



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016; 5:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Committee of the Whole Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 21, 2016. Mayor Renner called the meeting to order and directed the City Clerk to call the roll.

2. Roll Call

Aldermen: Kevin Lower, David Sage, Mboka Mwilambwe, Amelia Buragas, Joni Painter, Karen Schmidt (Arrived at 5:32pm), Scott Black, and Jim Fruin.

Staff Present: David Hales, City Manager; Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brendan Hefner, Chief of Police; Jim Karch, Public Service Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; Bob Yehl, Water Director; and other City staff were present.

Alderman Absent: Alderman Schmidt (Arrived at 5:32pm), and Alderman Hauman

Staff Absent: Jeffrey Jurgens

3. Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. The following individuals provided comments during the meeting.

Gary Lambert

4. Consideration of approving the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2016.

Motion by Alderman Black, second by Alderman Painter, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 17, 2016 be dispensed with and approved as printed.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried. (viva voce)

5. Presentation of two projects for the One Voice advocacy program in March 2017:

A. Hamilton Gap project (Bunn Street to Commerce Parkway) and Fast Lane.

B. Main Street/US 51 Corridor project (Olive Street in Bloomington to College Avenue in Normal).

(Presentation by Jim Karch, Director of Public Works; 5 minutes, and Council discussion 10 minutes.)

Mayor Renner stated One Voice is a tri[that takes place in March, where community leaders from McLean County, business laborers, and workers from all political areas, go to Washington and everyone advocates with “one voice” for programs or projects that will benefit the community.

Mr. Karch stated there are two projects that will be presented as One Voice projects this year for Council to consider. The first project is the Hamilton Road Gap Project. This project is estimated to cost between \$14 -\$15 Million dollars. It has economic development impact, connectivity impact, and safety impact. This road is estimated to be able to handle about 15,000 vehicles and it would be the major Southern/Eastern corridor throughout Bloomington. This is the gap between Bunn Street and Commerce Drive. The second project is the Main Street/ US 51 Corridor project. This project was proposed for a TIGER grant, meaning it was promoted by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Bloomington, Normal and McLean County came together to advocate for a corridor project that goes through the heart of the community.

These projects will be presented to Council to recommend consideration of a “One Voice” for the Hamilton project and to support the application of the Main Street project, so that it can be considered for funding. Alderman Fruin stated that he is in support of both these projects. He suggested Council come together to discuss all the road projects in Bloomington which need as much help as these two projects, so they can begin to prioritize projects of this degree. Alderman Buragas stated that competition for these types of grants are very competitive. She asked whether the passing of the (5) Five Year Transportation Bill will affect the funding level of this grant. Mr. Karch stated changes are anticipated. What changes are unknown, but they know there will be some changes.

Alderman Schmidt asked whether downtown Bloomington workers and residents are interested in adopting some of the ideas brought forward in the Main Street Corridor Project or

if there will be any type of tension and push back if this project gets funded. Mr. Karch stated there will be some tension. This is a State controlled right-away. The Illinois Department of Transportation is welcoming more of the Complete Street concept and there have been some shifts within the State in that direction.

Alderman Black stated this would be the last time he would be supporting the One Voice for the Hamilton Road project, as the City has tried multiple times, prior to this proposal, to get funding without any success. There are other areas in the community where that funding is greatly needed.

Alderman Sage asked how close the Hamilton Road Gap project was to being ready to start construction. Mr. Karch stated, it would be in 2019 or 2020 when construction of this project would begin.

**6. Presentation of Culinary Water Portions of the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
(Presentation by Bob Yehl, Water Department Director; 20 minutes, and Council
discussion; 20 minutes.)**

Mr. Yehl stated that the Water Department for the City of Bloomington, functions under a series of divisions. Resurfacing coordination requires water main replacements. The Water Department needs additional funding and staff to complete water main replacement projects in a timely manner. The City Administration drafted a five (5) year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that needs to be updated. The goal for this upcoming 2017 year, is to create a new Master Plan. A Water Rate Study will need to be followed through with after a Water Master Plan is created. Operations, maintenance, billing, and cash collections are all done within the Administration Division.

Water Treatment Operations deals with infrastructure maintenance. The Annex Building and Main Process Building need roof replacements. The Main Process Building also needs a boiler replacement and a natural gas main replacement. There are multiple spillway improvements that need to be done as well as drainage system repairs. Lake management is a big part of this division. The Mechanical Maintenance and Storage Division contain the pump stations, both of which need updating. There are about 21.4 million gallons of water in storage. The storage tanks need inspections.

The Transmission and Distribution Division is where all the water main replacements takes place. There is not a great water main rating system in place. This makes it hard to know where effort needs to be focused. Transmission mains are much larger and require 35-40 miles of piping. Pressure valve control stations are imperative and need to be kept up to date. Meter Services is another division within the Water Department. Over 90% of the residential meters have been replaced over the past couple of years. The current funding budget will partially address the near-term needs and replacements. There is approximately \$8,850,000 already funded for projects within the City.

The Interim and Future Water Supply Plan was focused in the Southwest. There was a lot of discussions with many different groups as to how this might connect with different areas of surface water and different environmental aspects. It has a huge price tag. So, the City of Bloomington is looking for something less costly and more effective. There is a great facility up at Lake Bloomington that can be used as an option. This may help delay the need to start using the Southwest Well Field.

Alderman Sage asked why the Mahomet Aquifer is not mentioned within the materials given to Council. Staff is trying to see if there are better options at less of a cost.

Alderman Schmidt asked where the City is with the Water Rate study. Mr. Hales stated there is a Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer Rate Study that was completed about a year ago. It will figure into the (5) Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. There has not been a Culinary Water Rate Study completed. Mr. Yehl stated the Culinary Water Rate Study is a project that will be proposed once the Water Master Plan is completed.

Alderman Lower asked for a timeline of the more critical projects. Mr. Yehl stated that almost all of the projects listed, are critical. There is aged infrastructure that has been neglected for some time. If some of these projects are not addressed, it will be very difficult to produce water and meet regulations to allow people to turn their water on. In terms of a time frame, these projects have been scheduled out to the (10) ten year mark.

Alderman Black asked whether it is more cost effective to hire a consultant to work year round on these projects to research and provide information to the public. Or whether it would be more efficient and cost effective to continue to hire a consultant on a per-project basis. Mr. Yehl stated it is too early to answer this fully. It will take time to see if it is needed to continue with two full time employees after the first of the year, or if there is a certain point, one can maintain the remainder of the projects.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Alderman Black, seconded by Alderman Lower, to adjourn Committee as a Whole Session. Time: 6:29 p.m.

Motion carried. (Viva voce)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Tari Renner, Mayor

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk