CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with Mayor Pro Tem, Jamie Mathy; City Manager, Tim Gleason; and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in the Government Center Chambers at 6:03 p.m., Monday, February 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Mathy.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Absent	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Present	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Remote	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Remote	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Present	
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	

Public Comment

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy read a statement of procedure for public comment aloud. Surena Fish provided in-person public comment. One emailed public comment was received, but a name was not provided. No remote public comment was received.

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 Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy 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 5.A. Presentation of the FY2023 Budget Capital Projects, as requested by the Finance Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy noted an adjustment to presentation procedure. City Manager Gleason expanded on the change and provided an overview of next steps in the budget approval process.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, addressed Council and presented an overview of Fiscal Year 2023 ("FY23") capital projects by fund.

Russ Waller, Director of Facilities, discussed Grossinger Motors Arena and Bloomington Ice Center improvements, including replacement of rooftop HVAC units and the steps staff were taking to evaluate the current system for potential energy savings. He then provided detail on multiple capital projects to be completed in FY23 from the Abraham Lincoln Parking fund and the General fund.

Eric Veal, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts, discussed ongoing improvements to the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts and Creativity Center. He went on to discuss various FY23 projects to be paid from the Capital Improvement fund, General fund, and Golf fund.

Kevin Kothe, Director of Public Works, discussed capital projects to be completed in FY23 from the Motor Fuel Tax fund, Capital Improvement fund, General Fund, as well as the Enterprise Funds for Water, Sewer, and Storm Water. He provided detail on each phase of the various projects and provided support for improvements.

Council Member Ward clarified the Cottage Ave. Bridge, which was noted in the Council packet as being in Ward 5, was actually in Ward 7. She then asked what happened to the non-City funds that don't get not used. Mr. Rathbun explained that most often the funds appeared as revenue in the budget for future project use. Mr. Kothe provided additional detail.

Council Member Boelen asked the timeline for the parking evaluation. Mr. Waller stated that staff should receive the finalized report within the next few months. He noted the report would include total costs. Council Member Boelen and Mr. Waller then discussed preliminary next steps for the parking garage. Council Member Boelen moved to seek confirmation from Mr. Veal that the pump station at The Den Golf Course cycled the water in the water features. He confirmed. She then discussed with Mr. Kothe the timeline for construction of the Hamilton Road project, as well as the total miles of streets to be resurfaced in FY23. She requested that information be made available to the public.

Council Member Becker asked about the City's capacity to do additional roadwork and if there was room to increase that figure with additional resources. Mr. Kothe stated that additional capacity could be enhanced depending on the number of Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT") projects the City's contractors took on.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy questioned why the amount appropriated for asphalt and sidewalks had decreased. Mr. Kothe stated that the majority of those projects were funded by Local Motor Fuel tax. Mr. Rathbun added that temporary increases had been made in FY22 for specific projects, but that the proposed budget was similar to historical amounts.

Council Member Montney and Mr. Rathbun discussed the 8% motor fuel tax rate.

Council Member Emig asked for additional detail on the combined $7 million for asphalt and sidewalk replacement and if Council still had time to increase the budget. Mr. Kothe stated that Council still had time to amend the proposed budget. He explained that $7 million annually was what was recommended to continue to bring streets up to par. She then asked Mr. Kothe to explain why the Hamilton Road project was so critical. He noted the project had spanned decades and discussed how the project improved traffic flow. Council Member Emig moved on to discuss potential energy savings at the Arena with Mr. Waller. She asked whether staff had considered adding electric vehicle charging stations in the Lincoln parking garage. Mr. Waller stated that additional stations were possible, but that it was most cost effective to wait until a decision was made on a new parking garage.

Council Member Crabill and Mr. Kothe confirmed that no housing would be displaced during the Hamilton Road project and that a significant number of lane miles were not being added. Council Member Crabill suggested that staff determine which roads should be prioritized and if any additional resources should be made available. Council Member Crabill then confirmed that the Arena HVAC units currently in use were original to the building. He discussed the merits to improve the current system versus a full system replacement. Council Member Crabill moved on to ask Mr. Rathbun when budget books would be published. Mr. Rathbun stated that they would be published after the budget was approved.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend the discussion time by 15 minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

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

Motion carried.

Council Member Crumpler asked if staff were concerned by the increase in cost of materials and availability. Mr. Kothe stated that it was the contractor's responsibility to figure that in bids submitted. City Manager Gleason commented that it was unlikely that costs would return to pre-COVID amounts and acknowledged challenges in completing projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy reminded Council that all of the capital projects were placeholders that could be amended until the budget was approved.

Council Member Boelen commented to the difficulty of maintaining street surfacing. She noted that Ward 2 needed commercial business to generate revenue within the Ward.

Council Member Montney noted that 42% of the streets were rated fair. Mr. Kothe stated that staff worked to make best use of budgeted funds approved by Council. City Manager Gleason stated that staff would provide additional data in the budget presentation. He expressed his hope that Council would approve a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds for roadwork.

Council Initiatives

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 5.B.1. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Becker to find ways to reduce costs in other areas as an offset to the coming spending as opposed to increasing the taxpayer burden, as requested by the City Council.</u>

Council Member Becker and Mrs. Yocum discussed procedural expectations. He stated that he wished to expand on the reduction of costs that City departments and the City's Township had begun. He noted opportunities for efficiencies and confirmed that he had no intention of creating a new commission. He stated that his intention was for his Initiative to be placed on a future agenda so that Council and staff could have a more in-depth research-based discussion. He explained why he had selected his areas/items of focus based on his own research and encouraged staff to share with Council how to best reduce redundant efforts across government entities. He stated that his intent was for City staff to return to Council with 2 to 3 cost saving proposals, even if they had been previously denied or differed from his proposals. He suggested savings could be spent on road infrastructure projects.

Council Member Becker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to have staff evaluate and prepare an analysis on the proposed Initiative and bring it back for further Council discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy supported the Initiative and the possibility to combine some governmental units to reduce costs. He stated that he had emailed initial thoughts and questions to Council Member Becker.

Council Member Boelen supported the Initiative and that staff suggestions would be considered separately.

Council Member Montney supported the Initiative and believed the budget should be decreased.

Council Member Emig supported the Initiative and noted that she had also emailed thoughts to Council Member Becker.

Council Member Becker offered additional support for the Initiative.

Council Member Urban supported the Initiative and also requested that staff proposals return individually.

Council Member Ward was open to additional conversation.

Council Member Crabill supported the Initiative, but clarified his support for reducing costs and not services. He saw merit in discussing the City combining things. He believed staff had clearly explained and supported the reason for operating budget increases overtime and believed it should not be part of the discussion.

Council Member Crumpler supported the Initiative and believed that cutting spending and combining things for efficiency was good.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

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

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 5.B.2. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Emig to propose the establishment of an advisory Green Infrastructure Commission, as requested by the City Council.</u>

Council Member Emig stated that her Initiative was born out of the City's recent flooding. She believed the City should seek being a more environmentally sound community with solid plans for water/sewer overflow. She explained her Initiative was to establish an advisory Green Infrastructure Commission with a role of surveying all projects, specifically landscaping and hydraulic modeling projects, to enhance and ensure greener infrastructure. She stated that she wanted to see how the City could involve community partners and encourage residents to mitigate current issues. She clarified that the advisory commission would study and recommend policies for green infrastructure and that it would be comprised of City staff and community members.

Council Member Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crumpler, to have staff evaluate and prepare an analysis on the proposed Initiative and bring it back for further Council discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy supported additional discussion, but suggested the commission be temporary. He also supported the inclusion of local professionals on the commission.

Council Member Boelen expressed support and reminded Council that new development had to comply with green infrastructure in the City Code. She recommended land use as a discussion topic for the commission and suggested the Planning Commission be involved.

Council Member Montney believed that staff did well encouraging green infrastructure and expressed interest in viewing examples that staff currently had in place. As an issue of timing, she did not support the Initiative.

Council Member Emig recognized Council Member Montney's feedback and expressed further support for a temporary taskforce to amplify green infrastructure.

Council Member Becker did not support the Initiative. He believed the resulting conversations would be duplicative and worried a commission would slow down development.

Council Member Urban stated that she was conflicted as she had no interest in creating additional permanent commissions, but would entertain a temporary task force. She suggested an alternative solution of placing a higher expectation on staff to include green space with every development and/or to the Planning Commission for consideration in project submissions. She supported the motion additional discussion.

Council Member Ward supported the Initiative.

Council Member Crabill supported the Initiative and the creation of an additional commission. He believed it was beneficial to have outside expertise and stated that no other commission addressed green infrastructure.

Council Member Crumpler supported the Initiative, but expressed similar concerns to Council Member Urban. He noted the time it could take to create a commission and obtain community interest. He wondered if there was a more efficient way to accomplish the goal.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

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

NAYS: Montney, Becker

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B.3. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Ward to create a Special Commission to develop a comprehensive plan to address the issue of gun violence locally, as requested by the City Council.

Council Member Ward briefly explained her Initiative. She strongly believed that a commission focused on reducing gun violence in the community was needed and that the commission should be comprised of community stakeholders. She discussed that the commission would study gun violence issues and suggest actions to Council. She stressed that the creation of the commission would send a message to potential developers and stakeholders that Bloomington takes safety very seriously. Council Member Ward wanted Bloomington to be proactive, instead of reactive. She did not believe the Initiative should be given to a current board and was not interested in a commission focused on crime in a general. She discussed the importance of the term 'gun' being included in the title of the commission.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, to have staff evaluate and prepare an analysis on the proposed Initiative and bring it back for further Council discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy supported the Initiative, but also cautioned the City not duplicating efforts of other community organizations. He stressed the importance of increasing awareness of all efforts.

Council Member Boelen did not support the Initiative as presented. She strongly believed that the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD") was effective in this area and reminded Council that the McLean County Justice Committee continued to address gun violence. She believed a creation of a commission would duplicate their efforts.

Council Member Montney expressed concern with gun violence, but believed a current commission or community group could address the issues. She suggested leveraging current administrative framework and recommended that ad hoc advisors be consulted. She did not support the Initiative as presented.

Council Member Emig stated that BPD needed to be involved in the conversation and mentioned the issue of community organizations working on the issues in silos. She believed the Initiative was an opportunity to bring violence, mental health, and poverty focused organizations together to make a more meaningful impact. She supported the Initiative.

Council Member Becker stated that after his research, he had determined from an individual standpoint that commissions slowed down progress. He believed Police Chief Simington was the best candidate to bring community groups together. He did not support the Initiative as presented.

Council Member Urban stated that a commission would provide answers many months down the road, where she wanted answers and suggestions immediately. She believed in order to move quickly, BPD should be utilized to bring the City and community organizations together for immediate answers and suggestions. She agreed with the need to address the issue, but did not support a new commission.

Council Member Ward echoed her support and stated that she had worked with many of the discussed community organizations prior to her election and still had no answers.

Council Member Crabill supported the Initiative and noted the need to address root causes and symptoms of gun violence.

Council Member Crumpler shared timeline concerns mentioned by other Council Members. He proposed expanding the parameters of the Public Safety and Community Relations Board (PSCRB) or utilizing other existing structures instead of creating a new commission. He noted that Council had five pending Initiatives and recommended they prioritize the Initiatives to save staff time.

Mayor Pro Tem Mathy directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Emig, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

NAYS: Boelen, Montney, Becker, Urban

Motion carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason highlighted multiple upcoming events at Miller Park Zoo and in Downtown Bloomington. He thanked multiple departments who had aided the community in recent storms. He went on to discuss multiple agenda items for upcoming meetings.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was had.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON	**ATTEST**
Mboka Mwilambwe	Amanda Stutsman
Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor	Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk