CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07 Section 6, which was reissued and extended by Executive Order 2021-05, and implemented in response to COVID-19, which suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Late	6:01 PM
Jamie Mathy	Ward 1	Present	
Donna Boelen	Ward 2	Present	
Mboka Mwilambwe	Ward 3	Present	
Julie Emig	Ward 4	Present	
Joni Painter	Ward 5	Present	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	Ward 6	Present	
Mollie Ward	Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Absent	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Present	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

City Manager Tim Gleason reported that Camille Rodriguez, McLean County Administrator, appreciated the City's support in providing the location of the County's vaccine center. He introduced a new initiative by Prairie State Legal called the Eviction Diversion Program and touched on the services the City would offer. He then updated Council on 2020 homelessness statistics and discussed available resources.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Recognition of Appointments to Various Boards & Commissions

Staff recognized the appointments of Ashley Farmer to the Public Safety and Community Relations Board and Brady Sant Amour to the Planning Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting for public comment. Andrew and Janis Hollins were in-person to provide public comment. Both individuals had also 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 Bray, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Mayor Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Bray

ABSENT: Crabill

Motion carried.

Item 8.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 8.B. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $5,813,901.74, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 8.C. Consideration and action to approve the Purchase of the Annual Software Subscription for Software Licensing, Hosting, and Maintenance Renewal for the Kronos Time Keeping Solution/Workforce Management Suite and Workforce TeleStaff software including equipment support services, in the amount of $135,235.12, as requested by the Information Technology Department and the Human Resources Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase be approved.)*

Item 8.D. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing Waiving the Technical Bidding Requirements and Approving a Contract with MidCo Systems Now Known as Securitas Electronic Security, Inc., for the Purchase and Installation of an Access Control and Camera System for Public Works, in the Amount of $189,880.42, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Information Technology Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution and Contract be approved.)*

Item 8.E. Consideration and action on a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Strong Communities Program Grant, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

Item 8.F. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving the Final Plat of Capodice Subdivision, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.G. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2021, as it Relates to the Library Maintenance and Operating Budget, in the amount of $1,453,584, as requested by the Bloomington Public Library. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.H. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Approve Right-of-Way, Easements, and Related Agreements for the Hamilton Road Improvement Project and Fox Creek Bridge & Road Improvement Project, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Item 8.I. Consideration and action on an Ordinance Approving Farm Lease Extensions on Two City of Bloomington Farms Commonly Known As Parker Bottom and Farm #8425, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)*

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 9.A. Presentation of the Utility Billing Conversion and resident engagement/interface platform, Invoice Cloud, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and asked Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to address Council. Mr. Rathbun presented on the City of Bloomington Utility Billing System conversion. He provided a brief history and explained there were more than 30,000 accounts. He discussed benefits and increased conveniences offered by the Invoice Cloud system. He went into great detail about the conversion, causing utility billing to be done differently for one week, and discussed changes in account numbers and billing formats. Mr. Rathbun explained that customers would be required to set up auto-payments and e-delivery preferences again and discussed the many ways staff were working to communicate such to the public.

City Manager Gleason reiterated the dates that online bill pay would be unavailable and stressed that late fees would not be assessed during the initial program introduction.

Council Member Boelen asked the approximate savings the program provided. Mr. Rathbun stated that, initially, there would be an increased expense, but that over time, the program would encourage residents to go paperless and automate or self-serve online, which would reduce staff involvement and increase efficiencies.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.B. Presentation and discussion of FY 2022 and FY 2023 Resurfacing Projects, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the presentation and action item that immediately followed the presentation. He then asked Kevin Kothe, Public Works Director, to address Council.

Mr. Kothe explained that the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2022 and FY 2023 proposed budgets did not include projects already under contract. He provided a breakdown of the $7.2 million FY22 Proposed Asphalt & Concrete Budget and discussed each of the six programs/projects. He walked through changes to resurfacing plans increasing efficiencies by adjusting timelines to match up with future projects and reminded Council of the factor used in street selection. He discussed standard bidding processes for resurfacing approval and requested that the process be waived. He highlighted the BloomingtonStreets.com as a resource for Council and the community to view status updates on projects.

Council Member Painter asked what resources were budgeted for emergency projects such as potholes, sunken manholes, or a collapsed streets. Mr. Kothe responded, providing various resources for multiple types of unforeseen projects, as well as routine temporary and permanent pothole patching done by street crews.

Council Member Emig asked how staff determined which portions of the City received priority and how Council Members or citizens could provide feedback on street selection. She then asked for a commitment to revisit the Brick Street Master Plan. Mr. Kothe responded that the software used for street determination was objective in that it does not factor in Ward data. He explained that staff also work to group streets in neighborhoods together to increase efficiencies and maximize funding. He then discussed how streets were regularly re-evaluated and agreed to revisit the Brick Street Master Plan.

Council Member Boelen asked for an update on pavement preservation. Mr. Kothe responded that staff planned to continue to utilize the same products as in years past and explore additional preservation techniques. He noted that while reclamite wasn't controversial, C-85 could be.

Mayor Renner asked for clarification on the reasons for the controversy. Mr. Kothe responded that the majority of the complaints staff had received were about dust produced by the C-85 material.

Council Member Ward appreciated the objectivity of the software, but requested that staff also be part of the street selection.

Council Member Mwilambwe agreed with her comment and asked for an approximate savings experienced when projects of proximity were grouped together. Mr. Kothe explained that contractors had repeatedly stressed cost savings based on the proximity of projects. Council Member Mwilambwe suggested that staff include a historical list of completed street projects versus the current construction season on BloomingtonStreets.com.

Mayor Renner asked for additional clarification. Council Member Mwilambwe provided additional information stressing a visual of what was accomplished over the past few years.

Council Member Carrillo appreciated the objectivity of the street selection software, but too believed a human factor should be re-introduced in a public setting.

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 9.C. Consideration and action on a Resolution Establishing the Streets to be Resurfaced in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, Authorization of Waiving the Technical Bidding Requirements, and Authorizing City Staff to Negotiate a Contract with Rowe Construction - A Division of United Contractors Midwest for the FY 2022 General Street Resurfacing Program, as requested by the Public Works Department.</u>

Mr. Kothe thanked Council for their comments and suggestions.

No additional discussion was had.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, that the proposed Resolution be approved.

Mayor Renner directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Ward, Bray

ABSENT: Crabill

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.D. Presentation of the FY2022 Proposed Budget, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and discussed the status of the budget approval timeline. He stated that staff had received positive feedback from public discussions and that the education of the budget provided throughout the process. He then asked Mr. Rathbun to address Council.

Mr. Rathbun presented an update on the FY22 Proposed Budget. He pointed out that there was an emphasis on infrastructure to provide additional services to the residents. He compared total budgets between FY21 and FY22, and then highlighted FY22 major tax and general fund revenues noting the various impacts on each. He went on to discuss FY22 budget expenses from the General Fund, pointing out various savings and making comparisons with the FY21 approved budget. He highlighted FY22 Expense Net of Non-Tax Revenue by department to highlight those who generate revenue and went on to compare revenues and expenses in the Citywide Budget. Mr. Rathbun provided an overview of large capital improvement projects and reminded the community where to locate project information and budget details. He concluded by reviewing the remaining stages of the approval process of the budget.

Council Member Bray stated that the $20 million budget increase would pay for water maintenance, road maintenance, and the O'Neil Pool project. Mr. Rathbun agreed.

Council Member Boelen expressed appreciation for the easy to understand and transparent presentation.

Council Member Carrillo asked for additional details on the $30 million budgeted for the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD"), if approved. Mr. Rathbun explained that it provided funding to the police force, communication center, and pensions. She then asked what percentage of overall budget covered the BPD. Mr. Rathbun responded that it was 12% of the total citywide budget. Council Member Carrillo then expressed interest in a detailed discussion of funds budgeted for BPD focused on the Police Reformation Movement. Mayor Renner responded. City Manager Gleason responded that Council could discuss the BPD's budget in more detail, if desired. She then requested the presentation be made at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Renner reminded her that Council could discuss budget questions at any point and that it did not require a special presentation.

Council Member Boelen noted that departments had begun preparing budgets back in August and did not believe there was adequate time to discuss major adjustments. She suggested a discussion after the current budget cycle.

Council Member Mathy agreed with Council Member Boelen. He believed a substantial discussion was needed, but did not think time allowed for the present budget.

Council Member Bray mentioned having attended a Public Safety and Community Relations Board (PSCRB) public hearing centered on such a discussion. She explained that the PSCRB had determined that no reduction in budget was necessary; therefore, she did not believe additional conversation was needed.

Council Member Mwilambwe agreed that a BPD budget reduction could not be determined under the present time frame. He stressed the importance of understanding the ramifications of significant policy and budget decisions.

Council Member Carrillo reiterated her statements and specified that any Council

Member could have proposed a BPD budget discussion.

Mayor Renner stated that he would be inclined to veto any major change in budget that was not clear and concise.

Council Member Emig provided clarity on the two questions being discussed. She proposed an Initiative for a more in-depth conversation be brought in the next fiscal year.

Council Member Ward agreed with Council Member Emig, and requested that the discussion on BPD policy appear on an agenda as soon as possible.

Council Member Painter agreed that a comprehensive discussion was necessary, but believed it was too late to discuss a change in the current budget being considered. She expressed that her constituents wanted increased police presence.

Council Member Boelen suggested that mental health programs be discussed before police defunding. She noted that based on staffing models, Bloomington should operate with 195 officers, but instead BPD only had 125. She did not support a reduction in officers.

Council Member Carrillo noted specific BPD line items that she had questions on and reiterated her interest in a deeper discussion.

Council Member Bray stated that Council Members were to be non-partisan decision makers, representative of the City as a whole.

Council Member Carrillo called a point of order and asked the relevance of Council Member Bray's comments.

Council Member Bray agreed that discussions were necessary and part of the job, but rejected the idea that discussions could only be had in public. She did not agree with comments made by Council Member Carrillo.

Council Member Ward asked if the discussion on BPD policy would be on an upcoming agenda.

City Manager Gleason responded that a BPD policy discussion could not appear on the next Committee of the Whole; however, he would make himself fully available to answer any specific budget questions. He reminded Council that he had been the Chairman of the Illinois Law Enforcement Standards Board and was very heavily involved in police reform. He stated that if a presentation was necessary in the future, he would make it.

The following item was presented:

Item 9.E. Consideration and potential action regarding Ordinance 2020-18, An Ordinance Declaring a Local Emergency Due to the COVID-19 Virus & Enacting Various Emergency Measures, as requested by the Legal Department.

No amendments were recommended at that time.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason recognized having been in COVID-19 12-months and mentioned a Remembrance by McLean County History Museum. He then covered upcoming events in Downtown and recognized International Woman's Day. He thanked the City Clerk, Council, and executive staff for their service. He ended by highlighting the City's new electronic bid software and new electronic Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") software. He was excited for the community to experience them and stressed them being user friendly and efficient.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner thanked all female staff, the City Clerk, and City Administration for their service. He noted the move of the Administration Department to the Government Center.

Council Member's Discussion

No Council Member Discussion was had.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was had.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON **ATTEST**

Tari Renner

Tari Renner, Mayor

Amanda Mohan

Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850