CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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 City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 19, 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	Absent	
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, updated Council on the $150,000 CARES Act Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds allotted for the Small Business Grant Program. He discussed national and local spikes in COVID-19 case numbers and the actions being taken by McLean County to address the increased number of cases locally.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, stated that Krystle Able had registered to speak live in the meeting, but was not present. Mrs. Yocum stated the following individuals had emailed public comment prior to the meeting: Krystle Able and Jeanne Howard.

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 requested an amendment to the minutes on page 4.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as amended.

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 5.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Discussion and direction on the creation of a Public Arts Commission, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason explained that the item was a continuation from the previous meeting where it had been tabled for additional discussion.

Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, reviewed the proposal and the proposed amendments discussed by Council at the previous meeting. He explained that the purpose of the Public Arts Committee ("PAC") as discussed, would be to create a formal process to support public art and noted that funding would be set as part of annual budgeting. He reminded Council that staff recommended the PAC be comprised of a member from the Bloomington Cultural Commission, a member from the Citizens' Beautification Committee, and three members of the public serving two-year terms to allow for turnover and diversity of opinions. Mr. Tyus noted that based on Council discussion, staff had also recommended two non-voting, ex-officio members be added to the board based on the ward location of the projects. He went on to discuss additional public input and the annual solicitation of private funds by the PAC for projects, and pointed out that the PAC would submit an annual Public Arts Program to Council for approval, identifying specific projects, goals, and a budget.

Council Member Bray believed that the community would benefit from art that unified the community. She expressed concerns on funding controls. Mr. Tyus responded that all funds would be held, owned, and distributed by the City. She then asked specifics on authority and with which department the PAC would most closely work. Mr. Tyus responded that the City Manager or the Deputy City Manager would oversee the PAC.

Council Member Black acknowledged the proposal and captured the conversation from the previous meeting. He commented on funding and stated that he liked that Council had the final say on funding. He believed the PAC was a good opportunity to involve residents more.

Council Member Boelen echoed funding and staff involvement comments. She was supportive of public input, but questioned the need of non-voting, ex-officio members.

Council Member Carrillo believed that the addition of more public input and ex-officio members was beneficial. She thought the ex-officio members should have voting rights.

Council Member Mwilambwe was supportive of the PAC and discussed term limits with Deputy Tyus.

Mayor Renner asked Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, questions on term limits and Mr. Jurgens responded accordingly.

Council Member Painter supported the formation of the PAC, but expressed concerns with funding. She expressed interest in requiring the PAC to secure private funding as well. She also reminded Council that revitalization of the Creativity Center, which was intended as a source of art, should receive public funding before the PAC because the City was already committed to that project.

Council Member Emig supported the proposal as presented, noting the written direction to seek out private funding and add ex-officio members.

Council Member Bray noted Section D of the proposal and suggested an incremental approach to make tasks more manageable. She made suggestions that tasks be staff-driven or be removed from the Commission's duties. Mr. Tyus responded that the call for artists was a key function and recommended it not be eliminated; he pointed out, however, that staff would prepare items such as request for proposals (RFPs) for the PAC to review and approve. Council Member Bray suggested more clearly defining staff roles verses the PAC’s roles.

Council Member Boelen expressed issue with the funding process and compared it to the process associated to Connect Transit's annual budget.

Mayor Renner reiterated that funding would follow normal budgeting processes.

Council Member Bray motioned, seconded by Council Member Emig, to extend the time by 10 minutes.

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

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Crabill supported the proposal and believed it was comprehensive. He commented to private funding and the potential for economic development benefits.

Council Member Carrillo asked what the next step was to adopt the proposal. City Manager Gleason responded accordingly.

Council Member Painter asked for additional details on how the ex-officio members would be included. Mr. Tyus responded accordingly.

Council Initiatives

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 6.B.1. Discussion on Council Member Mwilambwe’s Agenda Initiative Proposal to make Juneteenth a City holiday, as requested by the Administration Department.</u>

Mr. Gleason stated his support in the item and asked Mr. Tyus to address Council.

Mr. Tyus provided history on the item. He stated that Council had requested staff review the cost associated to making Juneteenth a City observed holiday. He stated that the Human Resources Department had reported the total salary cost with holiday pay, but not including overtime, as approximately $165,000 for the City and Library. He pointed out that should Council decide to move forward, at least a $63,000 budget increase would be required. He finished by discussing next steps.

Council Member Black asked if Council needed to weigh-in on paid verses unpaid in the meeting. Mr. Tyus responded that a decision did not need to be made immediately.

Council Member Boelen asked Council Member Mwilambwe his thoughts on the options presented. Council Member Mwilambwe believed a day of reflection was beneficial. He wanted programming to be the focus. He recommended the celebration be on a weekend to encourage attendance and suggested closing offices early as an alternative to a full day off.

Council Member Bray agreed with weekend programming.

Mayor Renner pointed out that not choosing to observe Juneteenth as a paid holiday could suggest that Council felt it was less important than other holidays.

Council Member Carrillo echoed Mayor Renner and believed that Council should make it a paid day off. She suggested that these considerations also be used for consideration of her Council Initiative for Indigenous Peoples Day.

Council Member Emig commended the local Black History Project associated with the McLean County Historical Society as a remarkable Juneteenth advocate, and encouraged the Human Relations Commission to reach out to discuss programming options.

Council Member Mwilambwe echoed appreciation for the Black History Project.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Gleason recognized the YWCA McLean County's 2020 Women of Distinction highlighting Ashley Stacey, Bloomington Police Officer, as being nominated. He reminded the community to complete the 2020 Census and mentioned the upcoming Downtown Farmer's Market and Halloween activities. He stressed the importance of social distancing during festivities. He went on to discuss early voting at Grossinger Motors Arena and stated that Council Member Carrillo's Council Initiative on Indigenous Peoples Day would be discussed again in November. He concluded by celebrating that, according to zippia.com, Bloomington was named the Happiest City in the United States!

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON	**ATTEST**
Tari Renner	Amanda Mohan
Tari Renner, Mayor	Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk