

SPECIAL SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall Conference Room
109 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701
Monday, April 10, 2017; 5:15 PM

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Special Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 5:15 p.m., Monday, April 10, 2017. 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, Diane Hauman, Mboka Mwilambwe, Scott Black, Jim Fruin, Karen Schmidt, David Sage, Amelia Buragas and Mayor Tari Renner.

Absent: Alderman Kevin Lower

Staff present: David Hales, City Manager; and Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Austin Grammer, Economic and Development Coordinator; and Diane Crutcher, Center of Performance Development, Inc.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments offered.

4. Consideration of approving the minutes of the Special City Council Meetings for March 27, 2017.

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Alderman Hauman second by Alderman Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

5. Closed Special Session Meeting

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- A. Land Acquisition 2(c) (5) of 5 ILCS 120/2
- B. Personnel –Section 2(c) (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2

Mayor Renner requested a motion to go into Closed Session per Section 2(c) (5) of 5 ILCS120, and Section 2(c) (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2.

Motion by Alderman Painter second by Alderman Hauman to enter into Closed Session Meeting per Section 2(c) (5) of 5 ILCS120, and Section 2(c) (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

6. Adjourn Closed Session

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hauman seconded by Alderman Mwilambwe to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting.

Motion Carried (Viva Voce).

Motion to Return to Open Session

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to return to Open Session.

Motion by Alderman Hauman seconded by Alderman Mwilambwe to return to Open Session.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

7. Presentation and discussion of the Legislative Advocacy Agenda (*Presentation by David Hales, City Manager 10 minutes, Council discussion 30 minutes.*)

- A. State Legislators Annual Work Session Meeting scheduled, April 17, 2017
- B. Illinois Municipal League 2017 Legislative Agenda, “Moving Cities Forward”

Mr. Hales acknowledged Melissa Hon, Assistant for the City Manager, who has been worked to pull together the agenda for the Annual Legislative Work Session with the state legislators. On April 17th at 5:15 pm, Council are scheduled to meet with our state legislators to talk about what is happening in Springfield, what the outlook might be for not only a state budget, but how can that state budget have an impact on the City. Over the years, one thing that seems to be the consistent message we continue to share with them is do not take away some of the state shared revenue that comes our way and to utilize that to help balance the state budget.

In this meeting, we want to reiterate how much the City does financially rely on money the state controls, and with that control can hold back or put a freeze on some of the state shared revenue and talk about some of the consequences of doing so. We also want to talk to them about some very key public projects that are reliant on some state grants or could be reliant on future state money that especially could be allocated through the Illinois Department of Transportation. Usually in these meetings, the City also talk about the priorities of the Illinois Municipal League, its legislative agenda priorities, and how the Council feels about those. Do we support all that they are trying to lobby, our state legislatures, or is there some that maybe we do not feel as strong about.

One thing that has come up in years past is that often times the legislators have individual conversations but they also want to know where does the majority of the Council feel, and do they support various projects or various legislative agenda issues that they hear from the Illinois Municipal League. The City wish to share some of those topics with Council, as the City has prepared for Council's consideration a Resolution for adoption which indicates where Bloomington City Council stand on any of these legislative issues. We thought this year it would be helpful to start out with two very critical capital projects, the Fox Creek Bridge and Road Widening Project - is one where we do have, and are hoping to have the state issue a grant to the City to help offset some of the costs of that project. We see advocating for their help to ensure that it makes its way in the final budget of the fiscal year 2018 state budget. This is a project the City hopes to get underway next spring. Hamilton Road, Bunn to Morrissey Street to Commerce could be a potential project for state funding. The other two, a feasibility study for Veterans Parkway and Illinois Route 9 rerouting the U.S. Route 150.

Ms. Hon stated, within the packet of materials, staff provided a proposed resolution for Council's consideration as well as the Illinois Municipal League 2017 legislative agenda. There were a couple of concerns raised by some citizens in regard to a specific Senate Bill 1360 which talks about prevailing wage, that they were in opposition to that. There is also a draft outline of the items we will be reviewing Monday at the legislative work session.

Alderman Buragas stated that she is concerned because the "Moving Cities Forward" pamphlet does state to some extent that these items included in the pamphlet are a priority that the IML does support. That by moving forward, Council would create the impression that there is unanimous support in Bloomington for some of those changes. One option would be for the Mayor of the City of Bloomington and whichever Aldermen want to sign to send a letter independently to IML saying that we believe that undermining prevailing wage is not to the benefit of "Moving

Cities Forward.” That might be one way to handle it to make sure our intent is clear without losing the opportunity to move forward on a few of these infrastructure projects that are vitally important to our community.

Alderman Black stated, there are issues in the packet that he does not have a strong opinion about. His question is how he could change the legislative agenda. What is the IML process, and he does not want to sign off on something, only to have it changed at a later point in time and say the City of Bloomington is on board with our legislative agenda when there may have been something added or taken off. He asked how that work does.

Mr. Hales stated, unfortunately we have not had much in the way of representation by the City of Bloomington governing board on some of the IML’s different committees. They do have various committees including kind of a legislative committee. This particular legislative agenda was the product of the representation they had on the legislative committee. IML represents hundreds and hundreds of cities, and these are big, small, medium-size, different political persuasions. It is a challenge to come up with one set of legislative agenda, issues and topics, knowing that there is some agree with certain elements and others disagree.

Alderman Hauman stated she appreciated the presentation that clarified some of our questions. She asked what we can do to make sure that it does not give the appearance that we are in favor, especially, of Senate Bill 1360. She would like something to be done to make sure that it does not look like we are in support of it.

Alderman Painter stated, in looking it over, it is not all bad, but there are a lot of things that she needs clarification on like Public Safety Pension Fund Consolidation and Public Safety Employee Arbitration Reform. She stated that she feels that a lot of these points give a Band-Aid to not having a budget, and she would really like to “hold their feet to the fire” and could not go for this.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated, it would be beneficial for Council to have a conversation ahead of time before we approve the agenda. He understand that Council could do a little bit of research, but it is always helpful to have conversation amongst ourselves before we sign our names to something. He stated he still had some questions about some of these things.

Mayor Renner stated, he and Mr. Hales talked about it and agreed to avoid confusion; we will pull it, and then see whether Council want to act on it subsequently.

Alderman Fruin asked whether Council would be meeting with the state legislatures on Monday.

Mr. Hales stated, Senator Bill Brady and Representative Keith Sommer has not acknowledged but usually does come, but changes could be made and others could attend. One legislative agenda item that he sees as a very high priority would be Automatic Appropriation Authority for Local Funds that tie in with state-shared revenue.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Alderman Hauman seconded by Alderman Schmidt to adjourn. Time: 6:50 PM.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Tari Renner, Mayor

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk