

## SPECIAL SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall Conference Room  
109 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Monday, November 28, 2016; 5:30 PM

### 1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Special Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 28, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Renner.

### 2. Roll Call

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

Aldermen Joni Painter, Amelia Buragas, Mboka Mwilambwe Scott Black, Kevin Lower, Jim Fruin, Karen Schmidt (arrived: 5:41 PM), and Mayor Tari Renner.

Absent: Aldermen Diana Hauman, and Dave Sage

Staff present: David Hales, City Manager; Greg Murdock, Corporation Counsel; Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brendan Heffner, Chief of Police; Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Angie Brown, Assistant Director of Human Resource; and Betty McCain, ASC.

### 3. Public Comment

There were no comments offered.

### 4. Consideration of approving the minutes of the Special City Council Meetings for November 14, 2016. (*Recommend that the reading of the minutes be dispensed and approved as printed.*)

Mayor Renner requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

**Motion by Alderman Black seconded by Alderman Lower to approve minutes of the Special City Council Meetings for November 14, 2016.**

**Ayes: Aldermen, Painter, Mwilambwe. Black, Lower, Buragas and Fruin.**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Aldermen Schmidt, Sage and Hauman**

**Motion carried.**

5. Motion to Enter into Closed Session

Mayor Renner requested a motion to enter into Closed Session.

**Motion by Alderman Painter, seconded by Alderman Schmidt to recess to Executive Session per Section 2(c) (12) of 5 ILCS 120/2.**

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

**Ayes: Aldermen, Painter, Buragas, Mwilambwe, Lower, Black, and Fruin**

**Nays: None.**

**Absent: Aldermen Hauman, Sage, Schmidt**

**Motion carried.**

6. Motion to Adjourn Closed Session and Return to Special Session.

Mayor Renner requested a motion to Adjourn Closed Session

**Motion made by Alderman Lower, seconded by Alderman Mwilambwe to return to Special Session.**

**Motion carried (viva voce).**

7. Discussion and direction on Continuing planned road improvements and signal installation on Hershey Rd. between G.E. Rd. and Rt. 9, as per Alderman Painter's formal request. *(Presentation by David Hales, City Manager 10 minutes, Council discussion 20 minutes)*

Mr. Hales stated the reason this particular item is on the agenda is due to the request made by Alderman Painter with support by Alderman Sage, Buragas and Schmidt to have Council consider the proposal to terminate this project. Three years ago this project was approved by Council. The total cost was estimated around \$1.25 Million dollars. To date, there is about \$ 118,000.00 spent on the project through Engineering. Staff is asking Council to provide some input and direction on this request. However, as seen in the timeline, if the project continues forward, the City wants to capitalize on the summer construction season when the school systems are out on break. There is a \$20,000.00 change order now necessary on engineering's part. By putting the project out for bid in the winter, the City can optimize the scheduling to work with the schools that will be impacted. Potential benefits were listed and discussed with Council. All the details of this project are contained within the Power Point presentation.

Alderman Painter stated, she brought this item forward due to the amount of complaints she was receiving from residents in this area. Residents in this area do not want five more feet taken away from their properties. They do not consider it a real benefit to have turn-arounds or extra driveway, and they do not want to be kicked out of their driveways for up to six weeks while the project is being constructed. On this short stretch of road, there have been 43 accidents and 79 traffic tickets given in the past year due to speeding. The residents, who live in this area, want the road to be narrowed back down to a two lane street and traffic to be slowed back down with the use of speed bumps. They would like to have parking back on the street. She is requesting Council consideration in terminating this project for the stated reasons.

Mayor Renner questioned if there is anything that can be done to alleviate some of the concerns residents are having, and could compromises be made within the project conditions.

Mr. Karch stated that staff tried to address a way to compromise with the front yard turn-arounds. However, when Motor Fuel Tax funds are used for a project, it is required to have an intersection design study completed. This projects estimates twenty years out. The City could choose not to use Motor Fuel Tax funds. In this case, standards would not have to be complied with and the general engineering principals would remain the same but additional flexibility in design would be allowed. It is not recommended that speed bumps be placed on arterial roads.

Alderman Painter stated the money would be much better spent elsewhere, where residents want their roads widened and improved.

Alderman Black asked if Council stopped work on this project in total, what would happen to the work that has already been completed.

Mr. Karch stated if Council terminates the project, it would be dropped at this time. Ten to twenty years down the road it would be revisited again due to standards changing, and having to run design studies to keep up with those standards. The project is justified but there are other places Council can choose to spend the funds.

Alderman Schmidt asked whether Hershey Road was always designed and planned to be an arterial road.

Mr. Karch stated whenever a City is laid out, a grid pattern is used and referred to. Every mile or so should have an arterial road; north, south, east and west. Traffic studies were done back in the 1960s and the City did not always follow them. When a City does not follow these studies, they can run into issues, like the City of Bloomington has with poor east-west connections. Hershey Road, in relation to where Veterans Parkway is located, was meant to be an arterial road.

Alderman Schmidt stated the property in this area is becoming eroded and the street is taking over. It is very concerning to have a neighborhood completely changed in design from when it originated. The addition of a traffic light and lowering the speed limit in this area would be great options for this area to deal with ongoing issues that are occurring.

Alderman Buragas stated that staff's analysis of this Hershey Road project continues to be professional, thorough and very well thought out according to industries best practices and standards. This conversation has highlighted that there is a bigger issue to discuss among Council; which is, how does the City handle its transportation and what is envisioned for traffic in different areas throughout Bloomington; such as this one, where the street is going through a predominantly residential area. Residents in this area are very vocal about what they want. Council needs to have a conversation, regardless of the street's classification and the traffic the area may or may not generate. Council should decide what is acceptable and have parameters as to such. How a road is designed, significantly impacts that amount of traffic it receives. When Hershey Road was expanded to four lanes, it encouraged more people to use that road as a primary means of travel.

Mr. Karch stated due to location, Hershey Road was meant to be an arterial road according to the grid system.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated he understands the safety aspects but is concerned with resident's properties being taken over. Installing a traffic light may or may not help the speed of traffic. Some people will still go as fast as they want between traffic lights.

Mr. Karch stated that traffic signals bring cars together in a queue. It keeps traffic flowing in a queued formation. Traffic signals also help create gaps. For people trying to leave their driveways, they are looking for a gap. Stop lights have been proven to increase gaps.

Alderman Lower stated he understands the residents' concerns with this project. He questions whether there is a bigger picture staff is missing. To cut travel time down, people are using Hershey road instead of Veterans.

Mayor Renner asked what would happen if the City did not widen the street and just added a traffic signal.

Mr. Karch said this can be done if Motor Fuel Taxes are not used and we use City funds instead. The (5) five feet in reference, to be used to widen the street, is in the right-away. It is City owned property and the sidewalk would not be moved closer to residential properties. The City would not be using private property.

Alderman Fruin stated Hershey Road has been talked about over the years through different Council members. There are streets that have changed within every Ward that change due to growth of the Community. He asked whether education can be provided to the community on the use of other roads to get where they need to travel.

Mr. Karch stated other options are already in place and are already being used. People will continue to use the shortest, quickest path to get to where they need to go.

Alderman Buragas questioned whether or not implementing this project in different pieces has been considered. For example: reducing the road back down to two lanes,

implementing a multimodal lane or putting parking back on the street, as well as the use of traffic lights are all great options to consider.

Mr. Hales stated this item can be tabled for a couple weeks, and be revisited at a later date, a motion could be put on the table to terminate this project, or Council could approve the item as presented.

**Motion by Alderman Painter, seconded by Alderman Schmidt, that this item, as presented, be killed.**

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

**Ayes: Aldermen Mwilambwe Painter, Schmidt, and Black**

**Nays: Aldermen Lower, Buragas, and Fruin.**

**Motion carried.**

8. Consideration of:

a) Adopting a Resolution approving a change order to the contract with Knight E/A, Inc. for the Hershey Rd., Arrowhead Dr. and Clearwater Ave. Signalizing Project, and

b) Supplemental Resolution to use Motor Fuel Tax Funds to pay for the contract amendment for the Hershey Rd., Arrowhead Dr. and Clearwater Ave. Signalizing Project.

*(Recommend (a) that the resolution approving a change order to the contract with Knight E/A, Inc. for the Hershey Rd., Arrowhead Dr. and Clearwater Ave. Signalizing Project in the amount of \$20,577.02 be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents, and (b) a supplemental Resolution to use Motor Fuel Tax Funds to pay for the contract amendment for the Hershey Rd., Arrowhead Dr. and Clearwater Ave. Signalizing Project in the amount of \$20,577.02 be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.)*

**This item was pulled from Agenda to a date uncertain.**

9. Adjourn.

Mayor Renner requested a motion to Adjourn

**Motion made by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Black, to return to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m.**

**Ayes: Aldermen Mwilambwe, Schmidt, Painter, Fruin, Buragas, Black, and Lower.**

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**Nays: None.**

**Absent: Aldermen Hauman and Sage**

**Motion carried.**

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

**ATTEST**

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Tari Renner, Mayor

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Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk