MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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 the City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 28, 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	Absent	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

City Manager Tim Gleason informed the Council of continued COVID-19 compliance checks and that notices of non-compliance were being forwarded to the Liquor Commissioner. He stated that no new violations had been issued.

Mayor Renner stated that few establishments had received compliance warnings from the Police Department, which resulted in the establishments' immediate compliance.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Proclamation recognizing October 4-10, 2020 as Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Renner read the Proclamation aloud. Fire Chief Brian Mohr addressed Council and recognized Eric Davison, Public Education Officer, who had worked during COVID to ensure fire education could still continue in schools. He pointed out that Officer Davison had work with local schools to develop a virtual tour of the Fire Department's Headquarters, which included live question and answer segments for students. Chief Mohr then shared additional outreach and community education efforts available.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals spoke in person: (1) Cecilia Long; (2) Sarah Hurley; (3) Sonny Garcia; (4) Scott Stimeling; (5) Nestor Makhno; and (6) Charlotte Alvarez. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, then stated that no emailed public comment had been 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.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 8.A. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $7,457,183.62, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve Appointments and Re-Appointments to various Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointments be approved.)*

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to approve the Purchase of one (1) Caterpillar 430-07 Backhoe from Altorfer Cat of East Peoria, Illinois, using the Sourcewell Contract (# 032119-CAT, exp 5/13/23), in the amount of $179,860, and authorization to dispose of a 2013 Caterpillar 430FIT Backhoe by electronic public auction , as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase and Disposal be approved.)*

Item 8.D. Consideration and action to approve the Purchase of a Vermeer BC1800XL (Brush Chipper) from Vermeer Sales and Service of Illinois, Inc. in the amount of $70,385.00, utilizing the Sourcewell Government joint purchasing contract # 062117-VRM, exp. 8/18/2021 , as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase be approved.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action to approve a Contract with US Digital Designs for updating station alerting in all Fire Stations and Bloomington Dispatch, in the amount not to exceed $187,905.38, utilizing RFP #2020-25 , as requested by the Fire Department and the Police Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract be approved.)*

Item 8.F. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving an Application Submitted by Speed Lube 10 Minute Oil Change Shops Inc Requesting Approval of a Special Use Permit and Legislative Site Plan Review for an Oil Change/Vehicle Service Station at 1209 Holiday Drive, Bloomington IL 61704, Zoned B-1 General Commercial District , as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.G. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment for Property Located at 808 S. Morris Ave., Approximately 0.15 Acres, from B-2 Local Commercial District to R-2 Mixed Residence District; and on a Resolution Initiating

Zoning Map Amendments for Property Located at 806 S. Morris Ave. and 829 W. Elm St. from B-2 Local Commercial District to R-2 Mixed Residence District , as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance and Resolution be approved.)*

Item 8.H. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the City Code on Election Signs, as requested by the Legal Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.I. Consideration and action on the Request of Lil Beaver Brewery, LLC, d/b/a Lil Beaver Brewery, located at 16 Currency Drive, requesting a redefinition of the approved licensed premises for service and consumption to allow for a recent building expansion , as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Request be approved contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.)*

Item 8.J. Consideration and action on the Application of TA Operating, LLC, d/b/a Travel Centers of America #092, located at 505 Truckers Lane, requesting a Class GBPS (Convenience Store, Beer and Wine Only, Package and Sunday Sales) Liquor License , as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed License be approved contingent upon compliance with all building, health, and safety codes.)*

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 9.A. Presentation, status update, and discussion on the Comprehensive update to Bloomington's Sign Ordinance, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department and the Legal Department.

Melissa Hon, Economic & Community Development Director, introduced the item, noting the most recent comprehensive revision of the Sign Code had been in 1998. She introduced Katie Simpson, City Planner, who discussed the public outreach process, and then introduced Jackie Wells and John Houseal of Houseal Lavigne Associates for a short presentation.

Mr. Houseal discussed the importance of an update to the Sign Code. He stated that staff focused on visibility and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and auto traffic, as well as a specific focus on maintaining Downtown character. He discussed a recent Supreme Court decision that prohibited restrictions on sign content and went on to detail the various focus group meetings, workshops and online questionnaires that had been made available in multiple languages. He noted key proposed changes, as well as adjustments to accommodate new technologies. He provided visuals and discussed survey questions with their results. Mr. Houseal recommended changes to digital signage integration, with limitations on static image ads and concluded his presentation with an explanation of the recommended removal of restrictions on specific types of signage (political signs, realtor signs, etc.) in order to become compliant with the Supreme Court ruling on content regulation.

Council Member Mathy asked if a final draft of the proposed ordinance was available online for public review. Ms. Simpson confirmed that it was available on the Planning and Zoning page of the City's website. Council Member Mathy then discussed questions he'd received from multiple constituents and recommended that before Council voted there be a coordinated presentation with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Houseal agreed and mentioned a previously well-attended meeting with local business owners that had been held early in the process.

Council Member Boelen agreed with Council Member Mathy's suggestion.

Council Member Crabill agreed as well and expressed concern with the potential to impose undue financial burden on businesses. He believed additional outreach and input was needed, especially from minority-owned businesses.

Council Member Emig asked if the response rates received were typical and if they recommended a phased approach to changes.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.B. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of a Zoning Text Amendment to the Bloomington Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 44 of the City Code, to Establish the R-D Downtown Residential District, and Further Authorizing the Initiation of Map Amendments to the Official Zoning Map for Properties in the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

Mr. Gleason asked Mr. Houseal to address Council. Mr. Houseal explained that Council had approved the previous Zoning Ordinance, which increased the amount of high-density zoning of the R-3B District in the neighborhoods surrounding Downtown, and that the approval included a condition that further study be completed on the R-3B District in response to residents' concerns. He discussed current policies and explained that the current policies allotted for the development of high-density housing of up to 70 dwellings per acre. He went on to say that the proposed policy recommended increasing neighborhood density through the development of small-lot single-family housing, townhomes, duplexes and multifamily complexes, but limiting the maximum density of 70 dwelling units per acre in the Central Business District. Mr. Houseal discussed community outreach and the policy direction that resulted from those discussions. He recommended map adjustments and segmenting the R-3B District into R-D Downtown Residence District, 2-R Mixed Residence District, and D-2 Downtown Transitional District. He went on to compare the existing R-3B Multiple-Family Residence District to the new R-D Downtown Residence District and then welcomed questions.

Council Member Mathy thanked Mr. Houseal for his presentation and stated that all the Dimmitt's Grove neighborhood goals had been achieved in the new proposal. He recommended additional time for the community to review the proposed changes.

Council Member Mathy motioned, seconded by Council Member Emig, to table the item to the October 26th Council Meeting.

Council Member Painter agreed with Council Member Mathy's comments.

Mr. Gleason clarified that the approval of the Resolution would actually begin the public involvement side of process, which would then return the proposal to the Planning Commission and then ultimately to City Council for final approval.

Mayor Renner clarified with Council Member Mathy the intent of the motion.

Council Member Mathy withdrew his motion, Council Member Emig concurred.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.C. Consideration and action on the Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Support Program Certification and on an Ordinance Pertaining to the Local CURE Program, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mr. Gleason explained that the item was placed on the agenda at the recommendation of the Illinois Municipal League for reimbursement of expenses due to COVID-19. He explained that staff had tracked COVID-19 expenses since March 2020. He asked Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, to comment on information that was not in the packet. Mrs. Yocum stated that the document included in the packet was incomplete, but that the full document had been provided to Council via email earlier that day. She read for the record the answers to the three questions that had been missing from the document included in the packet.

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the proposed Certification and 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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.D. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 of the City Code to Implement Updated Video Gaming Licensure Requirements within the City, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Mrs. Yocum stated that there were three proposed changes. She explained that under the current City Code, an establishment was allowed a 60-day cessation of operations for a variety of reasons and that liquor licenses had a cessation allowance of 180 days. She reminded Council video gaming license were dependent upon liquor license and for that reason staff were recommending to align both license types by amending video gaming cessations to 180 days. Mrs. Yocum highlighted that the City Code also allowed liquor establishments to request an additional 180 days cessation, but that staff were not seeking to include that option for video gaming.

She went on to explain the second change and that in light of COVID-19, staff had moved to accepting electronic submissions and processing of applications. She recommended that the Code be updated to remove the requirement that both paper and electronic floor plans be submitted and to instead edit the Code to only require an electronic floor plan with a paper version made available upon request by the City.

The last change discussed was to require supporting documentation to be submitted with an establishment’s request for reduced video gaming terminal fees under the veteran and fraternal organization license type. She went on to explain that current Code did not address required documents allowing for necessary verification. She also highlighted a similar issue with truck stops and the amount of fuel sales required to maintain their status.

Mrs. Yocum explained that staff recommended to specify document requirements to validate if an applicant qualified for the requested reduced fee/license or special type .

Mayor Renner asked if Mrs. Yocum saw a downside to the proposed changes. Mrs. Yocum responded that she did not. She noted that the removal of a paper requirement and the addition of verification documents would assist the Clerk Department in streamlining application processes. She also highlighted that aligning video gaming and liquor deadlines too simplified processes.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, 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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.E. Discussion and direction on the creation of a Public Arts Commission, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mr. Gleason provided a brief overview of the item and then discussed the creation of the Public Arts Commission and its duties. He mentioned opportunities for public input and ways in which the City could fund a portion of the art.

Council Member Black motioned, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to table to item to a date uncertain to allow for updates.

Council Member Black suggested ex-efficio members be placed on the Public Arts Commission and that a public hearing be held to allow for additional public input.

Mayor Renner asked Council Member Black for the reasoning behind his motion. Council Member Black stated that there was a large amount of public interest and he thought it was beneficial to have additional discussion.

Council Member Mathy asked the reasoning behind “a date uncertain" as he was not comfortable not having a timeline on the item.

Council Member Black amended his motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to table the item and for it to be brought back at a date before October 26, 2020.

Council Member Carrillo agreed with Council Member Black's comments.

Council Member Boelen wanted a separate robust conversation specifically focused on funding and outlining approval processes. She also requested a separate ordinance for funding projects.

Council Member Painter agreed with the motion and believed many details still needed to be ironed out. She also recommended a public hearing be held for each project.

City Manager Gleason asked Council for clarity on direction for staff.

Council Member Black stated that a public hearing component be added, similar to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and asked for options on the approval of ex-efficio members.

Council Member Boelen clarified that she was in favor of the commission design and member selections. She stated that she wanted clarity on funding in Part D of the proposal.

Council Member Painter provided detail on a not-for-profit 501(c)3 that had been set up by former Alderman Diana Hauman, which focused on funding local art. She encouraged staff to tap into public/private partnerships for funding.

Council Member Carrillo recommended that the commission creation and project funding be discussed and voted on separately.

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.F. 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.

Mr. Gleason informed Council that there was nothing to be considered at this time.

Council Member Black expressed concern on outdoor dining as the weather would soon grow colder and asked staff to consider available options. Mr. Gleason responded that staff had already begun such discussions.

Finance Director's Report

Mr. Gleason stated that while COVID-19 had negative impacts in Bloomington, our community continued to trend better than comparable communities. Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and provided a brief overview of the City's finances since quarantine had begun in March. He noted that the City was trended slightly better than projected and moved on to present a Fiscal Year ("FY") 2021 Major Tax Revenue Summary by highlighting various tax line items, comparing projections verses actual figures, as well as their effects on the budget. He then presented FY 2021 General Fund Revenue & Expenditures and noted that revenues continued to trend higher than projected while expenditures trended lower than projected. He ended by discussing trends in the FY 2021 Enterprise Funds through July 31, 2020.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason discussed upcoming Downtown October activities and noted that traditional trick-or-treating would be affected by COVID-19. He reminded the community to complete the 2020 Census and highlighted the City's Small Business Assistance Grant Program. He ended with an update on O'Neil Pool and the Library expansion.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner thanked staff for exploring alternative options for trick-or-treating. He also thanked Carlo Robustelli, former Convention and Visitors Bureau's Chair, and Council Member Black for their service.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Mathy suggested a creative alternative for trick-or-treating.

Council Member Boelen discussed the popular use of curbside pick-up as an alternative to outdoor dining and then encouraged the community to get their flu shot.

Council Member Crabill reminded the community of his virtual town hall meeting on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was had.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON **ATTEST**

Tari Renner

Tari Renner, Mayor

Amanda Mohan

Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850