City of Bloomington Illinois

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe, the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and Deputy City Clerk, Amanda Stutsman, in-person in Government Center Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 28, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Present	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Remote	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Remote	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Remote	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Remote	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Remote	
De Urban	Council Member, Ward 6	Remote	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Present	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Remote	

Recognition/Appointments

A. Recognition of Appointments to Various Boards & Commissions

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk, recognized the appointment of Barbara Singer to the Connect Transit Board and Anna Patino to the Planning Commission.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement of procedure for public comment aloud. No emailed public comment was received. The following individuals in-person public comment: (1) Matthew Toczko; (2) Melissa Newbill; (3) Gary Lambert; (4) Monica Springer; (5) Noah Anderson; and (6) Scott Stimeling. The following individuals provided remote public comment: (1) Robert Garcia; (2) Karla Bailey-Smith; and (3) Ravi Duvvuri. Carol Koos and Georgene Chissell registered for virtual public comment but not present at the time of the meeting.

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 Crumpler, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented with the exception of Item 7.D.

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

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

Motion carried.

Item 7.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)*

Item 7.B. Consideration and action to approve Bills and Payroll in the amount of $6,927,353.06, as requested by the Finance Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)*

Item 7.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 $137,448.59, as requested by the Information Technology Department and the Human Resources Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Purchase be approved.)*

Item 7.D. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Crabill.

Item 7.E. Consideration and action to approve the Proposal and Agreement for Geotechnical Engineering Services for the O'Neil Park & Pool Project, as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Proposal and Agreement be approved.)*

Item 7.F. Consideration and action on a Resolution Approving Release and Retention of Executive Session minutes, as requested by the City Clerk Department. *(Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)*

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

Item 7.D. Consideration and action to approve 1) the Purchase of seven (7) Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid Vehicles through the State of Illinois Joint Purchase Contract (#19-416CMS-BOSS4-P-11453) from Morrow Brothers Ford, in the amount of $378,795, and 2) the Disposal of the replaced units by public auction, as requested by the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

Council Member Crabill explained that he pulled the item to highlight the purchase of 7 police vehicles that had idol-reduction technology. He discussed his interests to contribute to a greener fleet and provided a brief overview of the process. He then reported on the various benefits to the environment and the fuel cost savings to the City with the use of the technology. He hoped more City vehicles would be purchased with it in the future.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, that the proposed Purchase and Disposal be approved.

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

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

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Presentation by Heartland Community College President, Dr. Keith Cornille, on the College's recent receipt of a $1 million Workforce Equity Initiative Grant, as requested by the Administration Department.

Dr. Keith Cornille, President of Heartland Community College ("HCC"), recognized multiple individuals who were essential in the development of the program. He discussed how they identified needs, with a focus on education, based on zip codes. He provided an overview of the information gathering process since 2018 that focused on education level statistics. He listed various statistics of education and how they identified areas of need.

Terrance Bond, Assistant to the President and the Chief Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer at HCC, explained the Workforce Equity Initiative ("WEI") was an innovative partnership with the Illinois Community College Board, Grand-Funded Consortium Colleges, and the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. He reported that HCC received $1.05 million Workforce Equity Initiative Grant ("WEI Grant") for the WEI program. He listed the goals for the HCC's WEI program for 2022. Mr. Bond went on to describe how HCC could increase participation and remove barriers to higher education while fostering growth within the community.

Dr. Cornille discussed the intended outcomes of the program and HCC's intent to further their partnerships to enhance the desired workforce and increase employment opportunities locally.

Council Member Boelen supported the program and asked if there were additional sources of funding in addition to the WEI Grant. Dr. Cornille explained that other businesses and organizations supported the WEI program through goods and services. He anticipated additional involvement of more organizations in the future.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Bond discussed the opportunity to reapply for the Illinois State funded grant but, that there was no guarantee HCC would receive it.

Council Member Emig supported the program and asked for additional details on wrap around services for their students. Mr. Bond noted multiple resources and highlighted that childcare services were available while students attended courses. Dr. Cornille reported that HCC had received a separate grant that focused on mental health through peer recovery. He then listed additional mental health resources available to students.

Council Member Becker and Mr. Bond discussed the targeted 30% above average living wage of graduates at $17.50/hour. Dr. Cornille and Council Member Becker then discussed the incorporation of trade unions.

Council Member Becker recommended that HCC not to solely rely on the WEI Grant and to leverage local businesses as an additional funding source should the WEI Grant not be renewed. Dr. Cornille stated they would continue their efforts.

Council Member Urban supported the program and recommended a variety of local organizations as potential partnerships for the program. Mr. Bond thanked Council and expressed his excitement to grow the program and to work with other organizations.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked for additional details on the length of time to achieve the short-term certificate programs. Dr. Cornille explained that while the timeline varied by program but consisted of a semester to one-year in length which could allow them to start in the industry and then they can build upon their education.

Mr. Bond provided examples of what a student could expect on a daily commitment.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and action on a Resolution Approving the FY2023 John M. Scott Health Care Trust Grant Awards and Programmatic Agreements, in the Amount of $929,705.89 for Category I and II Grants, as requested by the Economic & Community Development Department.

Council Member Mathy recused himself at 7:00 p.m. as he was a Board Member of the Community Health Care Clinic.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, introduced the item and then asked William Bessler, Grant Specialist with the City of Bloomington, to address Council.

Mr. Bessler thanked key individuals who were integral in the process. He highlighted the importance of the investment into the community and then introduced Kyana Wilkinson, John M. Scott Commission Secretary.

Ms. Wilkinson discussed the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2023 John M. Scott Grant funding process and investment recommendations. She then explained that John M. Scott Grant filled critical gaps and served under resourced community members and provided statistics in FY 2022.

Council Member Boelen asked for additional information on the capital projects. Ms. Wilkinson listed the various organizations that the Commission worked with. She then confirmed funding was used to pay for testing that was not otherwise covered by a patient's insurance at the Community Health Care Clinic.

Council Member Emig asked if the Commission noticed a trend in needs. Ms. Wilkinson responded that there was an increased need in mental health care specifically with LGBTQ.

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

Council Member Urban recused herself at 7:09 p.m. as she was a Board Member of the West Bloomington Revitalization Project.

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

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

RECUSED: Mathy, Urban

Motion carried.

Council Members Mathy and Urban returned to the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.C. Presentation of FY2023 Budget Update, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason commented to the previous presentation and introduced Scott Rathbun, Finance Director.

Mr. Rathbun noted that the presentation would be the first complete presentation of the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2023 budget. He reported that the City had 29 funds, but that the general fund was the largest fund and was primarily supported by taxes. He then noted multiple other funds that were part of the City's structure. He believed that City had a strong cost-control culture in that staff continuously sought ways to save funds by decreasing expenses.

He went through the FY 2023 budget and discussed the total budgets City-Wide and the General Fund and highlighted the totals for capital projects, the current balance of the General fund and the cash for equipment initiative. He reported on the budget growth over the past eight years and discussed the reasons for budget growth. He then discussed major tax revenues, general fund revenues and expenses, and City-wide revenues and expenses. He then highlighted significant factors for increases of each. Mr. Rathbun went on to discuss the City-wide budget by fund and compared FY 2022 to the proposed FY 2023 budget. He highlighted the increase in the Bloomington Election Commission which has a separate revenue source. He presented the FY 2023 capital projects by Ward and the amount of funding allocated for each. He concluded by providing the next steps in the FY 2023 budget schedule.

Council Member Mathy asked for additional information on the increase of the Bloomington Election Commission ("BEC") budget. Mr. Rathbun explained that BEC had their own dedicated revenue source and that they periodically needed additional hardware for their election equipment. He noted that the increase most likely correlated to preparations for the fall elections and relocation.

Council Member Mathy confirmed with Mr. Rathbun that the BEC budget was similar to the Bloomington Public Library budget in that while it reflected in the City's budget, they had their own revenue source.

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 8.D. Presentation of the Bloomington Police Department Strategic Plan 2022-2024, as requested by the Police Department.</u>

Police Chief Jamal Simington presented the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan for the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD"). He reminded the Council of BPD's mission to work with the community to provide a safe community. He then discussed the 21st Century Policing Initiative Pillars as established by President Obama in 2016. He went on to list BPD's established goals and corresponding pillar. Chief Simington described numerous strategies and action plans to accomplish each goal. He noted that staff would continuously evaluate the action items to remain current to ensure that BPD is serving the public the most effectively and efficiently.

Council Member Ward asked the amount of community involvement in BPD's strategic plan. Chief Simington explained that the Strategic Plan was historically built internally and attempted to present to the Public Safety and Community Relations Board ("PSCRB"). He reminded Council that the Strategic Plan was a growing and living document that could be amended as needed. He reminded Council that the Strategic Plan was based off of the 21st Century Policing Initiative Pillars, a nationally accepted model with input from a variety of input. Council Member Ward stressed the importance of community involvement to encourage buy in. She recommended amendments to the Citizen's Academy and asked that the name be changed to Residents' Academy.

Council Member Mathy and Chief Simington discussed restarting quarterly meetings with the community to gain regular feedback.

Council Member Crumpler commended the continuous improvement and asked if additional officers or personnel would be needed to execute the ambitious plan. Chief Simington reported that BPD strived to onboard additional police officers to continue their efforts to become fully staffed.

Council Member Boelen asked if officers were involved with the Juvenile Justice Council out of the Law and Justice Center which advocated for initiatives that delt with at risk youth. Chief Simington stated that staff were involved and engaged regularly with that organization.

Council Member Crabill touched on Diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of the plan. He mentioned a previous conversation on the connection of poverty and crime and asked Chief to comment. Chief Simington stated that he had delt with poverty personally and believed that not all those in poverty were involved in crime. He recognized that some individuals do not feel the same and that there is a correlation.

Council Member Crabill and Chief Simington then discussed the potential correlation between road diets, the act of building streets skinnier, and the reduction of vehicle speeds and safety.

Council Member Crabill then recommended amended the term 'subjects' to 'the homeless population' in regard to one of BPD's goals to address the homeless population in the Downtown corridor.

Council Member Becker asked Chief Simington Administration or Council they could assist BPD to do their job more effectively. Chief Simington stated that BPD was blessed with a supportive Administration and Council and resources have been made available. He reported that BPD's main issue was recruitment but recognized that most municipalities throughout the nation had the same difficulty to fill positions post-controversies.

Council Member Emig expressed appreciation of BPD's work with the youth. She noted the potential for the Vision Zero with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission to work in tandem with BPD's strategic plan.

The following item was presented:

Item 8.E. Consideration and action to approve an Agreement, as a sole source, with Flock Safety for a 24-month fixed annual cost to automatically renew each year contingent on approval in the annual budget, as requested by the Police Department.

City Manager Gleason explained the history of the item and reported that it appeared before the Public Safety and Community Relations Board ("PSCRB") for additional public input. He stated that, in light of Council Member Becker's question on how Council could better support BPD, the Flock Automatic License Plate Readers ("Flock ALPR") would do just that.

Chief Simington stated that leveraging technologies like the Flock ALPR would allow BPD to significantly shorten staff search time and identify individuals in order to eliminate or confirm a suspect's involvement quickly. He then provided multiple examples of how the Flock ALPR from a partner agency aided BPD in investigations. He explained how the Flock ALPR worked in detail and assured Council that Flock ALPR users would not use data for traffic enforcement, fines, towing, or immigration enforcement. He then listed the major crimes that the Flock ALPR would be strictly used for and stressed the security of the data and length of stored data. He noted that BPD would provide monthly reports of use to the PSCRB on the use of the software. Chief Simington stated that BPD had presented a draft use policy that was more restrictive than other municipalities. He listed the various community outreach including a 3-hour online question and answer forum.

Council Member Montney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, that the proposed Agreement be approved.

Council Member Crabill noted the reasons he tabled the item in January. He reported that his constituents generally approved of the cameras but noted that others in the community had concerns. He appreciated BPD's conservative approach.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to amend the current motion to approve the purchase of the cameras on the following conditions: (1) that the Bloomington Police Department consider and report back on possible changes in the policy based on public input including providing further description on what kind of crimes will or will not be subject to the Flock ALPR system while allowing for the flexibility BPD needs; (2) the addition that the use of the Flock ALPR be used as a crime reduction tool that may have crime reduction impacts and that BPD consider the need of an additional external audit; (3) that any significant changes in the policy, especially on use collection access, dissemination and retention, that Council be notified; and (4) that Council be notified of the request to purchase additional Flock ALPR cameras.

Council Member Boelen claimed point of order and stated that the policy was not on the agenda for consideration.

Mayor Mwilambwe recognized the point of order. He asked the original makers of the motion if they were agreeable to the proposed amendment. Neither Council Member Boelen or Montney agreed with the amendment.

Council Member Boelen and Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, discussed procedural questions in regard to the policy.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked Council Member Crabill for additional information on his amendment. Council Member Crabill responded that he wanted to approve the contract with conditions placed on the use policy of the technology.

Mr. Jurgens advised that the contract could not be made contingent on a BPD use policy.

Council Member Ward asked if BPD could report back on a final use policy for a Council vote. Mayor Mwilambwe agreed and commented on the considerations noted by PSCRB.

Chief Simington and Mayor Mwilambwe discussed procedure and that the use policy did not need to appear before the PSCRB but would need to return to Council.

Council Member Crabill stated that Council would vote on original motion with the understanding that the BPD would reappear before Council in March to vote on the Flock ALPR use policy. Mayor Mwilambwe agreed.

Council Member Mathy expressed concern that the contract auto renews annually after the initial 2-year contract. He wanted conversation at Council about contract renewal to ensure the technology did what was intended. Mayor Mwilambwe stated that the memo listed that contract renewal was contingent on Council approval.

Council Member Crumpler supported the agreement and appreciated the additional time for consideration. He believed that there was significant discussion and understood the concerns but was satisfied with the level public input and staff accountability.

Council Member Montney thanked BPD for the significant additional research. She supported the use of technology could help solve crimes.

Council Member Emig appreciated the amount of public input BPD received. She stated that she would vote against the item as her constituents did not support the Flock ALPR technology. She listed constituents' concerns with the technology.

Council Member Boelen understood the concerns, but that BPD had gone way out of their way to obtain significant public input. She expressed her support of the item and believed the use policy was acceptable.

Council Member Crabill withdrew the motion. Council Member Ward withdrew her second to the motion on condition that the policy would reappear before Council.

City Manager Gleason stated that the use policy was drafted and stated that staff would provide updates at the annual review. He noted that a complete policy would be shared with Council.

Council Member Ward requested additional insight on the draft status of the use policy. Chief Simington explained the procedure to approve policies internally and assured Council that the use policy, like all other BPD policies, would be placed on the transparency portal online.

Council Member Boelen and Mayor Mwilambwe confirmed that the current motion was to approve as presented.

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

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Mathy, Becker, Urban, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Emig

Motion carried.

Finance Director's Report

Mr. Rathbun presented the major tax revenues of Fiscal Year ("FY") 2022 and highlighted year-to-date variances and the causes of said variances. He then discussed FY 2022 general fund revenues and expenditures, highlighting key factors and changes to reporting. He went on to discuss the FY 2022 enterprise fund summary, noting commitments for purchase orders. He expressed concern with expenditures but assured Council that staff were monitoring them closely.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Gleason highlighted multiple upcoming Downtown Bloomington events. He recognized multiple new City staff members. He then reported that per the Government's orders, masks were no longer required in City facilities but that they would continue to be required at the Zoo for the safety of the animals. He went on to discuss multiple agenda items for upcoming meetings. He provided an update on the rating program for road grading and noted that staff were seeking options within the budget to provide additional funds to maintain or increase the current street ratings.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Mwilambwe reported that the One Voice conference would continue and that we have elected not to go but that they would attend some virtual sessions.

Council Member's Discussion

Council Member Crabill explained the importance of Black History Month and provided examples of reasonings that recognition was still needed. He believed that the Human Relations Commission should track investments that benefit persons of color and provided examples of what could be included in this list. He expressed his support in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk