City of Bloomington Illinois

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 P.M. 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
Jenna Kearns	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Remote
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 Mwilambwe stated that Council Member Boelen would need to attend remotely due to illness.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to allow Council Member Boelen to attend remotely.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Boelen joined the meeting at 6:02 P.M.

Recognition/Appointments

Item 5.A. Recognition of Board & Commission Reappointment, as requested by the Administration Department.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, recognized the reappointment of Katie Ruder to the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment statement of procedure. The following spoke: (1) Rebekah Mangels; (2) Bob Sampson; (3) Gary Lambert; (4) Georgene Chissell; (5) August Nord; (6) Scott Stimeling; and (7) William Gustavson (Remote). Sonny Garcia registered to speak but was not present. No emailed public comment was received.

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 Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 7.L.

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2024, 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 the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, Special City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of $14,525,473.92, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on Approving Appointments to Boards & Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed appointments be approved.)

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of an E-One Custom 100-Foot Rear Mount Platform Fire Truck from Banner Fire Equipment, Inc., in the Amount of $1,766,140, as requested by the Fire Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 086

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AN E-ONE CUSTOM 100-FOOT REAR MOUNT PLATFORM FIRE TRUCK FROM BANNER FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,766,140

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Contract with Tyler Technologies for the Procurement of Mobile Site Licensing, Electronic Crash Reporting, and Fire Prevention Mobile to the Enterprise Public Safety Suite, in the Amount of $213,411, as requested by the Police Department and the Fire Department. (Recommended Motion: That the proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 087

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE SITE LICENSING, ELECTRONIC CRASH REPORTING, AND FIRE PREVENTION MOBILE TO THE ENTERPRISE PUBLIC SAFETY SUITE, IN THE AMOUNT OF $213,411

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Contract Amendment to Extend the Terms of Two Intergovernmental Agreements with McLean County for Animal Control Removal and Shelter Services, through March 31, 2025, in the Amount of $39,330, as requested by the Legal Department and the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 088

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF TWO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH MCLEAN COUNTY FOR ANIMAL CONTROL REMOVAL AND SHELTER SERVICES, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF $39,330

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on (1) a Resolution Approving an Agreement with P.J. Hoerr, Inc., for Police Department Security Improvements, in an Amount Not to Exceed $413,819; and (2) a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Mini Personal Computers and Monitors for the Police Department Security Upgrades, in an Amount Not to Exceed $30,000, as requested by the Department of Operations & Engineering Services and the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolutions be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 089

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH P.J. HOERR, INC., FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $413,819

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 090

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF MINI PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND MONITORS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SECURITY UPGRADES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $30,000

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Amendment to Resolution No. 2024 - 064 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, and the County of McLean, IL for the 2024 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award (Grant #13686637), as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 091

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 064 APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, THE TOWN OF NORMAL, AND THE COUNTY OF MCLEAN, IL FOR THE 2024 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AWARD (GRANT #13686637)

Item 7.J. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving an Agreement with Sprint Communications Company L.P. for the Continued Maintenance and Use of a Fiber Optic Cable System Established Under and Over Certain Public Rights of Way in the City of Bloomington, Illinois, as requested by the Department of Operations & Engineering Services and the Legal Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 087

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P. FOR THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE AND USE OF A FIBER OPTIC CABLE SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER AND OVER CERTAIN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Item 7.K. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Ratifying and Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) for the Exchange of Infrastructure Assets, as requested by the Department of Operations & Engineering Services. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 092

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BLOOMINGTON NORMAL WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (BNWRD) FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

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

Item 7.M. Consideration and Action on an Application from Chi Family Express, LLC, located at 3907 G.E. Rd., Unit 6, a Change in Classification from a Class RBS (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License to a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Item 7.N. Consideration and Action on an Application from American Drug Stores, LLC, d/b/a Osco Drug Store #3775, located at 2103 N. Veteran's Parkway, Unit #334, Requesting Approval of Change in Parent Company for their Class PAS (Package, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Item 7.O. Consideration and Action on an Application from American Drug Stores, LLC, d/b/a Osco Drug Store #0116, located at 2201 E. Oakland Ave., Requesting Approval of Change in Parent Company for their Class PAS (Package, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Item 7.P. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Contract with Zigler Signs Inc. for the Bloomington Arena Ribbon Board Display Replacement (Bid #2025-13), in the Amount of $551,118.90, as requested by the Arts & Entertainment Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 093

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH ZIGLIN SIGNS INC. FOR THE BLOOMINGTON ARENA RIBBON BOARD DISPLAY REPLACEMENT (BID #2025-13), IN THE AMOUNT OF $551,118.90

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

Item 7.L. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending the Bloomington City Code Updating Chapter 35, Section 75 Pertaining to the Composition of the Public Safety and Community Relations Board (PSCRB), as requested by the Public Safety & Community Relations Commission.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to amend the proposed Ordinance Exhibit A so that Item A states the "PSCRB shall consist of eleven members appointed by the Mayor," and that Item C states that "two of the eleven members shall be youth members".

Council Member Boelen confirmed with Mayor Mwilambwe that the PSCRB submitted the Item for Council Consideration. Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison for the PSCRB, explained that the PSCRB brought forward with the intent to allow the two seats to be held by either youth or adult members due to continued vacancy.

Council Member Boelen stated that the PSCRB expressed frustration in the continued youth position vacancies and believed their intent was to rectify the vacancies.

Mr. Hurt stated it was a group decision to submit the proposed composition changes to add flexibility to the youth positions.

Council Member Ward sympathized with the intent to add additional voices but strongly believed in the need to have youth participation. She recommended adding two seats to the current composition of the board and increasing recruitment efforts.

Council Member Montney explained she had heard about the challenges of recruiting members and supported the PSCRB's proposed solution.

Council Member Kearn and Mr. Hurt discussed the PSCRB's deliberation process.

Council Member Ward and Mr. Hurt discussed a scrivener's error in the number of members listed in the Ordinance.

Mayor Mwilambwe noted the option to table the Item for further discussion and further stated the difficulties in finding youth members. Council Member Ward said she would entertain that option but stressed the importance of youth participation.

Council Member Hendricks and Mr. Hurt discussed the extensive recruitment efforts.

Council Members Boelen and Ward discussed the motion on the table to expand the total number of adult members while maintaining the two youth members.

Mayor Mwilambwe and Mr. Hurt discussed the vacancies in both youth and adult member positions on the PSCRB.

Mayor Mwilambwe and Chris Spanos, Corporation Counsel, discussed how a motion to table superseded the motion to amend.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, cited the Open Meetings Act and explained the timeline of the soonest the Item could return to Council for consideration.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to table the Item to Council on February 10, 2025, and send the Item back to the PSCRB for further consideration.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

NYES: Montney

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 9.A. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2024, and Ending April 30, 2025, in the Amount of $22,320,384, as requested by the Finance Department.</u>

Jeff Jurgens, City Manager, provided an overview of the Item and then passed it to Scott Rathbun, Finance Director. Director Rathbun explained the statutory requirements of the budget process. He explained the adoption of a flat tax levy would equal $22.3 million resulting in a slightly decreased tax rate by -0.0889% from 2023 to 0.90391%. He compared the levy tax rates since 1998, and the tax levy totals in dollars since 2011. He reported the impacts of a flat levy on homes valued at $200,000 would save residents about $5.06 annually. Director Rathbun then presented on the overall 2024 Tax Levy combined rate with the Bloomington Public Library totaled 1.1804%, an 8% decrease from 2023.

Council Member Boelen made a motion to amend the proposed tax levy to $23,420,384.

Motion fails for lack of a second.

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

NAYES: Boelen

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 088

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF $22,320,384

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on Two Resolutions Abating Property Taxes Totaling Approximately $5,247,224.57, including (1) a Resolution Approving the Abatement of 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 Approving the Abatement of the Tax Levy for Rent Payable Under Lease Agreement Between the Public Building Commission, McLean County, and the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Finance Department.

Jeff Jurgens, City Manager, briefly introduced the Item and then passed it to Scott Rathbun, Finance Director. Director Rathbun explained that the City needed to abate $5,247,002.24 from the property tax levy to comply with the original bond ordinances, even though the debt service was now paid from other revenue sources. He stated this was an annual process reviewed by the City's bond counsel.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 094

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ABATEMENT OF 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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 095

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ABATEMENT OF THE TAX LEVY FOR RENT PAYABLE UNDER LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION, MCLEAN COUNTY, AND THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Item 8.C. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington - Bloomington Public Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2024, and Ending April 30, 2025, for the City of Bloomington, in the Amount of $6,827,275, as requested by the Bloomington Public Library.

Jeff Jurgens, City Manager, briefly introduced the Item and then passed it to Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library ("BPL") Director. Director Hamilton noted that Catrina Parker, BPL Board President, was also present. Director Hamilton then presented the BPL request of a $6.8 million tax levy, a 3.76% increase from 2023; however, due to a 6% decrease in the overall tax rate, most homeowners would see a reduction in their annual taxes. She reported the impacts of an increased tax levy on homes valued at $200,000 would save residents about $10.80 annually.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 089

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON – BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,827,275

Item 8.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Authorization to Waive the Formal Bidding Requirements and to Approve an Amendment to Extend the Agreement with Iverson Consulting Group (ICG) through December 20, 2025, as requested by the Administration Department.

Jeff Jurgens, City Manager, briefly introduced the Item highlighted the importance of continuous improvements based on Council's suggestions. He noted Ted Iverson, Consultant with Iverson Consulting Group (ICG) was available virtually should there be any questions. He explained Council would hear testimonials from Directors who collaborated with Mr. Iverson in the initial contract term.

Mose Rickey, Public Works Director, discussed the learning opportunities his department had through the Lean Solutions program. He attended the Lean Solutions Summit Conference in September with two other City employees, where they saw the practical application of lean concepts at different companies. Director Rickey explained how he was initially skeptical but was impressed by how the theories translated to real-world improvements. He went on to explain that staff participated in a full-day simulation exercise led by Iverson Consulting, which demonstrated significant efficiency gains when applying lean principles like transparency, honesty, and employee empowerment. Director Rickey emphasized the importance of tapping into the institutional knowledge and ideas of his frontline staff to drive continuous improvement in the Department.

Melissa Hon, Community Impact and Enhancement (“CI&E”) Department Director, discussed how the CI&E Department utilized a huddle board, one of the efficiency tools presented to staff, to showcase reporting metrics for the various divisions within the Department with the goal of identifying ways to improve processes and reduce things such as Administrative Court cases and phone calls. She also noted the importance of staff engagement.

Kelly Pfeifer, Development Services Department Director, discussed a multi-department team that spent two days mapping the current plan review process in which they learned the process involved up to 17 people and was quite lengthy, causing confusion both internally and for developers. She explained how the team worked to redesign the process, focusing on a pre-development phase to ensure developers did not spend unnecessary design money. Director Pfeifer stated staff planned to engage with external stakeholders in January to get feedback on the new proposed process.

Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment Director, discussed a recent process change to the security and ticket scanning processes implemented at the Arena based on the Lean Solutions principles. He stated that incremental improvements to the entry order resulted in an 80% reduction in entry times for a recent REO Speedwagon concert, with the busiest metal detector processing 730 people in less than 45 minutes, compared to only 480 people in the previous setup. Director Nelson indicated that Arena would also focus on optimizing its food and beverage operations using similar principles.

Josh Hansen, Compensation and Benefits Manager, highlighted two examples of the return on investment the City had already seen from the Lean Solutions program. The Engineering Division was able to eliminate a $100,000 consulting contract by cross-training an internal staff member and Human Resources avoided replacing a part-time position by redistributing the workload. Mr. Hansen emphasized the early efficiency gains and cost savings demonstrated the potential for the Lean Solutions approach to deliver a strong return on the City's investment as it was expanded across more departments.

City Manager Jurgens expressed pride in the staff's work on the Lean Solutions program, acknowledging the challenge of making government efficient. He stated the City's goal was to become a model of efficiency that others look to. He then thanked Council for providing the resources to support this effort. City Manager Jurgens noted the Lean Solutions approach would spread throughout the organization, and staff would continue to provide progress updates.

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

Council Member Montney thanked staff for their commitment to the Lean Solutions program and thanked City Manager Jurgens for his positive leadership.

Mayor Mwilambwe commented on a similar security and ticket scanning process that was utilized in Memphis, TN, and complimented Director Nelson. He noted that with the tax levies that were just approved, the City would be entering into a leaner year and staff were off to a great start in the implementation of the Lean Solutions.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 096

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AUTHORIZATION TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH IVERSON CONSULTING GROUP (ICG) THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 2025

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jeff Jurgens thanked Council for their early action to allow more individuals to access the Salvation Army's warming center during the cold weather. He noted the City continued to work on the homelessness issue. He then provided updates on the leaf collection progress, the beautification efforts on the Market Street entrance, and upcoming Bison Hockey games and Downtown holiday events.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe wished Council and the community a Happy Holiday. He complimented the Downtown staff highlighting their work to improve the environment and increase the number of events.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Danenberger complimented City Manager Jurgens' attempt at the Shoot the Puck challenge at a recent Bison Hockey game.

Executive Session

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to enter into Executive Session per 2(C)(2) of 5ILCS 120 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss collective bargaining and per 2(C)(21) of 5ILCS 120 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the review of closed session minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Montney left the meeting at 7:34 P.M. The rest of Council left the room and entered Executive Session at 7:34 P.M.

Adjournment

Council returned to the room at 8:08 P.M.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON	ATTEST
Mboka Mwilambwe	Amanda Stutsman
Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor	Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850