



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 P.M. 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
Grant Walch	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
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

Public Comment

No public comment was 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 Urban, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2023, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

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 introduced the Item and welcomed Connect Transit Board Chair, Ryan Whitehouse, and David Braun, Connect Transit General Manager. They provided

an overview of Connect Transit as an organization, its function, and budget. Mr. Braun compared ridership from Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to FY 2023 and discussed budgeted services, as well as changes expected in the upcoming FY and new planned service programs. He went on to compare the 2023 and 2024 budgets, noting key changes, and sharing that Connect Transit would not be requesting additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Braun discussed the Micro-Transit program and how the census changes affected the budget.

Council Member Walch and Mr. Braun discussed potential fixes for underproductive fixed bus routes, as well as how routes were influenced by the Americans with Disability Act ("ADA").

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to amend Council discussion time by 15 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Emig expressed support for the Micro-Transit program and then discussed the Van-pool program with Mr. Braun.

Council Member Crumpler expressed appreciation for bus driver incentives being offered.

Council Member Ward suggested additional transportation services be added to service medical needs in rural areas. Mr. Braun explained that Connect Transit could only serve the City and Town of Normal and that Showbus serviced rural areas of McLean County.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion of the Bloomington Public Library Expansion and Renovation Project Update, as requested by the Bloomington Public Library.

Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director, discussed education, innovation, collaboration, and accessibility improvements that would address current and future Library needs. She explained where the project stood today and shared that it would be completed by the end of 2023. She provided photos of current construction and discussed ongoing fundraising efforts, as well as the project's budget.

Julian Westerhout, Library Board President, recognized Mrs. Hamilton and Library staff for their hard work and tremendous project management.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Westerhout discussed the parking development.

Council Member Ward and Mrs. Hamilton discussed outdoor meeting spaces.

Council Member Boelen suggested additional outdoor programming in the planned retention basin.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation on the O'Neil Park & Pool Project Status, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item and recognized Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Director, for his work on the O'Neil Park & Pool project.

Mr. Veal recognized various staff members, as well as P.J. Hoerr, the general contractor, for their work. He discussed many elements of the project and regrettably announced that it would not be completed by Memorial Day 2023 due to various setbacks. He highlighted the City receiving an additional grant for landscaping and shared photos.

City Manager Gleason discussed the setbacks in more detail noting the project would remain on budget.

Council Member Ward thanked Mr. Veal for his transparency on the project.

Council Member Urban and Mr. Veal discussed the financial impact of postponing operations for a season.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Veal discussed the possibility of opening the splash pad. She expressed interest in pool pass fees.

Council Member Walch cautioned about costs associated with filling pools during non-use times. Mr. Veal explained the pools had to be filled and drained a few times per Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulations and licensing purposes.

Council Member Emig and Mr. Veal discussed potential to add a dog park.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Disproportionately Impacted Small Business Rehabilitation Grants, the ARPA Socio-Economic Non- Profit Grants, and the Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Grants Programs in Furtherance of the ARPA, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item.

Melissa Hon, Economic & Community Development Director, presented the status of the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") grant programs: (1) Disproportionately Impacted Small Business Rehabilitation program; (2) Socio-Economic Non-Profit program; and (2) Affordable Housing Rehabilitation grant program. She described each program including requirements and maximum funds available. She reminded the community how to apply for the programs.

Council Member Crabill and Ms. Hon discussed the application process and eligibility requirements.

Council Member Ward confirmed options for funding interior and exterior projects.

Council Member Boelen expressed appreciation for the programs.

Council Member Walch recommended submission timeline improvements ensuring equal opportunity to all.

Council Member Urban and Ms. Hon discussed eligibility for residents in all types of housing.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. Presentation and Discussion on a Draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item and provided a brief history of the City's Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") Transition Plan.

Michael Hurt, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, presented an overview of the updated Plan, the evaluation process of all City properties, as well as new ADA Transition Plan elements including an updated Grievance Process. He also discussed recent diversity and inclusion training City staff had completed to become an Autism Friendly workplace.

Mayor Mwilambwe commended staff for their work to become more diverse and inclusive.

Council Member Crumpler and Mr. Hurt discussed continued efforts to evaluate all of the City's parks.

Council Member Crabill and Mr. Hurt discussed LifeCil's regular input to the Plan, as well as staff's intent to add additional protected classes to the Plan in the future.

Council Member Walch expressed appreciation for the ease of use and accessibility of all the associated webpages. They discussed future plans for continued building assessments.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Hurt talked about Public Works' involvement in evaluating sidewalks for ADA compliance.

Council Member Ward expressed appreciation for the Plan and noted it had been one of her initial Council Member Initiatives.

Mr. Hurt recognized Phil Melder, Technical Business Analyst, for his significant contribution to the project.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.F. Presentation of Diversity Procurement Proposal, as requested by the Administration Department and the Legal Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item.

Mr. Hurt discussed the importance of diversifying City vendors and contractors. He explained the proposed Item would aid in fostering inclusivity and, ultimately, increase diversity on City-funded projects over \$50,000. Mr. Hurt discussed similar programs in other similar-sized Illinois municipalities and described contract clauses that would require contractors to seek out minority workers and better position minority and woman owned businesses in receiving City contracts. He then discussed avenues the City would take to aid contractors in meeting said requirements, as well as laid out the steps that would be taken when goals were not met.

Council Member Ward, Mr. Hurt, and Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, discussed other municipalities.

Council Member Boelen discussed how the City's current procurement language of "lowest responsible bidder" would be affected by the program. Corporation Counsel, Jeff Jurgens, clarified the City would require bidders to provide good faith documentation to be deemed a responsive bidder.

Council Member Emig supported an annual evaluation of the program and pointed out the additional workload that would be required of staff.

Council Member Crabill expressed his appreciation for the proposal.

Council Member Becker shared a concern he had received from a small business owner who had difficulty diversifying their workforce. Mr. Tyus and Mr. Jurgens shared ways in which demonstrated efforts would keep the contractor from being penalized under the program.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason discussed multiple upcoming events Downtown and noted Parks & Recreation's Summer Program Guide being available. He recognized multiple new staff members and announced that the City would soon gain another Deputy City Manager. He shared that Jeff Jurgens, current Corporation Counsel, would step into the on May 1, 2023.

Mr. Jurgens thanked the City Manager and Council for the opportunity.

Executive Session

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to enter into Executive Session per Section 2(c)(12) of 5 ILCS 120 to discuss a Claim Settlement and Section 2(c)(21) of 5 ILCS 120 to discuss the Semi-Annual Review of Minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:21 P.M.

Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

