



**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 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, May 18, 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, informed Council that staff would not have a clear understanding of the financial impacts of COVID-19 until June or July; however, staff was projected \$2 million of the \$4 million dollars in available cash reserves to be used. He reminded Council that the \$4 million dollars was above the minimum cash reserves for municipalities recommended by the Government Finance Officer Association. He also noted that Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, would provide details on the financial effects of COVID-19 in his Finance Director's Monthly Report at the May 25, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Mr. Gleason highlighted brush and bulk pick-up. He reminded the public and Council of the importance of safeguarding the crews at work. He went on to highlight the Governor's extended stay-at-home order and provided detail on how the Bloomington Police Department handled calls regarding violations of that order. He ending by discussing his reasoning for continuing to have staff work remotely and City buildings remaining closed to the public.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, stated that no one had registered to speak.

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 Carrillo made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below except Item 5.C., be approved as presented:

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

Motion carried.

Item 5.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 5.B. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 5.C. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Mayor Renner.

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

Item 5.C. Consideration and action to approve Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2020, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Mayor Renner pulled the item from consideration noting that they would appear on an upcoming agenda for approval.

Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Presentation and discussion of sanitary sewer assessment and maintenance, 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 the best way to manage sewers was through Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), which allowed staff to map sewers easily and in addition allowed for monitoring of flow and studying lines. He discussed best practices, explained Sanitary Sewer Assessments and presented an example of structure failure. He went on to explain the CCTV process and how the analysis provided by CCTV identified problems and assisted in determining repair plans. He moved on to describe rehabilitation processes and the multiple benefits of CIPP sewer lining. Mr. Kothe highlighted an upcoming CCTV contract to be presented at the May 26, 2020 City Council meeting and stressed his belief that the contract was crucial to allow staff to prioritize repair projects over the next year.

Council Member Boelen thanked Mr. Kothe for the detailed presentation and asked if the contract would be paid with Enterprise Funds. Mr. Kothe responded affirmatively.

Council Member Crabill asked questions regarding the map in the presentation and the upcoming contract to be proposed. Mr. Kothe stated that most of the grey area in the map had already been completed. Council Member Crabill asked if all pipes would need to be rehabilitated. Mr. Kothe explained the CCTV process allowed staff to assess the condition of pipes to determine whether they needed to be rehabilitated. Council Member Crabill asked

if there were any concerns with the sewers located under the roads approved for road construction in FY2021. Mr. Kothe explained that staff were proactively televising sewers under streets with work planned so that concerns would be known ahead of time.

Council Member Mwilambwe thanked Mr. Kothe for the detailed presentation. He asked what was planned for the remaining 25% of the sewers with 75% of the sewers televised after the upcoming contract was approved. He also asked what the anticipated timeline would be for the sewer rehabilitation. Mr. Kothe responded that staff would budget to televise the remaining 25% of sewers within the next few years. He explained staff would then budget to target televising 10% annually from there so that each line was televised every 10 years.

Council Member Mathy thanked Mr. Kothe for highlighting the recent issues in the Miller Park area during his presentation, and asked if specific areas near Miller Park would be addressed with the next CCTV contract. Mr. Kothe responded that staff had the ability to adjust the areas to be televised and confirmed that they planned to target that area in the upcoming contract. Council Member Mathy thanked Public Works' staff for their immediate response with a water crisis that had occurred over the weekend.

Council Member Black asked for a description of a 'wildcat' sewer. Mr. Kothe clarified the term 'wildcat' meant exclusive or private sewers. He explained that in older and wealthier parts of town, residents often built their own private sewers, and records of these private sewers didn't exist. The term 'wildcat' is used when the City becomes aware of one of these one-off or exclusive, private sewers. Council Member Black advocated for a fund to assist homeowners who run into these issues.

Council Member Painter asked about plans to replace residents' septic tanks with public sewers. Mr. Kothe responded that staff did not intend to replace septic tanks because the process was very expensive and larger lots cost up to \$50,000 to replace.

Council Member Emig asked if the CCTV process would locate wildcat sewers. She also asked for additional detail on the sewer system on Sunset Road and if the issues were related to a wildcat sewer. Mr. Kothe discussed Sunset Road in detail and also mentioned that the CCTV process would not identify all wildcat sewers.

Council Member Mwilambwe left at 6:59 p.m.

Council Member Boelen asked for clarification on tap on fees and how they would interact with setting up a fund like Council Member Black suggested, that could address older sewers verses newer sewers.

Council Member Mwilambwe returned at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kothe explained tap on fees and believed that the sewer rehabilitation was best paid for with monthly utility billing.

Council Member Mathy reminded the public to place the leaves and lawn clippings in the parkway and not in the street because it clogs sewers and causes additional issues. He also suggested the public clean out sewer grates if they see one blocked near their residence.

Council Initiatives

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B.1. Consideration and action on a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Mathy to change or extend the hours of operation for parking enforcement in downtown Bloomington, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mathy addressed Council. He expressed his belief that Downtown parking garages should be free so that residents and employees could use parking garages, while parking meters should be installed on the streets for public convenience. He explained as a first step, he wanted to shift the hours of parking requirements to later in the day. He stated that staff should review the current hours and present their findings within 90 days.

Mayor Renner expressed his support of the initiative.

Council Member Boelen stated that she would defer to Council Members Mathy, Carrillo, and Emig, as their wards encompassed the Downtown area.

Council Member Mwilambwe stated that he was open to a review.

Council Member Emig expressed her support of the initiative.

Council Member Painter expressed her support of the initiative but asked that the Downtown business owners be consulted.

Council Member Carrillo expressed support of a discussion.

Council Member Black expressed support in both making the parking garages free parking and of the initiative to adjust the parking hours.

Council Member Crabill expressed his support in the initiative.

Council Member Bray expressed her support of the initiative and asked for additional information on the cost for staff, and the effects of parking around the Arena and Bloomington Center for Performing Arts.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to have the initiative placed on a future City Council agenda for further consideration or action.

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B.2. Consideration and action on a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Mathy to bring the Downtown Task Force Report back to Council for acceptance, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mathy explained that he wanted to bring the Downtown Task Force Report forward to be re-evaluated, for Council to discuss the areas of improvement, and to prioritize the projects included in the report for staff. He stated the potential for new ideas, with the involvement of new Council Members and new staff since the plan was last presented.

Mayor Renner expressed his support of the initiative.

Council Member Boelen expressed her support of the initiative with the conditions of clear direction to staff, low investment costs with the biggest impact, and regular review of improvement projects.

Council Member Mwilambwe expressed his support of the initiative on the condition that Council would review completed projects and select projects on which to move forward.

Council Member Emig expressed her support of the initiative.

Council Member Painter expressed her support in the initiative and was open to discussing the report but noted her concern with approving high cost projects.

Council Members Carrillo, Black, and Crabill expressed their support of the initiative.

Council Member Bray expressed her support of the initiative on the condition that Council prioritize the projects and give staff clear direction on expectations. She did not believe the report should be adopted as a whole, and agreed with Council Member Mathy on the potential for new ideas with new Council Members and staff.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, to have staff evaluate and prepare an analysis on the proposed initiative and bring it back for further Council discussion on a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B.3. Consideration and action on a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Mathy to waive late fees on food and beverage taxes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mathy explained his initiative and stated that he would like to assist other small businesses, such as hotels and restaurants. He reminded Council that they had previously waived some late fees or prorated fees due to COVID-19, for 30 days after Governor Pritzker ends the state of emergency. He believed local businesses may need additional time to get caught up on various fees owed, and that Council should focus on keeping residents employed instead of collecting late fees that would have accumulated due to COVID-19. He asked that staff be given direction to evaluate the effects of late fees being waived and to bring a 90-day and a 6-month analysis back.

Mayor Renner asked for clarification. Council Member Mathy responded.

All of the Council Members expressed their support in the initiative.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

City Manager's Report (5 minutes)

City Manager Gleason challenged the public to complete the 2020 Census and ask three friends and family members to do the same.

Mayor Renner left at 7:23 p.m.

Mr. Gleason reminded Council that the next City Council meeting would be on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 due to Memorial Day. He then presented two proposed Proclamations to Council. The first recognized the week of May 10-16, 2020 as Police Week and May 15, 2020 as Peace Officer's Memorial Day. The second recognized the week of May 17-23, 2020 as Medical Emergency Services Week. He noted that both Proclamations could be found on the City's website and recognized and thanked Bloomington Police and Fire staff for all of their hard work and dedication, especially during COVID-19.

Mayor Renner returned at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. Gleason went on to mention future items on the upcoming City Council meeting, as well as recognize the loss of City staff member, Officer Justin Gale who lost his year-long battle with cancer.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the meeting be adjourned.

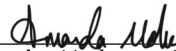
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

