CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe called the meeting to order.

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 statement of procedure. The following spoke in-person: (1) Mark Adams; (2) Noah Tang; (3) Anthony Krispin; (4) Fred Wollrab; (5) Robert Vericella; (6) Matt Strupp; (7) Mark Adams; and (8) Patrick Hoban. Frankie Pelusi and Matt Burgess registered to speak in-person, and Georgene Chissell registered to speak remotely, but they were not available when called. Zach Carlson emailed public comment.

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 Hendricks, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Minutes of the February 19, 2024 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: Kearns, Boelen, Montney, Danenberger, Becker, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation of the Downtown Streetscape Draft Final Design Report, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager, Tim Gleason, introduced the Item and celebrated the long-standing conversation of Downtown Streetscape coming to fruition. He provided brief history on the design process, described the extensive public outreach, and discussed time that had gone into preparing the report. He then recognized the Steering Committee that spearheaded the project.

Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager, was excited to present the final report after a year and a half of work. He shared how improvements would greatly improve both what is seen above ground, as well as below ground addressing aging infrastructure. He talked about how, should Council decide, the Streetscape Project would be able to move forward without impacting other infrastructure repairs throughout the community and noted various State funding opportunities to be implemented. Mr. Tyus encouraged the public to view the project's phases and follow along as each phase returned to Council for consideration.

Mike Sewell, Project Manager with Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly ("CMT"), echoed appreciation to the Steering Committee, and discussed how through public input they learned the preferred look for the project was a hybrid of modern design highlighted by Downtown's original, historic architecture. He explained how the design approach would create a unified sense of place unique to other downtowns in Central Illinois.

Chris Stritzel, Project Principal with CMT, discussed how the Streetscape Report is inclusive for all including exterior improvements ensuring Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") compliance, as well as vastly improving pedestrian and cyclist safety. He then explained the extensive steps taken to ensure input solicited was from a vast stakeholder group.

Mr. Sewell discussed major utility infrastructure projects included in the Report, as well as the sustainable, easily replaceable materials suggested for projects, in order to minimize long-term expenses. He walked through the Report's 10 phases emphasizing how no phase was dependent on another and still achieved significant impacts to the area. Mr. Sewell then talked about various venues, reimagined park spaces, and outdoor open spaces. He presented multiple opportunities for public art that would encourage socializing and photo opportunities and discussed the cost estimates for the Downtown Core Program ($59,010,000), the Highway Program ($6,722,000), and the Downtown Fringe Program ($11,422,500). He noted that a large portion of the cost included infrastructure that would have needed replaced in the next 10 years.

Council Member Crumpler and Neil Brumleve, Landscape Architect with MassieMassie & Associates, discussed how the suggested pavers to be used would further ensure Downtown was ADA accessible, as well as promoted longevity and low replacement cost.

Council Member Hendricks and Mr. Sewell discussed how refuse, recycling, and parking.

Council Member Boelen noted that any new construction should mimic existing architecture. She supported the phased approach and reiterated her advocacy for revitalization.

Council Member Ward and Mr. Sewell talked about ADA accessibility and Phase 2infrastructure improvements that would improve flooding in surrounding neighborhoods.

Council Member Montney expressed concern with the cost of the plan considering the many competing priorities in the community.

Council Member Becker and Mr. Sewell discussed potential grant funding of at least $2 million. Council Member Becker echoed appreciation of the phased approach and suggested seeking ways to amend phase work if funding in a particular year wasn't fully available.

Council Member Crumpler motioned, seconded by Council Member Ward, to extend Council Discussion time by 5 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Crumpler and Mr. Tyus discussed the phases being independent of one another and how each phase completed would have its own successes.

Council Member Boelen noted that the Town of Normal had received most of their funding from the federal government when they completed their Uptown development.

City Manager Gleason walked through next steps and noted a kickoff project would be considered at the April Council meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked the CMT representatives, and all of the stakeholders involved for their work and expressed his support for the plan and its focus on infrastructure.

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 5.B. Presentation of the Connect Transit Preliminary Budget, Financials, and Annual Report on Transit Operations, as requested by the Administration Department.</u>

City Manager Gleason introduced the Item and noted an update on the Downtown Transfer Station would be provided at the April Committee of the Whole meeting.

David Braun, Connect Transit General Manager, presented ridership statistics on fixed and mobility routes. He went on to discuss how the lowered Fair-Rate-For-All had impacted the number of routes. He then compared Connect Mobility expectations of service and the success of the new service, Connect Flex, in Ward 2. Mr. Braun then discussed a financial five-year forecast and noted various public outreach efforts on projects and services. He went on to present the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2025 proposed budget, as well as the proposed Capital Budget, highlighting various projects and funding sources.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Braun discussed cost efficiencies across all routes.

Council Member Crumpler asked for additional detail on goals set and how staff planned to achieve them. Mr. Braun responded accordingly.

Council Member Hendricks was interested in additional information on the Better Bus Stop campaign. Mr. Braun elaborated on how staff had evaluated all the bus stops and determined improvements necessary. He briefly touched on a potential "Adopt a Stop" partnership with other local organizations.

Council Member Ward and Mr. Braun discussed the current vetting process for two potential areas to expand the Connect Flex routes, a ride-share program. He noted a recommendation would be presented to the Connect Transit Board in early Fiscal Year 2025. They ended by discussing complaints on trash-littered stops.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Braun discussed potential changes in transit programs and how those zones would be covered. Council Member Boelen appreciated the Connect Flex program in Ward 2, which had had no public transportation previously.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason shared a video highlighting upcoming events. He then recognized newly hired employees and highlighted Fiscal Year 2025 Budget items that would be coming on agendas soon. He also recognized a few staff members involved in the Downtown for All Plan.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, 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 8:04 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850