



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019, 6:00 PM**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 21, 2019.

Mayor Renner directed the City Clerk to call the roll and the following members of Council answered present:

Council Members: Jamie Mathy, Donna Boelen, Mboka Mwilambwe, Julie Emig, Joni Painter, Jenn Carrillo, Scott Black, Jeff Crabill, Kim Bray, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Melissa Hon, Economic Development Director; Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment and the following people came forward:

Surena Fish	Kelly Tyson
Tyler Hargas	Kirk Allen
Renee Nestler	

Consent Agenda

Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 5-1. Presentation regarding the 2020-2024 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan outreach efforts and funding priorities, as requested by the Community Development Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the item and asked Jennifer Toney, Grants Coordinator, to come forward to address Council. Mrs. Toney thanked the McLean County Regional Planning Staff with their assistance with the project. She then walked the Council through the steps taken in putting together the 2020-2024 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Consolidated Plan. She also discussed results of the completed study and placed a focus on the priorities that resulted.

Council Member Boelen asked Mrs. Toney why "Streets" and "Sewers" were listed. Mrs. Toney stated the results were separated at the request of the participants during the public meetings. Council Member Boelen recommended the HUD money only be used for the restoration of structures such as homes and not infrastructure.

Council Member Painter thanked Mrs. Toney for the detail provided in the presentation and the plan. She then asked about the processes used for calling of applications. Mrs. Toney discussed a variety of avenues used for communication and then talked about changes that will be implemented this year.

Council Member Mathy also thanked Mrs. Toney. He discussed an article that he had read that discussed Home Owner Down Payment Assistance. Mrs. Toney discussed how the survey addressed Down Payment Assistance. Council Member Mathy asked for consideration on how the City could offer this type of assistance.

Mayor Renner and Council Member Bray echoed Council Member Mathy's comments.

Council Member Black spoke about the need to use CDBG funds to tearing down or improving blighted buildings and the importance of visual improvements.

The following item was presented:

Item 5-2. Presentation and discussion of the Cannabis Task Force's recommendations, as requested by the City Council.

Linda Foster, Chair of the Cannabis Task Force, and Olivia Butts, Co-Chair of the Cannabis Task Force, came forward to address Council. Mrs. Foster thanked Council for entrusting the Cannabis Task Force (CTF) to meet and provide a recommendation back to Council. Mrs. Foster talked about the approach taken by CTF and began guiding the CTF members through their recommendation presentation.

John Walsh, Member of the CTF, discussed the areas of regulation that municipalities are left by the State to decide including to prohibit or regulate recreational cannabis businesses, a rate of taxation, and to allow or prohibit "on-premise use" at a business.

Mrs. Butts talked about the benefits and costs to the City should Council decide to opt out permanently, opt out for now, or allow and regulate. She went on to discuss the CTF's formal recommendation that the City allow and regulate recreational cannabis establishments.

Mrs. Foster discussed some of the additional considerations and recommendations made and looked at by the CTF.

Mr. Walsh talked about frequently asked questions that had been asked of the CTF. He then opened the floor to questions of Council.

Mayor Renner asked that all members of the CTF come forward so that members of all opinions would be present to answer questions. He then asked whether there is tool that could be used in the field for marijuana, similar to a breathalyzer for alcohol. Officer Veerman, member of CTF, stated that no such tool exists today and explained the procedure currently involved.

Council Member Black asked Mr. Gleason and Assistant Corporation Counsel George Boyle what they needed from Council. Mr. Gleason stated that he needed a decision from Council as to whether to place a zoning resolution item on the agenda for next week's council meeting. He pointed out that in order to hit the January 1, 2020 deadline for the Zoning Board to have a public hearing and provide a recommendation to the Council, the resolution would need to go next week. Council Member Black and Mr. Gleason discussed what the Zoning Board would address during the proposed meeting.

Council Member Painter discussed changes she had learned that Colorado used to limit sales of cannabis edibles. She asked whether the City could limit the taste of edibles. Mr. Boyle and Mr. Walsh stated that they did not believe the City would be able to mandate the flavor of edibles. She then asked about whether the bill included language setting up a State bank for marijuana funds. Mr. Boyle stated that he didn't have an answer, but that staff could look into that question. She went on to clarify the tax that would surround cannabis if the City decided to move forward and Mr. Boyle responded accordingly.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked questions regarding zoning and potential income that could be received by the City. He expressed concerns about actual income potential and black markets continuing to thrive after legalization. He pointed out that expertise would be needed as they continued to address what to do. Mrs. Butts pointed out that a full report was provided to Council and that it discusses a lot of the questions he had presented.

Mr. Gleason talked about the tight timeline at hand, as well as, some other major items that will need addressed no matter Council's decision.

Council Member Carrillo asked that Council Member Mwilambwe describe the expertise he would like to see brought to Council and staff.

Council Member Bray thanked the CTF for their service and questioned how the CTF came to conclusions and worked together. Mr. Walsh talked about the process used by the CTF and that he believed that it took up until the third meeting for members of the CTF to come forward with opinions. Council Member Bray asked a variety of other questions of the CTF including effects on youth, prevention of issues, and other municipalities.

Motion by Council Member Crabill, seconded by Council Member Painter, to extend Council's discussion by 15 minutes.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Council Member Black left the room (7:30 p.m.), returned (7:32 p.m.).

Council Member Bray continued in her questions with Council.

Council Member Mathy thanked all the CTF members for their time and dedication in such a short amount of time. He stated that packaging could not be targeted at children and that the bill already addressed this requirement. He also emphasized the need for business owners and employers to address their employee handbooks no matter Council's decision because the State had approved recreational marijuana statewide as of January 1, 2020. He also pointed out that recreational marijuana is already here and will be in the City on a larger scale and that the City needs to prepare.

Council Member Black addressed the need to give staff direction. He stated that he would like to see two Resolutions come forward on October 28, 2020: (1) to opt out completely and (2) to start the zoning and planning process. He believed the CTF's job was done, as their report had been provided. He recommended that the CTF meet one additional time for final approval of their minutes and that the minutes be added to their report. Discussion was had amongst Council that both resolutions be provided on the 28th.

Motion by Council Member Emig, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend Council discussion by 10 minutes.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Council Member Carrillo thanked the CTF and supported the members of the CTF in their professionalism and expertise in dealing with the task at hand. She defended her belief that the City should allow and regulate recreational cannabis. She encouraged the other members of Council to assist in participating in the process of regulation to help with the oversight of cannabis use in the community.

Council Member Crabill discussed a variety of elements of the State bill that address specific matters mentioned earlier in the meeting. He asked how many dispensaries could be located in Bloomington. Mayor Renner discussed 0-2 dispensaries being allowed under current law. Council Member Crabill then asked if the Council could limit dispensaries to social equity applicants only. Mr. Boyle stated that he would look into limitations on applicants because the law is vague on the topic.

Carrillo left at 7:56pm, returned at 7:58pm.

Motion by Council Member Mathy, seconded by Council Member Black to extend the discussion time by 10 minutes.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Council Member Boelen stated that she had not read the CTF's report yet and that she did not feel like she would be ready to make a decision on the 28th. She was in favor of allowing the zoning portion to start, but was not ready to vote in favor or against cannabis businesses in the City.

Council Member Emig thanked the CTF for their work. She recommended that everyone read a report done by the Colorado Justice Department and made a few statements regarding the report. She stated that she would be voting in favor of the zoning portion of discovery moving forward. She also talked about a municipal tool kit that the Illinois Municipal League had put out that she found helpful.

Council Member Bray expressed concerns that Council would not be ready to vote on an opt-out or opt-in on the 28th. She discussed her reason on delaying other discussions on the 28th and recommended that Council only consider an item approving or denying the zoning portion to begin. A consensus was given by Council.

Mr. Boyle encouraged Council to be engaged in the creation of the Resolution that would come forward on the 28th.

All of Council thanked the CTF for their assistance and service.

City Manager's Report

Tim Gleason, City Manager, overviewed plans for next week's meeting on October 28, 2020.

Executive Session - Cite Section

Adjournment

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

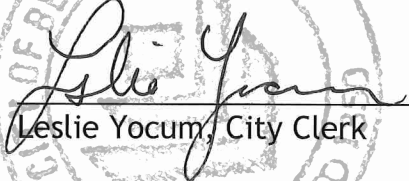
The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Yocum, City Clerk

