



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019, 6:00 PM**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:01 PM, Monday, February 18, 2019.

Mayor Renner directed the City Clerk to call the roll and the following members of Council answered present:

Aldermen: Jamie Mathy, David Sage, Mboka Mwilambwe (Absent), Amelia Buragas, Joni Painter, Karen Schmidt, Scott Black (Absent), Diana Hauman, Kim Bray, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager; Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; Jay Tetzloff, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director; Scott Rathbun, Finance Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. The following individuals came forward.

Hope Terronez	Donna Boelen
Robyn Walowski	

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2019.

Alderman Black made a motion, seconded by Alderman Bray that the minutes from January 22, 2019 approved as printed.

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

Ayes: Aldermen Mathy, Sage, Buragas, Painter, Schmidt, Black, Hauman, and Bray.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. Presentation of Connect Transit Annual Reporting, as requested by Administration.

City Manager Tim Gleason made a brief introduction and turned it over to Isaac Thorne, General Manager of Connect Transit.

Mr. Thorne reviewed financials and walked through ridership numbers from 2018. He discussed changes implemented and demonstrated how those changes impacted the year. He went through frequently asked questions and took questions from Council.

Alderman Hauman thanked Mr. Thorne for the update. She asked Mr. Thorne to further define ridership and Mr. Thorne responded accordingly.

Alderman Schmidt thanked Mr. Thorne for the upcoming listening sessions Connect Transit will hold. She mentioned bus sizes and larger buses inability to service busier streets in westside neighborhoods. Mr. Thorne responded addressing safety concerns.

Alderman Schmidt went on to discuss Connect Transit not entering the parking lots of the westside Walmart and OSF Medical Center. Mr. Thorne described struggles that surround the two (2) locations and stressed that that Connect Transit will continue to work with both business owners in the future.

Alderman Black complimented Connect Transit staff in working with citizen concerns. He asked about the process used for tracking concerns by Connect Transit. Mr. Thorne described the process.

Alderman Black went on to comment on passengers per hour and the potential increase in rider rates. He encouraged Connect Transit to consider that ridership may decrease if an increase in rates is implemented. Mr. Thorne discussed Connect Transit's intention to add routes to busier routes in the future and commented that an increase in fees has not been set.

Alderman Mathy asked for an update on digital signage on the back of buses. Mr. Thorne stated that the contracted company pulled out of the contract with Connect Transit and mentioned that they plan to explore additional opportunities soon.

Alderman Mwilambwe ask Mr. Thorne to run through the struggle of empty buses. Mr. Thorne responded accordingly

Alderman Bray requested Mr. Thorne discuss the downtown transfer station. Mr. Thorne mentioned that a consultant will assist Connect Transit for six (6) months. He walked through the scope of the project and stated that he will report back to Council following that review.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Presentation of FY2020 Budget Overview #2, as requested by the Administration and Finance Departments.

City Manager Tim Gleason spoke on the Overview being presented. He discussed the upcoming presentation of the proposed budget on Monday, February 25, 2019. He pointed out that the proposed budget books will not be printed this year, which will come at an estimated \$3,000 savings to the City. Instead of printed copies, a link to the electronic files will be provided to Council and placed on the website. Mr. Gleason then introduced Finance Director Scott Rathbun.

Finance Director Scott Rathbun walked through highlights of the FY2020 budget. He stressed the desire to move away from leasing equipment and emphasized that this budget contains \$500,000 allocated for outright purchasing. He walked through line item detail on major tax revenue, the general fund, and capital projects. Mr. Rathbun stated that the budget is balanced, and the City remains focused on maintaining City assets, he then turned it back over to City Manager Tim Gleason.

City Manager Gleason walked through comparisons with the Town of Normal on economic entity contributions for the Economic Development Council, Bloomington-Normal Advantage, and the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mayor Renner mentioned his support of the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Mr. Gleason complimented the entities, asked Council to consider reductions in contributions, and requested Council to provide additional direction after those considerations.

Mr. Gleason went on to address opportunities for a local Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) increase and the implementation of a video gaming terminal fee. Mr. Gleason mentioned opportunities for the MFT to be pledged to road repair including specific improvement projects, investment in downtown, and/or economic development. He went through the video gaming terminal fee and mentioned the upcoming dates regarding the budget.

Alderman Mathy clarified the reasoning behind leasing equipment and outright purchasing equipment. Finance Director Rathbun supported Alderman Mathy's statements.

Alderman Schmidt expressed concerns about the increase in MFT and the potential for additional future impacts in Springfield. Mr. Gleason clarified his understanding and expressed similar concern.

Alderman Black clarified a few budget capturing items, which Mr. Rathbun supported. Alderman Black asked Mr. Rathbun to provide data on the change of full time employees (FTEs) over the years.

Alderman Mwilambwe expressed support of the opportunities presented by City Manager Gleason. He requested that additional information be provided with detail of the impacts. Mr. Gleason responded by discussing some of the challenges in which additional income could assist. He emphasized the need to keep the community updated on how the additional dollars generated are being used.

The following items were presented:

Item 7. Presentation of 2018 Accomplishments.

City Manager Gleason expressed the importance of the City communicating to the public what the City achieves each year. The presentation presented will become an annual presentation that highlights the year and gives department directors the opportunity to share successes. Mr. Gleason touched on a few achievements from each department. The 2018 Accomplishments presentation will be viewable online as of Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

Mayor Renner lead a round of applause for City directors.

Alderman Mathy complimented the Police Department's Facebook page.

Alderman Schmidt recognized the transitions the City has recently experienced and complimented the improvements.

Alderman Mwilambwe complimented the simplicity of the budget document.

The following items were presented:

Item 8. Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics.

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason mentioned the upcoming Police Chief's Open House on February 27, 2019 in the Osborn Room at the Police Department and the Annual Crime Statistics presentation before Council on March 11, 2019. He walked through additional upcoming agenda items.

B. Council Initiatives

i. Alderman Joni Painter - Continue the Moratorium on Video Gaming and discuss the limit of how many to allow.

Alderman Painter proposed that the City extend the moratorium for video gaming indefinitely. She provided her research of statistics and issues.

Mayor Renner and Jeff Jurgens clarified procedure for extending the moratorium.

Aldermen Hauman and Black expressed interest in discussing this further.

Alderman Schmidt asked for clarification on the proposal at hand. Mayor Renner clarified the need for expression of support to continue the discussion.

Alderman Buragas expressed support of continued discussion including a variety of options.

Alderman Bray suggested that action included be continued in two (2) parts: (1) a continuation of the moratorium on February 25, 2019 and then (2) additional discussion of options.

Aldermen Schmidt and Mwilambwe asked for clarification of the proposed action. City Manager Gleason reiterated the need for clarification and offered options with Council dates of February 25, 2019 for the moratorium extension and then a fuller discussion of options on March 11, 2019 or March 18, 2019.

Alderman Bray pointed out potential scheduling issues with the upcoming spring break for the local community. Mr. Gleason stated that the first meeting in April is April 8, 2019

The Council showed support of moving forward with the Council Initiative.

Adjournment

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Alderman Hauman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST


Leslie Yocum, Interim City Clerk