrew Briggs spoke against annexation.

Jocelyn Bowie discussed reasons against annexation.

Jim Shrum talked against annexation.

Steven Layman spoke against annexation.

Penny Githens listed reasons against annexation.

Charlotte Zietlow spoke against annexation.

Ed Cook commented against annexation.

David Garrett discussed annexation and his properties in and out of the city.

Brett Boles spoke against annexation.

Shelley Kilghist expressed concerns against annexation.

Ryder Timberlake talked against annexation.

Susan Brackney spoke against annexation.

Therron Thomas spoke about people with disabilities and against annexation.

Rita Barrow commented against annexation.

Christina Swanson discussed her property and being a landlord.

Mark Figg spoke in favor of annexation.

Marlis Kilghist expressed concerns against annexation.

Carol Benedict spoke against annexation.

Stephanie Jones commented against annexation.

Christopher Landvay discussed reasons he was against annexation.

Paul Post discussed proposed annexation and the Bloomington Police Department (BPD).

Mark Riggins spoke against annexation.

Julie Thomas commented against annexation and spoke about revenue reduction.

Elisa Kilghist urged council to vote against annexation and gave reasons.

Mark Furnish spoke against annexation.

Allen Edwards commented about taxes and against annexation.

Jim Shelton discussed reasons against annexation.

Jean Donatelo opposed annexation.

Margaret Clements spoke against annexation.

Colby Wicker discussed reasons against annexation.

Susan Wilson spoke against annexation.

Julie Caplan commented against annexation.

June Salie expressed reasons against annexation.

Ginger Faust provided reasons against annexation.

Dan Dodge commented on annexation.

Debbie Reed spoke on reasons against annexation.

Jim Ekh did not agree with the annexation proposal.

Mary Born discussed reasons against annexation.

Thomas Schwandt added reasons against annexation.

Stephen Crider opposed annexation.

Sarah Long expressed concern against annexation.

Lucas reviewed the upcoming schedule including the annexation process, amendments to the annexation ordinances, the council work session on Friday, August 6, and the upcoming committee meetings. Lucas also discussed upcoming legislation.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [6:40pm]

There was discussion about the council schedule and the annexation process.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to recess the meeting and reconvene on Wednesday, August 11 at 6pm to finish up the annexation hearings. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 (Volan).

Vote to recess [7:14pm]


The meeting was recessed.

RECESS [7:14pm]


APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 8 day of March, 2023.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Sue Sgambelluri, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington