CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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, November 23, 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	Remote	
Mollie Ward	Ward 7	Remote	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Remote	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Remote	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

Tim Gleason, City Manager, addressed Council. He explained that the second round of COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds had been received and discussed the upcoming plans for the required public hearing and formal Council consideration. He moved on to discuss updates to both the business and individual COVID-19 grant assistance programs. Mr. Gleason then informed Council that the Bloomington Police Department continued to perform COVID-19 compliance checks, and he provided an update on recent calls. Mr. Gleason informed Council that a local Emergency Order had been issued to extend outdoor dining with 11:00 p.m. close time through the end of the year.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Proclamation recognizing November 28, 2020 as Small Business Saturday

Mayor Renner read the proclamation aloud. Melissa Hon, Economic & Community Development Director, accepted the proclamation.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals spoke live: (1) Allan Axelrod; (2) Tessa Somers; (3) Katherine Hoy; (4) Trevin Gaffney; and

(5) Ashley Farmer. The following individuals had registered to speak live, but were not present in the meeting: (1) Krystle Able; (2) Chynna Miller; and (3) Jon Reed. The following individuals emailed public comment prior to the meeting start: (1) Sarah Greenberg; (2) Seth McIntyre; (3) Creighton Budris; and (4) Chynna Miller.

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 Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented with the exception of Item 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 Bills and Payroll in the amount of $10,281,250.27, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve Appointments to various Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointments be approved.)*

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to approve a Purchase Order with Dell, Inc. for the 2020 Microsoft Enterprise Software Annual Renewal, for software maintenance and support covering the City's Microsoft licensing, in the amount of $203,413.96 from the State of Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology Joint Purchasing Contract CMT #1176800, as requested by the Information Technology Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase Order be approved.)*

Item 8.D. Consideration and action to approve a Contract with Morton Salt, Inc., for the purchase of rock salt at a unit price of $61.97 per ton, not to exceed $371,820, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract be approved.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving an Application Submitted by Aldi, Inc. Requesting Approval of a Legislative Site Plan Review for a Grocery Store at Property Commonly Located at Village Lane and South Mercer Avenue in Bloomington IL 61704, Zoned B-1 General Commercial District, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.F. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Carrillo.

Item 8.G. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Concurring with a Technical Correction to the Bloomington Normal Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendment – The Ferrero Expansion, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item Removed from the Consent Agenda

Item 8.F. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Authorizing a Text Amendment to the Bloomington Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 44 of the City Code, to Establish the R-D Downtown Neighborhood Residence District, and Further Authorizing Map Amendments to the Official Zoning Map for Properties in the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

Council Member Carrillo believed additional time for consideration would be beneficial.

Council Member Carrillo motioned, seconded by Council Member Ward, to table the item until the December 14, 2020 meeting.

Council Member Mathy recused himself as he resided in a property within the amendment.

Council Member Emig stated that the feedback received from her constituents was in favor of the changes, but that they had expressed concern about the classification of special use verses permitted use. She agreed additional time would be beneficial.

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.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 9.A. Consideration and action on a Resolution Awarding the Request for Proposal (RFP# 2021-17) for the FY2020 Tax Exempt Capital Equipment Lease to Clayton Holdings, LLC - Equity Subsidiary of Commerce Bank for $4,282,628, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mr. Gleason addressed Council and explained that the capital equipment lease was part of standard business operations; however, staff continued to transition the City away from leasing. He explained that past Councils and staff believed that the transition would place the City in a better financial position.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and reiterated that the recurring item had appeared before Council annually since 2011. He reminded Council that the City utilizes the capital lease to fund rolling equipment stock. He explained how the City had begun to wean itself off financing in 2020 through the strategic allocation of $500,000 towards cash purchasing of equipment. He discussed how COVID-19 impacted cash purchases and then provided an update on the reduced financing interest rates. Mr. Rathbun explained that the capital lease was financed retroactively and provided details on how it affected the budget.

Council Member Mathy thanked Mr. Rathbun and noted that he was in favor of stopping the use of capital leases. He asked for additional details on the 5-year and 10-year rates. Mr. Rathbun responded that purchases were made based on useful life and that out of the various purchases, only the police radios had been placed on the 10-year rate. Council Member Mathy thanked Mr. Rathbun and Mr. Gleason for their continued work to move away from capital leases.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, 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.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.B. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing Waiving the Technical Bidding Requirements and Approving an Agreement with Invoice Cloud, Inc., for Use of its Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment Solution, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mr. Gleason introduced the item and asked Mr. Rathbun to address Council. Mr. Rathbun explained that Invoice Cloud was an electronic payment and interface platform that the Finance, Information Technologies, and Public Works Departments believed would be a solution to online bill pay across City services to address inefficiencies and simplify workflow. Mr. Rathbun presented on how Invoice Cloud could be used specifically for utility billing, noting the many efficiencies and cost savings the program would bring. Mr. Rathbun explained Invoice Cloud's extensive customer portal, web, and mobile capabilities, which included various payment options and notification configurations.

Craig McBeath, Information Technology Director, commented that while the current focus for Invoice Cloud was for utility billing, staff were also excited to research how other platforms could be integrated. He spoke of the possibility of all invoices for a specific address being able to be viewed at one time for an account.

Mr. Rathbun reiterated the goals and objectives of the program and noted other benefits that staff believed would be helpful to citizens. He went on to discuss the total hard costs of the current utility billing system against the estimated implementation costs of Invoice Cloud, and the potential savings.

Mr. McBeath provided background on the current program that was used to accept payments and discussed many benefits of Invoice Cloud, which included a simplified process for the annual Payment Card Industry ("PCI") Certification.

Mr. Rathbun provided specific examples of how ACH payments were processed and how Invoice Cloud could make it simpler. He explained that the implementation for utility billing would go live in March of 2021 with the City Services Hub and other applications going live with the program much sooner.

Council Member Mathy noted that ACH payments had lower fees than card payments. Mr. Rathbun confirmed. Council Member Mathy asked if Invoice Cloud integrated with the MyBloomington app, an issue reporting/tracking application used Citywide. Mr. McBeath responded that the MyBloomington App had begun to become outdated and that staff planned to upgrade it before integrating the two programs. Council Member Mathy noted that another reason for late payments was expired credit/debit cards, and pointed out that a feature of Invoice Cloud notified account holders of approaching expirations to combat late payments. He asked for additional details on how the contract with LockBox would be affected by an Invoice Could contract. Mr. Rathbun responded.

Council Member Boelen expressed her support of the program and noted that it was eco-friendly, cost-effective, and cost-efficient.

Council Member Ward expressed her support and asked if residents could continue to pay in-person or by mail if they did not have access for electronic payment. Mr. Rathbun responded affirmatively.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, 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.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.C. 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 modifications were recommended.

Finance Director's Report

Mr. Rathbun informed Council that staff had received the $3.2 million dollar check from the State of Illinois for the local CARES Act Grant that was submitted the month prior. He then presented the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2021 Major Tax Revenues through October 31, 2020 by highlighting various tax line items and how COVID-19 had affected each. He discussed FY 2021 General Fund Revenue and Expenditures and highlighted multiple key factors, which included a surplus of budget adjustments due to delayed capital projects. He wrapped up by discussing FY 2021 Enterprise Revenue Funds noting that the revenue trends were at 50% or above and stated that the City was weathering COVID-19 cautiously, but optimistically due to the City's cash reserves and recently received CARES Act funding.

Council Member Mathy thanked staff for applying for the $3.2 million in CARES Act grant. He celebrated the approval and receipt of the funds. He then clarified that the surplus noted during the presentation of the FY 2021 General Fund Revenue and Expenditures was due to capital projects postponed because of COVID-19. Mr. Rathbun confirmed.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked how the City faired in reference to reserve funds. Mr. Rathbun responded that the City finished the 2020 fiscal year with $24.9 million in reserves.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Gleason reminded the community of the Season of Small event being held to support small businesses. He then highlighted that the National League of Cities had recognized the City of Bloomington as 1 of 12 communities nationwide who focused on strengthening partnerships between cities and health care systems to collaboratively address social and economic root causes of poor health and poverty. Mr. Gleason moved on to remind the Community of the meeting dates for December 2020 and highlighted that Ferrero had selected Bloomington as the location for their chocolate production line. He celebrated the investment of a $75 million development and then recognized Patrick Hoban, Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council Director, and the Department of Economic & Community Development for their work. He then informed Council that

Governor Pritzker announced that $22 million was available in Department of Natural Resources grant funds. He stated that the City had applied for a grant in the amount of $750,000 for a South American Exhibit at the Miller Park Zoo which had a total project cost of $1 million. Mr. Gleason announced that the City was approved for the full requested amount ($750,000) and recognized the Parks and Recreation Department and Julie Curie, City of Bloomington Lobbyist, for their work. He explained the $250,000 remainder that was required for the project was previously pledged by the Miller Park Zoo Society and, therefore, the project would be completed without the use of City funds.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner congratulated staff on the economic development advancement with Ferrero USA and the Department of Natural Resources grant for Miller Park. He commented on the well-publicized Special Liquor Commission meeting held the previous Friday. He clarified that the Liquor Commission could only act when an establishment had a liquor license where the McLean County Health Department could act regardless of liquor license. Mayor Renner stated that the City will act when public health and safety were at risk.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Mathy reminded the community that the Public Works Department continued to offer leaf pick-up and suggested that residents refer to the interactive map on the City's website. He also suggested that the community support local restaurants by purchasing gift cards and participating in curbside pick-up. He noted a Facebook group called Curbside BloNo where residents could get more information.

Council Member Boelen encouraged the community to continue to practice personal and collective responsibility of COVID-19 and provided recent COVID-19 statistics. She ended her comments by reminding Council of her preference to be called Alderman Boelen while at the dais and appreciated the respect of the elected office.

Council Member Mwilambwe echoed congratulations to staff on the attraction of the Ferrero chocolate manufacturing plant.

Council Member Emig encouraged the community to follow CDC guidelines.

Council Member Carrillo reminded the community to take precautions and be vigilant in the fight against increased infection. She noted the deadline to file to run for office had ended and concluded by thanking Mayor Renner and Council Members Painter and Bray for their service as they chose not to run for office again.

Council Member Ward noted that since the initial moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting, 79.7 people in the United States had died from COVID-19. She asked that Council pause for a moment of silence for those individuals.

Council Member Bray echoed comments about safety and thanked staff for their work during the difficult time. She congratulated the applicants who filed for public office.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON	**ATTEST**
Tari Renner, Mayor	Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk