



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 12, 2022. Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance ending with a moment of silent prayer/reflection.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present
Grant Walch	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	Absent
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

City Manager Tim Gleason participated remotely due to a COVID exposure.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment statement of procedure. No emailed public comment was received. Jackie Beyer and Scott Stimeling spoke in person.

Recognition/Appointments

No Recognitions or Appointments were made.

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 Crabill, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 7.F.

Item 7.A. Consideration and action to Approve Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$14,605,891.10, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and action for the Purchase of the Annual Kronos Timekeeping Solution/Dimension and Workforce Telestaff Subscription, Implementation, and Software as a Service utilizing U.S. Communities Agreement #18220, in the Amount of \$116,208.00, as requested by the Information Technology Department, and the Human Resources Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase be approved.)

Item 7.C. Consideration and action to Approve a Three -Year Intergovernmental Agreement with the Ecology Action Center (EAC) for a Solid Waste Program, in the Amount of \$65,564 for FY 2024 (Calendar 2023), with a Maximum Three Percent Increase in FY 2025 (Calendar 2024) and FY 2026 (Calendar 2025), as requested by the Public Works Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement be approved.)

Item 7.D. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2023, to Increase the Continuum of Care (CoC) Budget by \$1,440.00, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

Item 7.E. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for a Two-Family Dwelling in the R-1C (Single-Family Residence) District for the Property Located at 1305 Bunn Street, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

Item 7.F. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Walch.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 7.F. Consideration and action on a Request from Ralben, Inc. d/b/a Cadillac Jack's, located at 1507 S. Main Street, for a Redefinition of Premises for Their Class TAPS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, Packaged and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Walch and Mayor Mwilambwe discussed a statement made by Mr. Bentley, Owner of Cadillac Jacks. The two then discussed the license revocation process. Mayor Mwilambwe provided a brief overview of the steps Mr. Bentley had taken to ensure open communication with neighbors. He also noted the compromise the Commission and Mr. Bentley had agreed to. Council Member Walch expressed interest in amending the proposed condition so that live outdoor music ceased at 10:00 p.m. Council Member Walch and Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, discussed procedural options and liquor license renewal processes. Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, confirmed that all license holders, including Cadillac Jacks, had to apply to renew their license every November in order to have a license in the upcoming year. She stated that staff could review compliance with conditions at that time.

Council Member Walch made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

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, 2022, and Ending April 30, 2023, for the City of Bloomington in the Amount of \$22,320,384; and (2) an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington - Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2022, and Ending April 30, 2023, in the amount of \$6,270,600, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason provided a brief overview of the Item and highlighted that \$1.4 million of the City's levy would be dedicated to pension funds.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, discussed the tax levy noting it was the only funding source for the Bloomington Public Library ("BPL"). He then discussed revenue sources available to the City and explained the City's tax levy would evenly split the \$1.4 million between Police and Fire Pensions to further deplete the pension deficit.

Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director, reported that the BPL's tax levy would increase to \$402,815. She reminded Council of the approved \$14.2 million Library expansion and remodel, which had an approx. \$1,085,000 annual debt service. She explained the project required an increase in the levy of \$235,000 and noted increase would allow the BPL to capture an additional \$167,815 in revenue to assist with the BPL's operating budget.

Mr. Rathbun presented the 2022 tax levy breakdowns compared to the past three years highlighting the overall decrease in rate.

Council Member Crabill discussed the importance of fully funding first responder's pensions and compared the Town of Normal's decision to not impose a tax levy and instead use other avenues to fund pensions. He made other comparisons with the Town and discussed future opportunities. He pointed out the minimal amount each household would have to contribute if the BPL tax levy was approved and provided examples of how the BPL had been fiscally responsible in their efforts to reduce the impact on residents. He and Mrs. Hamilton then discussed programming and resources available to residents with a free library membership. He further supported the investment in the BPL.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to approve the Item as presented.

Council Member Ward stated her support in of the Item and supporting first responders. She discussed multiple benefits access to libraries provided including a plethora of resources, as well as a safe, warm place to go or meet others. She further expressed support in favorable financing rates that boosted City reserves.

Council Member Walch expressed his opposition to the tax levy. He asked Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, how the two proposed Ordinances could be approved together while the public hearings were held separately.

Mr. Jurgens asked Council Member Ward, motioner, and Council Member Crumpler, seconder, to confirm if their intent was to approve both Ordinances. Both confirmed.

Council Member Walch and Mr. Jurgens discussed procedure further. Council Member Walch discussed other forms of revenue that could fund first responder pensions. They then discussed how inflation affected last year's surplus, as well as the Resolutions in Item 8.B. Mr. Rathbun confirmed that Item 8.B. had no impact on property taxes.

Council Member Walch made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to amend Council discussion time by 10 minutes

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Montney made comparisons to the 2016 City Budget in that resident costs were \$2,306 versus \$3,436 per resident in 2022. She recommended that alternative resources be used to fully fund first responders' pension. Mr. Rathbun explained that capital projects had affected budgets but, that when removed, per resident costs normalized.

Council Member Becker agreed that Council had set a goal to fully fund the pension funds at the recent Council Retreat, but that he believed alternative funding options should be sought. He and Council Member Walch stressed that voting against the Item did not mean they were against funding pensions. He expressed confidence that the Finance Department finding to locate alternate sources.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Boelen, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYES: Walch, Montney, Becker

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to Approve Two Resolutions Abating Property Taxes Totalling Approximately \$7,336,503, including: (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, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason provided a brief background on the Item.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, explained the need for abatements and the legal requirement to formally state that property taxes for debt service and rental payments are not paid by tax levies.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to approve the Item as presented.

Council Member Boelen asked for clarification on the source of funding. Mr. Rathbun stated the Item declared that the City would find revenue sources other than tax levies and explained why abatement figures don't always match budget amounts.

Council Member Crabill asked if abatements encouraged investors to invest in bonds. Mr. Rathbun explained that abatements don't impact investors, but they do prove that the City was in compliance with the original documentation.

Council Member Walch asked for additional information. Mr. Rathbun explained that the original documentation provided stated that the City would make debt payments from levy funds, but that the proposed Resolutions updated said language, promising to pay the debts from funds other than tax levies without going into debt.

Council Member Walch And Mr. Rathbun then discussed previous levies and how the Arena and Bloomington Center for Performing Arts ("BCPA") were funded by sales taxes rather than property taxes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.C. Presentation and Discussion of the Public Works' 2022 Roadwork Wrap-Up, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item. He stated that the presentation had been given annually since 2018, reporting project progress and Public Works Roadwork updates. He recognized various contractors, unions, and staff that had been involved throughout the year.

Kevin Kothe, Public Works Director, acknowledged Public Works Department staff, as well as multiple contractors who completed work. He reminded the community where to locate project updates on the City's website. He presented slides with photos and videos of projects including road resurfacing, pavement patching, and sidewalk replacement. He discussed various tests and new technology used to make streets last longer, and went through the steps involved in each type of replacement/repair.

City Manager Gleason stressed the City's pledge and dedication to complete street and sidewalk projects. He noted that, per Council's direction, staff strive to complete even more projects in 2023.

Council Member Montney shared statistics and research she had conducted regarding projects completed in 2022 She and Mr. Kothe discussed the life of streets and how they varied depending on a variety of factors.

Mayor Mwilambwe commented to the Pavement Preservation Program aiding in extending road life.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Kothe then discussed sink holes, and work completed in-house versus being contracted out.

Council Member Crumpler shared a sewer repair situation reported to him and commended the Public Works Department's actions.

Mayor Mwilambwe noted remembering a time when Council didn't allocate many funds to streets and sidewalk projects. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Kothe and his staff.

Council Member Walch pointed out that more funding, meant more projects being completed. He asked Mr. Kothe about local preference. Mr. Kothe explained that the upcoming resurfacing project was funded through the Americans Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") and that because of that, the local preference policy didn't apply.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason reported having had a direct COVID exposure and as a result, had elected to attend remotely. He discussed multiple upcoming Downtown events and recognized five new staff members. He reminded the community the next Council meeting would be on January 9, 2023. He wished Council and the community Happy Holidays.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe wished the community Happy Holidays.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Crabill recognized multiple Items that were approved on the Consent Agenda and discussed how they benefited the community.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

