



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call

The Committee of the Whole convened in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tari Renner.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tari Renner	Mayor	Present	
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	
Scott Black	Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Present	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Present	

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the floor for public comment, and no one came forward.

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 Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Painter, that Consent Agenda Item 4.A. be approved as presented and Item 4.B. be approved with the addition of one sentence on page 3 regarding a statement that Council Member Mwilambwe made.

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Motion carried.

Item 4.A. Consideration and action to approve Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Item 4.B. Consideration and action to approve Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2020, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation of the City's 2019 Accomplishments, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason walked through the 2019 Accomplishments presentation. He highlighted the hiring of Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, and Chief of Police, Dan Donath; the creation of the Economic Development Department, some economic development activity that resulted throughout the year; and many anticipated projects coming in 2020. He went on to cover statistics for downtown, community development, the Water Department, and the Fire Department. He was proud to point out the City had earned one of only six Healthy Housing Initiatives technical assistance grants from the National League of Cities, as well as the Police Department had become ILEAP accredited. The Rolling Brook Park/Harmony Park inclusive playground projects and expanded pickleball courts were also discussed.

Council Member Painter thanked Mr. Gleason and staff for the action-packed, exciting, and comprehensive year-end review. She believed that the City Manager's presentation was the best one presented to date.

Council Member Mwilambwe agreed with Council Member Painter. He pointed out that it is easy to get side-tracked in the day-to-day and was happy to see a roll up of the year done to highlight how great it had gone. He also thanked Mr. Gleason for the creation of the streets website and the transparency that it provides.

Council Member Boelen agreed with her peers in that the presentation was wonderful. She thanked everyone involved and mentioned that the portion of the presentation focusing on economic development showed that the community was business-strong and stated that she looked to continue to support private business in the community.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation of an Update on the FY2021 Budget, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason asked Finance Director, Scott Rathbun, to come forward and address Council.

Mr. Rathbun began by addressing the process he and his team had followed to get to the proposed budget. He mentioned their focus on covering details in a manner that was easy to understand. Their goal is to allow everyone in the community to follow the budget. He highlighted the total budget, capital projects, projected 2021 general fund balance, cash for equipment, major tax revenue summaries, and general fund budget revenues/expenses. He finished by discussing the remaining schedule for adopting the final FY 2021 Budget on April 13, 2020.

Mayor Renner clarified the schedule and pointed out the one-month gap between the Public Hearing and the adoption of the budget.

Council Member Black asked what staff needed from the Council on the budget. Mr. Gleason responded by stating that staff welcomed any and all feedback. Council Member Black complimented the current process and requested the City in coming years to focus on countering its carbon footprint. He also mentioned O'Neil pool, the east side fire station, and his interest in education being provided to Council on bond ratings.

Council Member Mathy agreed with Council Member Black that the budget is reflective

of the Council's policy decisions. He was thankful for Mr. Rathbun pointing out increasing credit card fees and provided a few ways the City could counteract those increases through savings in other areas such as getting away from printing and mailing water bills, etc. He went on to discuss other ways to increase the City's credit rating such as increasing savings or cutting down on leased equipment.

Council Member Crabill also thanked Mr. Rathbun and his staff. He asked a few clarifying questions to which Mr. Rathbun responded by explaining formulas and inclusions within specific line items. Council Member Crabill also asked about City investments. Mr. Rathbun stated that all investments are highly statutorily mandated and that he was looking into additional options for the City. Council Member Crabill and Mr. Rathbun then discussed emergency planning.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to extend the discussion time by 10 minutes.

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Motion carried.

Council Member Carrillo made few requests of Mr. Rathbun. She mentioned that she had been researching the City's ability to provide childcare during City Council meetings and discussed the importance of cold weather planning.

Council Member Bray asked Mr. Rathbun to discuss credit card fees more and asked what other municipalities were doing about them. Mr. Rathbun discussed the information he had found in his research. He mentioned the large utility conversion project he had been working on and that there were other options for the City that would become available through that project.

Council Member Boelen thanked Scott for all his work. She asked that he explain what a balanced budget meant in comparison to a home budget. Mr. Rathbun believed that municipal budgets were quite like residential budgets and provided additional insight. Council Member Boelen stated that she believed the budget would remain balanced.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend the discussion time by 10 minutes.

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Motion carried.

Council Member Emig mentioned that rental inspections had been an issue for her Ward. She discussed a Budget FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) she had been working on and intended to make available to the public.

Council Member Mathy addressed Council Member Carrillo's comment about cold weather planning by pointing out that McLean County and the Bloomington Police Department had shared a list of shelters via the web and Facebook.

Council Member Black complimented the discussion had at the meeting. He was supportive of the ideas of continuing the conversation around credit card fees and creating an FTE (Full Time Employee) if necessary to accommodate the Rental Inspection Program.

Council Member Mathy closed with additional discussion on credit card processing fees.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason walked through a slide of all the new employees at the City over the last month, recognizing them individually. He spoke about a benefit breakfast open to the public for Earl Boitnott, a Public Works employee suffering from cancer, on Friday, February 21, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. He finished by discussing upcoming agenda items.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce)

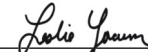
The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST



Tari Renner, Mayor



Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk

