



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present
Jenna Kearns	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Absent
John Danenberger	Council Member, Ward 4	Present
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present
Cody Hendricks	Council Member, Ward 6	Present
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present
Kent Lee	Council Member, Ward 8	Absent
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present

Recognition/Appointments

No Recognitions or Appointments were presented.

Public Comment

No public comment was 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 Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2024, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and Discussion of Ongoing Water Department Projects, as requested by the Water Department.

City Manager, Jeff Jurgens, briefly discussed a ten-year plan for infrastructure water projects, and then passed to Water Director, Ed Andrews.

Director Andrews reported on a water break that had occurred to a 149-year-old pipe on Front Street earlier in the month and its immediate repairs. He reported on a water taste and odor issue that had been occurring from the use of Lake Bloomington, noting the Water Treatment Plant had made adjustments on September 6, 2024, based on Taste & Odor (“TnO”) testing results. He shared that weekly sampling would continue until the TnO marker compound levels dropped. He educated the community on naturally occurring compounds that contributed to taste and odor concerns, emphasizing that they did not pose a public health risk. He then summarized FY2025 capital projects, including the \$80-100 million system-wide distribution project that included the Prairie Vista Water Tower, and summarized several other projects. Director Andrews updated Council on a current water tower project, and reported on the Lead Service Inventory and Replacement Program status. He happily shared an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“IEPA”) Inventory Grant of \$45,000 had been received and would offset a portion of a Vactor truck rental expense. He moved on to talk about the water meter conversion from drive-by Automatic Meter Reading (“AMR”) to tower-read Advanced Meter Infrastructure (“AMI”) and shared upcoming collaborations with other government entities to further the program. He concluded with an update on the implementation of an in-house flushing app.

Council Member Kearns asked for an anticipated timeline for the watermain replacement in the Ward 1 Meadowbrook Subdivision. Director Andrews shared communication and outreach efforts. He then stated that underground work with a service line completion would continue from fall through February or March of 2025, and that the paving contract would continue to April/May 2025. He explained that sewer, storm work, and curb replacement would also be completed.

Council Member Boelen and Director Andrews discussed the 100-year-old watermain repairs, their expenses, and replacement statuses.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked Director Andrews and staff for their work and stressed the importance of water on public health and the community.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion of a Multi-Departmental Summer Wrap-up, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Jurgens briefly overviewed the presentation and thanked Katherine Murphy, Communications & External Affairs Manager, for creating the featured summer wrap-up video. He shared that it would be pushed on social media following the meeting.

Melissa Hon, Economic & Community Development Director, expressed her appreciation to staff for their work with events and businesses Downtown. She highlighted celebrating Downtown’s 19th year Main Street accreditation, and noted there were 96 events held in 2024 (an increase from 2023) with 2 million visitors to date. Director Hon reported that \$1.3 million American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds had been disbursed to 34 Downtown businesses through the Small Business Rehabilitation Grant program. She then highlighted the expansion of the Farmers Market, and it receiving 3 Pantagraph awards noting upcoming fall events.

Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment (“A&E”) Director, thanked his staff for their work at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (“BCPA”) during the summer. He reported event revenue increased by 92% and net income increased by 218%, and shared more than 40,000 attendees had visited the BCPA in 2024. He highlighted several successful shows, events, and upcoming fall events.

David Lamb, Parks & Recreation Asst. Director, thanked his staff. He highlighted an increase in visitors at O’Neil Aquatics Center and Holiday Pool, and celebrated Miller Park Zoo’s

recent Association of Zoos and Aquariums (“AZA”) accreditation. He moved on to emphasize the \$2.5 million in revenue generated from golf courses and shared updates made to the Bloomington Ice Center. Director Lamb ended with sharing that Miller Park had over 10,000 visitors on the 4th of July and noted fall registration for programs.

Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library Director, highlighted held 110 programs with 18,918 participants. She noted the Juneteenth celebration was the largest attended with 318 attendees. She shared statistics on the use of their new study and community rooms and reported the busiest day as July 29, 2024 with 1,722 visitors. She ended by discussing upcoming fall events with 147 planned programs.

Council Member Kearns and Director Hon discussed staff’s use of a tool called PlacerAI to pull reports and data to track the visitors Downtown. Council Member Kearns moved on to highlight the importance of community pools, such as Holiday Pool. Director Lamb echoed his appreciation for the community members that use Holiday Pool.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked all of the presenters for their work to support the community and drive engagement.

City Manager’s Report

City Manager Jurgens highlighted updates to the Bloomington Public Library. He expressed his appreciation to David Lamb, Parks & Recreation Asst. Director; Jay Pratt, Miller Park Zoo Director; Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Director; Billy Tyus, Senior Deputy City Manager; and staff for their work in achieving the Zoo’s AZA accreditation. He wrapped up with a few additional community highlights.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Crumpler

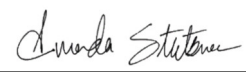
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

