CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

**MINUTES**
**REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

*This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, Section 6 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 Deputy City Clerk, Amanda Mohan, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:02 p.m., Monday, October 26, 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 | |
| Scott Black | Ward 7 | Remote | |
| Jeff Crabill | Ward 8 | Remote | |
| Kim Bray | Ward 9 | Remote | |

**COVID-19 Update by City Manager**

Tim Gleason, City Manager, noted that COVID-19 cases continued to rise. He went on to discuss the City's CARES Act grant submission, noting that the City planned to seek full reimbursement of $3.2 million and that the item would soon appear on a future Council agenda. He closed by providing an update on staff COVID-19 cases and explained procedures followed when staff had potential COVID-19 exposures.

**Recognition/Appointments**

A. Proclamation recognizing October 2020 as Community Planning Month

Megan Headean, Chair of the Planning Commission, accepted the Proclamation and addressed Council. She thanked Council and discussed how Community Planning Month benefited the community. She then listed multiple achievements by the Planning Commission in 2020 and Mayor Renner read the Proclamation aloud.

B. Proclamation recognizing October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Renner read the Proclamation aloud.

C. Proclamation recognizing November 1, 2020 as Extra Mile Day

Mayor Renner read the Proclamation aloud.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals spoke live: (1) Abdul-Malik Salah; (2) Dave Fedor; (3) Judy Glenn; (4) Katie Hoy; (5) Krystle Able; (6) Neil Finlen; (7) Sonny Garcia; and (8) Jon Reed. Both Craig Earl and Elizabeth Megli had registered to speak, but were not present in the meeting. No emailed public comments were received.

**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.*

Mayor Renner requested that the appointment of Jennifer Wilks to the Public Safety and Community Relations Board ("PSCRB") not be considered as part of Item 8.B.

**Council Member Boelen 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 Items 8.C., 8.G., 8.I., 8.J., and the appointment of Jennifer Wilks to the Public Safety and Community Relations Board ("PSCRB") not being considered as part of Item 8.B.**

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray

**Motion carried.**

Item 8.A. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $7,229,753.90, 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. was withdrawn from the Consent Agenda by Mayor Renner.

Item 8.D. Consideration and action to approve a Contract Extension with Evergreen FS for fuel from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021 for the City's vehicles and equipment, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract Extension be approved.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action to (1) renew the Agreement with Jellyvision (via the ALEX tool) as a limited source, so that employees may be better educated regarding their 2021 Benefits, and (2) approve an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2021, in the amount of $47,768, as requested by the Human Resources Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be renewed, and the proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.F. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing Waiving the Technical Bidding Requirements and Approving the Purchase of Syngenta, BASF, Bayer and Nufarm Chemicals and Fertilizers from Marubeni America Corporation DBA Helena Agri Enterprises

LLC, as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution and Purchase be approved.)*

Item 8.G. pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Bray.

Item 8.H. Consideration and action on a Resolution Approving a Variance to Chapter 38, Section 602 (Ch. 38, Sec. 123), and Chapter 24, Manual of Practice, Standard Detail 4.06F, of the Bloomington City Code to Allow Permits to be Issued for a 32-foot-wide Driveway at 54 Fedor Circle, *as requested by the Public Works Department and the Economic & Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved, and the Public Works Department be authorized to issue a Permit.)*

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

Item 8.J. pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Mathy.

Item 8.K. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year ending April 30, 2021, to increase the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget by $631,100, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.L. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment for Property Located at the Southeast Corner of PIN: 22-09-476-002, Approximately 1.79 Acres, from P-2 Public Lands and Institutions To R-2 Mixed Residence District, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.M. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving the Hershey Grove Subdivision Amended Preliminary Plan in the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.N. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving the Grove on Kickapoo Creek Second Amended Preliminary Plan for Approximately 10 Acres North of Ireland Grove Road and West of N2100 East Road in the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.O. Consideration and action to approve a Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer of Lot 7 in Block 4 in Camp Kickapoo, from Johnson Family Trust to the petitioners, KR&KJ Properties, LLC, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Lease Transfer and Supplemental Agreement be approved.)*

Item 8.P. Consideration and action to approve a Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer and Supplemental Agreement for Lot 9 in Block 4 of Camp Kickapoo, from Ross M. Clark, to the petitioners, Ross M. and Angela M. Clark, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Lease Transfer and Supplemental Agreement be approved.)*

**Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to approve a Purchase Order to 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 $189,646.31 from the State of

Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology JPMC Microsoft Licensing Solutions Provider (LSP), as requested by the Information Technology Department.

Mayor Renner explained that he pulled the item to allow staff additional time for consideration and review. No motion was made on the item.

Item 8.G. Consideration and action on a Resolution Approving the Second Amended Rules of the Public Safety & Community Relations Board Regarding Recommendations of the Board, as requested by the Legal Department.

Council Member Bray stated that she was part of the Council that implemented PSCRB and, after an analysis, believed that making recommendations went beyond what was needed. She noted that the City continued to have a 0% report ratio, both presently and in the past, and did not believe that Council should expand the duties of the PSCRB.

**Council Member Bray motioned, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to strike the proposed PSCRB Amended Bylaws.**

Council Member Mathy stated that he was also on the Council that created PSCRB and disagreed with Council Member Bray's comments. He supported allowing the PSCRB to have conversations and make recommendations similar to other City boards and commissions. He reminded Council that it was ultimately their decision to adopt the recommendations or not.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked for additional information on how the PSCRB would review and make recommendations to Council.

Mayor Renner recommended that if Council felt items that were routine in nature, such as this one, warranted further discussion that the item should be tabled to a future meeting.

Council Member Mwilambwe was interested in tabling the item for further discussion.

Council Member Crabill asked Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, for confirmation on the amended bylaws language. Mr. Jurgens stated that the PSCRB could make recommendations, but that the amendment to the bylaws clearly defines the process of reporting data and recommendations to City officials.

Council Member Bray was also interested in tabling the item for further discussion.

Council Member Carrillo stated that she was a lead organizer of the PSCRB campaign and believed that the low number of complaints could reflect an unwillingness to report or a lack of trust in the complaint process. She noted independent studies as support and believed that the PSCRB was created to empower citizens. She then called the question. Council Member Black objected and discussion continued.

Council Member Black compared the alleged number of complaints to be reported as stated at the inception of the PSCRB to the current amount. He acknowledged that the low number of reports could have been contributed to for a multitude of reasons. He believed Council should be diligent when crafting ordinances to ensure that no unintended consequences resulted after implementation. He recommended the community push the Town of Normal and the County of McLean to create similar boards.

Mayor Renner reiterated his comments about tabling for further Council discussion.

Council Member Black cautioned Council on creating an atmosphere where citizens do not volunteer for fear of potential negative repercussions from the community. He was in favor of the amended bylaws.

Council Member Emig agreed with Council Member Crabill and stated that the amendment outlined a formal process and increased transparency.

Council Member Boelen asked Council Member Bray to consider amending the motion to place the item on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

Council Member Carrillo called the question.

Mayor Renner explained that Council would consider the current motion and if it failed, Council could consider another motion.

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

**AYES:** Bray

**NAYS:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill

**Motion failed.**

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

Council Member Bray reminded Council that a "yes" vote would not allow the opportunity for further discussion. She believed that the changes were significant in nature and warranted further consideration in a work session or a Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Emig, Carrillo, Black, Crabill

**NAYS:** Boelen, Mwilambwe, Painter, Bray

**Motion carried.**

Item 8.I. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Text Amendment to the City of Bloomington Zoning Code, Chapter 44, to Amend Current References to the "Community Development Department" to State the "Economic and Community Development Department", as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

Council Member Boelen expressed that many of her constituents asked who to contact to report ordinance violations.

Mr. Gleason responded that citizens could report code violations to the Economic and Community Development Department.

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

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray

**Motion carried.**

Item 8.J. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving the Final Plat of the Ninth Addition to Brookridge Apartments Subdivision, as requested by the Public Works Department.

Council Member Mathy asked specific questions regarding the construction agreements.

Melissa Hon, Economic and Community Development Director, responded that staff continued to finalize details on the agreement with the developer and that final plats would be brought for Council consideration within 90 days of submission.

**Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, that the proposed Ordinance be approved, subject to the petitioner providing the required sureties.**

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray

**Motion carried.**

**Public Hearing**

Item 9.A. Public Hearing for the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

Mayor Renner opened the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Jennifer Toney, Grants Coordinator, addressed Council. She presented an overview of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and explained program funding and expenditures for each year. She discussed multiple goals and accomplishments related to the rehabilitation of housing, demolition of housing, public service projects, and public facilities and infrastructure projects. She went on to highlight various sources of grant funding separate from the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG"), which included the Illinois Housing Development Authority ("IDHA") Single Family Rehab ($1,058,250 awarded), the IDHA Abandoned Property Program ($208,000 awarded), and the IDHA Home Accessibility Program ($100,000 awarded). She explained how each source of funds were used and how each benefited the City.

Mayor Renner opened the Public Hearing for public comment. Ms. Mohan responded that no one had registered to speak for the Public Hearing.

Mayor Renner closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

**Regular Agenda**

*The following item was presented:*

Item 10.A. Presentation and Update on the Mobile Crisis Unit, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mr. Gleason recognized Council Member Painter for her remarks regarding community mental health opportunities. He stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information on the resources currently available to help residents. He asked Camille Rodriguez, McLean County Administrator, to address Council. Ms. Rodriguez thanked Council for the opportunity to present and noted that one of the presenters, Trisha Malott, Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Supervisor, was unable to attend, but that two other staff members were present: Nicole Kirshtine and Kevin McCall.

Tom Barr, Executive Director of the McLean County Center for Human Services, addressed Council and provided background on the County's mobile crisis program ("MCP"). He explained that the program worked with multiple organizations to connect individuals in crisis to the correct resources or aid.

Council Member Mathy asked about the number of individuals that their program helped. Mr. Barr responded that MCP assisted 1,173 un-duplicated clients and received 3315 requests/calls so far this year.

Council Member Boelen asked for an example of a standard night's work for the MCP. Mr. Barr responded, providing multiple examples.

Council Member Boelen asked for additional details on transportation. Mr. Barr responded that the MCP team did not transport clients.

Council Member Crabill asked how the MCP was funded. Mr. Barr listed multiple sources of funding, including the State of Illinois and the Board of Health Department.

Council Member Crabill asked how individuals were helped after assessment. Mr. Barr stated that individuals were referred to providers or programs that best suit their crisis needs.

Council Member Emig asked if the MCP met the needs of the community or if there was a need to expand. Mr. Barr believed that their staff were able to meet the needs of the community. He went on to explain that the MCP tracked response times for calls/service requests and provided reasoning for extended wait times.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked what were about the busiest times of the year. Mr. Barr responded that it was common for calls to increase around the holidays. Council Member Mwilambwe asked Mr. Barr to provide data on calls for service.

Mr. McCall began his presentation by discussing Frequent Users System Engagement ("FUSE") which serviced individuals who were in the justice, homeless, or crisis systems. He discussed how the outreach team worked and noted that the individuals on the team were volunteers. He went on to explain that the new FUSE program continued to work 24/7 and provided an update on the program's five active program participants.

Ms. Kirshtine provided an overview of the Triage Center including how it worked and the organizations with which it partnered. She provided statistics on results of the Triage Center, noting that law enforcement was the biggest source of referrals.

Council Member Crabill asked how both programs were funded. Mr. McCall responded that they were funded through the shared sales tax inter-governmental agreement.

Council Member Crabill asked details on follow ups with the participants. Mr. McCall explained how staff followed up with individuals and tracked data.

Council Member Bray asked for data on the number of participants in each program. Mr. McCall responded.

Council Member Boelen expressed appreciation of the project and the quality of volunteer staff.

Council Member Boelen expressed interest in a follow up report in six months.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked if there was an increase in the number of calls due to COVID-19. Mr. McCall responded that the programs began in early 2020 and it was difficult to determine if the increase was due to COVID-19. Mr. Barr responded that the MCP received an increased number of calls due to COVID-19.

*The following item was presented:*

Item 10.B. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code to Create a Public Arts Commission, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason provided a brief overview of the item and discussed changes made to the proposed Ordinance since the last meeting.

Council Member Painter listed multiple continued concerns and expressed reasoning why she did not support the item as it stood.

Council Member Boelen agreed with Council Member Painter's concerns and expressed interest in additional specifics on if funding should be added.

**Council Member Mathy motioned, seconded by Council Member Mwilambwe, to extend the discussion time by ten minutes.**

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, Bray

**Motion carried.**

Council Member Bray suggested that, considering Council’s concerns, the recommended motion not be considered and instead additional time for consideration be taken.

Mayor Renner asked Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, questions on the budgeting process. Mr. Jurgens responded that the Public Arts Commission would have a budgeted amount in addition to an approval process to award funds.

Council Member Bray expressed Council taking time to create a more structured system for the distribution of funds.

Council Member Carrillo stated that approval of Item 10.B. did not commit Council to art projects. She noted that Council had ample opportunity to provide feedback.

Council Member Mathy suggested that the City provide a small amount of project seed funds plus a matching funds program similar to the Community Development Block Grant.

Council Member Boelen reiterated her comments on funding structure.

**Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, that the proposed Ordinance be approved.**

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Mwilambwe, Emig, Carrillo, Black, Crabill

**NAYS:** Boelen, Painter, Bray

**Motion carried.**

*The following item was presented:*

Item 10.C. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Recognizing Juneteenth within the City of Bloomington and Amending Chapter 22.2 of the City Code to have the Human Relations Commission Hold an Annual Event Celebrating Juneteenth, as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

City Manager Gleason provided a brief overview of the item and then asked Council Member Mwilambwe to address Council. Council Member Mwilambwe discussed the educational and economic development benefits of establishing Juneteenth as a City holiday in Bloomington.

Mayor Renner left at 7:48 p.m. and returned at 7:49 p.m.

**Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the proposed Ordinance be approved.**

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

**AYES:** Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, 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 modifications were recommended.

**Finance Director's Report**

City Manager Gleason stated that the City continued to trend better than the initial projection provided during early COVID-19. He asked Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to address Council.

Mr. Rathbun presented the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2021 Major Tax Revenue Summary for the period of May 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 by highlighting various tax line items, comparing projections to actual figures and their effects on the budget. He then discussed how CARES Act funding could affect the budget and presented FY 2021 General Fund Revenue & Expenditures noting revised budget figures. He ended his presentation by discussing trends in the FY 2021 Enterprise Funds through July 31, 2020.

Council Member Emig asked specifics on CARES Act grant funds and how they could be applied. Mr. Rathbun responded that the CARES Act grant is considered expense reimbursement to fill the revenue gap created by COVID-19.

**City Manager's Discussion**

Mr. Gleason announced and congratulated the City staff members from the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department that would manage the Arena for the next 18 months. He explained the next 18 months would allow the community to move past COVID-19 and provide staff the opportunity to manage the Arena locally. He noted cost savings and efficiencies of the opportunity.

He went on to highlight the internal promotion of Craig McBeath to the Director of Information Technology Department and asked Mr. McBeath to address Council. Mr. McBeath addressed Council. He expressed his appreciation and stated that he looked forward to continuing to further develop opportunities for the City.

Mr. Gleason then highlighted the internal promotion of Michael Hurt to the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. He noted that he had been working on this new position since he first came to the City and explained that in his new role, Mr. Hurt would be present at every job interview intentionally focusing on diversifying the City's workforce. Mr. Gleason asked Mr. Hurt to address Council. Mr. Hurt did so and expressed excitement for being able to assist the City in carrying forward its goal of diversifying the workforce. He expressed appreciation that the position was not created in response to recent national tragedies and believed that the City and staff would benefit greatly from the position.

Mr. Gleason moved on to announce the retirement of Fire Chief Brian Mohr. He thanked him for his 30 years of service to the City and asked Chief Mohr to address Council. Chief Mohr address Council stating that he was honored to have serve Bloomington and wished the City and the Fire Department all the best in the future.

Mr. Gleason concluded by mentioning upcoming Downtown events and reminded the community to stay safe during Halloween. He thanked Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager, and Mr. Jurgens, for their continued work on Juneteenth and the Public Arts Committee.

**Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Renner thanked Chief Mohr for his service and congratulated Craig McBeath and Michael Hurt on their new positions. He stated that the meeting would be the last for Council Member Scott Black of Ward 7, who had submitted his resignation in September. He thanked Council Member Black for his service to the community. He ended by pointing out that both Columbus, OH and Portland, OR had created a police-civilian review board similar to Bloomington's PSCRB.

**Council Member's Discussion**

Council Member Mathy asked the public to support small businesses. He welcomed Council Member Black to the Dimmitt's Grove neighborhood and thanked him for his service.

Council Member Crabill noted that the police department was testing hybrid vehicles to save fuel, and that the golf courses were using techniques to reduce chemical use on the courses. He went on to discuss concerns on road preservation work in Ward 8 and expressed appreciation that road work was being completed based on need, rather than by ward. He congratulated Mr. McBeath and Mr. Hurt and thanked Chief Mohr and Council Member Black for their service.

Council Members Bray, Mwilambwe, and Emig echoed thanks to Council Member Black.

Council Member Black thanked City staff and his fellow Council Members. He stated that he would focus his free time on projects that he had not been able to complete during his time on Council, and that he would be serving on the Board for the Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

**Executive Session - Cite Section**

No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment**

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

**Motion carried (viva voce).**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

Tari Renner, Mayor

**ATTEST**

Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk