CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole 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
Grant Walch	Council Member, Ward 1	Present
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Present
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Present
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	Absent

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Mayor's Annual Address

Mayor Mwilambwe began by thanking Council Members and residents for their dedication to the community. He stated that 2022 had been a year of growth, innovation, and community engagement that led to remarkable accomplishments. He celebrated the City's many achievements including many public facility improvements, multi-department collaboration efforts in two record-breaking snow events, and significant infrastructure preservation and restoration. He then highlighted major management changes and recruitment efforts and went on to discuss multiple major capital projects. Mayor Mwilambwe commented to the ongoing Downtown Streetscape Plan, as well as major expansions of Bloomington businesses that increased employment opportunities. He discussed continued housing expansion efforts and expressed excitement for all that was in store for Bloomington.

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 Crabill, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 5.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Capital Projects, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager, Tim Gleason, addressed a question asked by Council Member Walch at a previous Council meeting regarding how the budget compared to the City's population. Mr. Gleason compared data from 2010, when the nation was in a recession, to today in 2023. He stated that Council and staff today were doing more with comparable amounts of funds than the City was able to do in 2010. He then asked for Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to address Council.

Mr. Rathbun stated that a large focus of the presentation would be on capital projects. He compared capital projects by fund from Fiscal Year ("FY") 2023 to FY 2024. He then introduced Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Department Director; Russ Waller, Facilities Division Manager; Craig Shonkwiler, Assistant Public Works Director and City Engineer; and Kevin Kothe, Public Works Director.

Mr. Veal introduced multiple projects within the Parks & Recreation Department including two park playground upgrades, exterior improvements to the Lincoln Leisure Center, multiple trail resurfacing projects, landscaping projects, and a new City monument sign. He also discussed two major projects at the Highlight Park Golf Course and two others at The Den Golf Course. He was happy to share that the building renovation improvements at the golf courses were likely to result in increased revenues.

Mr. Waller discussed safety improvements in addition to futureproofing with solar and EV Charging. He noted that some projects, like the elevator at City Hall, were unable to be completed during the previous FY and would be carried over to the upcoming FY. He discussed how multiple projects across departments would be combined to get a better pricing, and then updated Council on the status of the Market St. Garage renovation, He noted the life of the Garage would be extended by 3-4 years when the repairs were complete. He concluded with an update on the Arena RTU replacement project, noting the current units were still functioning, but that the coolant needed to maintain them was no longer being made. He cautioned that if the City didn't prepare for what's to come with the units, it would come at a greater expense when the units went out on their own.

Mr. Shonkwiler discussed Capital Improvements for the Engineering Division, highlighting the need for land acquisition to relocate the Citizen's Convenience Center due to the Bloomington Public Library expansion. He walked through multiple extensions to the Constitution Trail, as well as an improvement project for the Meadowbrook Subdivision. He provided details on the design and construction of a traffic signal improvement at Airport Rd. and Cornelius Dr. and the multiple projects related to the Fox Creek Road and Bridge improvement project. He talked about multiple projects related to the Hamilton Road improvements and concluded with a few multi-year projects that would be paid for from the Asphalt and Concrete fund. He noted that two of the projects would utilize American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funding.

City Manager Gleason commented on the land acquisition for a new Citizen's Convenience Center, a highly utilized City feature, and explained the need for relocation as a retention basin for stormwater runoff would be needed at a portion of the current location as well. He then discussed the intent to not only create retention basins, but to also make the basins amenities for residents.

Mr. Kothe discussed various projects to be paid from the Enterprise Funds for Water, Sewer, Stormwater, and Solid Waste. He explained that the City regularly sought grant funding for projects and expanded on several projects, noting connections to other projects previously mentioned.

Mr. Rathbun reported that the remainder of the FY 2023 budget schedule including final adoption on April 10, 2023. He then reminded the community where to find budget documentation on the website.

Council Member Ward expressed concern that most of the retention basin projects focused on Wards 1, 4, and 6, and then asked about retention basin project impacts to the City. Mr. Shonkwiler stated that the focus on the Wards mentioned were based on a previous Watershed Plan. He discussed how detaining water downstream reduced the pressure of the watershed in Ward 7 and, as a result, would reduce flooding. Mr. Kothe stated that West Monroe, a previous area that had flooded, was downstream of the planned projects and that any retentions upstream would benefit all areas downstream. He discussed a previous example of success with a similar approach. Mr. Shonkwiler mentioned future projects that would take place in Ward 7 that would further aid in the Watershed Plan. She expressed support for solar planning. The three then discussed the Route 9 project and the planned Bloomington monument.

Council Member Crabill expressed appreciation for the presentation format.

Council Member Boelen and Mr. Kothe discussed the life expectancy of the sewer lining and the responsibility for maintenance. She noted the long timeline for the Fox Creek Road bridge repairs and urged staff to be more aggressive with land acquisition when related to development in Ward 2. She pointed out that the City's budget remained inflated as the $20M budget for the Fox Creek Road project rolled over multiple FYs.

Council Member Emig commended staff for the significant investment in City infrastructure. She explained the strategic planning used in selecting areas to complete water and combined sewer overflow projects. Mr. Shonkwiler stated that staff were nearing the final stages of the watershed plan and would present it at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. She expressed appreciation for the upgrades to parks and obtaining grant funding. She asked staff to continue to incorporate ways for people to drive more safely.

The following item was presented:

<u>Item 6.B. Presentation and Discussion on Violence Prevention Measures, as requested by the Police Department, and the Administration Department.</u>

City Manager Gleason noted expectations of the presentation. He then informed the community the City had received a $500,000 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DECO") grant and that it was being recommended that the City allocate grant funds to current uses the City had already paid. He stated the deadline was by close of the State's fiscal year.

Jamal Simington, Chief of Police, acknowledged the Bloomington Police Department's ("BPD") responsibility to seek ways to limit violence in the community and improve community relations and efficiencies. He discussed many ideas for the use of funds, as well as how the BPD's Strategic Plan and the Violence Reduction Plan aligned. He elaborated on each, its estimated cost, and its associated benefits.

Council Member Ward expressed appreciation for the time put into thoughtfully considering projects. She supported Firearm Buyback and Gun Safe Programs. She and Chief Simington discussed the Cash-for-Tips program contract and BPD's desire to extend it.

Council Member Ward proposed the City engage in restorative practices and discussed few suggestions she had and was skeptical about the need for drones. She encouraged staff to fuel the spirit of cooperation and the sharing of equipment across municipal agencies.

Council Member Walch expressed support for the programs presented. He expressed concerns in limiting the Summer Program to only 36 children. He and Chief Simington discussed excitement around the Program, as well as plans for future years.

Council Member Crabill supported the proposed programs especially the Firearm Buyback and Gun Safe Programs. He stressed that public safety was broader than policing and expressed support of Council Member Ward's idea for the implementation of restorative practices programs. Chief Simington shared a few restorative training ideas. They then discussed the improved street lighting and pillars of the BPD's Strategic Plan. Council Member Crabil was not supportive of the Cash-for-Tips program and suggested the City wait to purchase drones.

Council Member Boelen supported the programs presented. She discussed youth program grants available by other organizations and wanted to celebrate current programs.

Council Member Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walch, to extend Council discussion time by 5 minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

Chief Simington acknowledged the grants available noting the significant competition for them. He recognized multiple organizations that worked to assist youth and believed the BPD made a difference in the community.

Council Member Boelen noted her support in collaborating with other organizations.

Council Member Emig asked if there were opportunities to combine programs to accomplish both the youth programing and encourage restorative practices. She discussed the potential for future collaboration with other organizations.

Council Member Ward discussed a particular "shovel-ready" training on community partnership and restorative practices. She proposed it be used to train 20 community leaders who could then bring knowledge back to the community.

Council Member Montney noted crime she read about being committed by individuals not residing in Bloomington.

Mayor Mwilambwe believed that overall, Council supported the presented programs with minor tweaks. He mentioned adding programs as needed and supported Chief Simington returning with a more finalized outline of the Youth Program.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason discussed upcoming events in Downtown and at Miller Park, as well as the City's upcoming Job Fair. He recognized six new staff members and four internal promotions.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk