CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Pro Tem Donna Boelen 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	Remote
Jenna Kearns	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present
John Danenberger	Council Member, Ward 4	Present
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present
Cody Hendricks	Council Member, Ward 6	Present
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present
Kent Lee	Council Member, Ward 8	Present
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present

Mayor Pro Tem Boelen asked for a motion to allow Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe to participate in the meeting remotely due to medical reasons.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to allow Mayor Mwilambwe to attend the meeting remotely due to medical reasons.

Mayor Pro Tem Boelen directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Mayor Mwilambwe joined the meeting remotely (6:02 P.M.).

Recognition/Appointments

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Recognition of Board and Commission Appointments, as requested by the Administration Department.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, recognized Patrick Hoban to the Tri-County River Valley Development Authority and Eldon Haab to the Citizens' Beautification Committee.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment statement of procedure. Karl Goeke emailed public comment and the following spoke in person: (1) Gary Lambert; (2) Christina Barrett; (3) Tobias Horner-Brooks; (4) Raylene Gomez-Hernandez; (5) Jackie Beyer; (6) Dave Bentlin; (7) Len Meyer; (8) Zach Carlson; (9) Scott Stimeling; and (10) Surena Fish.

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 Crumpler, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 7.L. and to table Item 7.K. to the January 8, 2024 Council meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of $12,459,636.08, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action on Approving the John M. Scott Health Care Trust Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Trust Report, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Annual Trust Report be approved.)

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on Approving a Contract with Aimbridge Hospitality for Temporary Relocation Services (RFP #2024-21) related to the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program at a unit price of $109 per night, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract be approved.)

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on Approving, as a limited source, the Tyler MUNIS upgrade and Software as a Service Agreement and SaaS migration payment with Tyler Technologies, for various MUNIS modules of the City's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, cloud-hosted systems and storage, data migration, and project management, in the amount of $353,963, as requested by the Information Technology Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be approved.)

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on Approving a Change Order in the Amount of an additional $7,206 for the Upfitting of twelve (12) Police Vehicles from Public Safety Direct Inc., as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Change Order be approved.)

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of Mclean for Use of the City of Bloomington Police Shooting Range, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be approved.)

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal for the use of the City of Bloomington Police Shooting Range, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be approved.)

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action on Approving a Three-year Service Agreement for the maintenance and support of the City's video security cameras and associated wireless radio network provided by Scientel Solutions, LLC, up to the amount of $442,960.21, as requested by the Information Technology Department, and the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be approved.)

Item 7.J. Consideration and Action on Approving a Resolution Authorizing the City of Bloomington's Participation in the Settlement Agreement Program Arising from the National PDAS/PFOA Multi-District Litigation, as requested by the Legal Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

Item 7.K. Consideration and Action on Approving an Ordinance Authorizing a Construction Agreement with Garneau Construction, Inc. for the Tuckpointing & Sealing 2023 Project (Bid #2024-16), in the amount of $758,991, as requested by the Department of Operations & Engineering Services and the Parks & Recreation Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

Tabled to January 8, 2024, per Staff recommendation.

Item 7. L. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Ward.

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

Item 7.L. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 22.2 Regarding the Declaration of the City of Bloomington's Human Relations Policy, as requested by the Legal Department. (Recommended Motion: That the proposed Ordinance be adopted.)

Council Member Ward proposed to amend the Item to modify wording within the definitions of the Policy.

Council Member Boelen opposed the change and expressed concern about wording not aligning with State statutes.

Council Member Montney asked Corporation Counsel about consistency in wording between the State statute and the proposed Item. Chris Spanos, Corporation Counsel, stated that the proposed language was verbatim of the State statute. Council Member Montney and Mr. Spanos then discussed potential consequences for not using verbatim language. Mr. Spanos suggested using alternative language.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, discussed procedure regarding the motion needed.

Mr. Spanos clarified what the specific language edits would be.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to approve the Item as amended.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Consideration and Action on (1) an Ordinance Amending the Bloomington City Code Updating Chapters 6, 7, 21, 29, 32, 36, 41, 43, and 45 and Deleting Chapters 9, 22 (Art.

XI.), 22.5, 26, and 30 Pertaining to Licenses Administered by the City Clerk; and (2) an Ordinance Amending the Bloomington City Code Updating Chapters 7, 29, 32, 36, 41, and 43 Regarding Penalties and the Schedule of Fees in Chapter 1 Pertaining to Licenses, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, introduced the Item.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, gave a brief description of the Item and explained that because of collaboration with the County and others, staff recommended that Chapter 21: Refuse and Chapter 36: Scavengers be pulled for further review. She then detailed the proposed license changes and various process improvements. She explained that with the proposed changes, duplicative efforts of staff and business owners would be eliminated. She wrapped up by thanking everyone involved in making the changes possible and explained the difference between the two proposed Ordinances, as well as effective dates.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked Mrs. Yocum and staff for their efforts.

Council Member Ward asked about penalties related to circuses and carnivals. Mrs. Yocum explained that license would be revisited in the future, along with others.

Council Member Montney expressed concern about continued growth of short-term rentals.

Mrs. Yocum clarified that when a motion was brought that the ideal motion would exclude consideration of Chapter 21: Refuse and Chapter 36: Scavengers.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to approve the Item with the exclusion of Chapters 21: Refuse and 36: Scavengers.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023, and Ending April 30, 2024, for the City of Bloomington in the Amount of $23,420,384, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe clarified that Items 8.B. and 8.C. would have a combined presentation, but that they would be voted on separately.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, expressed pride in staff's efforts related to the Item. He summarized the water rate that was approved by Council recently and then introduced Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to present the Item.

Mr. Rathbun provided a summary of the proposed changes in the Tax Levy for the City of Bloomington and explained the consequences if no increase was made.

Council Member Boelen proposed to keep the Levy flat compared to the previous year to combat the cost of living after recent changes in water rates. Mayor Mwilambwe clarified that she was speaking to both the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Library tax levies, and she confirmed.

City Manager Gleason asked that Item 8.B. remain the focus as Item 8.C. would be voted on separately.

Council Member Crumpler expressed concerns he'd received from his constituents regarding the proposed increases. He voiced support for keeping the levy flat.

Council Member Montney expressed frustration with the allocation of resources related to the Public Safety Pension and voiced her support for keeping the levy flat.

Council member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to extend the discussion time by 5 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Ward spoke against the amendment and in favor of the Item as originally presented. She explained that work needed to be done in the community and that an increase would allow important changes to be made.

Council Member Boelen expressed interest in working to achieve the Council's 100% funding by 2040 and getting to the mid-60% range within the next 5-10 years.

Council Member Hendricks asked for clarification about the EAV (Estimated Assessed Value) if the levy remains flat. Mr. Rathbun explained that by holding the levy flat, the rate would go down because EAV would go up. He summarized how the changes in EAV could affect rates over time.

Council Member Ward outlined the estimated breakdown of the increase per household per day.

Mayor Mwilambwe reminded Council that staff had provided a balanced report and that many projects were upcoming.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to approve the Item as amended keeping the levy flat compared to the prior year.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Becker, Lee, Crumpler

NAYES: Kearns, Danenberger, Hendricks, Ward

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.C. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Bloomington Public Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023, and Ending April 30, 2024, for the City of Bloomington in the Amount of $6,580,000, as requested by the Finance Department.

Council Member Montney asked about the effective increase and asked about implications. City Manager Gleason responded accordingly and then briefly explained the history of the tax levy item for the Bloomington Library and detailed how the funds would be used.

Mr. Rathbun explained the State of Illinois' guidance related to the Library and detailed the reasoning behind the proposed tax levy.

Council Member Montney expressed concern about grant funds and how they were spent.

Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director, explained the history of the grant process and noted that the grant award was provided on a reimbursement basis. She stated that with much of the project still uncompleted, there could be costs associated that were not originally planned.

Council Member Montney noted that previously, Council had been informed the project was anticipated to come in under budget.

Julian Westerhout, Library Board President, explained that through staff's hard work significant savings had been experienced, and while they wouldn't know for certain until completion of the project, it was anticipated that the project would remain under budget.

Council Member Montney asked about where revenue would be directed if money was saved on the project.

Mrs. Hamilton explained that since the project was not completed, the funds and how they would be used had not been determined. She noted that because funds had been set to be used on capital projects, they would not be transferable. She shared that the Library Board would decide how to allocate the funds.

Council Member Crumpler stated that the Library and its programs were essential to the community and expressed support for the Item.

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Danenberger, Hendricks, Ward, Crumpler

NAYES: Montney, Becker, Lee

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.D. Consideration and Action on Approving Two Resolutions Abating Property Taxes Totaling Approximately $5,204,592.57, 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.

Mr. Rathbun detailed the proposed Resolutions and explained why the abatements were necessary.

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Finance Director's Report

City Manager Gleason introduced Mr. Rathbun.

Mr. Rathbun briefly discussed tax components and comparisons and concluded by reminding the community where to locate the City's budget materials.

Council Member Lee asked why short-term and long-term rentals were combined into one category. Mr. Rathbun explained that while combined in the report given, they were actually separate Ordinances. Council Member Lee recommended an increased rate for short-term rentals based on recent concerns.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason shared a holiday video highlighting upcoming events. He then recognized several new hires before wishing the community Happy Holidays.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked everyone for their patience while he attended remotely and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Boelen expressed excitement regarding The Bridge Academy's funding situation. She highlighted the Fuse Program through McLean County.

Council Member Lee wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Leslie Smith-Yocum

Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850