



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2019.

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

Present: Council Members Jamie Mathy, Donna Boelen, Mboka Mwilambwe, Julie Emig, Jenn Carrillo, Scott Black, Jeff Crabill, and Mayor Tari Renner

Absent: Council Members Joni Painter and Kim Bray

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager; George Boyle, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. The following people came forward.

Scott Stimeling	Chris Collins
Surena Fish	

Recognition/Appointments

Item 4A. Recognition of the residents who have completed Bloomington 101, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Renner provided background on Bloomington 101 and discussed the continued benefits provided to the community. He recognized the following residents who have completed Bloomington 101: Karen Boyd, Steve Brinkoetter, Valerie Demry, Mary Dodge, Kristin Duffield, Karen Furrh, Steve Gossard, Kathy Gossard, Abby Gros, Dale Koehl, Lyn Landon, Cecelia Long, Rachael Lund, Julie McNamee, Julie Morgan, Kristie Newmister, Hollis Peden, Kevin Petri, Lauren Pruter, Elicssha Sanders, Christine Stewart, Michael Straza, Kimberly Theisen, and Shayna Watchinski.

Consent Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.1. Consideration and action to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the minutes from August 19, 2019 be approved.

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Carrillo, Black, and Crabill.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.2. Consideration and action to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, that the minutes from September 16, 2019 be approved.

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Carrillo, Black, and Crabill.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Presentation, Discussion and Direction of Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 6A. Presentation regarding the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Plan, prepared by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission, as requested by the Community Development Department and Administration Department.

City Manager, Tim Gleason, asked Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, to come forward to address Council.

Mr. Tyus provided an overview of the process the Neighborhood Association had taken in implementing the plan. He explained the program was designed as a pilot program for other neighborhoods. He noted that the program promoted collaboration between the City, State, Neighborhood Associations, and other community partners. He then walked through the goals of the program and discussed the plan for future Council approval. He asked Brad Williams, President of the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association, and Carlo Robustelli, member of the Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association, to come forward and address the Council.

Mr. Robustelli thanked the Council and explained the history of the plan and neighborhood. He discussed neighborhood involvement and the importance of promoting the historic value of the neighborhood.

Mr. Williams began by thanking Jim Karch, Public Works Directors, for the sidewalk renovation project recently completed. He explained in more depth how the Neighborhood Association promoted the historic value of homes throughout the neighborhood.

Council Member Emig thanked the presenters and asked what the minimum requirements were to participate in this type of neighborhood program and what challenges they experienced. Mr. Robustelli responded, recommending first that neighborhoods begin by establishing a neighborhood association. He went on to discuss the benefits of neighborhood associations.

Council Member Carrillo thanked the presenters and all the staff involved. She asked the presenters what they wished they would have known at the beginning and what were some key items they learned. Mr. Williams was proud of what they had accomplished and offered no changes. Mr. Robustelli said the fact that it was a pilot program was difficult, but that future neighborhoods won't have that struggle because they'll have a plan to work off. Mr. Williams added that being prepared and knowing that participation is done on a volunteer basis is important. Mr. Robustelli expressed how happy he was that the program was designed to empower the neighbors and residents to take action and take on the plan themselves.

Council Member Boelen thanked the speakers and mentioned that she believes the most sustainable strengths of communities start from the bottom up. She noted that with all neighborhoods being different, the outcomes may not always be the same, but that it would further encourage diversity in the community.

Council Member Mathy thanked the presenters and stated that he truly believes that there is no better resource than the people who live in the neighborhoods. He discussed delays of the project and was very supportive of other neighborhoods completing similar plans.

Council Member Crabill thanked the presenters. He commended the process and the amount of detail applied to the reports within the Neighborhood Plan.

Council Member Black thanked the presenters. He believed that the City should take a more active role in Neighborhood Plans, that the City should promote involvement, and staff should be encouraged to assist as best as possible in order to build a stronger community.

Council Member Boelen believed that the plans should come from the community members and not staff. However, she supported funding and that City staff be available to assist with projects.

Council Member Black agreed and stated the City should be available and supportive of Neighborhood Plans.

Council Member Carrillo pointed out that low income residents and the west side should receive more assistance as they could have additional challenges compared to other neighborhoods.

The following item was presented:

Item 6B. Presentation and discussion regarding the Connect Transit "Connect to the Future" Working Group, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Renner pulled this item due to an illness by the presenter and stated that it would appear on a future Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda.

The following item was presented:

Item 6C. Presentation and discussion regarding the 2019 Asphalt and Concrete Roadwork, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and stated that every November, Council will receive a report regarding the road work completed, how funds were used, and recognition of staff and collaboration with other agencies. He asked Jim Karch, Public Works Director, to come forward to address the Council.

Mr. Karch began by recognizing the City's work crews involved. He specifically recognized Colleen Winterland, Superintendent of Streets; Jason Kennedy, who had been awarded Maintenance Worker of the Year last year; Tony Meizelis, Civil Engineer; Steve Arney, Engineering Technician; and Kevin Kothe, City Engineer. He went on to discuss all the work his crews completed, highlighted numerous projects, and talked about the cost savings generated by the reclamite process. He was proud to say the City completed three miles of sidewalks, 150 ramps and striped and resurfaced 18 streets (19,550 feet or 3.37 miles) throughout the year. He went on to promote the City's street website (www.bloomingtonstreets.com) and discussed the increase in transparency that the website offers into streets projects.

Council Member Mwilambwe thanked Mr. Karch and staff for all the work completed by his staff and reminded citizens to be patient with street repairs.

Council Member Mathy also thanked Mr. Karch and staff and noted his appreciation of the explanation of the reclamite process. He relayed complaints from his constituents and requested that additional notifications be made to residents impacted by improvement projects.

Council Member Crabill also thanked Mr. Karch and staff. He asked questions about traffic and whether all the work planned was accomplished. Mr. Karch responded accordingly and stated that not all planned work had been completed, but more projects were to be wrapped up in the spring. Council Member Crabill inquired about communication and collaboration with the State regarding Veterans Parkway. He was concerned about combatting deaths on Veterans. Mr. Karch confirmed that Veterans was a State road, but that a crosswalk would be added intersection of Veterans Parkway and Empire Street (Route 9).

Council Member Boelen pointed out that streets and sidewalks are always in the forefront of everyone's minds. She thanked staff for their hard work and was pleased with the roadwork completed. She reminded the public that repairs take time, but knew it would get done.

Council Member Carrillo also thanked Mr. Karch and staff. She inquired about the street's masterplan and noted that she would like to revisit the plan in early 2020. Mr. Karch stated that the masterplan was a draft that highlighted potential capital projects and mentioned that staff had already taken action on some of the suggested projects.

Council Member Emig thanked and complimented Mr. Karch and staff for their responsiveness when she had reached out in the past. She asked for more information on how citizens and Council can be more involved in decisions on street projects. Mr. Karch explained that the software currently being used by his department is cutting-edge infrastructure software that highlights areas that should be repaired over a five-year period. He explained that once those areas are determined, staff can then bring them before Council and citizens for discussion.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason recognized new staff members within the Public Works Department, as well as four Bloomington first responders who had been among the ten recognized in a recent Pantagraph article for National First-Responder's Day. Mr. Gleason walked through future Council items for November 25, 2019 and noted the Joint Meeting with

the Town of Normal on December 2, 2019 to discuss the sports complex. He also pointed out that cannabis would be discussed again in December.

Council Member Black asked Mr. Gleason which municipality's meeting rules would be followed for the Joint Meeting on December 2, 2019. Mr. Gleason replied that the meeting would follow the Town of Normal's meeting rules as it would be a work session prior to their Council meeting.

Council Member Carrillo asked about meeting dates in December for when cannabis would be discussed and what information was required from Council. Mr. Gleason responded he was waiting on additional information and feedback from Council before an item regarding cannabis could be placed on Council's agenda.

Council Member Carrillo believed there had been plenty of opportunity for community engagement and would like to see an item placed on a Council agenda as soon as possible.

Council Member Crabill stated the public still had time to contribute to the cannabis discussion during the public comment portion of the upcoming meetings.

Mayor Renner reminded Council and the public that no matter Council's decision on cannabis, it would still be legal on January 1, 2020.

Council Member Mwilambwe requested the cannabis agenda item be postponed until December and asked for a copy of the Planning Commission's meeting minutes.

Council Member Mathy requested the options for cannabis be broken out on the agenda in order for the Council to vote clearly on each option. He also requested discussion on the trailer bill on the November 25, 2019 Agenda.

Mayor Renner asked for Council Members to submit comments on cannabis to the City Manager as soon as possible.

Executive Session - Site Session

Adjournment

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Black, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST


Tari Renner, Mayor


Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

