City of Bloomington Illinois

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 14, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Absent	
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	Remote	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus notified Council that staff continued COVID-19 compliance checks of local bars and restaurants and provided an update on three establishments that had been determined to be out of compliance. He emphasized his belief that the majority of businesses in the community understood the severity of COVID and were actively working to comply. Mr. Tyus shared information about compliance check procedures and assured Council that they were actively pursuing problematic establishments. He highlighted the status of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance as it related to outdoor dining, and explained applicable compliance procedures, as well as resources being provided to establishments.

Recognition/Appointments

No recognitions and appointments were presented.

Public Comment

Mayor Pro Tem Mwilambwe opened the meeting for public comment. Citizens Surena Fish and Scott Stimeling addressed Council in-person. In addition, the following individuals spoke remotely: (1) Jon Reed; (2) Nathan Wang; and (3) Sara Payne. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, added that Jacqueline Beyer had emailed public comment and that it had been provided to Council.

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 Bray made a motion, seconded by Council Member Black, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below with the exception of Item 8.H., be approved.

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 8.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the July 27, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $7,597,428.63, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 8.D. Consideration and action to approve Funding for Stabilization Installation Work for the Lake Bloomington Shoreline Stabilization Project through the Watershed Conservation Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington, McLean County, the Town of Normal, and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District, in the amount of $196,416, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Funding be approved.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action to extend the Energy Brokerage Agreement with The Stone River Group and on a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve Electric and Natural Gas Supply Contracts, as requested by the Facilities Department. *(Recommended Motion: The extension of the Agreement and the Resolution be approved.)*

Item 8.F. Consideration and action 1) on an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2021 in the amount of $50,000; (2) to approve a mutual recession of the Contract with Diamond Design & Construction, Inc. in the amount of $445,101.00 for the FY2021 De Brazza's Plaza Monkey Exhibit - Bid #2021-08 (Base bid + Alt. #3); and (3) to approve a Contract with N. Zobrist Construction in the amount of $534,015 for the FY2021 De Brazza's Plaza Monkey Exhibit - Bid #2021-08 (Base bid + Alt. #3), as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance, recession of the Contract with Diamond Design & Construction, and the Contract with N. Zobrist Construction be approved.)*

Item 8.G. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving the Second Amendment to the Contract Between the City of Bloomington and Tim Gleason Regarding the Term, Salary and Benefits, as requested by the City Council. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.H. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Mayor Pro Tem Mwilambwe.

Item 8.I. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for the Expansion of a Place of Worship in the R-1B Single Family Residential District, for Property Located at 1617 E Emerson Street, Bloomington IL 61701, as requested by the Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.J. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving an Encroachment Permit & Agreement with the Regional Alternative School located at 408 W. Washington St., as requested by the Administration Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.K. Consideration and action to approve a Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer of Lot 11 in Peoria Point, from Julie Biever to the petitioners, Steven and Laurie Lange, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Lease Transfer be approved.)*

Item 8.L. Consideration and action to approve a Lake Bloomington Lease Transfer of Lot 13 in Block 1 in Camp Kickapoo, from Karen Kehl to the petitioners, J&A Sunset Properties, LLC, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Lease Transfer be approved.)*

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.H. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for an Adult-use Cannabis Dispensary in the B-1 General Commercial District for Property Located at 118 Keaton Place, Bloomington IL 61704, as requested by the Community Development Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Mwilambwe pulled the item to have the opportunity to vote ‘no’ which was consistent with his previous votes on the topic.

Council Member Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Black, that the proposed Ordinance be approved.

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

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

NAYES: Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 9.A. Consideration and action to accept and approve the Downtown Task Force 2020 Report Updated, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Carrillo left at 6:27 p.m.

Deputy Tyus stated that the item, if accepted and approved, would provide staff clear direction on Downtown development and project priority. He provided Council a brief history of the item and then welcomed questions.

Council Member Mathy noted that the item had begun as his Council Initiative. He then provided detail on various discussions that had taken place, as well as information on the decision to not remove the catalyst project from the Report.

Council Member Carrillo returned at 6:32 p.m.

Council Member Boelen asked questions clarifying the amount of time the Report would be valid. She believed the catalyst project should be removed and that additional Downtown parking was needed. She expressed concern with the potential demolition of historic buildings.

Council Member Mathy explained that multiple options were now available for the catalyst project and that Council recognized the need for bold statement with the project.

Council Member Black believed that Downtown Bloomington required further development and that the future of the Market Street Parking Garage needed to be decided.

Council Member Boelen expressed support for the Report, but stated that a bold catalyst project did not align with her Strong Towns incremental development approach. She agreed with Council Member Black's comments regarding the Market Street Garage.

Council Members Carrillo, Emig, Bray and Crabill expressed their support for the item.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, that the proposed Report be accepted and approved.

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.B. Consideration and potential action regarding Ordinance 2020-18, An Ordinance Declaring a Local Emergency Due to the COVID-19 Virus & Enacting Various Emergency Measures, including an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-18 to Add a New Section 2(T) Suspending Downtown Shuttles, as requested by the Legal Department.

Mr. Tyus reminded Council that the item was a standard place holder for Council consideration and that the item before them included the suspension of downtown shuttle licenses (party buses), which was being brought forward in an effort to further assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Council Member Carrillo expressed interest in a list that clarified the actions and levels of action Council could take in response to COVID-19. Mr. Tyus responded that staff had been discussing such a list and that their current focus was geared towards the most problematic areas.

Council Member Mathy supported Council Member Carrillo's request.

Council Member Carrillo left at 6:52 p.m.

Council Member Black stated that he believed the Town of Normal and the City should work together to adopt similar COVID-19 enforcement standards. He also stressed the need for the City to follow McLean County Health Department guidelines.

Council Member Boelen believed that the City should follow CDC (Center of Disease Control) recommendations including closing bars at 11:00 p.m. She also thought that educating the public was the best course of action and encouraged the community to practice mask use when they couldn't socially distance or when in public.

Council Member Emig believed consistency across local institutions was needed. She encouraged staff and the community to be creative with community events while maintaining social distance.

Council Member Painter expressed support in the item.

Council Member Bray made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-18 to Suspend Downtown Shuttles be approved.

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

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

ABSENT: Carrillo

Motion carried.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Tyus, on behalf of City Manager Gleason, thanked Council for the approval of the City Manager Contract (Item 8.G.). He highlighted the upcoming Downtown Farmers' Market and reminded the community to participate in the 2020 Census. He announced the kickoff of the City's Small Business Assistance Grant Program where qualified businesses could receive up to $4,500 of assistance. He recognized six new City of Bloomington employees and then highlighted a virtual event hosted by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission as part of the State's Housing Blueprint Program. Mr. Tyus concluded by announcing that Ferrero would be hosting a three-day free drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at their plant on beginning Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Mayor's Discussion

No discussion was had.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Mathy reminded the public to wear masks in public and practice good hygiene.

Council Member Crabill echoed the 2020 Census reminder and asked Mr. Tyus if information was available to the public that detailed the establishments that had passed ADA inspections. Mr. Tyus stated he would confirm. Council Member Crabill then asked for an update on the resident COVID-19 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Grant program. Mr. Tyus responded that approximately 200 applications had been submitted between July and the beginning of August and that the bulk of them had been referred to outside organizations better suited to fulfill the applicant's needs. He stated that he anticipated an increase in applications once outside organizations had met their aid thresholds. Council Member Crabill then asked if the type of required documentation impeded the process. Mr. Tyus responded that the Illinois Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") required the City to collect specific information, but that the City had worked hard to make the process as easy as it could be within HUD requirements

Council Member Black praised Mr. Gleason for his continued excellent service.

Mayor Pro Tem Mwilambwe echoed appreciation for Mr. Gleason and City staff, especially throughout COVID-19. He echoed the 2020 Census reminder and highlighted the discussion hosted by the Human Relations Commission on the topic to invest/divest police departments.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST

Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk