CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2021

COMPONENTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

On the third Thursday of each month at 6pm, the City Council meets as a Committee of the Whole. The purpose of this meeting is to present and consider agenda items that may be proposed for Regular City Council meetings, but that require further discussion before going in front of Council for an actual vote. The Committee of the Whole meeting is also a forum that allows the Mayor and Council Members to individually initiate proposed agenda items for discussion.

Council does not vote on any of this meeting's agenda items, outside of voting to approve the minutes of the previous Committee of the Whole meeting. Committee of the Whole agenda items discussed can be moved to a future regular City Council meeting agenda, if a consensus exists.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Each regular Committee of the Whole Meeting shall have a public comment period not to exceed 30 minutes. Every speaker is entitled to speak for up to 3 minutes. To be considered for public comment, please complete a public comment card at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The Mayor will randomly draw from the cards submitted and call names of submitters to come forward to speak.

Public comment is a time for citizens to give comment. It is not a question and answer period and City Council Members do not respond to public comments. Speakers who engage in threatening or disorderly behavior will have their time ceased.

REGULAR AGENDA

All agenda items that provide Council an opportunity to listen to a presentation, ask questions of City Staff, deliberate, and seek additional information prior to making a decision will be placed on the Committee of the Whole Regular Agenda. No final action, beyond action on setting future agenda items and/or Agenda Initiatives, may be taken at a meeting of a Committee of the Whole unless it has been called as a Special Meeting.

A portion of the meeting is dedicated to previewing non-routine items. A non-routine agenda item shall include: (1) the expenditure of money over $250,000; (2) development agreements; (3) amending the City Code and/or (4) the implementation or modification of policies. The failure to preview a non-routine agenda item at a Committee of the Whole meeting shall not prohibit its consideration and/or action at a future meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Mboka Mwilambwe

City Council Members:

Ward 1 – Jamie Mathy
Ward 2 – Donna Boelen
Ward 3 – Sheila Montney
Ward 4 - Julie Emig
Ward 5 – Nick Becker
Ward 6 – De Urban
Ward 7 - Mollie Ward
Ward 8 – Jeff Crabill
Ward 9 – Tom Crumpler

City Manager: Tim Gleason
Deputy City Manager: Billy Tyus

CITY LOGO DESIGN RATIONALE

The CHEVRON Represents:
Service
Rank and Authority
Growth and Diversity
A Friendly and Safe Community
A Positive, Upward Movement and Commitment to Excellence!

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUE STATEMENT

MISSION
To lead, serve and uplift the City of Bloomington

VISION
A Jewel of the Midwest Cities

VALUES
Service-Centered,
Results-Driven,
Inclusive

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services
- Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities Grow the Local Economy
- Strong Neighborhoods
- Great Place – Livable, Sustainable City
- Prosperous Downtown Bloomington

AGENDA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA
GOVERNMENT CENTER CHAMBERS, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM #400
115 E. WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call of Attendance**
3. **Public Comment**

   Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person or remotely may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting for in-person public comment and at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting for remote public comment.

4. **Consent Agenda**

   A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

5. **Regular Agenda**

   A. Presentation and discussion of Western Avenue Community Center's history and programming, as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: None; presentation only.) (Presentation by Mary Tacket, Executive Director; Mike Jones, Board of Directors, Western Avenue, 15 minutes; and City Council discussion, 15 minutes.)*

   B. Presentation and Discussion on American Rescue Plan Funding, as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: Presentation only.) (Presentation by Tim Gleason and Billy Tyus, 10 minutes; and City Council discussion, 20 minutes.)*

6. **City Manager's Report (5 minutes)**
7. **Executive Session**
8. **Adjournment**

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.A

FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: November 15, 2021

SPONSOR: City Clerk Department

WARD IMPACTED: City-Wide Impact

SUBJECT: Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
The proposed Minutes be approved.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:
-Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:
-Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner

BACKGROUND: The minutes of the meetings provided have been reviewed and certified as correct and complete by the City Clerk. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Council Proceedings must be approved thirty (30) days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting whichever is later. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council Proceedings are available for public inspection and posted to the City's web site within ten (10) days after Council approval.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT: N/A

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Clerk

Reviewed by:

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Clerk 11/12/2021 Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Clerk 11/12/2021

Attachments:
- CLK 1 DRAFT 09-20-2021 COW Minutes

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in-person in the Government Center Chambers at 6:02 p.m., Monday, September 20, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Present	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Present	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present	
Vacant	Council Member, Ward 6	Excused	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Present	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present	

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement on public comment procedure and then Gary Lambert provided in-person public comment.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Recognition of Firefighters Derek Stevens, Christian Stengel, and John Shobe, who have completed one-year probation

Mayor Mwilambwe informed Council that the item had been

postponed due to illness and would appear on an upcoming agenda for recognition.

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 pulled Item 5.A. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, stated that the minutes had been updated to reflect a scrivener's error.

Item 5.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Presentation and discussion of the proposed Library Expansion, as requested by the Bloomington Public Library.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the item and recognized the many years of work that had gone into the project.

Julian Westerhout, Bloomington Library Board of Trustee President, explained the history of the project and how they had incorporated input from the community and Council.

Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library Executive Director, discussed the full remodel of the current building and an expansion that would be added to the west side of the building.

Mr. Westerhout and Mrs. Hamilton continue with the presentation noting the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility entrances, drive-up book pick-up and drop-off features, and collaborative workspaces with flexible uses. Mrs. Hamilton explained that the administrative offices would be built out on the third level to increase public spaces on the first and second floors. She then discussed project timelines with a projected completion date of August 2023 and presented a breakdown of funding sources with and without a parking structure at the cost of $2 million. They pointed out the total tax rate for the library would remain lower than libraries in similar sized cities. The presentation ended with Mrs. Hamilton providing information on comparable peer libraries.

Council Member Emig supported the project and stressed the importance of increased technology literacy programs. She encouraged local partnership relationships and proposed Eastland mall be converted as additional library space. Mrs. Hamilton explained that libraries had special structural requirements due to the weight of books and discussed how it was more cost effective to renovate and expand the current location.

Council Member Mathy supported the proposed cost-effective plan and commented on an article he'd read about libraries being the last free place the public could go to learn something new without the expectation of making a purchase.

Council Member Crumpler supported the project and commented on how public libraries could be catalysts for change.

Council Member Ward and Mrs. Hamilton discussed increased technology programs.

Council Member Boelen appreciated the scaled back final proposal and asked for additional details on the capital campaign. Mrs. Hamilton explained the library had saved $4 million and had a goal to fundraise $1.57 million in community donations. They then discussed restarting the Friends of the Library 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Council Member Montney and Mrs. Hamilton discussed the number of active library card holders. Mr. Westerhout noted cards were inactivated after three years of no activity.

Council Member Montney and Mrs. Hamilton discussed breakdowns of the various types of materials available at the library including physical and electronic media. Council Member Montney asked about tax rate comparisons across Illinois and in neighboring states. Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Westerhout explained Bloomington's tax rate would be competitive in Illinois and discussed some of the difficulty in making fair comparisons across states.

Council Member Becker asked if the library worked with universities and other local libraries on services and whether funding contributions could be obtained from those partners. Mrs. Hamilton explained that they worked closely with the Normal Public Library, and explained that libraries being widely underfunded made it difficult to share funding.

Council Member Crabill and Mrs. Hamilton discussed how public libraries continued to evolve into community centers and the increased usage through expanded offerings.

Council Member Montney expressed support of a library but was concerned with the expense to the residents. She believed libraries who implemented maker's spaces, similar to the current proposal, strayed from the original intention of a library which was a tool towards literacy and education. Mr. Westerhout disagreed and explained that learning digital literacy was related to the original intention of a library.

Council Member Emig added that the definition of literacy today included technology.

City Manager Gleason stated that while the presentation included a potential tax increase, he believed the amount per household would decrease as the City grew and property values increased. He noted library staff and the Library Board remained eager to gain input from Council and City staff.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked the presenters and echoed appreciation for the scaled back proposal.

Council Initiatives

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B.1. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative proposed by Council Member Ward to provide direct aid to residents in relation to recent storm events, as requested by the City Council.

City Manager Gleason provided background on the Initiative and discussed multiple opportunities to provide supplemental support including Illinois Housing Development Authority ("IHDA") grant fund recipients and a potential repayment plan. He then discussed potential to provide direct aid to storm victims. He pointed out that staff sought clear direction on next steps from Council, if any.

Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, provided background on his research into the Illinois Municipal Code and Illinois Public Aid Code as it related to direct aid for disaster relief. He explained that the best option for direct aid for disaster relief originated from the Illinois Public Aid Code but, that the storm situation did not meet the requirements. He reminded Council that a direct aid program must meet a public purpose and ensure that any private benefit was only incidental.

Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus noted multiple available programs including the Small Business Association Disaster Loans, which had a deadline approaching.

. He explained that IHDA Single Family Rehabilitation Fund grants could assist in the rehabilitation of affordable housing as it related to health and safety hazards and that applicants could receive up to $45,000 for rehabilitation work or $16,500 for roofing projects. He explained that while applicants were required to meet Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") guidelines, if the owners remained in their house for 5 years after project completion, their mortgage would be forgiven. He believed more residents met the income requirements than was commonly assumed.

Council Member Ward reminded Council of the City's Strategic Plan Goal #4: Strong Neighborhoods and #5: A great place to live that was a sustainable city. She then listed the multiple objectives of each and urged Council to prioritize residents' safety.

Council Member Boelen reiterated her position on the purview of municipal government and believed the proposed Initiative did not meet the requirements of public purpose. She discussed multiple reasons to support her belief and issue.

Council Member Emig and Boelen discussed a Council meeting held on March 26, 2020. Council Member Emig supported the acceleration of sewer infrastructure projects and expressed that, in the meantime, the City could consider a qualified form of direct aid that is consistent past practice and Illinois Municipal Code. She recommended staff look into a program akin to the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Housing Rehabilitation Loan that could be awarded to residents based on HUD's income restrictions as a viable means of support. Deputy City Manager Tyus responded that the IHDA program discussed earlier could be that aid.

Council Member Crabill agreed with Council Member Emig's comments. He noted his opinion on public purpose and believed the City had wide discretion. He supported seeking additional aid through a disaster contingency award or the culmination of multiple funding sources. He believed the Council had a moral obligation to provide a program to aid those affected by the storm damage.

Council Member Crumpler believed the City could use existing sources to provide support to those affected by the storms. He wanted the City to value the properties affected similar to how they valued historical homes. He expressed support in the Initiative.

Council Member Mathy agreed with Council Member Crumpler's comments. He stressed the importance of keeping current housing stock viable. He believed that maintaining structurally sound affordable housing qualified as public purpose.

Council Member Ward and Deputy City Manager Tyus discussed IHDA and the amounts that could be awarded. They then discussed the process of reopening the program to accept additional applicants once IHDA made determinations on current applicants. Council Member Ward talked about the benefits of reducing awards to allow for many small grants verses few large grants.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend Council discussion time by 20 minutes.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Ward stated that more than restoring homes need to be addressed including loss of business tools or a student's computer.

Council Member Crabill reported that the IHDA program only allowed applicants to apply for either housing rehabilitation or roof replacement, not both.

Council Member Boelen stated that personal items lost should be covered by one's homeowner or property insurance.

Council Member Mathy noted that many of the residents he had spoken with were renters without insurance. He pointed out that most often you had to have opted into flood and/or sewer damage insurance as well and that coverage often came with limitations only up to $10,000.

Council Member Boelen recommended residents review their insurance policies.

Council Member Crumpler and Deputy City Manager Tyus discussed how the City could increase promoting the IHDA program and Township assistance.

Council Member Ward stated that she wanted staff to provide options on the City providing direct aid.

City Manager Gleason asked for clarity from Council on staff devoting additional time and resources on the Initiative.

Council Member Mathy supported additional resources beyond the IHDA grant.

Mayor Mwilambwe confirmed with Council Member Ward that her intent was to supplement IHDA funds. Mayor Mwilambwe, Deputy City Manager Tyus, and Council Member Ward discussed "supplemented funds" as it related to requirements of aid after IHDA funds were depleted.

Council Member Emig supported supplying City funds after IHDA funds ran out.

Mayor Mwilambwe and City Manager Gleason stated that staff would draft an item according to direction received for the next Council meeting.

Council Member Boelen reiterated she did not support the Initiative.

City Manager Gleason suggested staff prepare for an additional conversation, but noted interest in the existing IHDA program was uncertain.

Council Member Montney did not support continued staff time in the Initiative, but believed staff should explore existing programs.

Council Member Becker supported using current programs before considering additional funding.

Council Member Crabill supported providing additional City funds.

Council Member Crumpler agreed with Council Member Becker, but was interested in further discussions.

Council Member Boelen asked for clarification on staff's direction. City Manager Gleason stated he understood interest in utilizing the current Sewer Overhead Program, Township assistance programs, IHDA grants, and CDBG grants, with potential for additional funding by the City should those programs be exhausted.

Council Member Ward stated that she expected the item to appear on the next Council agenda.

Council Members Boelen and Montney expressed concerns with the use of City funds.

Council Member Becker suggested the Initiative be brought back in multiple parts for ease of voting.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Tim Gleason welcomed a number of new City employees. He highlighted multiple upcoming Downtown events and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts programs. He expressed appreciation for the recent three dedication in honor of two former Mayors.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.A

FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: November 15, 2021

SPONSOR: Administration Department

WARD IMPACTED: City-Wide Impact

SUBJECT: Presentation and discussion of Western Avenue Community Center's history and programming, as requested by the Administration Department.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
None; presentation only.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:
-Goal 4. Strong Neighborhoods

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:
-Objective 4e. Strong partnership with residents and neighborhood associations

BACKGROUND: Western Avenue Community Center's history as well as its current and future programming will be presented to Council.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT: N/A

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Amy Overton, Executive Assistant

Reviewed by:

Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager 11/12/2021

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Clerk 11/12/2021

CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.B

FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: November 15, 2021

SPONSOR: Administration Department

WARD IMPACTED: City-Wide Impact

SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion on American Rescue Plan Funding, as requested by the Administration Department.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
Presentation only.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:
-Goal 6. Prosperous Downtown Bloomington
-Goal 5. Great Place – Livable, Sustainable City
-Goal 4. Strong Neighborhoods
-Goal 3. Grow the Local Economy
-Goal 2. Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities
-Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:
-Objective 2e. Investing in the City's future through a realistic, funded capital improvement program
-Objective 2c. Functional, well maintained sewer collection system
-Objective 2a. Better quality roads and sidewalks
-Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner
-Objective 1a. Budget with adequate resources to support defined services and level of services

BACKGROUND: The American Rescue Plan was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The plan included $350 billion in funding for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments with Bloomington awarded $13.3 million to fund certain eligible expenses. This presentation will discuss possible next steps in determining how to best use the funds.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT: N/A

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager

Reviewed by:

Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager 11/12/2021

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Clerk 11/12/2021