



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 18, 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
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 4	Present
Julie Emig	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 statement of procedure for public comment. Scott Stimeling spoke in person and Kelby Cumpston provided emailed public comment.

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 Becker, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 7.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2022, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following was presented:

Item 8.A. Presentation regarding a proposed Housing Navigation Demonstration Project and associated Housing Stability Navigator position, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason provided a brief overview of the item. Matt Burgess, CEO of Home Sweet Home Ministries, and Erin Duncan, Prairie State Legal Services, addressed Council and provided a background on their positions and how they contributed to the Housing Navigation Demonstration Project.

Mr. Burgess discussed how the United Way COVID Response Housing Coalition began, and its challenges throughout COVID and post-COVID. Ms. Duncan discussed barriers to housing stability and individuals who are homeless or under immediate threat of homelessness. Mr. Burgess highlighted that there was no existing service to navigate applications, logistics and the overwhelm that residents faced. Both Mr. Burgess and Ms. Duncan then presented the Housing Stability Navigator position and their job duties. Ms. Duncan discussed how the Housing Navigation Demonstration Project was seeking American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds to support the cost of the Housing Navigation Demonstration Project for a period of three years (Fiscal Year 2023-2025). She stated that they were seeking funds for annual salary/benefits and coverage of administrative costs in the amount of \$225,000, and \$175,000 in start-up funds for emergency housing assistance for over three years.

Council Member Emig stressed that the proposal originated from the staff that work in the community and understand where the needs were. She supported the item, highlighting that those programs which assisted to fight homelessness fell under qualifications that ARPA money could fund. She believed that Bloomington and Normal could demonstrate how community governments could work together towards a common goal, instead of in respective silos.

Council Member Ward asked what other entities the presenters were approaching to ask for funding. Mr. Burgess responded that they had a presentation planned for the Town of Normal. They then briefly discussed the total amount of funds requested and the amounts for each might be responsible. Council Member Ward appreciated the proactiveness of the project.

Council Member Crumpler and Ms. Duncan discussed the self-nominated organizations who volunteered to oversee the position and the selection process. Council Member Crumpler and Mr. Burgess then discussed how the project would be evaluated after the three-year timeline.

Council Member Crabill supported the Item and discussed the difficulty for individuals to obtain assistance for full coverage of their rent. He and Mr. Burgess then discussed how the Housing Stability Navigator would be hired and managed by one of the organizations that have volunteered to run point on the program. They then discussed how program success would reduce homelessness.

Council Member Becker proposed if the Housing Stability Navigator would be better situated if it were not housed in Bloomington or Normal. Mr. Burgess believed it was best suited to be within one of the members of the United Way COVID Response Housing Coalition.

Council Member Becker asked that if staff and resources between the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, and both Townships of Normal and Bloomington, could be better utilized for the Housing Stability Navigator position instead of hiring a new individual. Ms. Duncan said that it was a possibility but that there was not a designated person who could be hands-on and would save resources for the four municipalities. Mr. Burgess discussed a few challenges with Council Member Becker's proposal.

Council Member Boelen asked the presenters if they had reached out to McLean County for financial assistance, if the McLean County's Behavioral Health Coordinating Council had been consulted, and if there was homelessness data to support the position request. Mr. Burgess stated that he had statistical data and Ms. Duncan stated that they had been in contact with McLean County for funding and the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Burgess then discussed the qualifications and expectations of the position. Council Member Bolen expressed her belief that the Item was a short-term solution to the issue of lack of housing.

Council Member Ward reiterated her support in the short-term project.

Council Member Boelen asked if the presenters approached for-profit organizations for assistance as well. Ms. Duncan stated that they had not. They then discussed the complexity of the processes to obtain funds and the steps that the Coalition members were taking to simplify said processes.

Council Member Walch discussed the need for additional awareness for assistance and recommended the creation of a single website that lists the resources available. Ms. Duncan stated that there was a Coalition internal list but that no organization had the capacity to manage a website.

Council Member Boelen expressed concern with the reporting requirements and the accountability of the awarded payments. Mr. Burgess stated that reporting parameters could be established to ensure that expenditures were accurately reported. Ms. Duncan believed it was a benefit to house the Housing Stability Navigator position within a Not-for-Profit organization, as those organizations were familiar with accountability of expenditures.

Council Member Emig further expressed her support of the Item and the need. Council Member Crabill agreed with the need for accountability. He compared the funding that was recently approved for the Mobile Health Unit to the Housing Stability Navigator.

Council Member Boelen and Ms. Duncan further discussed the need for accountability.

Council Member Urban asked if the program could assist landlords with creating vacant rental units available to assist with the housing shortage. Ms. Duncan explained that the Coalition focused on the immediate threat of homelessness for residents and did not work with landlords in that way. Council Member Urban requested additional data and information before a decision was made.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked the presenters for their proposal. He agreed that additional information was needed.

The following was presented:

Item 8.B. Presentation, discussion, and potential direction related to Redistricting Map Options proposed by staff and residents, as requested by the City Clerk Department, and the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item and discussed potential next steps. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, addressed Council and discussed the Ward redistricting project process to date. She reminded Council that there were four proposed Ward Redistricting Maps from staff and celebrated the one submitted by Matthew Loss, Resident. She reiterated the requirements of redistricting, which included compactness, contiguousness, and equal population with no more than 10% deviation. Mrs. Yocum then presented five proposed maps that met the

redistricting standards, highlighting the changes for each. She pointed out that Plan 2 was ranked first, Plan 4 was ranked second, Plan 3 was ranked third, and Plan 1 was ranked fourth for population deviation and compaction with no Plan exceeding 4% deviation. She explained the proposed changes for Resident Plan 1 which had a mean population deviation of 6.7%. She concluded her presentation noting that racial disparity and future growth were also considered when eliminating Plan options.

Council Member Ward confirmed with Mrs. Yocum the median population deviation for Resident Plan 1. Mrs. Yocum corrected her initial report and stated that the median population deviation for Resident Plan 1 was 3.66%.

Council Member Ward and Mrs. Yocum discussed the racial disparity consideration in that after the initial three overall factors, the minority votes were not diluted. Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, added that race was not considered, however, the proposed maps did not break up voting precincts where the minority vote was the majority.

Council Member Ward asked if any of the proposed Plans had been ranked based on racial disparity. Mrs. Yocum explained the number of minorities and the difficulties in determining the requested ranking but that each Plan was within 0.5% of the mean minority vote.

Council Member Crabill was concerned with the lack of public input and asked if it was possible to create a majority minority district. Mrs. Yocum stated that the Redistricting Plans were presented at three Council meetings, that additional time was given for resident submissions, and that there had been additional outreach efforts made for public input. She was unaware of a map that was considered that created a majority minority area.

Council Member Walch commended Mrs. Yocum for the work that staff did to prepare the Plans. Council Member Walch and City Manager Gleason discussed anticipated growth and how the proposed Plans considered it.

Council Member Crumpler echoed appreciation to staff. He then discussed the next steps to approve a Plan with Mrs. Yocum. He expressed his belief that there would be growth in Ward 3 and advocated support for Plan 2 which allowed for the most growth in Ward 3.

Council Member Emig asked what caused the increase in some Wards and decreases in others. Mrs. Yocum commented to the development expansion in Ward 8. She then reminded Council that the Bloomington Election Commission determined the voting precincts and that they would be realigning their precinct maps to the approved new Ward Map as best as possible. Council Member echoed appreciation to staff.

Council Member Montney echoed appreciation to staff and advocated for Plan 2. Council Member Ward clarified with Mrs. Yocum that Plan 3 was the most compact and vertical compared to the other Plans. They then discussed that Plan 3 was ranked third based on minimal changes in the percent of population deviation and compactness in addition to keeping large subdivisions in one Ward. Council Member Ward advocated for Plan 3 to ensure that Westside Bloomington had sufficient representation.

Council Member Walch requested a visual representation of the differences between Plan 2 and Plan 3. Mrs. Yocum stated that a map can be provided at the next meeting.

Council Member Montney commented to future growth and population compaction.

Mrs. Yocum discussed a plan option that could be presented that combined a vertical and horizontal Ward design. Council Member Ward expressed interest in such Plan.

Council Member Boelen expressed that Ward 2's population deviation will not experience significant change.

Mrs. Yocum confirmed the Plans that would be brought back to Council.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager highlighted the City's new hires and upcoming events at the Bloomington Ice Center and at Miller Park Zoo.

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 the roll:

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

