



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 13, 2023. 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	Absent
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

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement of public comment procedure. No emailed public comment was received. Scott Stimeling provided in person public comment. Mark Larsen registered for public comment, but was not present to speak.

Recognition/Appointments

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Recognition of Boards & Commissions Appointments and Reappointments, as requested by the Administration Department.

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, recognized the following appointments: (1) Justin Gandhi, Building Board of Appeals; (2) Fredrick Marling, Citizens' Beautification Committee; (3) Tracy Koch, Cultural Commission; (4) Faisal Rashid, Cultural Commission; (5) Bennett Morris, Japanese Sister Cities Committee; and (6) Katherine Scheck, Japanese Sister Cities Committee. She then recognized the reappointments of Ashley Farmer and Rachel McFarland to the Public Safety & Community Relations Board.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B. Proclamation for Gaye Beck's Retirement, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe presented the Proclamation for Gaye Beck's retirement celebrating her many accomplishments along with 40 years of business with Beck's Family Florists. Gaye

Beck accepted the recognition and thanked Council. She noted Beck's Family Florists had been purchased by Forget Me Not Flowers.

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 Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action to Approve Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$6,878,957.31, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Tim Gleason introduced the Item and reminded the community of the budget cycle and the remaining steps to approve the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2024. He recognized that the FY 2024 budget was the largest budget for the City to-date and reminded the community that staff were stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and reiterated the approval process of the FY 2024 budget. He noted there had been no material changes in the figures presented from his last budget presentation. He reported on the total proposed \$290.1M budget including a proposed \$129.1M General Fund budget. He compared budget growth since FY 2016 and discussed specific factors that had impacted the budget since 2016. He then compared the FY 2023 budget to the proposed FY 2024 budget highlighting significant variances, and detailed major tax and general fund revenues, expenses, and briefly discussed FY 2024 capital projects. Mr. Rathbun went into a brief overview of capital projects, and wrapped up reminding the community where to access resource materials online, as well as next steps to approve the proposed budget.

Council Member Crabill complimented Mr. Rathbun and his team. They then discussed budget books, public safety pensions, impacts of volunteer hours at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA), and Council Member Crabill asked for additional information on rental inspectors. City Manager Gleason stated the City currently employed seven rental inspectors who were being cross trained to also inspect general property maintenance inspections. Council Member Crabill recommended the City hire an additional inspector to allow the City to catch-up on inspections of City-owned buildings.

City Manager Gleason provided background on statutory requirements to fund public safety pension funds at 90% and noted the City was currently about 60% funded.

Council Member Boelen thanked Mr. Rathbun for his conservative reporting. She commended the City for progress in funding public safety pension funds. She and Mr. Rathbun discussed procedure for Equalized Assessed Values ("EAV") increases. She expressed concern motor fuel taxes and stressed support for further funding infrastructure improvements. She commented to the \$11M in debt service that would roll off over the next two years and noted that future debt on larger infrastructure projects would follow.

Council Member Walch echoed appreciation for the presentation and complimented Mr. Rathbun's guidance in aligning the City's general obligation bonds to receive low interest rates. He reminded Council of promises to lower taxes once line items were funded. He then discussed call statistics for the Police Department and the Fire Department and commended the Departments hard work. He and Mr. Rathbun went over road miles completed annually and Council Member Walch warned Council that as electronic vehicles became more popular, the City would lose motor fuel taxes. He made suggestions to combat the loss of revenue.

Mayor Mwilambwe reiterated the budget books were written in clearly plain language and made available in multiple locations.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving Violence Prevention Measures and Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2023, to Increase the General Fund Budget by \$500,000, as requested by the Police Department and the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason stated that there would be no presentation on the proposal as there were no significant changes to the previous proposal. He provided a brief overview of the proposal process through the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity ("DCEO"). He explained the City would use the grant on currently funded programs to meet the deadline requirements and that \$500,000 would be freed up to apply toward previously proposed programs.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to approve the Item with the following amendments: (1) eliminate the term "*measures*" in the 3rd whereas clause; (2) replace the term "*measures*" with "*programs*" throughout the Ordinance; (3) add the terms "*prevention*" or "*reduction*" within the document so that both are listed throughout the document; and (4) create a new section following Section 2 "where City Council directs staff to create targets for violence prevention and a way to measure benchmarks to review the programs prior to the next budget cycle".

Council Member Walch made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to extend Council discussion time by 10 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Walch supported the amendments and asked for confirmation on procedure. Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, confirmed with the mover and seconder the intent was to approve as amended.

Council Member Crumpler supported the amendments and believed the collection of program data would aid Council's understanding of which programs worked and did not.

Council Member Emig reminded staff to reach out to Dr. Frank Beck at the Stevenson Center who specializes in comparable metrics and noted the Police Department may also collect similar data. She supported Item and looked forward collaborating with other agencies.

Council Member Becker supported the amendments but warned that some impacts may not be able to be tied to specific programs.

Council Member Boelen confirmed with Mayor Mwilambwe the programs were for one year. She expressed concern with the amendments and carrying them across fiscal years and cautioned Council that the terms "*prevention*" and "*reduction*" should match up with the terms used in the DCEO's grant. She further expressed concern with changing the Ordinance.

Council Member Crabill acknowledged the proposed changes could have been shared with tracked changes further in advance of the meeting, and further expressed support of the amendments. He noted some programs extended past one year, and agreed metrics would be helpful.

Council Member Walch echoed comments made by Council Member Crabill.

Council Member Urban asked for additional information on the Ordinance. City Manager Gleason stated that staff had worked to provide the individual Council Members with the proposed amendments ahead of Council to be able to make an informed decision. He noted that the Fire and Police Departments presented annual reports where the requested data could be presented and that the language in the Ordinance had been pulled directly from the DCEO grant. They then discussed how the amendments would not negate the eligibility for the DCEO grant.

Council Member Ward clarified she had been referring to FY 2024 as "next fiscal year".

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

NAYES: Boelen

Motion carried.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason presented upcoming events in Downtown Bloomington.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe noted the US Housing and Urban Development Secretary had been in town over the weekend and was very complimentary of Bloomington. The Mayor then discussed multiple children education events he recently participated in that focus on educating youth on local government. He shared that he would not be present at the March 27th meeting due to traveling and that Mayor Pro Tem Boelen would fill in for him.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Crumpler reported on his recent trip to the One Voice Conference and mentioned that Representative Sorensen had expressed interest in presenting at an upcoming meeting.

Council Member Ward read from a recent article about Phoenix Towers and building safety issues. She stated that while the City did not cite Illinois Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) properties, she asked staff look into the issues and considering options. City Manager Gleason stated that staff respond to every complaint received and explained procedure. He further explained the property had not been to Administrative Court every time corrective measures were taken. He corrected the article in that the property was not a HUD property, but instead privately held. He shared that HUD components were involved for use by residents. He shared a link on the City’s website to confidentially report issues.

Council Member Boelen appreciated the number of sidewalks that had been redone.

Council Member Crabill and City Manager Gleason discussed options for Phoenix Towers going to Administrative Court, as well as other remediation options.

Council Member Urban noted the property was within her Ward and as the representing Council Member, she filed and followed up each complaint as well. She was confident the City was doing everything it could to assist and stressed limitations on private properties. She stressed that she did not support chaos being created on social media.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Urban, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

