



**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:03 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Donna Boelen called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Remote	6:05 PM
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Present	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Present	
De Urban	Council Member, Ward 6	Present	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Present	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Present	

Remote Participation

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, noted Mayor Mwilambwe would attend the meeting remotely due to medical reasons.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Urban, that Mayor Mwilambwe be permitted to attend the meeting remotely.

Council Member Boelen directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Mayor Mwilambwe joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and then led the meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was received in-person or via email.

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 Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2022, 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 Connect Transit's Budget, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason noted that the presentation had been requested by Council, Connect Transit ("Connect"), and City staff. He explained that the presentation would show how the approved funds from the Fiscal Year 2023 ("FY23") budget were to be used.

Ryan Whitehouse, Connect Chairman, formally introduced David Braun as the new Connect General Manager. He welcomed questions throughout the presentation.

Mr. Braun presented the Connect Board and applicable organization chart. He explained that Connect completed a zero-based budget for FY23 and discussed various services. He then compared the ridership over the past four years and explained the proposed new route expansion that would service Rivian Motors. He provided detail on the new micro-transit service, discussed a proposed coordinated vanpool program sponsorship to encourage carpooling, and highlighted the potential for grant funding after a specified number of carpools were established. He then compared operating expenses and revenues from FY22 and FY23, highlighting key factors of change. He presented various planned capital projects and went on to provide an update on the Downtown Bloomington Transportation Hub with an overview of the project timeline. Mr. Braun concluded with an overview of the FY20 Economic Impact Summary results.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Braun discussed the micro-transit service in detail. She expressed appreciation for the attention to service in Ward 2, but stressed the need to increase fixed route services in Ward 2.

Council Member Ward expressed appreciation for the presentation. She and Mr. Braun discussed updates on the Better Bus Stops campaign. She expressed interest in installing bus stop shelter structures. Mr. Whitehouse explained that Connect Transit was responsible for installing shelters at higher traffic bus stops and that some property owners would not permit shelters.

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

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Crumpler asked how Connect received public input for the vanpool program and micro transfer site. Mr. Braun explained that major local employers would be involved in vanpool and that Connect planned to reach out to the public in 2023 for the micro site.

Council Member Emig and Mr. Braun discussed how fares of the micro transit system would be determined. She applauded expanded route coverage and electric vehicles, and ended by asking Mr. Gleason to provide an update on a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Braun explained that Connect had applied for a Congressional Discretionary Grant and noted that they had requested electric vehicles.

Council Member Crabill and Mr. Braun discussed the transfer station's Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") compliance, as well as the Messaging Consultant Position. Council Member Crabill asked about the completion of the Hamilton Road project and how it would impact Connect. Mr. Whitehouse stated that Connect would install a stop at the Veteran's Clinic.

Council Member Urban was appreciative of the micro transit program and asked the estimated implementation date. Mr. Braun stated that Connect anticipated implementation in late Spring of 2023. Mr. Braun committed to meeting with and updating Council regularly.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Braun discussed the potential for subsidizing carpool vans with large community employers. She asked Mr. Braun to forward the Stevenson study to Council.

City Manager Gleason updated Council on the potential to use the Market Street Garage for the Downtown Transfer Station and how it could be more ADA-friendly. He then provided an update on the intergovernmental agreement between the City, Town of Normal, and Connect. He ended by thanking Mr. Braun for his increased communication.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked Mr. Braun and Mr. Whitehouse for their presentation.

Council Initiatives

City Manager Gleason reminded the community of four active Council Initiatives. He stated that staff would present an update on all four and then open the floor for discussion.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B.3. Consideration and action on Council Member Emig's Agenda Initiative Proposal to propose the establishment of an advisory Green Infrastructure Commission, as requested by the City Council.

Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus provided a brief overview of the Council Initiative for Green infrastructure Committee as submitted by Council Member Emig. He provided a list of all current City "green" practices, highlighting various practices. He then discussed upcoming projects, as well as proposed "green" practices of each.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B.1. Consideration and action on Council Member Mathy's Agenda Initiative Proposal regarding the "Bring It On" Comprehensive Plan, as requested by the City Council.

Deputy City Manager Tyus provided an overview of the Council Initiative for an Incentive Program for Regeneration and Preservation Areas as submitted by former Council Member Jamie Mathy. He presented a map highlighting areas of focus for preservation and regeneration. He noted a high number of properties with declining property values within the regeneration area, as well as challenges associated to redevelopment. He then discussed the need to preserve historic homes within preservation areas and talked about a housing study being conducted by the McLean County Economic Development Council. He stated that

staff recommended Council to wait until the study was completed in April 2023 before making decisions on how to move forward with the Initiative. He believed the study's results would allow the City to be more intentional in developing a program. He ended by presenting various potential incentive examples.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B.2. Consideration and action on Council Member Becker's Agenda Initiative Proposal to find ways to reduce costs in other areas as an offset to the coming spending as opposed to increasing the taxpayer burden, as requested by the City Council.

City Manager Tim Gleason provided a brief overview of the Council Initiative for Cost Reduction Opportunities as submitted by Council Member Becker. He noted the goal was to save \$1.5 to \$2 million and that areas of focus would be on the Bloomington Election Commission and McLean County spending overlaps, emergency call center operations, City and Township administration, and overall municipal savings. He discussed potential next steps, as well as the potential to do a joint full-scale assessment of the Government Center with the County. He ended by providing updates on other avenues of savings.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B.4. Consideration and action 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 Council.

City Manager Gleason provided an overview of the Council Initiative for the Reduction of Gun Violence as submitted by Council Member Ward. He ended by informing Council that he had reached out to both McLean County and the Town of Normal for a potential joint venture. He noted that both the City and the Town would be receiving a \$500,000 grant from the State of Illinois for violence prevention.

Mayor Mwilambwe expressed appreciation for staff's time dedicated to the Council Initiatives. He then opened the floor for Council discussion of the Initiatives.

Council Member Ward reported that she had prepared and provided to the City Manager a proposed basic structure for the Gun Violence Commission Initiative. She noted interest and support of the Commission by multiple community groups.

Council Member Boelen echoed staff appreciation and reminded Council that staff were not to work on Initiatives until after Council had voted whether to move them forward.

Council Member Crabill stated that Council had previously voted for staff to do additional research on the Initiatives and expressed appreciation for the presentation. He requested that staff see if other communities had programs similar to those proposed in the Initiatives. He and Mr. Tyus discussed the potential for land banking, as well as other future development opportunities. Council Member Crabill pointed out that accessibility needed to be a focus of private property redevelopment and cautioned Council of those redeveloped and turned into rental properties.

Deputy City Manager Tyus asked Council if they wanted to proceed with the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Committee. Council Member Emig stated that she wanted to wait and gain input from local professionals, as well as research examples from other communities.

City Manager's Report (5 minutes)

City Manager Gleason highlighted City events and reported that all City-owned golf courses had been opened for the season. He reported that outdoor dining was available again Downtown and recognized staff for their work to ensure that it was available before Easter weekend. He provided an update on upcoming items for the last meeting of the fiscal year.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwikambwe
Mboka Mwikambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stittner
Amanda Stittner, Deputy City Clerk

