CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 6:00 P.M.

The City Council 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
Jenna Kearns	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Michael Mosley	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

Recognition/Appointments

Item 5.A. Proclamation in Recognition of Kalyani Mudumba, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe presented the Proclamation recognizing Kalyani Mudumba for her achievements in Carnatic music. Kalyani Mudumba accepted the Proclamation.

Item 5.B. Proclamation in Recognition of Miles J. Simington, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe presented the Proclamation recognizing Miles Simington for his exemplary performance in sports. Miles Simington accepted the Proclamation.

Item 5.C. Recognition of Board & Commission Appointment, as requested by the Administration Department.

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, recognized the appointments of Jackie Young, Citizens' Beautification Committee; Alok Hoonka, Library Board of Trustees; Yvett Hernandez, Public Safety & Community Relations Board; and Kyle Kapper, Welcoming America Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a public comment statement of procedure, and the following spoke in-person: (1) Georgene Chissell; (2) Sonny Garcia; (3) Rebekah Mangels; and (4) Dan Brady. City Clerk Yocum noted that Jared Spiegel and Dave Reynolds had emailed public comment on February 24, 2025, but their emails had gotten caught up in the City's spam filter. She apologized and shared that they had been provided to Council.

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 Kearns made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item 7.F.

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of $7,096,469.72, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action on Approving Appointments to Boards & Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. (*Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointments be approved.)*

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Construction Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway as a Part of the Hamilton Road Project, from Bunn Street to Commerce Parkway, in the Amount of $5,401,950.40, as requested by the Engineering Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 044

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY AS A PART OF THE HAMILTON ROAD PROJECT, FROM BUNN STREET TO COMMERCE PARKWAY, IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,401,950.40

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean for Use of the City of Bloomington Police Shooting Range Facility, as requested by the Police Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 045

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE COUNTY OF MCLEAN FOR USE OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON POLICE SHOOTING RANGE FACILITY

Item 7.F. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Kearns.

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Robert Beverly DBA Intaglio Composites, a Division of Dream, Inc., for the McGraw Park Sister Cities Garden Seat Wall Caps, in the Amount of $84,800, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 047

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT BEVERLY DBA INTAGLIO COMPOSITES, A DIVISION OF DREAM, INC., FOR THE MCGRAW PARK SISTER CITIES GARDEN SEAT WALL CAPS, IN THE AMOUNT OF $84,800

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Second and Third Amendments to an Agreement for Professional Services with Baxter and Woodman, Inc. Regarding Design of Phases 1 and 4 of the East Street Basin Project, Increasing the Total

Amount by $467,800, as requested by the Engineering Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 048

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SECOND AND THIRD AMENDMENTS TO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH BAXTER AND WOODMAN, INC. REGARDING DESIGN OF PHASES 1 AND 4 OF THE EAST STREET BASIN PROJECT, INCREASING THE TOTAL AMOUNT BY $467,800

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action to Approve a Supplemental Resolution to Increase the Local Funding Commitment by $925,519.84 for the Federally Funded Hamilton Road Extension Construction Project, as requested by the Engineering Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 049

A SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENT BY $925,519.84 FOR THE FEDERALLY FUNDED HAMILTON ROAD EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (PHASE 1)

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution to Authorize a Change Order to the Meadowbrook Subdivision Improvement Project for a Time Extension to the Contract between the City of Bloomington and George Gildner, Inc. for 182 Days, as requested by the Water Department and the Department of Operations & Engineering Services.

Council Member Kearns noted she had pulled the Item to highlight the project stressing its importance to Ward 1 constituents. She viewed the project as a potential example for future City water infrastructure and road improvements upgrades.

Water Director, Ed Andrews, explained that the project had involved three separate contracts, and that in the future, he hoped to bundle large projects into a single contract reducing coordination challenges. He shared the project had been delayed because of a need to deepen the mains avoiding conflicts with sanitary sewer laterals. Council Member Kearns and Director Andrews then discussed the need to continue providing updates to the public.

Council Member Kearns made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 046

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE ORDER TO THE MEADOWBROOK SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR A TIME EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND GEORGE GILDNER, INC. FOR 182 DAYS

Regular Agenda

Item 8.A. Consideration and Action on Approving the Appointment of Sheila Montney to the McLean County Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Mwilambwe recommended appointing Council Member Montney to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council ("MCBHCC"). He expressed appreciation for how well-researched she always was, as well as, her attention to financial details.

Council Member Ward made a motion to table the Item to the April 14, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Council Member Danenberger made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lee, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Mosley, Danenberger, Becker, Lee, Crumpler

NAYES: Kearns, Hendricks, Ward

ABSTAIN: Montney

Motion carried.

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and Authorizing a Contract with Chemco Systems, Inc. for the Purchase of a Powered Activated Carbon (PAC) System, in an Amount Not to Exceed $755,132, as requested by the Water Department.

Director Andrews presented a comprehensive update on the City's water challenges. He explained that the current Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter beds were insufficient to address the high levels of taste and odor compounds, which had led to the need for a Powered Activated Carbon ("PAC") system. He detailed the City's plans to procure a new PAC system, work with lake management consultants, and explore long-term solutions such as algaecide treatments and lake stratification to address the root causes of the water quality issues. Director Andrews then discussed future opportunities highlighting the City's existing equipment and a goal of building a better plan to use lake data and partnerships with United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Illinois State University (ISU) research.

Deputy City Manager Sue McLaughlin shared that the temporary PAC system being manually fed by staff was limited to week-old test results, creating challenges to quickly address the water taste and odor. Director Andrews then discussed issues with the temporary system.

Mayor Mwilambwe acknowledged that current challenges were largely due to nature's unpredictability, noting that current microorganism levels were much higher than in the past. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of Water staff trying to understand and address issues.

Council Member Hendricks expressed appreciation for the work being done and complimented staff for their improved communication efforts.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to approve the Item as presented.

Council Member Crumpler asked how long it generally had taken other communities to resolve water taste and odor issues after implementing a PAC system. Director Andrews shared that Springfield and Decatur, who both use PAC systems, feed a baseline PAC year-round. He also proposed forming a Taste Committee to collaboratively pinpoint taste and odor goals.

Council Member Mosley asked if sourcing GAC would become a problem Decatur and Springfield seeking the same resources. Director Andrews noted that the City had already widened its' chemical supply bid to include PAC, and that it should not be a problem.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked Director Andrews to discuss the unusual algae bloom being experienced and the reason for it. Director Andrews explained that the algae bloom was likely due to a lack of snow cover, which had created a greenhouse effect. He noted they were working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to monitor the situation.

Council Member Lee and Director Andrews discussed the life expectancy and maintenance requirements of a new PAC system.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 050

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CHEMCO SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A POWERED ACTIVATED CARBON (PAC) SYSTEM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $755,132

Item 8.C. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Bloomington, as requested by City Council.

Mayor Mwilambwe noted that he had pulled this Item and it would appear at a later date.

Item 8.D. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget and Capital Projects, as requested by the Finance Department.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, discussed requirements for presenting the proposed budget noting his exhibits had been first shared on February 17, 2025, and would again be presented at a public hearing at the end of the month. He pointed out the Item being presented would focus on $81 million in capital projects. He t provide then provided a brief overview of the proposed budget and welcomed several directors to discuss their department's capital projects.

Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment Director, presented two projects for the Arena: upgrading five refrigeration units, and replacing dasher board glass.

Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Director, discussed several Parks & Recreation projects, including completing the Highland Park cart shed, working on the Katthoefer Animal Building at Miller Park Zoo with an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) grant, and developing the Sunnyside Park Sustainability Initiative in partnership with Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District ("BNWRD"). He also highlighted other projects such as unforeseen major repairs like the McGraw Park fountain, the Westwood Playground installation, and Route 66 Trail resurfacing. Additionally, Director Veal mentioned projects like the Miller Park Zoo kitchen roof repair and the shade sale for O'Neil Aquatic Center concessions.

Corey Matheny, Fire Chief, discussed fire station projects addressing ongoing staffing and facility challenges including a kitchen remodel; HVAC upgrades for Fire Stations #1 and #3; and addressing asbestos, energy efficiency, and air quality issues.

Director Rathbun presented the Front and Center project involving acquiring and demolishing buildings to create 140 surface parking spots for $3.9 million. He also discussed a placeholder for unforeseen major facility repairs in the City's various facilities, as well as Police Department projects including an elevator and HVAC upgrades.

Jim Karch, Engineering Director, discussed three categories of projects: grants, maintenance, and large capital projects. He highlighted several grant-funded initiatives such as the Hershey and Hamilton Road Trail, Constitution Trail extension, and the Airport Road and Cornelius Drive traffic signal improvements. He emphasized the City's success in obtaining grants resulting in 12% of the Capital Improvement Fund budget coming from external sources. He also noted multi-year sidewalk, curb, and gutter replacement project mentioning the City had addressed 489 outstanding sidewalk complaints and would complete all of them in the FY26 contract. He discussed the multi-year sewer rehabilitation program explaining the $2 million investment was a proactive approach to maintaining the sewer system. He ended by highlighting the East Street Basin Phase 5 project (a.k.a Baker Ash Detention Basin modifications).

Director Andrews discussed water projects including the Hamilton Road water main replacement, a GIS and leak detection pilot program, and lead service line replacements. He highlighted the Meadow Brook Census Track 59 project as potentially eligible for $5-8 million in debt forgiveness through State Revolving Funds (SRF) and mentioned various water main replacement and upgrade projects.

Director Rathbun shared where to find the proposed budget details on the City's website noting hard copies were available at The Hub and Library. He encouraged the community to review the budget books.

Mayor Mwilambwe thanked the directors for their time and acknowledged the effort it took to prepare the budget books. He also encouraged the public to get involved and review the budget books. He complimented the way they were written saying they were easily digestible.

Mayor Mwilambwe and Director Karch discussed the potential hazard mitigation grant for the East Street Basin Phases #5 and #6. Director Karch confirmed there were eight phases for the project. They then discussed an unsuccessful Change Grant application and how a City consultant had strongly encouraged the City to break up the application to include smaller segments of the project in hopes of increasing the City's odds of success for the Grant.

Council Member Ward asked if receiving grants increased the budget. Director Rathbun shared that regardless of the funding source, all expenditures were shown in the budget. She then asked if the budget increased due to grants not necessarily burdening Bloomington taxpayers. Director Rathbun confirmed she was correct. She ended by requesting to have a discussion about the City's long-term plan for public safety pension funding expressing hopes to do more than just meet the bare minimum obligations.

Council Member Montney inquired about an index or benchmark tracking the percentage of capital projects funded by grants. Director Rathbun explained no such benchmark existed due to the unpredictable nature of grant availability. She then expressed her desire to understand local funding versus grant funding. She moved onto ask about the Cornelius and Airport Intersection Project, noting the budget was lower than in previous years. Director Karch explained that the traffic signal was warranted by traffic counts, while the extension of Cornelius had remained development-driven, aligning with the standard practice of the road being completed after commercial development occurred in the area. They then discussed the 20% decrease in asphalt and concrete spending where Director Karch explained the reduction was due to the removal of a General Fund transfer and a focus on larger capital projects. Deputy City Manager McLaughlin noted that neighborhood repairs would still be made.

City Manager's Discussion

Deputy City Manager McLaughlin provided updates on construction projects and highlighted recent events at the Arena.

Mayor's Discussion

No discussion was had.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Hendricks shared his experience attending the groundbreaking of the Farmhouse Early Learning and Development Center praising its inclusive approach to serving children with diverse abilities. He highlighted a positive comment from the Project Lead about the ease of working with the City.

Council Member Ward requested an update on abandoned properties and their property tax delinquencies following up on a previous request she'd made to prior Director Melissa Hon. Deputy City Manager McLaughlin stated that staff would follow up.

Council Member Lee expressed appreciation for how the community had embraced and supported Bison hockey player, Chongmin Lee, who's jersey was recently auctioned in a record high sale.

Council Member Kearns recognized AmeriCorps Week, highlighting the essential work of over 200,000 AmeriCorps members and volunteers who served in schools, shelters, hospitals, and various nonprofit organizations nationwide.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Kearns made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850