



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2023. 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
Jenna Kearns	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present
John Danenberger	Council Member, Ward 4	Present
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present
Cody Hendricks	Council Member, Ward 6	Present
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present
Kent Lee	Council Member, Ward 8	Present
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment procedure statement. Karen Irvin emailed public comment which was provided to Council prior to the meeting. The following provided in-person public comment: (1) Jackie Beyer; (2) Tom Kirk; (3) Deborah Johnston; and (4) Surena Fish.

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.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2023 Regular 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 the Public Works Water Capital Improvement Plan, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the Item and invited Kevin Kothe, Public Works Director, to present.

Director Kothe noted the high-level presentation of the Capital Improvement Plan would result in multiple future discussions on specific projects. He provided a brief overview of the City's water history since 1875, highlighting key milestones, and discussed key water tanks and pump stations that supported the City's water supply. He went on to discuss the 20-year Capital Improvement Studies and the current progress the Public Works ("PW") Department made on the current Master Plan. Director Kothe then discussed the various components of the Capital Improvement Plan, the project timelines, and the anticipated completion. He discussed the water rate study and opportunities for public input noting the City was among the lower rates of municipalities of similar size. He concluded his presentation by listing the next steps.

City Manager Gleason appreciated the well-managed water infrastructure. He noted that both Deputy City Managers have worked with the City's Lobbyist on grants and other funding opportunities to fund the Water Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Member Montney and Director Kothe discussed the average water bill for the past 10 years and the components of the City utility bill. Director Kothe noted there had not been a rate increase for water in the past 10 years. Council Member Montney requested a breakdown of the utility bill over the past 10 years to assist with community education.

Mayor Mwilambwe noted Council made multiple economic developments and expansions. He and Director Kothe discussed opportunities to develop an additional water source and the continuous monitoring of water supply and treatment.

Council Member Hendricks commented on his experience with a private water supplier and appreciated that Bloomington had the public resource.

Council Member Initiatives

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Discussion on Council Member Ward's Agenda Initiative Proposal to Create a Special Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Plan to Address the Issue of Gun Violence Locally, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

City Manager Gleason provided a brief overview of the Council Member Initiative's timeline and that staff sought Council direction.

Council Member Ward provided additional background on the need to address gun violence throughout the community. She stated the proposed Commission would pull together scattered data compiled by multiple community organizations. She explained the Commission would propose shovel-ready programs to address crime and gun violence. She did not believe any existing public bodies could fully address all aspects of gun violence, as it could distract from their current objectives. Council Member Ward stated the Commission would not focus on the removal of guns within the community and instead focus on gun safety. She also expressed that she was open to a name change for the Commission.

Council Member Crumpler supported the Commission but commented to the lengthy timeline for public bodies to make progress. Council Members Crumpler and Ward discussed a strict timeline for the Commission and discussed accountability markers.

Council Members Montney and Ward discussed gun or violence initiatives in Peoria and Champaign. Council Member Montney inquired about the success of the programs from Peoria and Champaign. They then discussed how the Commission would determine the causes of gun violence and potential outcomes. Council Member Montney recommended Council consider a simpler route compared to a public meeting body that would save staff time and resources.

Council Member Becker noted everyone supported the reduction of gun violence to zero; however, Council could utilize current resources and organizations that would also reach the result Council Member Ward was working toward.

Council Members Hendricks and Ward discussed the member qualifications and Commission composition.

Council Member Boelen echoed the opinion that the initiative be sent to one of the current advisory organizations that could interpret the data already available. She further expressed that the creation of the Commission was a duplication of efforts.

Mayor Mwilambwe confirmed the Council Member Initiative procedure.

Council Member Ward proposed to move the Item forward.

Council Member Montney reiterated her belief that Council should leverage current resources.

Council's consensus was that five Council Members would like to hear more and four would not. Mayor Mwilambwe confirmed with City Manager Gleason that an Item would appear before Council at the next regular Council meeting.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason recognized multiple newly hired employees. He then noted multiple upcoming community events. He then reported on the reduced public safety statistics from the recent 2023 Tailgates & Tallboys event compared to 2022's event. He updated Council on his efforts to gather information from developers and local labor unions as a result of discussions and feedback that came from the Coachman Development.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was had.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

