



MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 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 both in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom conferencing at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tari Renner.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Remote	
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

Tim Gleason, City Manager, addressed Council. He discussed a McLean County mobile COVID-19 testing center that would be traveling throughout rural areas of the county. He also reported that the Town of Normal had had a few internal COVID-19 positive cases in their Fire Department and that numerous other firefighters were being quarantined. He stated that Bloomington and Normal Fire Chiefs were working closely while staff recovered.

He informed Council that \$275,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cares Act funds allotted for resident financial aid had received 150 applications for assistance. He stated that \$150,000 of the CDBG Cares Act funds were allotted for business aid, but that staff were working through submission procedures. He explained that staff continued to reach out to community partners about possibly funding job training for potential full-time employees.

Mr. Gleason mentioned the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) updates to temporary Downtown Bloomington outdoor dining and how funding from the CDBG Cares Act could be used to partner with Downtown businesses to make ADA improvements. He stated that staff continued to track COVID financial impacts and noted that the City continued to trend better than the conservative negative projection.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Recognition of the Appointments to the Police Pension Board and John M. Scott Health Care Commission.

Mayor Renner recognized the following Board appointments: (1) Dean Messenger, Police Pension Board; (2) Angie Chasensky, John M. Scott Board; (3) Judy Neubrandner, John M. Scott Board; (4) Feli Sebastian, John M. Scott Board; and (5) Karen Stipp, John M. Scott Board.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals had registered to speak live: (1) Dianne Hollister and (2) Zachary Gittrich. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, then read a list of individuals who had emailed public comment: (1) Justin Boyd; (2) Heidi Zimmerman; (3) Alice Staley; and (4) Rickielee Benecke.

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 Mathy, that the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items 8.I., 8.C., 8.B., 8.F., and 8.K. be approved as presented.

Mayor Renner 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 Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$12,599,344.25, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 8.B. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Crabill.

Item 8.C. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Carrillo.

Item 8.D. Consideration and action to reject the Bid for the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department 2020 or Newer Ford F250 or Equivalent Pickup Truck (Bid #2021-04) so the Purchase can be made using the Northwest Municipal Suburban Purchasing contract (#178, exp. 7/17/2020) at a lower cost, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bid Rejection be approved.)

Item 8.E. Consideration and action to approve the Annual Maintenance and Support Payment in the amount of \$127,536.66 with Tyler Technologies, for the computer-aided dispatch solution used by the Police and Fire Departments, as requested by the Information Services Department and the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Payment be approved.)

Item 8.F. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Mwilambwe.

Item 8.G. Consideration and action to approve an updated Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to participate in a Federal program to receive supplemental Medicaid payments for Ground Emergency Medical

Transports, as requested by the Fire Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Agreement be approved.)

Item 8.H. Consideration and action to approve a Contract with Maurer Stutz, Inc., for the Final Design of the Sugar Creek Lift Station & Force Main Improvements, in the amount of \$75,105, as requested by the Public Works Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Contract be approved.)

Item 8.I. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Bray.

Item 8.J. Consideration and action on a Resolution Adopting the Amended Citizen Participation Plan, as requested by the Community Development Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

Item 8.K. was removed from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Black.

Item 8.L. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 of the City Code on Public Indecency, as requested by the Legal Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

The following item was pulled by Council Member Bray:

Item 8.I. Consideration and action to approve a Second Amendment to the Settlement Agreement between State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, the City of Bloomington, and other taxing bodies in McLean County, Illinois regarding the assessed value of parcels owned by State Farm, applicable to tax years 2020-2024, as requested by the Legal Department.

Council Members Bray and Crabill recused themselves at 6:15 p.m. as the item involved their employer.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, that the proposed Second Amendment be approved.

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

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

RECUSED: Crabill, Bray

Motion carried.

Council Members Bray and Crabill returned at 6:16 p.m.

The following item was pulled by Council Member Carrillo:

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to reject the Bid for the Police 2020 or Newer Ford F250 Pickup Truck or Equivalent Purchase (Bid #2021-05) so the Purchase can be made using the Northwest Municipal Suburban Purchasing Contract (#178, exp. 7/17/2020) at a lower cost, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

Council Member Carrillo expressed interest in voting against the item.

Council Member Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to reject the item.

Council Member Black asked Council Member Carrillo the reason behind her motion. Council Member Carrillo responded that she was against providing resources to the Police Department that could result in increasing the size of the Department.

Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, asked for clarification on Council Member Carrillo's motion and pointed out that approval of the item would actually result in rejecting the bids. He explained that staff had recommended in the original motion that the bids be rejected because the City was able to make the purchase for less through a joint purchasing agreement.

Council Member Carrillo asked if the purchase from said source would return to Council for a vote. Mr. Jurgens responded the purchase through the joint purchasing agreement would not require it to return for Council consideration.

Mayor Renner confirmed with Mr. Jurgens that the purchase would fall under the City Manager's authority. Mr. Jurgens confirmed.

Council Member Crabill then requested that the motion be amended to require the purchase to return to Council for additional consideration.

Mayor Renner asked the mover if she supported amending her motion. She agreed.

Council Member Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to approve the bid rejection and require the purchase to return to Council for approval.

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

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

NAYES: Boelen

Motion carried.

The following item was pulled by Council Member Crabill:

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve Re-appointment and Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to approve the appointments as presented with the exception of the re-appointment of Ryan Whitehouse.

Council Member Crabill asked Mr. Jurgens about the procedure if the motion was approved and whether a Council Member could then motion to approve Ryan Whitehouse separately. Mr. Jurgens responded affirmatively.

Council Member Bray questioned the manner in which the motion was called and asked Mr. Jurgens if Council was able proceed. Mr. Jurgens responded that the motion was in order and reiterated Ryan Whitehouse could be approved separately.

Council Member Bray confirmed the procedural process. Mr. Jurgens stated that if the current motion failed, the floor would then be open to another motion.

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

AYES: Emig, Carrillo, Crabill

NAYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Painter, Black, Bray

Motion failed.

Council Member Bray motioned, seconded by Council Member Boelen, that the proposed Re-Appointment and Appointments be approved.

Council Member Crabill was not supportive of the re-appointment of Ryan Whitehouse. He thanked Mr. Whitehouse for his 8 years of service, and provided reasoning as to why he was not supportive.

Council Member Boelen provided a brief history of her involvement with Connect Transit and expressed support for the re-appointment.

Council Member Carrillo discussed her belief that the Connect Transit Board should be led by a para-transit driver.

Council Member Boelen recognized the Mayor for his work in the selections of candidates.

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

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

NAYES: Carrillo, Crabill

Motion carried.

The following item was pulled by Council Member Mwilambwe:

Item 8.F. Consideration and action to approve an Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois for the Groundwater Level Monitoring Program as a limited source, in the amount of \$9,506 for Year 1, \$9,704 for Year 2, and \$9,909 for Year 3, for a total amount of \$29,119, as requested by the Public Works Department.

Council Member Mwilambwe recused himself at 6:30 p.m. as the item involved his employer.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Painter, that the proposed Agreement be approved.

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

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

RECUSED: Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Council Member Mwilambwe returned at 6:31 p.m.

The following item was pulled by Council Member Black:

Item 8.K. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow Chicken-keeping as an Accessory Use in the R-1C District for the Property at 1610 N. Lee Street, as requested by the Community Development Department.

Council Member Black stated that Council had received multiple concerns from the neighborhood on the location and wished to voice their concerns.

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to reject the proposed Ordinance as presented.

Council Member Boelen asked for additional detail on the concerns. Council Member Black responded that multiple people had expressed concerns in a variety of venues. He stated his continued opinion that chicken coops were okay so long as neighbors didn't care; however, since direct neighbors of the property had expressed concerns, he supported their concerns.

Council Member Crabill stated that he had also heard concerns regarding wildlife that could be attracted to the coops, as well as the applicant's ability to keep animals on the property.

Council Member Carrillo asked what action could be taken if the current motion failed, the permit was approved, and then there were future issues. Mr. Jurgens responded that, if approved, the applicant would have to meet all requirements of the special use permit or it could be revoked. Katie Simpson, City Planner, agreed with Mr. Jurgens and addressed the various factors that would need to be met/maintained in order for the permit to be kept. She also noted other City Code ordinances for enforcement.

Council Member Carrillo expressed her belief that the item should be approved as presented with the understanding the permit could be revoked.

Council Member Mwilambwe confirmed actions of the motion.

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

AYES: Mwilambwe, Painter, Black, Crabill, Bray

NAYES: Mathy, Boelen, Emig, Carrillo

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 9.A. Consideration and action on the ratification of the Telecommunicators Contract, as requested by the Human Resources Department and the Police Department.

Mr. Gleason stated that the telecommunicators were represented by the Police Benevolent Labor Committee - Telecommunicators group (PBPA). He explained the union ratified the shorter two-year agreement and it allowed for a 2.5% pay increase each year along with a minor adjustment to vacation day accrual. He also noted the union was covered by the IMRF and it was the last collective bargaining agreement to address Sick-Leave Buy-Back (SLBB) program. Mr. Gleason explained none of the current employees in the union qualified for the SLBB program.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the proposed Contract be ratified.

Mayor Renner 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. Presentation on Jamie Mathy's Aldermanic Initiative Proposal to bring back the Downtown Task Force Report, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Renner briefly introduced the item and explained to Council that staff sought direction on next steps.

Mr. Gleason provided a brief overview of the status of Council Member Mathy's Aldermanic Initiative in the review process. He explained the presentation would discuss the Downtown Bloomington Task Force's final report ("the Report") from October 17, 2017. He commented on Downtown and noted potential to formally create a Downtown Commission or Board appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council with the DBA acting as advisors.

Mr. Gleason discussed the Report in great detail and walked through multiple slides noting various recommendations provided within the Report. He made recommendations and discussed multiple projects. He concluded his portion of the presentation and asked Melissa Hon, Economic Development Director, to address Council to present completed projects that had been accomplished since 2019.

Ms. Hon discussed multiple improvements to beatification and walkability in the Downtown area, provided a general update on Downtown including how COVID-19 had impacted the area. She walked through project detail and painted a future for Downtown that included beautifying the area, expanding offerings for businesses, and promoting development. She welcomed any questions or comments from Council.

Council Member Carrillo asked if approving the Report would mean Council had agreed to all projects. Mayor Renner responded by stating that approving the Report would make Council priorities clear, but that the projects would still need Council approval.

Council Member Carrillo asked Ms. Hon what primary barriers kept staff from completing projects. Ms. Hon responded that the biggest barrier was funding. Council Member Carrillo expressed her support in advancing the Report forward, but expressed concern with the age of the Report. Mr. Gleason responded that Downtown was a priority and that the City would be receiving \$3.5 million from the State over the next five years for infrastructure, so funding would be more available. He reiterated that staff sought Council's main priorities and direction on projects.

Council Member Mathy pointed out that more had happened in Downtown in the past two years than the past decade. He stated that Bloomington continued to grow as a destination for Route 66 visitors and believed Downtown is an incubator for small businesses. He expressed his priorities as streetscaping, greenspace, conduit for electric vehicle charging, and anything to improve the atmosphere.

Mayor Renner left and returned several times from 7:16 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Council Member Emig expressed her support in Strong Towns and her appreciation in the opportunities for larger and creative aspirational changes. She noted the option to rethink the Catalyst portion of the Report and provided alternative suggestions.

Council Member Painter pointed out that thriving downtowns were an economic drivers and noted that with issues of closures in Eastland Mall, Council needed to turn their attention to Downtown. She expressed her support in the Report and encouraged Council to adopt it, set priorities, and then budget for projects to be completed at an accelerated rate.

Council Member Boelen expressed her support in the Report and agreed with Council Member Painter's comments. She expressed concern with adopting the Report as written and also believed Council needed to prioritize projects to give staff clear direction. She

cautioned overloading the budget with projects and expressed the need for the historic attributes of Downtown to be restored.

Council Member Bray reminded Council that she had been a part of the Downtown Bloomington Task Force and had assisted with the Report. She explained reasoning behind the Report's suggested improvements. She expressed support in streetscaping, lighting, and parking solutions.

Council Member Mwilambwe thanked everyone who had been involved in the Report and staff for focusing on Downtown. He expressed support of the Initiative and wished Council would select projects which could be addressed in small manageable ways.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.C. Consideration and potential action regarding Ordinance 2020-18, An Ordinance Declaring A Local Emergency Due to the COVID-19 Virus & Enacting Various Emergency Measures, as requested by the Legal Department.

Mr. Gleason pointed out that no updates were suggested at the time.

Mayor Renner welcomed any questions from Council on COVID-19.

Council Member Boelen pointed out that Illinois was in Phase 4 of the Reopen Illinois plan with Phase 5 not in sight. She asked at what point Council would set aside the Ordinance. Mr. Gleason recommended the Local Emergency Ordinance remain on the agenda until Illinois moved into Phase 5.

Council Member Crabill asked about ADA compliance for the COVID-19 Outdoor Dining. Mr. Gleason provided a brief history on the outdoor dining service and consumption opportunities. He noted CARES Act funding being available to local businesses and stated that it could possibly be a source for funding ADA improvements. Deputy City Manager Tyus confirmed staff were analyzing the entire City for ADA compliance and would work with businesses to ensure compliance.

Council Member Mathy commented that the new outdoor dining and service was well received throughout Bloomington and not just in Downtown. He suggested a zoning change to encourage the outdoor dining atmosphere. Mr. Gleason agreed with Council Member Mathy and noted that staff were actively working toward additional Citywide outdoor dining opportunities.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Gleason recognized the Public Works Department and their great work with bulk waste pick-up. He discussed the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting and a presentation by Ryan Whitehouse with an update on the Connect Transit project. He mentioned the PSCRB (Public Safety and Community Relations Board) Annual report and the Water Master Plan would also appear on the agenda.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner made a brief statement about a hate group who had distributed material within the community over the weekend. He noted that while the distribution of materials fell under a First Amendment Right, acting on those suggestions, such as terrorizing, threatening, or murdering, were felonies and would not be tolerated. He stated

that Bloomington welcomed all and was proud to be a melting pot of a community. He ended by highlighting Mr. Gleason's upcoming anniversary with the City of Bloomington.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Carrillo thanked the Mayor for speaking out against the leaflets distributed by white supremacy groups.

Council Member Crabill noted under the Consent Agenda, an Ordinance was amended regarding public indecency and stated that he felt it was important change for the community. He stressed the need for outdoor dining ADA compliance.

Council Member Emig stated that the Inter-Governmental Agreement with Connect Transit would be amended to provide additional direction and increased accountability for policy transactions. She noted her appreciation in the appointment of board members that better represented Bloomington's residents and their needs. She expressed disappointment in the recent distribution of racist leaflets and encouraged the public to continue to prove Bloomington welcomed all individuals.

Council Member Mathy thanked Council Member Emig for her comments and stated that he and Council Member Carrillo had an opportunity to speak with the Next Gen Initiative, a group of future leaders, where they educated attendees on Council's duties. He encouraged Council to reach out to next generation of leaders across the community.

Council Member Black expressed interest in a staff update on the Market Street Plaza project.

Council Member Boelen echoed congratulations to Mr. Gleason on his City Anniversary.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, that the meeting be adjourned.

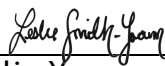
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST


Leslie Yocum, City Clerk

