



**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 15, 2022. Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance ending with a moment of silent prayer/reflection.

**Roll Call**

| Attendee Name   | Title                  | Status  |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| Mboka Mwilambwe | Mayor                  | Present |
| Grant Walch     | 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 | Absent  |
| Nick Becker     | Council Member, Ward 5 | Present |
| De Urban        | Council Member, Ward 6 | Present |
| Mollie Ward     | Council Member, Ward 7 | Present |
| Jeff Crabill    | Council Member, Ward 8 | Present |
| Tom Crumpler    | Council Member, Ward 9 | Present |

**Public Comment**

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment procedure statement. Chuck Hipsher emailed a public comment. The following spoke in-person: (1) Tim Tilton; (2) John Reed; (3) Scott Stimeling; and (4) Jamie Mathy.

**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 Urban, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

**Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**AYES:** Mwilambwe, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

**Motion carried.**

**Regular Agenda**

*The following item was presented:*

Item 5.A. Discussion of the 2022 Summer Youth Enrichment Program Recognitions, as requested by the Human Resources Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason provided a brief overview of the 2022 Summer Youth Enrichment Program (“Program”) and recognized Nicole Albertson, Human Resources Director, for spear heading the Program. Mrs. Albertson discussed the Program and how it had evolved from its initial partnership with the Jewel Foundation to now include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”). Each of the youth participants present introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their experiences.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked all those who had played a part in the Program and its inception. He spoke about his past experiences and related them to the students and their futures. He encouraged young students to participate in internships to help build future careers. He spoke about the need for more diversity in government.

*The following item was presented:*

Item 5.B. Presentation and discussion of the proposed Downtown Streetscape Project - Concept Design, as requested by the Public Works Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe introduced the Item and thanked City Manager Gleason and staff for bringing forth a plan to revitalize downtown Bloomington (“Downtown”). Mr. Gleason spoke about the Downtown Task Force and their reports that focused on the most pressing issues. He was excited to kickoff what would be a community-wide conversation to determine what was funded and how. He spoke to the necessity of the presentation and the next step to build the Downtown Streetscape Plan. He expressed support for the project and noted his job would be to figure out how to pay for it. He pointed out that while expensive, it would not take away from other City projects and priorities. He then provided a rough project estimate and handed the presentation off to Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus.

Mr. Tyus spoke about Downtown’s uniqueness and pointing all it had to offer. He asked Council and the public to look beyond the proposal and envision a more walkable downtown with new lighting, outdoor dining, improved ADA (“Americans with Disabilities Act”) access, and more. He spoke about improving sign clutter, critical infrastructure above and below ground, revitalization, and enhancing what Downtown Bloomington already had to offer.

Craig Shonkwiler, City Engineer, introduced the team proposed to lead the project and described the roles they would play in the project; Mike Sewell, Project Manager with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly (CMT); Kent Massie, Lead Designer with Massie, Massie, & Associates; and Chris Stitzel, Project Principal with CMT. Mr. Shonkwiler defined streetscaping and spoke about successful streetscapes, why they are important, and outlined various plan efforts to date. He discussed opportunities and reiterated why staff believed the project was needed. He called out issues with the current Downtown and elaborated on several ideas that could make the City better known and prosperous. He outlined how Professional Services were selected for this project.

**Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Urban, to extend the discussion time by 30 minutes.**

**Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**AYES:** Mwilambwe, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

**Motion carried.**

Mr. Sewell provided examples of tools used to engage the public for past projects and explained his team's job would be to validate and update the City's goals for Downtown. He outlined the basis of their project approach and discussed the option of an upfront investment to minimize surprises that may arise. He reported that his team will provide detailed schematics for every block in Downtown to show how progress can be made.

Mr. Massie spoke about the difference between urban planning and urban designing, as well as why accessibility, services, durability and maintenance, and flexibility were important when starting to view such a project. He discussed past projects he'd done. He believed Bloomington had "good bones" for such a project and stated that the project scope would be about 12 months.

Council Member Crumpler asked about previous plans and expressed concerns about public engagement and costs of the project. Mr. Massie discussed the community engaged process and how community input could be done in various settings. He stated that City staff would lead any outreach.

Mr. Tyus discussed social media outreach and suggested ways to get creative to reach as many people as possible. Mr. Massie stated that there would be a lot of opportunity for feedback.

Council Member Walch and Mr. Sewell discussed televising of sewers in Downtown. Mr. Sewell spoke to addressing streetscaping without tearing everything out and stated they would address any critical lines that presented as problematic in the short-term. Council Member Walch asked Mr. Massie for additional information on how CMT planned to make Bloomington more unique than other projects they'd worked on. Mr. Massie spoke about how ideas and processes have changed over the years. He suggested the use of modular paving systems and how they provide flexible repair options. They then discussed initial costs, grant opportunities, public outreach, what made Downtown Bloomington special, as well as ADA accessibility.

Deputy City Manager Tyus spoke to investments in improvements and how they would increase foot traffic and, ultimately, revenue to the City.

Council Member Ward asked about experiences known where communities sabotage or work against similar projects. Mr. Massie responded with examples and encouraged flexibility.

Council Member Urban and Mr. Sewell agreed that public input and ADA compliance were of utmost importance. They discussed growth and economic development being a priority. Mr. Stritzel stated that they would do everything they could to come together and agree on what would make Bloomington stand out. Mr. Massie welcomed public input and spoke about how flexible spaces are great at keeping the community dynamic and successful.

Council Member Montney asked Mr. Sewell about schedules and deadlines being compressed. Mr. Sewell advised against it because it would limit opportunities for public input. She agreed and expressed interest in cost reduction practices. Mr. Sewell believed enough had been done to decide the vision and that now it was time to focus on unexplored opportunities. She asked if CMT had found any elements that could be leveraged or improved rather than starting anew. He reported that, while there were some components that needed updating, they planned to use the technical documents to leverage what had

already been done. Council Member Montney and Mr. Tyus then discussed the courthouse square project. She then discussed landscape maintenance with Mr. Shonkwiler, as well as traffic monitoring with Mr. Strizel.

**Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to extend Council discussion by 15 minutes.**

**Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**AYES:** Mwilambwe, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

**Motion carried.**

Council Member Boelen expressed interest in viewing deliverables including wayfinding signs and asked about monetary and environmental impacts to replace some of the old elements. Mr. Shonkwiler stated that the current signs would remain, but they would not know more until the study was completed. She then asked who would be on the steering committee and Mr. Tyus confirmed that had not been determined. Mr. Massie made suggestions from other communities.

Council Member Crabill spoke about Downtown being the heart of the community and the Westside being the soul. He and Mr. Tyus discussed involving the Westside. They moved on to discussing the importance of ADA compliance. Mr. Shonkwiler commented to how utilizing staff for portions of the project would come at a cost savings. He stated that while the project would not include a full topographic survey, one would be completed when it first began. He assured the end result would be ADA compliant.

Council Member Becker asked about data that could support particular benefits that would result from the investment. Mr. Sewell responded that prioritization of the project would involve determining what would be most impactful for largest immediate revitalization return for the City. Mr. Strizel explained their history in activating (revitalizing or bringing to life) spaces and how grants have been able to assist in implementing beautification plans in other cities. Mr. Massie discussed the outcomes of a CMT project in Decatur and another on the Square in Jacksonville, Illinois. Council Member Becker asked for data driven reports that could be used to prioritize projects and create a plan to move forward.

City Manager Gleason explained that the project was a priority and expressed appreciation to Council, the community, Deputy City Manager Tyus, and the rest of the team. He suggested the Item be brought for consideration at the October 24, 2022 Council meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked everyone for sharing their ideas and vision and spoke about how the project had been a long-time coming. He was proud of all Council had accomplished.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Gleason highlighted the City's new hires and upcoming events at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts ("BCPA") and Grossinger Motors Arena.

### **Executive Session**

No Executive Session was held.

### **Adjournment**

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to adjourn.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

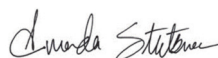
Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST



Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor



Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

