CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07 Section 6, which was reissued and extended by Executive Order 2020-71, and implemented in response to COVID-19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 7, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tari Renner.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Remote	
Jamie Mathy	Ward 1	Remote	
Donna Boelen	Ward 2	Remote	
Mboka Mwilambwe	Ward 3	Remote	
Julie Emig	Ward 4	Remote	
Joni Painter	Ward 5	Remote	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	Ward 6	Present	
Mollie Ward	Ward 7	Remote	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Remote	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Remote	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

City Manager Tim Gleason addressed Council and shared an update on the COVID-19 vaccine as requested by Camille Rodriguez, McLean County Administrator. He then provided the COVID-19 positivity rate for McLean County and compared it to other counties. He noted 7 non-compliance complaints for liquor license holders that would appear before the Liquor Commission at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Gleason ended by commenting on the Town of Normal's discussion of formally adopting the Governor's Emergency Declaration.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Proclamation recognizing the 25th Anniversary of Prairie Pride Coalition

Mayor Renner read the Proclamation aloud. Dave Bentlin, Prairie Pride Coalition Board President, accepted the Proclamation and thanked Council for the continued recognition.

B. Recognition of Appointments to various Boards and Commissions

Mayor Renner asked Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, to announce the appointments. Mrs. Yocum recognized the appointments of Dawn Peters, Historic Preservation Commission, and Nibandhini Kinikar, Human Relations Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals spoke live: (1) Juliet Lynd; (2) Katherine Hoy; (3) Marty Seigel; and (4) Kyle Auer. Trevin Gaffney had registered to speak but was not present in the meeting. The following individuals emailed public comment: (1) Mickaela Atkins; (2) Juliet Lynd; and (3) Marty Seigel.

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 Mathy, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented with the exception of Items 8.C and 8.F.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

Item 8.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $6,346,143.68, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 8.C. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Boelen.

Item 8.D. Consideration and action on the Request from ARV Cuisine, LLC d/b/a Bloom Bawarchi V2.0, located at 503 N Prospect Rd, STE 103 & 104, for a Class RAPS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, Package and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed License be approved contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action on the Request from Pueblo Grande Mexican Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Pueblo Grande Mexican Restaurant, to be located at 2303 E. Washington St., Unit 3, for a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed License be approved contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.)*

Item 8.F. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Emig.

Item 8.G. Consideration and action to approve a Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer and Supplemental Agreement for Lot 2 in Block 11 of Camp Potawatomie, from Cates Estate, to the petitioners, James and Robin Millner, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Lease Transfer and Supplemental Agreement be approved.)*

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

Item 8.C. Consideration and action on a Resolution to Authorize a Change Order in the Amount of $31,919 for the Contract Between the City of Bloomington and N. Zobrist & Sons, Inc. for the Construction of the De Brazza Monkey Exhibit and Authorizing the City Manager to Approve Additional Change Orders Not to Exceed $18,000, as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

Council Member Boelen asked if the change order was for a total of $50,000. Mr. Gleason responded that the change order was for $31,000 with a not-exceed limit of $50,000. Council Member Boelen asked if the amendment was in addition to what had been previously approved. Mr. Gleason responded affirmatively. Council Member Boelen then expressed concern that the funds being used were only available because of other projects that had been delayed due to COVID-19. She pointed out that Council should be aware that approval of the change order could put other projects at risk.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the proposed Resolution be approved.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

Item 8.F. Consideration and action on the Request from Hatoom, Inc. d/b/a Armanetti Express Wine and Spirits, to be located at 706 N Clinton Ave., for a Class PAS (Package, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Emig stated that she had received numerous concerns from her constituents regarding the application and that while she was aware of a petition in support of the application, she believed the support was split in half. She noted her initial support in the application and the redevelopment of the property. She then discussed concerns brought to her attention in regards to a liquor store at the location, as well as history on management of the property. She noted that she considered sending the item back to the Liquor Commission for further public discussion, but did not believe it would result in a different outcome. She expressed interest in a presentation from Melissa Hon, Economic and Community Development Department Director, on ways to attract developers to this location.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, noted that the applicant, Mr. Awad Samhan, and his attorney, Mr. Richard Marvel, were present in the meeting and available should Council have questions of them.

Mayor Renner explained that the Liquor Commission had received some concerns during the public hearing for the application, but the Commission believed the applicant should not be held responsible for historical incidents of which they were not a part.

Council Member Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, that the proposed License be denied.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

Public Hearing

A. Public hearing for a Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

The following Council Members were present for the Public Hearing: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray.

Mayor Renner opened the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m.

Mr. Gleason explained that the presentation did not require action by Council and that it would include proposed changes to the second round of Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act grant funding programs.

Jennifer Toney, Grants Coordinator, addressed Council. She stated that staff collaborated with Providing Access to Help ("PATH") to determine the proposed amount of $25,000 of additional funds to be earmarked for Emergency Shelter Assistance. Due to COVID-19, local homeless and warming shelters were operating at 50% capacity to provide for adequate social distancing, so additional funds would be needed to house individuals once the shelters were at capacity. She discussed concerns for the current homeless population and the potential effects if the moratorium on evictions was lifted. Mrs. Toney explained that the $25,000 would be provided to PATH in addition to the $10,000 provided for shelter assistance from the standard CDBG operating budget.

Mrs. Toney stated that staff proposed $75,000 be designated for administrative expenses associated with the Emergency Assistance program. She explained that Mid Central Community Action ("MCCA") had almost exhausted their COVID-19 grant funds and would soon forward any applications that they received to the City. She noted a case management agreement between MCCA and the City that would expedite the review process.

Mrs. Toney explained that staff proposed an additional $226,029 be provided for the Emergency Assistance for Residents. She noted that the City had received over 400 applications and referrals for the residential program. Previously, the City was the payer of last resort but that would change once MCCA's funds were depleted. She explained that staff continued to receive several applications and reported that 50 cases had been approved, which committed $150,000 of funding or $5,000 per case. She noted the likelihood of funds leftover due to certain CDBG restrictions.

Mrs. Toney stated that staff proposed an additional $220,000 for the Small Business Assistance program. She noted that the City had previously allocated $150,000 to 35 businesses in round one of applications to businesses who employed 10 or fewer employees. She explained specific employment requirements for grantees, which included that they maintain at least one full time employee. She went on to explain the changes that broadened applicant eligibility which could include bars and restaurants.

Mayor Renner thanked Mrs. Toney and opened the floor for Council discussion.

Council Member Painter echoed appreciation to Mrs. Toney for her work.

Council Member Carrillo asked for clarification on Council involvement. Mr. Gleason responded that the document was required to be sent to Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), but that amendments to the allocations could be made beforehand. Mrs. Toney provided details on the procedure. Council Member Carrillo expressed concern with the lack of funds allocated to Emergency Shelter Assistance, as well as an interest to increase the amount of funds available for Emergency Shelter Assistance, and suggested that administrative costs be absorbed by the City. She then compared amounts allocated to other cities and questioned the reason behind the allocation determinations. Mr. Gleason responded, noting that if CARES Act funds were exhausted, Council could still approve additional funds to be used from the City's cash reserves. Council Member Carrillo reiterated her concerns.

Mayor Renner summarized Council Member Carrillo's concerns.

Mr. Gleason asked Mrs. Toney if the administrative costs covered the agreement with MCCA or just City costs. Mrs. Toney provided additional details and noted the amount covered City costs, staffing, and the agreement with MCCA. She stressed the importance of obtaining additional staff to manage the program efficiently. She then provided additional detail on how the allocation for Emergency Shelter Assistance for the winter was determined.

Council Member Crabill agreed with Council Member Carrillo's comments. He questioned if the City could do more to help local businesses retain employees, including job training. Mrs. Toney responded that job training was an eligible expense and provided additional detail on the grantee's requirement to retain at least one employee.

Council Member Carrillo motioned, seconded by Council Member Emig, to extend the time by 10 minutes.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

Council Member Crabill expressed interest in weekly updates on the COVID-19 grant programs. Mrs. Toney stated that a standard report could be provided weekly.

Council Member Ward asked if funds had previously been provided for Emergency Shelter Assistance. Mrs. Toney responded that funds had not been provided from the COVID-19 CARES Act funding. Council Member Ward expressed interest in the City absorbing administrative costs and asked how the proposed $25,000 was tied to COVID-19 expenses. Mrs. Toney responded that a reduction in the number of beds available in the shelters allowed for the funds to be used to supply additional housing. She then provided examples of what would be COVID-19 related costs versus what would not. Council Member Ward expressed interest in expanding the definition of "residence" in the Emergency Assistance for Residents program. Mrs. Toney cautioned that payments could not be made to individuals and that payments must be made directly to a service provider or vendor.

Council Member Bray supported the funds allocated for administrative costs, stressing that they enabled grant funds to be processed efficiently and professionally.

Council Member Mathy recognized HUD's fund restrictions and asked if staff had begun preparations for when the second installment of HUD funds are depleted. He also asked if City funds would be needed. Mrs. Toney responded that staff had not begun preparing, but could present a proposal once they had a better understanding of the funds coming. Council Member Mathy supported administrative costs, but was indifferent on how to fund them. He noted that many cities had small business grant programs and stressed the importance of continuing said programs.

Mayor Renner opened the floor for public comment, but no individuals had registered to speak live.

Council Member Emig asked for additional details on the administrative costs and echoed support in grantees being required to retain more than one employee.

Mrs. Toney responded to allocations on administrative costs.

Mayor Renner closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 10.A. Presentation of the FY2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as audited, delivered by audit firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP, as requested by the Finance Department.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, provided a brief background on the audit process, and then introduced Jason Coyle, Auditor with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP. Mr. Coyle addressed Council providing an overview of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ("CAFR") for the fiscal year ending April 30, 3030 (FY2020) and highlighted the various reports and documents included within the CAFR. He noted a few inefficiencies with utility billing and reporting and discussed standards implemented.

Mayor Renner thanked Mr. Coyle and staff for their work on the audit.

Council Member Boelen echoed appreciation and asked questions on net pension liability. Mr. Coyle provided additional details on how net pension liability was determined. Council Member Boelen then asked for additional details on the sensitivity analysis of pension funding. Mr. Coyle responded by discussing how market value fluctuation affected pensions.

The following item was presented:

Item 10.B. Consideration and action on 1) an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and Ending April 30, 2021, and 2) an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington - Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2020 and Ending April 30, 2021, to Approve the 2020 Tax Levy of $20,645,384 for the City of Bloomington and $4,967,785 for the Bloomington Public Library, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mr. Rathbun presented the proposed adoption of the 2020 property tax levy for FY 2022. He highlighted the full assessed value and equalized assessed value ("EAV") for the past five years and explained how the 2020 proposed tax levy was allocated among all local taxing districts.

Council Member Boelen clarified that only 12% of City revenue was from property tax. She confirmed with Mr. Rathbun how the property tax revenue was allocated between various expenses.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the proposed Ordinances be approved.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 10.C. 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 $4,966,569), as requested by the Finance Department.

No additional discussion was had.

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

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 10.D. Consideration and potential action regarding Ordinance 2020-18, An Ordinance Declaring a Local Emergency Due to the COVID-19 Virus & Enacting Various Emergency Measures, as requested by the Legal Department.

No recommendations were presented for consideration.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Gleason highlighted Bloomington's Season of Small, which supported local small businesses, and the upcoming indoor Downtown Farmers' Market. He also recognized the Fire Department's recent completion of an annual FAA Audit at the airport, where they received a perfect score. He reported that Interim Fire Chief Eric West, credited Assistant Chief Carl Reeb with the training and audit certifications. Mr. Gleason commented that the City Clerk Department had begun to use SeamlessDocs, a program which allowed citizens and business to do City business online. He reported that SeamlessDocs had recently recognized Bloomington as a Top 5 Leader in the industry and that City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, had been invited by SeamlessDocs to speak at their upcoming Yearend Summit. He recognized Mrs. Yocum and her team for their work with the program.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner echoed congratulations to Mrs. Yocum and thanked Council Member Mwilambwe for his recent attendance at the virtual tree lighting ceremony. He also thanked the Fire Department for their volunteered time to support the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Crabill mentioned his recent Council Initiative for a moratorium of utility shut offs and noted that after Council had agreed to move forward, Ameren announced that shut offs would be postponed until after March 31, 2021. He respectfully withdrew his Council Initiative as it was no longer needed. He then provided an update on residents who had been shut off before Ameren's announcement and discussed the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Mayor Renner expressed the importance of giving back to the community and shared his experiences with The Salvation Army.

Council Member Mathy thanked members of the community who had donated to non-profits on Giving Tuesday. He reminded the community that the next Council meeting would be held on December 14, 2020.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Tari Renner
Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Mohan
Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850