



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020, 9:00 AM

Roll Call

The Council convened in Special Session for a Legislative Update with the City's Illinois State Representatives and Senators in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 1, 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	Late	9:12 AM
Joni Painter	Ward 5	Present	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	Ward 6	Absent	
Scott Black	Ward 7	Present	
Jeff Crabill	Ward 8	Present	
Kim Bray	Ward 9	Absent	
Jason Barickman	Senator	Late	9:07 AM
Bill Brady	Senator	Present	
Dan Brady	Representative	Present	
Keith Sommer	Representative	Present	

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the floor for public comment. No one came forward.

Legislative Work Session

Mayor Renner started the meeting by welcoming all of the State Representatives and Senators present for taking time out on a Saturday to address Council and the citizens of the City. He was very honored to have them present and for the chance to have open dialogue on opportunities for the City of Bloomington. He went on to introduce and thank the City's Lobbyist, Julie Curry, for all her assistance in pushing the City's initiatives forward at the capital. He turned the meeting over to Tim Gleason, City Manager.

Mr. Gleason thanked everyone in attendance, discussed goals of the meeting and walked through the City's four main requests of the State: (1) an Economic Development investment of \$3.5 million; (2) an Emergency Operations Center; (3) a Road Project - Hamilton to Bunn to Commerce; and (4) O'Neil Pool.

Senator Barickman arrived at 9:07 a.m.

Senator Brady thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He touched on what he considered "wins" made in the prior legislative session and moved on to

discuss the City's Hamilton/Bunn/Commerce road project. He confirmed that the City's requests mentioned had been forwarded onto the Governor's office and described his approach to viewing the State's budget.

Senator Barickman apologized for being tardy. He described his view on last year's budget and walked through a few items that he believed would make passing a balanced budget difficult this year. He was happy to attend the meeting and excited about the discussion to be had.

Representative Brady began by complimenting the team at the City of Bloomington, placing emphasis on Tim Gleason, Billy Tyus, and Julie Curry. He discussed the approach taken last legislative session to address budgetary needs including motor fuel tax, etc. He stated that he was well aware of the City's requests mentioned and felt encouraged by the road project in particular. He appreciated the City's new approach in focusing on the real needs of the City.

Representative Sommer stated his primary focus with the City of Bloomington was to emphasize maintaining a great working relationship. He complimented the Governor and was encouraged by the funding allocated thus far regarding the Hamilton road project. He requested the meeting be filled with specific requests, not just focused on infrastructure, but with items of true importance to the City.

Mrs. Curry recommended that an important item to be discussed be funding opportunities that would be or could be dispersed regarding the City's infrastructure requests.

Senator Brady addressed the different types of funding involved in allocating funds and pointed out that some of the projects are funded by revenue not yet to be collected. He used cigarette taxes and gaming as an example.

Council Member Boelen asked Mrs. Curry to restate her comments. Mrs. Curry did so accordingly.

Council Member Black expressed appreciation for the everyone in attendance and expressed gratitude to the State representatives and senators for taking time out of a Saturday to attend. He emphasized that O'Neil pool was a priority and needed to remain a project of focus.

Representative Brady touched back on Mrs. Curry's comments by further addressing allocations of revenue.

Council Member Boelen was concerned as to whether funds collected from gambling would come in as anticipated. She also discussed safety concerns she had regarding the Hamilton road project.

Council Member Mathy thanked everyone for the discussion. He discussed critics of Illinois and mentioned how often Illinois' biggest critics are residents. He encouraged the Representatives and Senators present to keep up the good fight. He discussed issues surrounding 5G and requested that the power of regulation be turned back to municipalities. He highlighted the Route 9 road project coming up and described a variety of technology installations that could be completed during the project that could generate a large savings to the State and City if completed in conjunction with the project.

Council Member Crabill was grateful for everyone in attendance. He asked that the

Representatives and Senators discuss the combining of Police and Fire pensions, as well as provide cannabis updates. He noted that the funding requests made by the City were modest, doable and would have significant impact on the City.

Senator Brady asked Mr. Gleason if he knew of any updates on the combination of the Police and Fire pensions, as Mr. Gleason sits on a State Police Board. Mr. Gleason responded by stating that the approach currently was a waiting game.

Representative Brady also commented on combining pensions and mentioned details on future benefits that may be realized.

Senator Barickman provided additional information on combining pensions and went on to describe his understanding of cannabis licensing, as well as clarifications he anticipated from coming from the State.

Council Member Black asked that Senator Barickman talk more about public consumption to which Senator Barickman responded accordingly.

Council Member Black left the meeting at 9:46 a.m. returning at 9:49 a.m.

Representative Sommer agreed with Mr. Gleason the Police and Fire pension combining being "a waiting game." He mentioned that he was not an expert on cannabis, but provided insight from his viewpoint.

Council Member Emig apologized for being late and thanked two good Samaritans who had assisted her in getting to the meeting. She stressed her strong support for the Bloomington Public Library and moved on to discuss poverty rates in McLean County. She expressed concern for how the census would impact poverty rates and welcomed any input regarding the matter from anyone in attendance. Lastly, she stressed the importance of education.

Senator Brady discussed and emphasized how important the upcoming census truly is to the State, City, and all citizens. He encouraged the City to do all that they could to bolster participation tying the census to funding, education, unemployment, job creation, etc. He discussed fair mapping and asked for everyone present to participate in turning the State of Illinois around.

Representative Brady mentioned the poverty rate in McLean county and discussed the recently approved increase in minimum wage. He also touched on the importance of education and mentioned unfunded mandates.

Mayor Renner made additional comments to the importance of the Census.

Senator Barickman addressed poverty and mental health issues being experienced by the State. He discussed the need for additional psychiatrists across the State and provided an example of how the State has been impacted. He believed that education would continue to be a focus of the State, but addressed issues involved surrounding property taxes.

Representative Sommer also commented on poverty and described his involvement on Bloomington's west side and at Irving Elementary School. He talked about the need to focus on more than just providing lunches and addressed the social aspects of education. He stressed the importance of providing opportunities for real education beyond just books to those impacted by poverty and social injustices.

Mayor Renner recommended that a 10-minute break be taken and for the meeting to

be reconvened at 10:15 a.m. Mayor Renner reconvened the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Council Member Painter thanked those present for attending the meeting and for listening to Council's concerns. She expressed concerns with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) backing her statements with statistics.

Representative Brady thanked her for bringing up such an important topic. He commented on issues with the agencies involved and stressed the importance of the Department learning to understand how the nuclei of families today have changed.

Senator Brady believed that the issue had been taken very seriously and would continue to be. He mentioned that Representative Sommer sits on a State committee centered on the issue.

Representative Sommer described the work that he and his colleagues take on the committee mentioned. He anticipated a large amount of legislation being brought forward in the next legislative session. He recognized statewide issues with current processes, as well as the need for change.

Council Member Painter brought up funding from property taxes and requested information on how funding would be distributed.

Senator Barickman responded by discussing the changes that had already occurred at the State level and described improvements Illinois had experienced on a national ranking level.

Mayor Renner turned the discussion back to the State Representatives and Senators by asking them 'What Council could do to assist them?'

Representative Brady believed the City Council was doing a great job and that he and his colleagues had seen great improvements from the City in recent years. He complimented the addition of Julie Curry to the City's team as the City's lobbyist.

Senator Barickman also complimented the City Council, City staff, and placed additional emphasis on Mrs. Curry's work.

Representative Sommer reiterated his State colleagues' statements about Council, staff, and Mrs. Curry.

Mayor Renner again thanked everyone present, as well as the elected officials.

City Manager Gleason was extremely appreciative of the participation from all at the meeting and he asked Deputy City Manager, Billy Tyus, to add any closing comments.

Mr. Tyus thanked everyone for giving up their Saturday morning and expressed sincere gratitude for the partnerships the City has at the local and State level.

Mrs. Curry was also grateful for the relationships between those in attendance and spoke fondly of the work she does for the City of Bloomington.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried (viva voce)

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Yocum, City Clerk

