CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in-person in Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Present	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Present	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present	
De Urban	Council Member, Ward 6	Present	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Present	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present	

Recognition/Appointments

<u>Item 5.A. was presented after item 8.A. at the direction of Mayor Mwilambwe.</u>

<u>Item 5.B. Proclamation for Grand Cafe 100 Years</u>

Mayor Mwilambwe presented the Proclamation for Grand Cafe's 100 Years in Bloomington. Jimmy Mapuguay and Ike Chiu accepted the Proclamation and provided some history on the transition of ownership. Mr. Mapuguay thanked the City of Bloomington for 100 years and looked forward to 100 more years. Mr. Chiu thanked Mr. Mapuguay for his continued efforts to improve Grand Cafe.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement of procedure for public comment. Gary Lambert and Willie Holten Halbert provide in-person public comment. The following individuals provided emailed public comment: (1) Eileen Rohman; (2) Rickielee Benecke; (3) Keith Moldovan; (4) Craig Ryan; (5) Amanda Weissgerber; (6) Rochelle Gridley; (7) Diane Mather; and (8) Neil Gridley.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Item 7.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the November 22, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 7.B. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $16,607,320.88, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 7.C. Consideration and action to approve (a) the Second Amendment to the Contract between the City of Bloomington and Alexander Chemical Corporation, for Liquid Chlorine (Bid #2021-21), in the amount of $1,375 per ton from December 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022, and (b) an Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to Approve Contract Amendments for Liquid Chlorine through April 30, 2022, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract Amendment and Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 7.D. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Emergency Repairs at the Market Street Garage, as requested by the Facilities Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

Item 7.E. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing the City of Bloomington's Participation in the Settlement Agreement Program Arising from the National Opioid Crisis Class Action Lawsuit, as requested by the Legal Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Consideration and action on 1) an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022 for the City of Bloomington, and 2) an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington - Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 and Ending April 30, 2022 for the City of Bloomington, to approve the 2021 Tax Levy of $20,920,384 for the City of Bloomington and $5,867,785 for the Bloomington Public Library, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason explained that the presentation would be the last presentation of the tax levy.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, presented on the 2021 Final Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023 ("FY2023"). He provided an overview of tax levy terms and provided examples of how taxes are assessed. He then provided a brief overview of the Equalized Assessed Value ("EAV") and discussed final proposed tax levy figures.

Council Member Boelen and Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, discussed the options to separate the City and Library Tax Levies.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney,

that the proposed City tax levy be approved.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Rathbun discussed how increased EAV rates could affect the tax rate.

Council Member Ward stated that the comments referenced the library and requested that Council stick to one topic at a time. Council Member Montney stated that their discussion applied to both the City and Bloomington Public Library tax levies.

Council Member Crabill confirmed with Mr. Rathbun that staff were conservative in the tax rate in anticipation of reduced EAV rates in the future. They then discussed the effects on EAV when additional homes are added.

Council Member Emig had a question regarding the grant that the Library received. Mayor Mwilambwe asked Council Member Emig to hold her question until after the City tax levy vote was complete.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, that the proposed Library tax levy be approved.

Council Member Emig asked for additional details on the grant received by the BPL as she believed that the grant was awarded based on the initial quote that was more costly. Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director, confirmed that the grant was awarded based on the $20 million quote which then required a $15 million match.

Council Member Montney and Mrs. Hamilton discussed specifics on the grant qualifications and the $15 million City contribution requirement. Mrs. Hamilton noted that grant funding was included in the BPL contribution. She explained that in July, BPL strategically cut about $5 million of non-structural improvements with the intention to add the cut improvements at a later date. She went on to explain that the grant allowed the cut improvements to be reinstated within the project.

Julian Westerhout, BPL Board President, reminded Council that the BPL will also be able to add in the additional parking.

Council Member Becker believed that the grant should have been used to offset the taxpayer contribution instead of adding the cut improvements as he believed that his Ward was 70/30% against the tax levy. He reiterated his position on that the City should have reduced costs in other locations to fund the expansion of the BPL instead of imposing a tax increase.

Council Member Crumpler supported the BLP expansion and believed the grant should be used as an additional investment into the expansion of the amenity.

Council Member Crabill disagreed with Council Member Becker's comments. He expressed the need to improve the BPL and noted that he has not heard of opportunities to reduce costs as recommended by Council Member Becker. He highlighted that once the bond was paid off, the tax would be removed. Council Member Crabill explained that the BPL project and infrastructure could be completed simultaneously. He concluded by listing a wide array of improvements and discussing how the amenities could benefit the community.

Council Member Ward reiterated that the City had the ability to complete both the BPL improvements and road infrastructure. She believed that the City had a duty to invest in road infrastructure as well as intellectual infrastructure.

Council Member Boelen discussed her experiences with the library and her advocacy for education and literacy. She reported that Ward 2 constituents who were in favor of the library expansion had a household income above average whereas the constituents who were against were at or below the average household income. She noted the lack of public transportation for Ward 2 residents.

Council Member Boelen, Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Rathbun discussed the effects that an increased EAV would have on the tax percentage. It was stated that if the EAV increased, the household contribution would increase.

Council Member Boelen expressed concern about future tax and fee increases and expressed her preference that the full amount of the grant was used to offset the levy rate. She expressed concern in regard to the lack of fundraising and further expressed her non-support of the item as presented.

Mr. Westerhout stated that many individuals have pledged funds which were not reflected in the budget. He stressed that the BPL would actively pursue fundraising.

Council Member Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, to extend the Council discussion time by 10 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Montney supported the BPL but stated that Council tended to discuss discretionary projects verses projects for the basic needs of the residents. She stressed that the City should focus on road, sewer, and sidewalk infrastructure. She agreed with Council Member Boelen that the grant should only be used to offset the tax levy. She went on to discuss potential missed opportunities to collaborate between City-owned properties and the BPL. She discussed the opportunity to open City properties for meeting rooms to the public.

Council Member Emig discussed a library funding map report by Every Library Institute which discussed the return on investment. She stated that the increased use of the vital resources, including technology, at BPL during COVID was a testimony to the need of expansion during such economic uncertainty. She reiterated her previous statements on the cost to retrofit other properties or City facilities and explained why university libraries were not a viable option. She explained that road infrastructure projects and the BPL expansion were not mutually exclusive and that additional funding to road infrastructure would not expedite the projects. She reminded the community that the City continued to fund infrastructure projects for roads and sidewalks.

Council Member Mathy commented to the amount of funds that the BPL staff pledged to provide grant funds and additional fundraising. He believed that investment in the library was an investment in the community and deemed education as important.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Emig, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Boelen, Montney, Becker

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Proclamation in Memory of Barbara J. Adkins, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe presented the Proclamation in memory of Barbara Adkins, former Deputy City Manager. Diane Adkins, Sister to Barbara Adkins, accepted the Proclamation and thanked Council and the Community for the recognition.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and action on 1) a Resolution Abating All or a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied to Pay Debt Service on Certain Obligation Bonds of the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, and 2) a Resolution Abating Tax Levy for Rent Payable Under Lease Agreement Between the Public Building Commission, McLean County and the City of Bloomington for the Old Champion Building and the Expansion of the Parking Garage (two Resolutions for the abatement of property taxes totaling $5,127,817.75), as requested by the Finance Department.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and discussed the need for abatement of debts associated to the General Fund. He explained that the adoption of the proposed resolutions was required to abate property tax for debt service and rental payments that the City intended to pay from funding sources other than property tax revenue. He reported that the City needed to abate approximately $5.13 million.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, that the proposed Resolutions be approved.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.C. Presentation of the updated draft of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, as requested by the City Council.

City Manager Tim Gleason provided a brief overview of the directive on the City's Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") Transition Plan. He introduced Michael Hurt, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and ADA Coordinator.

Mr. Hurt stated that the City remained committed to the ADA Transition Plan. He provided a brief background on ADA accessibility and that the purpose of the Transition Plan was to comply with Titles I and II of ADA which focused on employment and public accommodation. He went on to describe how the City removed barriers for the application and interview processes along with the working environment. He then described how the

City continued to work to provide nondiscriminatory access to local government services, programs and activities. Mr. Hurt then discussed the community outreach completed to solicit public feedback, and encouraged residents to continue to submit feedback. He reminded the community that this was a presentation only on the draft ADA Transition Plan. He discussed the top three responses from the public input on the areas on which the City needs the most improvement: (1) Accessible pedestrian pathways, sidewalks, and curb ramps; (2) Accessible City Owned Properties, Street and Crosswalk Signals; and (3) Accessible signage and way-finding assistance in the Downtown area and in City facilities. He discussed an ADA self-evaluation performed by Faithful and Gould in 2015, which identified physical obstacles to City properties, programs and services, and a few areas of concern were reported. After a review, only seven modifications remained that needed correction, of which were mostly restroom upgrades. Mr. Hurt explained that staff had placed a target completion date of 2021 to 2022. He reported that the City had 423 miles of sidewalk and had regularly allocated funding to the sidewalk program. He concluded that the Transition Plan was a living document and would be posted online and updated regularly.

Council Member Ward stated her appreciation for Mr. Hurt's work on the ADA Transition Plan and commented to the draft status since 2015 and the need for additional public input. She further stressed the need to share the draft plan with local organizations to provide input and hold a public hearing by the end of the first quarter. Mr. Hurt believed that was possible.

Council Member Ward reported feedback that she had received regarding streamlining the complaint process and requested that staff look into it. She stated that the 2015 evaluation had become dated and requested additional information on an additional assessment. She asked staff to provide a report on the number of miles of sidewalk the City still needed to complete.

Council Member Montney referenced the City's 2015 sidewalk rating chart to answer Council Member Ward's question on miles of sidewalk. City Manager Gleason responded that it was a 2015 chart and that staff would provide an updated chart in January. Council Member Montney also requested data on the price per mile to fix a sidewalk.

Council Member Crumpler agreed that a public hearing was critical and recommended a virtual hearing. He then asked the next steps of the process. Mr. Hurt responded that a self-assessment would be performed on all City buildings in 2022 and an additional discussion on sidewalk replacement. He stated that he would reach out to local agencies to determine preferences on a public hearing.

Finance Director's Report

City Manager Gleason stated that typically, the Finance Director's Report was presented on the last meeting of the month but that with the holiday schedule, the report would be given early.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and noted that the Council meeting was held prior to the November 2021 financials being completed and that the standard monthly summary format was temporarily amended. He discussed modifications to formats to the reports. He went on to discuss partial updates on major tax revenues through December 8, 2021 and highlighted various taxes and their effect on the budget. Mr. Rathbun concluded his presentation with a discussion of the monthly Home Rule Sales Tax, Packaged Liquor Tax, and Vehicle Use Tax revenues compared to year to date. He highlighted the increased revenue from building permits and connected it to the increased Equalized Assessed Value on properties, which he attributed to the amount of employees that Rivian has hired.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Tim Gleason discussed various upcoming events in Downtown Bloomington. He commented to the recent tornado storm events in Southern Illinois and expressed his thoughts and prayers on their road to recovery. He reported that the Budget 101 program would be released with updated videos. He noted that 2021 City accomplishments would be presented at the February Committee of the Whole. He reminded the community of the next Council meeting in January and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe echoed the sentiments for those communities affected by the tornado storms. He reminded the community of the bench dedication for Barbara Adkins in front of the McLean County History Museum. He noted that Mayor Pro Tem Mathy would chair the first Council Meeting in January as Mayor Mwilambwe would be out of the country. He wished the community Happy Holidays.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Ward discussed multiple upcoming services for The Longest Night.

Council Member Boelen discussed the McLean County Behavioral Health Coordinating Council's collaboration on an initiative for the Bridge Academy for youth who have been hospitalized and to prevent hospitalization in a small school setting, for the mentally ill.

Executive Session - Section 2 of (c)(21) of 5 ILCS 120

Mayor Mwilambwe stated that Council would enter into Executive Session for the semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes per Section 2 of (c)(21) of 5 ILCS 120.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, to enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Semi-Annual Review of Minutes - Section 2 of (c)(21) of 5 ILCS 120

Return to Open Session and Adjourn

Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, explained that Council would not continue Executive Session, as additional information was needed. He explained that a motion to adjourn the meeting was needed.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk