CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in-person in Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 11, 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	

Recognition/Appointments

A. Recognition of new Police Chief Jamal Simington

Mayor Mwilambwe welcomed Chief Jamal Simington and expressed his appreciation.

City Manager, Tim Gleason, echoed sentiments and then provided a brief background on Chief Simington.

Chief Simington addressed Council and expressed appreciation for the honor of the position. He then read a brief statement.

B. Recognition of Appointments to Various Boards & Commissions

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, recognized the appointments of the following individuals: (1) Vivian Doctora, Human Relations Commission; (2) Rachel McFarland, Public Safety and Community Relations Board; and (3) Joseph Blaney, Transportation Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement of procedure for public comment and the following individuals spoke in-person: (1) Chris Collins; (2) Gary Lambert; (3) Zachary Gittrich; (4) Luisa Gomez; (5) Coretta Jackson; (6) William Gustavson; (7) De Urban; and (8) Djimon Lewis. The following provided virtual public comment: (1) Jenee Clark; (2) Olivia Butts; and (3) Matthew Toczko. Trevin Gaffney had registered for virtual public comment but was not present in the meeting. The following individuals provided emailed public comment: (1) Erica Larkin; (2) Rickielee Benecke; (3) Katie Eickhoff; and (4) Amanda Andres.

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 Ward, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented with the exception of Items 7.D. and 7.H.

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.

Item 7.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the September 13, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 7.B. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $6,725,461.11, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 7.C. Consideration and action to postpone consideration of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 of the City Code Regarding Video Gaming Licensure Requirements Within the City, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be postponed to the October 25, 2021, Council meeting.)*

Item 7.D. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Crabill.

Item 7.E. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Bloomington City Code Chapter 2 to Add a Policy on City Sponsorships, as requested by the Legal Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 7.F. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment from B-1 (General Commercial) District, to P-2 (Public Lands and Institutions) District, for the Property Located at 2002 Fox Creek Road, 2.93 Acres More or Less, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 7.G. Consideration and action on an Application from The 236 Group, LLC, d/b/a The Stable Music Hall and Lounge, to be located at 236 E. Front St. requesting a Class EAS (Entertainment, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed License be approved.)*

Item 7.H. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Mathy.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

The following item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Crabill:

Item 7.D. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Bloomington City Code Chapter 2 to Add a Welcoming America Commission, as requested by the Legal Department.

Council Member Crabill discussed his intent to recommend two amendments to the proposed Ordinance, which would affect the Resolution's sections on Membership, as well as Duties and Functions. He explained each.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, to modify the ordinance as it related to the Membership section.

Council Member Boelen expressed disagreement in the proposed amendment to the Appointments section. She believed the community would benefit most if the diversity language remained the same.

Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, advised on motion procedures as they related to amending proposed Ordinances. The motion was amended by Council Member Crabill, and approved by Council Member Emig, to approve the Ordinance as presented.

Council Member Crabill noted his intent to make subsequent motions to amend the Ordinance after approval.

Mr. Jurgens and Mayor Mwilambwe discussed motion procedures and the previous motions were withdrawn to make way for a new motion by Council Member Boelen.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to approve the Ordinance as originally presented.

Council Member Crabill then made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, to amend the Membership section of the proposed Ordinance to add at the end of the section: "The Mayor shall strive to make appointments that are reflective of the diverse nature of our community including those residents who are first generation immigrants. The Commission is well served with community members who have backgrounds in advocating for immigrants."

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

AYES: Mathy, Emig, Ward, Crabill

NAYS: Boelen, Montney, Becker, Crumpler, Mwilambwe

Motion to amend failed.

Council Member Crabill then made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to amend the Duty and Function section of the proposed Ordinance by adding in Section 2C between numbers 1 and 2: "To establish benchmarks that community organizations, residents and others can use to hold the City accountable to meet requirements and indicators provided by Welcoming America through its Welcoming Standards."

Council Member Boelen disagreed with the amendment and explained that the Welcoming America Standard already had benchmarks. She believed the original Ordinance suitably aligned with the Welcoming America Standards.

Council Member Mathy supported the amendment and noted that the language was taken directly from the Welcoming America Standards. He expressed his belief that the creation of benchmarks would allow the advisory board to appropriately report findings and suggestions to Council.

Council Member Ward supported the amendment and read language from page 7 of the Welcoming America documentation. She then stressed the importance to hold Council accountable.

Council Member Crumpler expressed concerns with the vague nature of the benchmarks. He discussed the four core strategies of the Welcoming America Standards and believed review was already an included component not requiring additional benchmarks.

Council Member Boelen expressed the need to clearly define benchmarks and suggested the Welcoming America Commission ("WAC") determine them. She explained the Commission was not required by statute and provided suggestions on defined benchmarks.

Council Member Montney agreed with Council Member Crumpler's statements.

Council Members Emig and Crabill discussed the potential to substitute the term "benchmark" with "indicator" to better align with the Welcoming America Standards.

Council Member Becker agreed with the statements made by Council Members Crumpler and Montney. He believed the addition of vague language would create an opportunity for political agendas.

Council Member Boelen reminded Council that the WAC would have access to industry professionals that could provide advice. She reiterated not supporting the amendment.

Council Member Mathy reiterated that Council agreed the Commission was important, but that the proposed amendment would allow the WAC to set successful benchmarks.

Council Members Ward and Crabill discussed potential to substitute the term "benchmark" with "report card" to better align with the Welcoming America Standards.

Council Member Emig agreed with the term substitution.

Council Member Boelen disagreed with the substitution and favored "indicator" be used instead. Council Members Boelen and Ward discussed term substitutions.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, clarified the current motion and procedure.

Council Member Montney asked for clarification on the metrics and accountability framework being discussed.

Mayor Mwilambwe expressed concern with the term-focused discussion and recommended that the item be brought back at a later date. Council Member Boelen agreed the item should be tabled.

Council Member Ward suggested additional edits to use the words "report card" instead of "benchmarks". Council Member Crabill indicated he was alright to that change and amended his motion accordingly, with the approval of Council Member Emig as the seconder. It was later mentioned that Council Member Ward was the seconder to the existing motion. There was then suggested change to the language of the motion that was accepted by Council Member Crabil and Council Member Ward, as the seconder. The motion on the table ended up being to amend the Duty and Function section of the proposed Ordinance by adding in Section 2C between numbers 1 and 2: "to establish indicators to allow the City to measure how well the community is meeting the Welcoming America Standards."

Council Members Crumpler and Ward discussed that with the proposed addition, the WAC would be responsible for determining the indicators.

Council Members Montney and Mathy discussed the indicators provided in the Welcoming America Standards. Council Member Montney further reiterated that she did not support of the current motion.

Council Member Crabill called the question for the vote.

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

AYES: Mathy, Emig, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Boelen, Montney, Becker

Motion carried.

Mr. Jurgens and Mayor Mwilambwe discussed motion procedure in that Council still needed to approve the Ordinance as amended.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll on the ordinance as amended, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Emig, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Becker

ABSTAIN: Boelen, Montney

Motion carried.

The following item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Mathy:

Item 7.H. Consideration and action on an Application from Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary, who will hold an annual Oktoberfest 5K Run/1 Mile Walk fundraiser with a reception held at the GE Clubhouse at 1750 General Electric Rd. on Saturday, October 17, 2021, requesting a Class LB (Limited/Beer and Wine) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Mathy recused himself from the meeting at 7:26 pm. as he is a member of the Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary.

Council Member Montney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, that the proposed License be approved.

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

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

RECUSED: Mathy

Motion carried.

Council Member Mathy returned to the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Consideration and action on a Resolution in Support of Increasing the Percentage of Funding Available through the Harriet Fuller Rust Grant Program for Projects that Enhance Building Accessibility, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mathy recused himself again from the meeting at 7:27 p.m. out of an abundance of caution in case his landlord applied for the program.

Council Member Emig similarly recused herself from the meeting at 7:28 p.m. as she was an employee of the McLean County History Museum.

Council Member Ward explained that the proposed Resolution would allow for an amendment to the program, which would raise the percentage of funding the City provides to qualified applicants from 50% to 75%. She stressed that the amendment would not increase the fund balance and went on to explain that the proposed Resolution also gave direction to increase advertisement of the program to promote awareness.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to approve the Resolution as presented.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, explained this was step 3 in the Council Member Initiative process and that the proposal had also appeared before the Historic Preservation Commission.

Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager, provided a brief background on the Harriett Fuller Rust Façade Grant program ("Rust Grant"). He explained that the Rust Grant program was administered by the Historic Preservation Commission and that it targeted commercial buildings in the Downtown area only. He noted that the program was not an endowment and that it was funded by the City in honor of the late Harriett Fuller Rust. He went on to explain current guidelines and eligible improvements under the program.

Council Member Becker and Mr. Tyus discussed changes in fund reimbursements for Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ingress and egress accessibility upgrades.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Tyus discussed additional examples and specifics on current grant maximums that could be awarded. Council Member Boelen expressed interest in helping as many business owners as possible and was concerned that one applicant could be awarded multiple grants in the same year.

Council Member Ward explained the purpose of the addition of the ADA component would broaden the project capabilities. She supported one applicant being granted larger portions to complete a project instead of many smaller grants that help on a minimal level.

Council Member Crabill and Mr. Tyus discussed that, historically, the City had not received applications for ADA projects. Council Member Crabill expressed his support.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Tyus discussed the potential for one applicant qualifying for $50,000 in ADA upgrades and $25,000 in façade upgrades. Council Member Montney cautioned that with the current budget of $150,000 for the program, the proposed resolution could potentially only help two annual awardees.

Council Member Crumpler expressed his support in the item.

Council Member Crabill noted that historically, this program had not awarded all of the funds available. He confirmed with Mr. Tyus that the unused balance was not carried over to the next year.

Mr. Tyus clarified that Council was considering a Resolution directing staff to work with the Historic Preservation Commission to implement program changes.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, that the proposed Resolution be approved.

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

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

RECUSED: Mathy, Emig

Motion carried.

Council Members Mathy and Emig returned to the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Tim Gleason highlighted various upcoming Downtown events. He noted that the Illinois Housing Development Authority Single Family Rehabilitation Grant was to begin accepting applications at The Hub the very next day. He concluded by updating Council on the fall bulk waste pick-up program.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe noted that the search for a Ward 6 Council Member continued. He recognized multiple community events he'd recently attended and highlighted the upcoming ribbon cutting event at Ferrero Roche for their expansion project.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Crabill pointed out that the City had not recognized Indigenous People's Day and expressed concern in the ordinance formalizing it, as well as its integration into the City Code. He asked that activities be prepared for next year similar to Juneteenth and then read a segment from the ordinance passed in January 2021.

Council Member Crumpler recognized Joe Blaney, Ward 9 resident, who was appointed to the Transportation Commission and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Council Member Ward reminded Council that not only was it Indigenous People's Day, but it was also National Coming Out Day. She then acknowledged all those who had had the courage to come out as LGBTQ+ members.

Council Member Mathy confirmed that Trick-or-Treating would happen on Halloween.

Council Member Boelen commented on the upcoming ribbon cutting at Ferrero Roche and noted that the McLean County Mental Health Virtual Forum continued online. She then corrected statements made by *The Pantagraph* regarding the Ward 6 Council Member vacancy and explained procedure to fill the position.

Executive Session

Council Member Boelen motioned, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to enter into Executive Session per Section 2 (c)(12) of 5 ILCS 120 to discuss a Claim Settlement and per Section 2(c)(2) of 5 ILCS 120 to discuss Collective Bargaining.

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.

Mayor Mwilambwe stated that Council would not consider any items after Executive Session. Council exited Regular Session and entered into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Return to Open Session and Adjourn

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, to return to Open Session.

Motion carried (viva voce).

Regular session continued at 8:44 p.m.

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON	ATTEST
Mboka Mwilambwe	Amanda Stutzman
/	Am eputy City Clerk