



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in-person in Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 19, 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	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	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 statement of procedure for public comment and the following individuals spoke in-person: (1) Ann Miller; (2) Gary Donohue; (3) Robert "Bob" Sampson; (4) Darlene Weber; (5) Stacy Durako; (6) Connie Boznos; (7) Kathy Petty; (8) Judi Davenport; and (9) Kurt Hudson. No emailed 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 Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and discussion of topics related to the recent storm events, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Administration Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the item and explained that the presentation would include an overview of the City's response to recent storms. He reminded the community that a more in-depth presentation would take place at the August Committee of the Whole ("COW") meeting and then asked Kevin Kothe, Director of Public Works, to address Council.

Mr. Kothe discussed the extent of storm damage and presented multiple photos of streets, creeks, damaged roads, and other areas of Bloomington that had flooded. He described the flooding at each location, noting multiple feet of water and stalled cars. He then presented a map that indicated the claims for flooding submitted to PMA, the City's Insurance Company, noting that most of the flooding was in the center of town. He went on to show the same map as it compared to sanitary sewer drains, storm drains, and combination drains. Mr. Kothe provided an overview of what would be covered at the August COW meeting. He explained that staff continued to track and compile the data that would be presented.

Council Member Ward was concerned about the number of combined sewers. She asked why some areas would not be addressed until 2029, whereas others were not considered. City Manager Gleason stated that the August COW meeting presentation would address her question. Mr. Kothe explained the difference between a combined sewer versus a combined sewer overflow ("CSO"). Council Member Ward asked for additional explanation on why the Locust-Colton and the Mainsfield CSO projects were addressed initially. Mr. Kothe explained that the Locust-Colton CSO overflowed 4 times a year on average and that the IEPA determined it needed to be addressed. He explained why the sewers downstream needed to be addressed before those on higher ground. Council Member Ward expressed her belief that the City should do more to assist those affected by sewer and sewage flooding.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to extend the discussion period by 30 minutes.

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

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Ward and Mr. Kothe continued their discussion, including the benefits of detention basins in West Bloomington, the Sewer Overhead Program, and the potential impacts of individual homes making improvements. Council Member Ward and Mr. Kothe then discussed the various phases of a CSO project and the typical timeline. Mr. Kothe reiterated that more details would be provided at the next meeting.

Council Member Crabill and Mr. Kothe talked about expediting the timeline for the Locust-Colton CSO project. They then discussed limitations of the Sewer Overhead Program and the numerous required assessments for each applicant and how the program was not a one-size-fits-all.

Council Member Carrillo echoed Council Member Ward's sentiment about the urgency in response to the community. City Manager Gleason stated that staff had requested time for storm clean-up and to compile data to present to Council. Council Member Carrillo expressed interest in expediting the presentation. She and Mr. Kothe then walked through

possibilities for a less individualized approach to the Overhead Sewer Program.

Council Member Mathy expressed interest in an on-going discussion. He asked Mr. Kothe to add the impacts of retention basins, expedited timeline possibilities, and data on costs to the next presentation.

Council Member Becker stated that the absence of communication with the public was the primary frustration. He encouraged better communication.

Council Member Emig encouraged research into the middle ground and that project phases be better communicated and/or updated for expediting. She asked if grant funding was available to aid residents with significant damages.

Council Member Montney asked for additional clarification on the specific phases of the Locust Colton CSO project. She and Mr. Kothe then discussed costs and funding sources of the various project phases, as well as any opportunity to use COVID relief funds to expedite the project.

Council Member Boelen asked for confirmation on the process for completion. Mr. Kothe reiterated the upstream process for CSO projects. Council Member Boelen supported the use of the COVID relief funds to expedite the projects.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, to extend the discussion period by 10 minutes.

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

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

Motion passed.

Council Member Crumpler strongly urged Council to consider the use of the COVID relief funds to accelerate the replacement of the outdated CSO systems.

Council Member Crabill and City Manager Gleason discussed the insurance claim review process, and the estimated timeline for PMA to process claims. They then discussed how staff would seek funds at the State level if the City did not receive federal funding for these projects. Council Member Crabill and Mr. Kothe walked through alternative sewer inspection options to assess potential damage or report damage.

Council Member Ward preferred to fiscally support preventative maintenance as opposed to addressing malfunctions after the fact. She expressed appreciation for the continued free bulk waste pick-up.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked Mr. Kothe for his presentation and restated the urgency of providing the community answers. He also stressed the importance of giving staff time to adequately prepare data.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, that the item be approved as presented.

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Update on the American Rescue Plan - COVID Relief Package, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and asked Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to address Council. Mr. Rathbun explained that the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") was a \$1.9 trillion program for local governments and that the City would receive \$13,386,924 in two installments. He noted that all funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. He provided examples of multiple uses of the funds, as well as requirements and mandatory reporting. He then provided updates on ARP fiscal recovery funds and resources for information.

Council Member Becker and Mr. Rathbun discussed the process for using funds.

Council Member Mathy and Mr. Rathbun then discussed specific details on calculations.

Council Member Boelen expressed concern about ensuring that funds were used for COVID relief. Mr. Rathbun stated that the funds could be used for a variety of items. Council Member Boelen and Mr. Rathbun talked through the potential for a business focused COVID relief grant and the potential need for additional staff to disperse the funds.

Council Member Montney discussed the potential to use funds to expedite the Locust-Colton CSO project.

Council Member Carrillo expressed interest in obtaining community input on how funds would be spent and stressed the importance of including equity in decision making.

Council Member Ward cautioned Council on utilizing ARP funds for budgeted projects and encouraged Council to use the funds to better the community.

Council Member Crabill agreed with Council Member Ward's comments on fund use. He confirmed with Mr. Rathbun that there was no deadline on how soon the funds could be spent and then encouraged staff to get community input and set a disbursement process.

Council Member Emig suggested a community input process similar to the Community Development Block Grant. She then confirmed with staff that the Locust-Colton CSO was partially funded by an Environmental Protection Agency low interest rate loan. She then asked Council's next step in the process. City Manager Gleason stated that staff were awaiting additional guidance from the federal government on the ARP.

Council Initiatives

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C.1. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Mathy proposing the City begin a 2 year trial program to send mental health crisis counselors out on emergency & non-emergency calls in addition to police or firefighter first responders, possibly in partnership with PATH, FUSE, or some other organization, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mathy explained that the Initiative was to create a program to partner first responders with local mental health crisis counselors to be deployed in the field during emergency situations. He understood that staff would need to determine the types of mental health situations where counselors would be most beneficial and noted that Illinois

had seen an increase in mental health needs, yet had seen a decrease in mental health programs and facilities. He stressed this being the reason that increased services for police officers and firefighter's participation were being seen. He recommended a public discussion be had to determine what a program would look like, how it would be created, and how staff could track data. He noted that the Illinois General Assembly had recently passed a law to require such a program and discussed how that could affect his Initiative.

Mayor Mwilambwe explained procedure for Initiatives to Council.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to have staff evaluate and prepare an analysis on the proposed Initiative and bring it back for further Council discussion.

Council Members Carrillo and Mathy along with Mayor Mwilambwe discussed the potential to amend the intent of the Initiative based on staff analysis and State legislation.

Council Member Montney asked for additional information on the amount of staff time necessary. Council Member Mathy believed staff time would be significant. He further explained that the Governor had 60 days to accept the proposed legislation and that he was open to delaying the vote until after the Governor had made a decision.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, asked Council Member Mathy if he wished to continue with the current motion on the floor. Council Member Mathy asked to instead table the item. George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, explained the procedure.

Council Member Mathy withdrew the initial motion.

Council Member Becker recommended that the item be tabled to the September COW meeting. Council Member Mathy was open to the idea.

Council Member Ward noted that Council could have a discussion at the next COW meeting without requiring staff prepare an analysis.

Mrs. Yocum suggested that if the original motion went forward, then the City Manager and Mayor could determine when the item would return to Council. She noted that since the motion withdrawal had not yet been seconded, it could still be amended.

Council Member Ward agreed to withdraw her second from the previous motion.

Council Member Mathy then motioned, seconded by Council Member Ward, to table the item to the August Committee of the Whole meeting pending the Governor's decision on the proposed legislation.

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

AYES: Mathy, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Boelen

Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Tim Gleason informed Council that, with overtime, the special bulk waste pick up would be complete by the upcoming Wednesday. He discussed options for continued bulk waste pickups for flood damaged items. He explained that to perform the special bulk waste pick-up, staff had been pulled from alley and mowing maintenance. He moved on to recognize three newly hired staff and upcoming Downtown events. He closed by thanking staff who had represented the City at the recent Multi-Agency Resource Center ("MARC") event.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

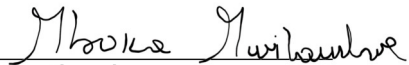
Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

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

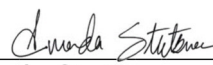
Motion carried (viva voce).

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

