

SUMMARY MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017; 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2017. The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Renner.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Meeting was opened by Pledging Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent prayer.

3. Remain Standing for a Moment of Silent Prayer

4. Roll Call

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

Aldermen: Jamie Mathy, David Sage, Mboka Mwilambwe, Amelia Buragas, Scott Black, Karen Schmidt, Joni Painter, Diana Hauman, Kim Bray, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: David Hales, City Manager; Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Jurgens; Corporation Counsel, Cherry L. Lawson; City Clerk; Brendan Heffner, Chief of Police; Bob Yehl, Water Director; Scott Sprouls, IS Director, Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; and other City staff were also present.

5. Recognition / Appointments

- A. Proclamation of Recognition of Army Sgt. Josh Rodgers
- B. Recognition of Taisei Okazaki on visiting experience of travels to the United States.
- C. Proclamation of Recognition to Dr. Stephen C. Pilcher, Bloomington Primary Care Physician.
- D. Award of Green Achievement presented by Midwest Fiber Recycling, and Proclamation of Recognition of Green Achievement Award, presented to the City of Bloomington
- E. Proclamation declaring May 15-21, 2017 as “Public Works Week.”
- F. Proclamation declaring May 19, 2017 as, “National Bike to Work Day”
- G. Proclamation declaring May 21-27, 2017 as “Emergency Medical Services Week”
- H. Kiasha Henry and Susan Mohr be appointed to the Bloomington Board of Library Trustees

- I. Nicole Brown be appointed to the Fire and Police Commissioners.
- J. Elizabeth Kooba be appointed to the Citizens Beautification Committee.

6. Public Comment

Melanie Shellito

Glen Ludwig

7. Consent Agenda

*Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion, and is provided in **BOLD**, and items that Council pull from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed with a notation **Pulled from the Consent Agenda**.*

Motion by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Painter, that the Consent Agenda be approved, with the exception of Item Nos. 7K and 7M.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 7A: Consideration of approving the Minutes of the April 24, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting. *(Recommend that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7B: Consideration of Approving Bills, Payroll, Procurement Card Purchases, and Electronic Transfers in the amount of \$5,007,840.06.

The following was presented:

Item 7C: Consideration of Approving Appointment to Various Boards and Commissions.

The following was presented:

Item 7D: Consideration of approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal and McLean County for the 2016 Byrne Justice Assistance (JAG grant 2016-DJ-BX-0984) Program Award.

The following was presented:

Item 7E: Consideration of an Ordinance accepting a bid from Megan Giroux in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of surplus real estate at 206 N. Darrah.

ORDINANCE 2017 - 34

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRACT TO SELL REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT
206 DARRAH STREET, IN BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

The following was presented:

Item 7F: Consideration of approval of a Continuum of Care Shelter Plus Care Grant Agreement (Project IL0288L5T1609) submission to HUD.

The following was presented:

Item 7G: Consideration of Analysis of Bids and the Approval of the FY2018 Emergency Utility Repair Contract with George Gildner, Inc. for City Bid No. 2018-03 in the amount of \$356,180.

The following was presented:

Item 7H: Consideration of Analysis of Bids and the Approval of the FY2018 Traffic Signal Maintenance & Emergency Traffic Signal Repair Contract with Bodine Electric of Decatur for City Bid No. 2018-04 in the amount of \$120,000.

The following was presented:

Item 7I: Consideration of Analysis of Bids and the Approval of the FY2018 Grading and Seeding Contract with George Gildner, Inc. for City Bid No. 2018- 05 in the amount of \$129,522.50.

The following was presented:

Item 7J: Consideration of Analysis of Bids and the Approval of the FY 2018 Street, Alley, & Sidewalk Maintenance Contract with George Gildner, Inc. for City Bid No. 2018-06, in the amount of \$200,000.

The following was presented:

Item 7K: Consideration of:

- a) Resolution(s) approving a cost modification of the IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Agreement with Farnsworth Group, Inc. for Professional Engineering Design Services for

Linden Street Bridge Rehabilitation Improvements in the amount of \$4,500.00, RFQ No. 2015 - 26.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,500.00 IN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND FARNSWORTH GROUP, INC.

- b) Approving an IDOT Resolution for Improvements by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 20

RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT BY MUNICIPALITY
UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE

Motion by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Black, that the City Council approve a Resolution authorizing a change order with Farnsworth Group, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services Agreement for Design and Construction Plan Preparation of Linden Street Bridge Rehabilitation, and that an IDOT Resolution for Improvement By Municipality be approved, in the amount of \$4,500.00, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents, and the City Manager to take all actions, including execution of documents, necessary to authorize the work.

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

Ayes: Aldermen Sage, Mathy, Mwilambwe, Painter, Black, Schmidt, Hauman and Bray.

Recuse: Alderman Amelia Buragas departed the dais

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 7L: Consideration of the application of Golden House, LLC d/b/a Golden House, located at 2303 E. Washington St., Ste. 600-H requesting an RBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.

The following was presented:

Item 7M: Consideration of the application of Board of Trustees of Illinois State University (ISU), d/b/a Illinois Shakespeare Festival, located at 48 Sunset Rd., requesting an EBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week.

Motion by Alderman Black, seconded by Alderman Hauman, that that the application Board of Trustees of Illinois State University (ISU), d/b/a Illinois Shakespeare Festival, located at 48 Sunset Rd., requesting an EBS liquor license which would allow the sale of beer and wine only by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week be approved contingent upon compliance with all health and safety codes.

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

Ayes: Aldermen Sage, Mathy, Buragas, Painter, Black, Schmidt, Hauman and Bray.

Recuse: Alderman Mboka Mwilambwe

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

8. “Regular Agenda”

The following was presented:

Item 8A: Consideration of a Resolution initiating the rezoning of 204 N. Allin Street, and of 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, and 806 W. Washington Street from R-2, Mixed Residential District, and C-2, Neighborhood Shopping District, to B-2, General Business Service District.

Mr. Dabareiner commented that the items were not in the order to which it should have been; however, if it was not for the second item, Item 8B, we would not have Item 8A. In reviewing 8B, we found some zoning issues related to properties that are in the vicinity on the existing WBRP location. In fact, these properties that are highlighted, are the properties along Allin and Washington not associated with WBRP in Item 8B. These properties need some rezoning to allow them to continue the uses that they have in place; our only other option, having discovered these uses that are not legal in the current zoning, is to enforce and have them discontinue the residential portions of their activities. We thought it might be better to rezone and ensure that rezoning is consistent with the comprehensive plan. The process for this is, as Alderman Sage was talking earlier, is to bring it to Council and have Council ask the Planning Commission to do that rezoning, to consider that rezoning.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 21

A RESOLUTION INITIATING THE REZONING OF 204 N. ALLIN STREET, AND OF

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Bloomington City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2017; 7:00 PM

800, 801, 802, 803, 804, AND 806 W. WASHINGTON STREET FROM
R-2, MIXED RESIDENTIAL, AND C-2, NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING DISTRICT, TO B-2,
GENERAL BUSINESS SERVICE DISTRICT

Motion by Alderman Black, seconded by Alderman Schmidt that a Resolution initiating the rezoning of 204 N. Allin Street, and of 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, and 806 W. Washington Street from R-2, Mixed Residential District, and C-2, Neighborhood Shopping District, to B-2, General Business Service District be passed, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 8B: Consideration of adopting an Ordinance rezoning the property located at 724 W. Washington Street from C-2, Neighborhood Shopping District to B-2, general business service district and the property located at 720 W. Washington Street from R-2, mixed residential district to B-2, general business service district.

(31:35) Mr. Dabareiner stated West Bloomington Revitalization Project has changed location. They are looking to include an apartment upstairs in the new location. To do that, the existing zoning would require rezoning. In order to allow, and they are looking at the need for the apartment to help pay expenses for the WBRP used downstairs, we need to rezone those two properties; one is actually residential right now, but the other would be C-2 – residential is not allowed. Council would need to approve rezoning in B-2 to allow WBRP to do everything that they want to do.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 -35

AN ORDINANCE REZONING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 724 W. WASHINGTON STREET FROM C-2, NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING DISTRICT TO B-2, GENERAL BUSINESS SERVICE DISTRICT AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 720 W. WASHINGTON STREET FROM R-2, MIXED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-2, GENERAL BUSINESS SERVICE DISTRICT

Motion by Alderman Painter seconded by Alderman Hauman that the Ordinance be adopted rezoning the property and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.

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

Ayes: Aldermen Sage, Mathy, Mwilambwe, Buragas, Hauman, Painter, and Bray.

Recuse: Aldermen Karen Schmidt and Scott Black

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 8C: Consideration of Analysis of Bids and the Approval of the FY2018 Utility Maintenance Contract with George Gildner, Inc. for City Bid No. 2018-02 in the amount of \$768,000.00.

Mr. Hales stated, Mr. Karch would provide an overview of the process we started several years ago to put out for bid a number of different maintenance contracts, some of which are labeled emergency contracts, and thought it would just be helpful, again, to go over again our objective in these bids, how they have been effective, and provide an update on those.

Mr. Karch recommended that Council approve this tonight as the City receive good price point, and we were thankful the prices came in better than we anticipated. That means that we can actually get more work done. It is important for you to know that our crews do work out in the field. The City of Bloomington, Public Works, Streets and Sewers employees have crews out in the field that do sanitary work, they do storm sewer inlets, and they do a lot of this work as well. We also do maintenance contracts, and so there is a dual-arm system that we have here in this community.

Mr. Yehl, is in the back, he can answer any specifics, but there is some additional revenue, or expenditures, going to the water fund because they are looking to accomplish some additional work this year. We are working in partnership with them. The Public Works Department bids this, but we do it in cooperation with the Water Department. Council had approved had already approved on the consent agenda four other maintenance contracts. This is just one of them. The purpose of these is for throughout the year, for staff to be able to be responsive when issues come up. I know Aldermen never send Public Works any requests at all. The citizens never contact you for any needs, but if you did, we actually utilize two different ways. We have maintenance contracts and we have our own crews. We share and we go out to use this maintenance contract when the works exceeds what our crews can do. Sometimes we do not have the right equipment. It is deeper than we can do, a larger project that we can do; that is whenever these maintenance contracts are invaluable. We appreciate your support tonight and we will entertain any questions that you have.

Alderman Buragas asked how the Marion detention basin falls in.

Mr. Karch stated a request came in from a citizen to Alderman Buragas. Our storm water utility fund, is not in a good state. We are not able to do as much work as we need to. It needs probably, quarter million to \$500,000 worth of work just on that basis alone, but we try to utilize this maintenance contract to go in there to keep things running that need to run. This is the kind of example that our crews will use throughout the year to address citizen complaints as we can.

Alderman Buragas asked if it is included in this contract.

Mr. Karch stated the way these contracts work, we do not have projects all listed out for Council to approve. These are a time and material basis is how these maintenance contracts are done. Because, throughout the year, projects keep coming up and so we deal with it on a competitive basis, so contractors bid actually on their labor rate.

Alderman Mathy stated one of the things in the wording in the background is it says *the work is beyond the capability of City crews due to lack of necessary equipment or manpower*. That seems to be kind of a generic phrase that he has seen multiple times. He asked whether Mr. Karch was keeping track of which projects so that Council is informed when there's a particular piece of equipment that is causing the City to always contract things out; it might be worth purchasing that piece of equipment.

Mr. Karch stated a good example is a backhoe versus a high-hoe. If you will see the larger operations, basically they will have a track hoe or a larger high-hoe, basically the bigger-boomed type of equipment that does excavation. If you ever see those larger excavation digs, the equipment is substantial in size. A backhoe is much smaller, it's bigger than a truck, but, again, it is comparable. It is able to dig down to 10, 12 feet in that area. Anything deeper than that 12 feet, and the boom arm of the backhoe just cannot reach it, and so we have to reach out and that is where the outsourcing comes into play. If we looked at adding equipment, we also have to look at adding staff because right now the work that comes in consistently exceeds what our crews are able to do, and whenever you see that kind of level of work piling up, it gets tough.

Alderman Mathy asked whether Public Works maintains a return on investment matrix. We have done this particular repair enough times that if we just went out and bought this equipment and staffed it properly, we would be saving the City's money. Do you have those kind of numbers that you are keeping track of?

Mr. Karch stated that he did not and the reason is we have been moving toward a work order system for a little while now and so to be able to prepare a good return on investment study like that, a work order system that accurately tracks more of the materials and time would be beneficial.

Alderman Painter asked whether Gildner been employed to do all of these FY2016 and 2017 utility maintenance projects or does the City help with that, or how does that work?

Mr. Karch stated, in this year and once awarded, Gildner will do all of the work for the year. In the past, there are City crews that did some of that work, but there was also other contactors

every year that would do it. So, this year there might be water, there might be storm, there might be sewer like the Marion Street basin, for example, that Gildner then would go out and take care of. Every year we award these contracts and whatever contractor gets it, that is who does the work. Is that your question?

Alderman Painter asked whether Gildner does all of the work, or whether the City do part of it. Mr. Karch stated, it was all of the work.

Alderman Hauman inquired about the Cement Mason, the rate goes from \$73 and there was a bid for \$40, a bid for \$71, and a bid for a penny. What do we get for a penny?

Mr. Karch stated contractors will put more money in some areas that they think might get more utilization than others. So, as a staff, it is always that balance of how do you know where to put that? Contractors are trying to get these bids. If they think they can add more money to one line item that is not used as extensively, they are able to capitalize and make more money. The way that these are done is we actually look at what types of projects have we seen in the past, what is the typical utilization rate by hours, and so we make our best guess. What I have found over the years that we have been doing this, we tweak it about every year.

Alderman Hauman stated it seems like even a truck driver, it goes from \$30 to \$60.

Mr. Karch stated a good example of this is some contractors that have worked with our staff will actually give us better rates if they know and they are familiar with our staff. He acknowledged the Engineering Division and stated credit goes to them as they coordinate the work in this area.

Motion by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Hauman the unit prices and Contract with George Gildner, Inc. for the FY2018 Utility Maintenance Bid #2018-02 in the amount of \$768,000.00 be approved, and the City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 8D: Consideration of approving a Resolution establishing the creation of a Downtown Task Force Committee to assist with the planning and determination of the City's next steps in revitalizing Downtown Bloomington.

Mayor Renner gave presentation on the Task Force Committee. When I was first elected I thought about establishing a Downtown Task Force, did not want to just do it as Mayor. I could, but I wanted a Council buy in, but we did not have a plan. The Downtown Plan passed December of 2013, and then we had 8,000 people, as I'm reminded, that were involved in the Comprehensive Plan that passed about a year and a half ago and so now, we need to figure out a way to link these things, what are our next steps. We did not have an implementation piece in the Downtown Plan, and this particular commission comes out of a discussion that Alderman Schmidt and I and Alderman Mathy had with Tricia Stiller. We did some brainstorming, and came up with some ideas and actually came up with nine people. It was a group effort that came up with the nine names. Everybody said yes and it does include three Aldermen to help be a liaison obviously between this appointed committee that is purely recommending things and us as elected officials, and it is kind of vice versa. So, that is the backdrop of it. Again, it is purely advisory and, Jeff, there had been a question in talking the other day with Alderman Sage about any kind of conflict of interest, because it would be unusual, if maybe not impossible, to have a Downtown Revitalization Commission anywhere that did not have Downtown stakeholders, so I wanted you to talk to that.

Mr. Jurgens stated that the key is that this is going to be an Advisory Task Force and we will just be making reports and recommendations to the City Council. There is no more power given to this group of people than if they were to come to public comment and advocate for the Council to take certain action or to make certain proposals. The same with the Alderman, they have got no more or less power than sitting in your chair that you sit in right now. Since this is purely an Advisory Commission, it is not really creating any additional rights or responsibilities and so we do not have a concern with there being a, per se, conflict in this situation.

Mayor Renner stated the other concern, and it certainly seems reasonable, is that there was not an end date in drafting this. We were not sure at what point in time, unlike the Budget Task Force where we had a very specific date, we might have the plans merged or do we start with short-term and mid-term goals, kind of like are identified in the implementation plan. Do the longer-term goals take a little longer, but, certainly, we could amend this to make it ending in six months or a year and then we could reauthorize it to continue if necessary, and there are many cities, of course, who have a permanent Downtown Committee, but that is not what this particular commission was envisioned to be.

Alderman Schmidt reflected on the Downtown Entertainment Task Force, which was also kind of synthesizing some ideas. I think we had maybe a check-in date of about three months and then a request that there be a final report in about six months or something. It was time certain so that everybody would know what is going on.

Mayor Renner stated the news would be public meetings and public comment just like the Budget Task Force.

Alderman Hauman stated in looking at this and the timelines, the first one having the priorities and then the second one having the definite action plan to support that, so get the buy-in on the

priorities and if it were done by the end of the year, then hopefully parts of that could be in the fiscal year 2019 budget. If we go past the end of the calendar year, it would be harder for staff to include that.

Mayor Renner asked whether Alderman Hauman was thinking the priorities and then the short-term goals or maybe mid-term goals, and then so it could possibly be extended after the end of the year.

Alderman Hauman stated that the Task Force would need to establish these themselves, but three months for the priorities and then another three months to look at the definite action steps that would support that.

Mayor Renner stated those particular dates, if this were an amendment, would be August 31st, would be approximately three months and then December 31st would be the termination date and then it could be eligible to be extended.

Alderman Sage he had suggested another possible disclosure around Task Force members who had currently received or in the past had received incentives from the City. If that is something the Commission decides to do, that is fine. I am always of the opinion, you answer these questions before they get asked because these questions will seem to inevitably get asked. A couple of other thoughts, I would encourage Amelia as they create their consolidated list, the combining and merging of the Downtown Plan and the Comprehensive Views Plan, to keep the source notations in there as to where those come from because that provides nice line of site for everybody to see the continuity coming through those three documents and can validate the work that others have done and gone into both the Downtown Plan and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The final thing is, and in thinking some about what I consider to be one of the shortcomings of the Budget Task Force, was that there was a lack of access a lot of times by the public to our meetings and so forth. I would encourage the Downtown Task Force to consider meeting here so that the meetings can be streamed. It allows our stakeholders who would, I think, be comprised a lot of Downtown business owners who may not have the opportunity to attend these meetings and see those, to be able to get online and follow what is being said and understand what is being said. And I think that is important because Downtown development is one of our top five priorities, and so to create a situation where people have as many access channels into that, whether it is walk in, click in, whatever term you want to use.

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to approve with an amendment to Section 2, at the very end, the last sentence would read, “An initial report will be issued back to the Council by August 31, 2017, and a final report by December 31, 2017.” And then, of course, if there is more time, then we can consider that.

Alderman Mathy stated, one of the reasons for bringing this forward was concern over the number of cave-ins that have happened in Downtown this past winter. I think most of them were related to water mains. From his perspective, walking from the parking garage every day, he

would see a Public Works Crew or Water Crew with a hole dug in the street, were fixing it, it is patched. A week later, the crew was 20 feet further down the road as they are moving away up the hill and I think they moved five times, may be six times, including once around the corner onto Jefferson Street, and it just kept happening. He recalled Mr. Karch presentation from a few months ago where he said emergency repairs cost the City two and a half times more than planned maintenance ahead of time. I know that Center Street was bad this winter, but in past years it has been Main Street, it's been Monroe Street. It has not been isolated to any one portion of the Downtown.

The sewers, the water mains, and everything down there are well over 100 years old. Some of them are brick at this point, and the amount of money that it feels like we are wasting making these emergency repairs needs to be addressed. He wants to ensure Council do this is a way where we have a plan for the business owners who are down there, because when we decide to move forward with this, it could potentially mean digging up Center Street or Main Street for six or nine months. When Normal did their massive rehab up there, there was a lot of businesses that never reopened after that time period, so I want to make sure that we are very thoughtful and considerate and have a plan to communicate with building owners and business owners and work with them on how they can stay open during this period of time. If we have not done anything for 100 years, hopefully, if we do it right, we will not have to do anything for 50 or 60 more years in the future, but how do we get through this one time herculean event?

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 22

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A
DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Hauman the Resolution Establishing a Downtown Task Force Committee, and include at the end of Section 2 that an initial report be issued to the Council on August 31, 2017, and a final report be submitted by December 31, 2017, be adopted and the Mayor and City Clerk authorized to execute the resolution.

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

9. City Manager's Report

Mr. Hales, Mayor and Council, just wanted to show you a little sign that you are going to see going up around the city and it says Committed to zero injuries. This morning, at our senior staff

meeting, these were passed out by Alex Rosas together with a very positive report showing comparison of our OSHA recordable injuries this year compared to last. Last year at this time in the calendar year from January 2016 to April, we had about 34 OSHA-recordable injuries. This is of City crews. So far this year, we have had seven. He stated, 34 last year, seven this year. We will be bringing to you a more expanded report on just what is going on our City's Risk Management Injury Reduction Plan. Alex Rosas is doing a tremendous job as our Loss Prevention Specialist, but, if anything, I think what we are trying to do is make sure that we have the safest work environment possible for our employees and that any employee always feels like he or she has the right to raise a concern if they feel that the work is something that could pose an unreasonable exposure to an injury to them and, if anything, the progress we are making, the safety culture that is being created, the involvement, not only of rank and file employees, but also Superintendents and managers, I think has just really made a major 180 degree turn in that area. I share these statistics with you every month, but I think this was just such a significant, and as we watch videos from various other companies around the world, again, these companies do not have goals of a certain number of injuries. Time and time again their goal is zero injuries. So, I thought that was just as significant and I just wanted to give you some information as you see these particular signs go up, and I just commend Alex and others, all the Directors, Supervisors, Superintendents, for all their efforts to create a much more safe environment for our employees.

10. Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Renner stated we did have a very unfortunate situation, in Alderman Mwilambwe Ward. I received a text from the Mayor of Carlock who happened to be out at McGraw Park, and there were some racial epitaphs, some swastikas, and some other profanity, and it was very unfortunate. It turned out to be teenagers, they were caught, but, I went out there and then Mboka and his wife came out and we took pictures. Some of the pictures were posted on social media. Again, we do want to stress that we are a city where the national Not in Our Town movement began, but that does not mean we still do not have our work cut out for us here at home. It has been taken care of, we do know who the people are, but, again, I would ever urge us to be vigilant and understanding.

The other thing just to let everybody know, mainly the Council, the Liquor Commission tomorrow is going to be considering a possible ordinance. It will be the first and we are going to have at least twice two public hearings before the ordinance comes to Council. It will be several months probably before you get it. Apparently going back for three Mayors, there was a kind of don't ask, don't tell for first Fridays, so whether or not it is Fox and Hound or other places, they are not establishments that serve liquor. They could give complementary wine and beer, and our Legal Department, after somebody filed a complaint, said, okay, well, we are not going to charge them, but you probably should do something about this. So, there will probably be a nominal charge of like \$50 for a year and then asking that people get certain kinds of insurance. I have tried to make it as least bureaucratic as possible. Some of the ones that we saw in Champaign and other places are really, really, really complicated and so, at the end of the day, we are going to try to keep it very simple, but, it is an issue we will begin to talk about tomorrow and my guess is, if we are talking about tomorrow, this might come to the Council in July.

11. City Aldermen's Discussion

Alderman Mwilambwe stated this past week has been pretty eventful for Ward 3, which is unusual. He wished to recognize the family of Sergeant Rogers, because he is a true American hero. In reading the obituary, it is hard not to feel a special kinship to the family, because he went to the same schools as my kids, so it's very emotional and touching. I met his dad today, and I am not surprised that they were able to raise such a fine young person, just in meeting him. He seemed somewhat upbeat in a situation like this, and I think it would have been difficult for me. You think what you would do in a situation like this, and I do not think I would be able to be so upbeat at this time, and that shows you what kind of people they are, so I just wanted to be able to recognize him.

He commented about the ugly incident that Ward 3 had the other day and thanked the Police Department, Public Works staff, and Park staff for really working together to address the situation; Mr. Hales and Mr. Rasmussen, as well. Mayor Renner was right, we always have work to do in this area. You cannot change everybody. These were teenagers. I am glad that we know who they are, they were caught, but, hopefully there will be some lesson learned. At some point, I am not sure in what format I want to view that, but I really want to explore the lessons learned in terms of how we address this issue quickly. Again, I do not mean this to be critical, but I always look for lessons learned, so I think that there are some things we can definitely do.

He also thanked the Water Department for their good work on the fire hydrant leak at the corner of Copper Creek and Melrose.

Alderman Sage stated the last meeting we were here for nearly five hours and it was a marathon meeting. At that meeting, Council did wrap up as part of the annual evaluation process, Mr. Hales' performance evaluation. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hales for his service to the citizens of Bloomington, and I include myself in that group as well. I wanted to say thank you and I consider it a privilege to work with you as our City Manager and appreciate your many contributions to the people who live here in Bloomington.

Alderman Mathy stated with the funeral procession for Sergeant Rogers that happened on Saturday, how proud he was to be a resident in Bloomington. There were thousands and thousands of American flags all along the route. There were thousands of people standing and being respectful in every direction and to watch the community come together to show respect and honor for Sergeant Rogers.

Adjournment

Motion made by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Hauman to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Motion carried (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Cherry L. Lawson, C.M.C.
City Clerk