



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Remote	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Remote	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Remote	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Remote	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Remote	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Remote	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	Council Member, Ward 6	Remote	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Remote	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Remote	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Remote	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

City manager Tim Gleason reported that submissions for the COVID-19 Small Business Grant had decreased and that the City had \$100,000 available to still award. He explained that the COVID-19 Emergency Order Ordinance would appear before Council at the next meeting with the recommendation to repeal. He finished with an update on the vaccination clinic at Grossinger Motors Arena.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe opened the meeting for public comment. No individuals had registered to speak, and no emailed public comment had been 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 Becker, 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 5.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 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 6.A. Presentation and discussion of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and asked Kevin Kothe, Public Works Director, to address Council. Mr. Kothe explained that an intergovernmental meeting between the City of Bloomington, McLean County, the Town of Normal, Connect Transit, and other stakeholders was regularly held to discuss transportation and development issues. He stated that the Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan ("Go:Safe") was a result of those meetings and that it was created as an implementation of Vision Zero, a worldwide safety initiative. He then introduced Raymond Lai, Executive Director, and Jennifer Sicks, Senior Transportation Planner, of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission ("MCRPC").

Mr. Lai provided background on Vision Zero and explained that Illinois, funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT"), had re-branded the program as Go:Safe, a safety initiative to reach zero fatalities in traffic accidents annually. He discussed review processes, public participation, the implementation of Go:Safe over the past year, as well as MCRPC's half adoption. He reported that the MCRPC had set 2030 as a target date to reach zero fatalities or life-changing injuries by.

Mrs. Sicks walked through infrastructure recommendations that would assist in achieving zero fatalities by 2030. She explained that additional safety data research was needed and recommended partnerships with local corporate partners, the medical community, universities, and government agencies. She provided examples of multiple technologies that could aid in public safety and concluded by discussing opportunities to implement a community culture change.

Mr. Lai asked Council for feedback and recommendations to improve the program.

Council Member Crabill expressed concern in additional traffic stops as other organizations, such as the Immigration Project, had report traffic stops hindering other efforts. Mr. Lai stated that increased traffic stops were just one of the recommendations. Council Member Crabill encouraged research into new technologies to increase safety and then discussed "road diets" to encourage slower speeds. Mr. Lai agreed.

Council Member Mathy also supported road diets, as well as other street designs that encouraged drivers to reduce their speed naturally. He cautioned associating traffic stops with initiative as he feared it may villainize the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD").

Council Member Montney discussed a variety of root causes she believed impact traffic safety and questioned whether zero fatalities could be achieved by 2030. Mr. Lai stated that any progress towards reducing fatalities was beneficial and hoped the City would support a version of the Go:Safe safety initiative. Council Member Montney commented to texting while driving and bicycling being a major problem.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked for a motion to extend the time.

Council Member Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to extend the Council Discussion time by 15 minutes.

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.

Council Member Becker agreed with Council Member Mathy's statements on the BPD connection. He asked for Bloomington traffic fatality data to allow focusing on root causes.

Council Member Boelen asked how IDOT funded the program. Mr. Lai explained. Council Member Boelen then noted that costs to implement the program would fall to the City and that she did not support micro-transportation. She stressed the lack of public transportation and limited sidewalks in Ward 2. Mr. Lai agreed sidewalks were limited in that area and reiterated that safety was the highest priority.

Council Member Carrillo disagreed that traffic stops villainized BPD and expressed her belief that people of color were stopped more frequently car searches.

Council Member Boelen called a point of order and expressed her belief that Council Member Carrillo's statements were not relevant to the Go:Safe safety initiative. Mayor Mwilambwe asked Council Member Carrillo to wrap up her comments.

Council Member Carrillo stated that the Go:Safe safety initiative encouraged heightened enforcement and, while she supported Go:Safe's vision, she cautioned the use of heightened enforcement as she believed it would reduce community buy-in.

Council Member Emig noted there were multiple unfunded street plans and expressed interest in reviewing root cause data for traffic safety in order to prioritize projects. She noted that Safe Routes to Schools grants could also be used.

Council Member Crumpler was interested in reviewing data focused on local fatalities and was concerned with the initiative's viability by 2030. He recommended implementing benchmarks to better gauge progress.

Council Member Crabill clarified that he didn't intend his earlier comments regarding BPD to be derogatory and noted that traffic stops can be dangerous for both the public and officers. He expressed his support of the Go:Safe safety initiative.

Mayor Mwilambwe reported that he believed the consensus of Council was that they supported a more refined version of the Go:Safe safety initiative. He asked Mr. Lai about next steps. Mr. Lai stated that they would work with the City Manager's office to plan for how to move. He again stressed that improving overall safety was most important.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B. Presentation of the proposed 2021-2023 IT Strategic Plan, as requested by the Information Technology Department.

City Manager Gleason explained that when Craig McBeath, Information Technology ("IT") Director, assumed his position, there were numerous items that had to be addressed and that the presentation would include those top items. He recognized the work of Mr.

McBeath, Assistant Director of IT, Mark Owens, and IT staff for their continuous work to move the plan forward while also supporting City staff during COVID-19.

Mr. McBeath discussed the importance of an effective IT strategy and how it enables IT to best support the organization. He explained that the goals included in the plan were derived from the City's organizational goals. He stated that while the City has reliable infrastructure and a support desk, the overall functions of the City's IT were on a Responder Level. He noted his desire to reach the Innovator Level transforming the organization with reliable technology by 2023.

Mr. Owens briefly discussed IT Strategic Initiatives by priority and noted that most the initiatives were already in progress.

Mr. McBeath stated that IT would work with each City department to identify opportunities for technology solutions and further determine how to augment operational tools to reduce manual functions. He stressed the importance of creating user-friendly experiences for both staff and the public. He then discussed IT's project backlog and how project completion would be based on priorities set by the organization. He explained that the strategic plan was not static and that it would need to be updated throughout the year.

Council Member Becker stressed the importance of up-to-date IT infrastructure and believed infrastructure should remain a top priority project.

Council Member Montney asked if IT was involved when City departments purchased new technology or software. Mr. McBeath stated that IT was involved currently, but that had not always been the case. He explained the importance being involved. Council Member Montney asked how staff followed up with cost analysis based on cost savings pledged by departments at the time purchase. Mr. McBeath responded that, historically, department heads completed post-implementation analysis. City Manager Gleason explained IT had been more involved with department technology purchases over the past few years and that cost benefit analysis would be tracked more consistently. Council Member Montney suggested an evaluation on current processes before new technology was purchased and then stressed the importance of continued cost benefit analysis.

Council Member Boelen also supported consistent benefit analysis and asked for additional information on private wireless initiative. Mr. McBeath explained that the private wireless network that was built throughout Bloomington, with a focus on the Downtown area, that it supported City technology. Council Member Boelen asked for additional information on the Fire Station Alerting System Implementation Initiative and whether there was an opportunity to increase BPD's response system. Mr. McBeath responded accordingly.

Mayor Mwilambwe requested a motion to extend the Council discussion time.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to extend the Council discussion time by 15 minutes.

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.

Council Member Ward asked about opportunities for public stakeholder feedback on website useability. Mr. McBeath stated that IT uses a system to analyze the City's website

and that the Technology Commission also acted as an advisory board for Council allowing for additional opportunities of community input.

Council Member Crumpler asked for additional information on City cyber-security. Mr. McBeath discussed how IT actively monitored security incidents and operated under best practices. He stated that additional cybersecurity discussions were on the horizon.

Council Member Mathy thanked staff and expressed appreciation for the increased use of technology better ensuring staff productivity and citizen engagement.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked City Manager Gleason on next steps. City Manager Gleason responded that staff could bring the IT Plan forward for consideration at the next meeting.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.C. Presentation and discussion of the Solid Waste Program, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and explained that the presentation was the 5th presentation in a series of discussions addressing the \$1 million deficit in the Solid Waste Program. He explained that previous presentations had provided details on issues and noted that during the presentation, staff would provide their recommendations.

Kevin Kothe, Director of Public Works, addressed Council on the Solid Waste Program and recommended changes. He provided an update on anticipated cost savings and purchase status of the air curtain brush burner. Mr. Kothe discussed issues with the Citizen Convenience Center (“CCC”), free spring and fall bulk waste pick-up, construction and remodeling waste curb pickup, curbside leaf collection, etc. He then listed multiple benefits of implementing the staff recommendations discussed and compared costs for implementation. He went on to discuss opportunities to complete billing audits ensuring residents were appropriately charged and concluded his presentation noting an overall savings of about \$1.5 million including a budget surplus of \$229,000. City Manager Gleason explained that the projected savings were conservative and that the proposed changes would not be at a cost to residents.

Council Member Mathy expressed concerns derived from rental properties. Mr. Kothe responded accordingly. Council Member Mathy then discussed potential issues with requiring leaves to be bagged and asked what would become of leaf collection crews. Mr. Kothe stated that staff had calculated an 8-bag average per household and that because the City hired seasonal staff for bulk leaf collection, no reduction of full-time staff would be necessary. They then discussed staffing and plans for increased efficiencies.

Council Member Montney believed internal accounting was the real issue and discussed research she’d completed dating back to 2011. She recommended staff reconsider efficiencies from citizen standpoints versus City staff. She was not supportive of changes to bulk leaf collection and believed residents should be consulted.

Council Member Ward expressed concern for disabled and low-income residents bagging leaves. She asked if the Low-Income Fee Program could be expanded to include leaf collection. She echoed concerns with rental properties and suggested penalties for recurring violations. Mr. Kothe explained the Code outlined the length of time garbage and bulk could be on the curb and noted increased enforcement could solve the problem. He did not believe the Low-Income Fee Program could be expanded to include bulk waste.

Council Member Crabill confirmed with Mr. Kothe only 21 households had applied and been approved for the low-income fee. They discussed ways to promote the program.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Kothe discussed ways the City could better enforce issues with rental properties and moved on to discuss additional costs associated to the brush burner. Council Member Boelen recommended staff notice residents electronically.

Council Member Montney noted decisions on recommendations had not been made and asked for additional detail on labor cost reduction associated to proposed changes. Mr. Kothe confirmed staff were pulled from other divisions of Public Works during peak times of collection. Council Member Montney believed the changes recommended would only have internal impacts and that they would not benefit residents. City Manager Gleason responded that staff sought to provide comparable services without additional cost to residents. He noted that if Council decided to absorb the \$1 million deficient, staff would work to adjust.

Council Member Emig asked that information on the regional plan be provided to Council in the future. She noted that the level of services provided to the community was expensive and that alternative services may need to be considered.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed staff to consider Council recommendations and amend the proposed changes.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Tim Gleason highlighted upcoming events in the Downtown area. He then recognized two new City staff members and stated that Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings would be held in-person beginning in July at the Government Center.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, 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

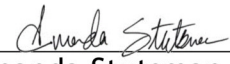
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

