



**MINUTES
SPECIAL SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021, 5:15 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07 §6, which was reissued and extended by Executive Order 2021-06. The Order, implemented in response to COVID-19, suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The City Council convened in Special Session virtually via Zoom conferencing with Mayor Tari Renner, the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 5:15 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tari Renner.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Present	
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	
Mollie Ward	Ward 7	Remote	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Remote	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Remote	

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment and the following individuals provided in-person public comment: (1) De Urban; (2) Don Carlson; (3) Kimberly Theisen; (4) Scott Stimeling; (5) Zach Carlson; (6) Kelley Theisen; (7) Paula Leifel; (8) Jenee Clark; and (9) Leah Pinson. The following individuals registered to provide public comment but were not present in the meeting: (1) Krystle Able; (2) Alora Swick; (3) Zachary Gittrich; and (12) Trevin Gaffney. The following individuals provided in-person public comment: (1) Surena Fish; (2) Amanda Andres; (3) Carrie Handy; (4) Steve Suess; (5) Torii Moré; (6) Jordan Baker; (7) Gary Ayers; (8) Christena Spivey; (9) Paula Leifel; (10) Brenda Tallon; (11) Kristin Snow; and (12) Karen Bays.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 4.A. Discussion and possible action on a resolution addressing recent statements from Council Member Carrillo regarding collaboration on the City Council, a call for increased civil discourse and directing staff to draft a code of conduct for the City Council's future consideration, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Mwilambwe read a draft resolution for consideration, which formally disagreed with recent comments made by Council Member Carrillo on social media. It called for increased civil discourse among Council and directed staff to draft a code of conduct for elected officials to consider, debate, and vote on at a future Council Meeting, no later than July 31, 2021.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, to approve the Resolution.

Mayor Renner asked Council Member Carrillo if she would like to comment.

Council Member Carrillo asked for a brief moment of silence for named individuals who had been killed by police officers in Chicago, IL, and Minnesota and for those who remained nameless who were harmed or negatively affected by police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), prisons, or other agents of the carceral state. She stated that while Bloomington had not had a high-profile use of force incident, data demonstrate that racism was present in the community. She claimed that black lives did not matter as much as white lives in Bloomington and claimed that because of that disproportionately higher rates of police interactions and incarceration were more prevalent amongst black residents.

Mayor Renner asked Council Member Carrillo to remain on topic.

Council Member Carrillo stated that remaining status quo was intolerable and cautioned that every day it was allowed to persist was a problem. She believed that Council Members-Elect Shelia Montney and Nick Becker believed in police authoritarianism and disagreed with their opinion to increase police budgets.

Council Member Bray called a point of order. Mayor Renner did not recognize the point of order as Council Member Carrillo was providing background on the reasoning for her comments.

Council Member Carrillo stated that Council Members-Elect Montney and Becker received donations from the police union and rejected police reform. She stood behind the comments she made on social media and explained that she believed Council Members-Elect Montney and Becker positions on the matter, whether intentional or unintentional, would negatively impact community members of color. Council Member Carrillo expressed that she used her platform on election night to make a recommitment to fight for those individuals and challenged those who were offended by her comments to reprioritize their own priorities. She went on to list ways that fellow Council Members had been complacent allowing discriminations against her to continue.

Council Member Emig disagreed with the comments made by Council Member Carrillo on social media and did not condone disparaging comments made against Council Member Carrillo. She did not support a formal code of conduct and preferred Council and staff to rather focus on other topics that better served residents. She reminded the community that their vote matters.

Council Member Crabill did not support the special meeting or Resolution. He expressed his belief that the meeting effectively attacked a young, queer, woman of color, and agreed with Council Member Carrillo’s statement that fellow Council Members had been complacent in discriminations against her.

Council Member Ward expressed support in the Resolution as she represented the majority of her constituents who had expressed action being necessary. She stated that

there was a fundamental difference between actions of a private citizen and actions of a public official as public officials had the responsibility to set the agenda of public discourse and determine public priorities. She then stressed the importance of civility among Council.

Council Member Mathy reported that he had received more contact by his constituents about this topic from both sides, than on any other topic. He pointed out the importance of Council being unified and mindful of public messaging. He provided a real-life example of a large developer of mixed low-income housing he'd been working with who was interesting in developing in Bloomington who had shared they had staff designated to watch social media accounts of elected officials. He stated that Council Member Carrillo's comments had brought the developer concern. Council Member Mathy then reassured the community that Council Member Carrillo did not speak for Council and that he believed her comments were inappropriate. He addressed multiple inquiries he'd received about removing a Council Member and went on to explain that he would consider all reasonable ideas presented by Council and consider them based on the idea, not the Council Member. He concluded that he was supportive of the Resolution, but not of the Code of Conduct.

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

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Painter, Ward, Bray

NAYS: Emig, Carrillo, Crabill

Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

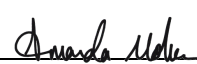
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor


Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

