



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in-person in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 15, 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	
De Urban	Council Member, Ward 6	Present	
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 of procedure for public comment. Karen Kinsella and Mary Carlisle provided in-person comment. Dave Kobus emailed public comment.

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 Becker, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 4.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.)

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and discussion of Western Avenue Community Center's history and programming, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the Item and the presenters from Western Avenue Community Center ("Center").

Mike Jones, Board President for the Center, provided a brief history of the Center celebrating their recent 95th anniversary. He stated that the Center supported more than 1,800 families in the community.

Mary Tackett, Center Director, explained that the Center was built upon four pillars (Health, Education, Wellbeing, and Recreation) to support the community. She described a multitude of programs within each pillar and the benefits of each. She explained how the programs filled the needs of the community, including offerings such as a free computer lab, affordable events, and English as a second language programs. She discussed partnerships with multiple local organizations to provide fresh food and non-perishables and went on to discuss the Center's future goals and vision. Mrs. Tackett stated that the Center aimed to not only grow, but expand its programming throughout McLean County. The Center wished to remove barriers and create strong partnerships with other professional, community-based, and non-profit organizations in order to do so. Their group of leaders also planned to connect with McLean County United Way on their Workforce 180 Initiative and expand their donor base to include endowments, grants, corporate sponsors, as well as continuous monthly and annual giving. She described their passion as a continuum of service aiming to cover the entire lifespan of their clients (those served).

Council Member Crumpler expressed appreciation for their bilingual programs.

Council Member Mathy further expressed appreciation and commented on past events hosted by the Center.

Council Member Ward echoed appreciation and expressed interest in providing mentorships for the Sisters by Chance program.

Council Member Emig commented on their partnership on events with the McLean County History Museum. She commended their work with Workforce 180 and asked what the most significant post-pandemic need for the Center was currently. Mr. Jones discussed their lack of youth programming and need for daycare services. He mentioned his concern for youth mental health post-pandemic and stated that the Center was the only downstate Center of its kind. Mrs. Tackett believed that face-to-face interaction and empathy were key, post-pandemic.

Council Member Crabill echoed appreciation and noted potential American Rescue Plan funding from the City.

Mr. Gleason thanked Mr. Jones and Mrs. Tackett for the presentation and his recent tour of the Center.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion on American Rescue Plan Funding, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason reported that the City would receive just under \$13.4 million in American Rescue Plan ("ARP") funding. He stressed that Council was not under obligation to immediately allocate the funds.

Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus provided additional information and explained that Council had up until December 31, 2024 to obligate the ARP funds, which must then be spent

by December 31, 2026. He discussed guidelines on allocation per the United States Treasury and provided a list of projects/programs within each of the potential local fund use categories. Those categories included Storm Water Management, Road Improvements, Downtown Revitalization, Equity Focused Organizations, and Council Ward Initiatives.

City Manager Gleason reminded Council that they had the final decision on fund allocation. He shared staff's excitement for the potential projects listed under Equity Focus and Council Member Ward's Initiative to foster workforce training.

Mayor Mwilambwe supported the opportunity to support members of the community who had been significantly impacted by COVID.

Council Member Emig discussed the importance of investing versus just spending. She supported the implementation of green and gray infrastructure in addition to road infrastructure, as well as any potential to settle remaining water bills or a percentage thereof to assist residents. She stressed the importance to aid the most vulnerable community members through efforts like mental health support and affordable housing.

Council Member Ward expressed interest in addressing as many items as possible. She believed that could best be done by Council having a discussion on how money can be spent from new federal aid versus just ARP funding. She stressed her interest in using ARP funds to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility issues. She acknowledged sewer and roads continuing to be an issue and stated that affordable senior housing was also an issue in today's housing market.

Council Member Becker confirmed funding obligation and spending timelines with Deputy City Manager Tyus. He supported workforce development, but stressed the importance of allocating significant funds towards high priority areas such as road infrastructure. City Manager Gleason commented to the loss of revenue for the Motor Fuel Tax, as well as funds allocated to sidewalk and road improvements over the next few years.

Council Member Montney stressed the importance of funding street and sewer improvements and believed Council should prioritize the Locust-Colton project and other combined sewer overflow projects.

Council Member Crabill confirmed with Deputy City Manager Tyus that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) required combined sewer overflow projects to be separated by dates certain, whereas no dates certain were required for combined sewers. Deputy City Manager Tyus believed the statement was accurate. Council Member Crabill recommended community input discussions. He preferred to focus on sewer issues from back-up and also asked if the City could hire City inspectors to ensure affordable housing was safe and habitable.

Council Member Crumpler echoed the importance of sewer infrastructure. He also supported Downtown-focused ADA improvements as a priority.

Council Member Boelen noted that many of the suggestions were not focused on COVID-related affects. She explained that, while she was not opposed to working with others in the community, she believed that the City should focus on its infrastructure. She mentioned overwhelming support for infrastructure and broadband Internet improvements.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend Council discussion time by 15 minutes.

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

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Mathy believed that while road infrastructure was important, the priority should be to allocate funds to help those heavily impacted by COVID. He believed the City should invest in hydraulic modeling for the Westside of Bloomington to relieve the sewer system, as well as consider investing in affordable childcare, workforce development, and youth mental health. He asked staff to provide Council the intergovernmental agreement between the City and McLean County for mental health, as well as a status report. He ended by suggesting the City partner with McLean County and/or the Town of Normal to incentivize developers.

Council Member Montney suggested additional training on the U.S. Treasury's guidance for ARP fund use. Deputy City Manager Tyus noted that staff had reviewed the guidelines prior to sharing the proposed programs and noted that some of the programs could address systemic economic issues. Council Member Montney asked for an additional review specific to restricted categories. Deputy City Manager Tyus stated that staff could provide additional clarity.

Deputy City Manager Tyus then returned to Council Member Crabill's earlier question regarding the City's responsibility to combined sewer overflows, stating that his statement was correct as he'd believed.

Council Member Montney then asked the total cost of the combined sewer overflow projects. Deputy City Manager Tyus stated that he would confirm and respond at a later time.

City Manager Gleason and Council Members Crabill and Becker moved on to discuss premium pay for essential workers that required overtime related to COVID-19.

Council Member Boelen referred to ARP fund allocation rules and reiterated her position that public health should be addressed by the Health Department. She stressed that the City should focus on street and sewer infrastructure.

Council Member Crumpler asked about next steps. Deputy City Manager Tyus stated that they would evaluate trends from the discussion and would return with a more structured program.

City Manager Gleason provided additional information and reminded Council that they had time to decide.

Council Member Crabill and City Manager Gleason discussed potential community outreach.

Mayor Mwilambwe reiterated the need for infrastructure and supported additional discussions on workforce development.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason recognized the City of Bloomington's Communications Center and staff for their recent achievement as the World's 25th Emergency Police Dispatch (EPD) Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch. He pointed out that Bloomington's Dispatch Center was the 1st in Illinois to receive the accreditation. He ended by highlighting upcoming Downtown events and recognizing new City employees.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

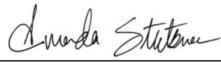
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

