

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018; 7:00 P.M.**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 12, 2018.

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

Motion by Alderman Sage and seconded by Alderman Schmidt that Alderman Bray be permitted to dial in and participate through telephone.

Motion carried. (Viva Voce)

Aldermen: Jamie Mathy, David Sage (Arrived 5:05 p.m.), Mboka Mwilambwe (Arrived 5:01 p.m.), Amelia Buragas, Scott Black, Joni Painter, Diana Hauman (Absent), Kim Bray (Telephone), Karen Schmidt, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager, Jeffrey Jurgens; Corporation Counsel, Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Patti-Lynn Silva, Finance Director; Greg Scott, Assistant Chief of Police; Brian Mohr, Fire Chief, Scott Sprouls, IS Director; Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; Bob Yehl, Water Director; and other City staff were also present.

Recognition/Appointments

A. Appointment of Holly Sellers to the Bloomington Citizens’ Beautification Committee.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment and the following individuals provided comments.

Scott Stimerling	Tom Cullen – <i>(Left Before Speaking)</i>
Angela Scott	Michelle Hunt
Don Carlson	Charlotte Alvarez – <i>(Left Before Speaking)</i>
Jeff Crabill	Phil Reynold

“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 Mwilambwe and seconded by Alderman Painter that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

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

Nays: Nonc.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 7A. Consideration of approving the Minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. *(Recommend the reading of minutes be dispensed and approved as printed.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7B. Consideration of approving Bills, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers in the amount of \$7,276,160.01. *(Recommend the Bills, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers be allowed in the amount of \$7,276,160.01, and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the various amounts as funds are available.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7C. Consideration of Approving an Appointment to the Citizens' Beautification Committee. *(Recommend Holly Sellers be appointed to the Bloomington Citizens' Beautification Committee.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7D. Consideration of approving the purchase of 10 complete sets of Firefighter Turnout Gear, through a joint purchase agreement, in the amount of \$28,703.60 as requested by the Fire Department. *(Recommend approving the purchase of ten (10) complete sets (jacket and pants) of Globe Custom GXtreme 3.0 Firefighter Turnout Gear be purchased utilizing the National Purchasing Partners- Government (NPPGov) program from Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (MES #00000168, expires-5/28/23), Deerfield, IL in the amount of \$28,703.60, and the Procurement Manager be authorized to issue a Purchase Order.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7E. Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County for Booking Fees in the amount of \$27,108 annually as requested by the Police Department. *(Recommend the City enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County for Booking Fees in the amount of \$27,108*

annually, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.)

The following was presented:

Item 7F. Ratification of Contract with AFSCME Local 699 who represent workers at the Bloomington Public Library. *(Recommend the Contract be ratified.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7G. Consideration of a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Process and approving a contract for supply and delivery of Cationic and Anionic polymers from Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. for water treatment purposes at the quoted price of \$0.75 per pound for cationic polymer and \$1.47 per pound for anionic polymer, up to a maximum cost of \$60,925.00, as requested by the Water Department. *(Recommend A Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and Authorizing a Contract with Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., for the Purchase of Specialty Water Treatment Chemicals (Polymers), up to a maximum cost of \$60,925.00, be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Resolution, and the Interim City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract and other necessary documents.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPECIALTY WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS (POLYCMERS)

The following was presented:

Item 7H. Consideration of a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Process for the purchase of EXO Sondes, hand held display units and sensors for turbidity, total algae, pH and temperature data collections and associated hardware at the quoted cost of \$69,251.00 to measure raw water quality as it enters the pump houses at Evergreen Lake and Lake Bloomington allowing the Water Department to adjust treatment processes in real-time from Xylem, Inc as requested by the Water Department. *(Recommend a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and Approving the Purchase of Water Quality Instruments and Hardware from Xylem, Inc., in the amount of \$69,251.00, be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Resolution and the Procurement Manager be authorized to execute the purchase order.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF WATER QUALITY INSTRUMENTS AND HARDWARE FROM XYLEM, INC.

The following was presented:

Item 7I. Consideration of a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Process and approving a contract for repairs to a roof top unit at the Grossinger Motors Arena at a cost up to \$30,000.00 as requested by Facilities. *(Recommend a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and approving a contract with Heritage Machine & Welding, Inc., in an amount up to \$30,000.00, be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Resolution and the Interim City Manager authorized to execute the Contract.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH HERITAGE MACHINE & WELDING, INC. FOR REPAIRS TO A ROOF TOP UNIT AT GROSSINGER MOTORS ARENA

The following was presented:

Item 7J. Consideration of a Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Process and approving a contract for repairs to the roof below a roof top unit at the Grossinger Motors Arena at a cost up to \$30,240.00. *(Recommend a Resolution to Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and a contract with Western Specialty Contractors, in an amount up to \$30,240.00, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Resolution, and the Interim City Manager authorized to execute the Contract.)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH WESTERN SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS FOR REPAIRS TO THE ROOF BELOW A ROOF TOP UNIT AT GROSSINGER MOTORS ARENA

The following was presented:

Item 7K. Consideration of adopting an Ordinance approving a petition from Parkway Partners – One Inc., for the approval of a final plat for Parkway Village PUD Phase 5, (located south of Veterans parkway, East of Mercer Ave and north of Ireland Grove Rd), subject to a water main easement plat being submitted for Council approval as requested by the Public Works and Water Departments. *(Recommend adopting an Ordinance approving a petition from Parkway Partners – One Inc., for the approval of a final plat for Parkway Village PUD Phase 5, (located south of Veterans Parkway, east of Mercer Ave. and north of Ireland Grove Rd.), subject to a water main easement plat being submitted for Council approval and the Mayor and City Clerk to be authorized to execute the necessary documents.)*

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - 06

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF PARKWAY VILLAGE - PHASE 5 SUBDIVISION

The following was presented:

Item 7L. Consideration of an application submitted by P-Corn Acquisitions of Minnesota and

Illinois, LLC d/b/a Bloomington Galaxy Cinema, located at 1111 Wylie Drive in Bloomington, IL 61705, requesting an EAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week as requested by the City Clerk's Office. *(Recommend the application of P-Corn Acquisitions of Minnesota and Illinois, LLC d/b/a Bloomington Galaxy Cinema requesting an EAS liquor license which would allow the sale of all types of alcohol by the glass for consumption on the premises seven (7) days a week be approved upon all compliance with contingencies of all employees serving alcohol complete BASSET and that wristbands be used for purchasers of alcohol.)*

The following was presented:

Item 7M. Consideration of an Ordinance approving a petition from James A. Shirk, requesting to rezone the property located at 204 W. Hamilton Rd from R-1B, Medium density single-family residential district, to B-1, Highway business district. *(Recommend an Ordinance approving the rezoning of the property located at 204 W. Hamilton Rd from R-1B, Medium density single-family residential district, to B-1, Highway business district, and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.)*

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - 07

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR 204 W HAMILTON ROAD FROM R-1B MEDIUM DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-1 HIGHWAY BUSINESS DISTRICT

“Regular Agenda”

The following was presented:

Item 8A. Consideration of a Resolution directing City staff to include funds in the amount of \$450,000 in the FY 2019 budget for intersection design, plans, construction documents, right-of-way, utility relocation, and construction for the intersection of Towanda Barnes Road and Ireland Grove Road, and authorizing the Interim City Manager or Mayor to enter into an amended intergovernmental agreement with the County on the intersection improvements, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommend A Resolution Directing staff to include funds in the FY 2019 Budget for Intersection Design, Plans, Construction Documents, Right-of-Way, Utility Relocation, and Construction for the Intersection of Towanda Barnes Road and Ireland Grove Road; and authorizing an Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County be approved; and the Mayor and City Clerk authorized to execute the Resolution, and authorizing the Interim City Manager or Mayor to execute an amended Intergovernmental Agreement.) (Presentation by Jim Karch, Director of Public Works, 10 minutes presentation, City Council 20 minutes discussion.)*

Mr. Karch provided a brief overview provided a brief overview of this item and responded to Council's questions.

Mayor Renner asked, has there been any contact with Unit 5, Benjamin School or Christian Academy to see whether they are willing to change their school hours, as the congestion has increased due

to the change in their hours. He stated, a solution could be to have sheriff deputies posted in that area. Mr. Karch stated those steps have been discussed with the school as well as with the Police Department. They have actually looked at doing some traffic enforcement along Towanda Barnes. Changes in the school hours would have a significant impact on the schools.

Alderman Schmidt stated, the Transportation Commission did not have a chance to review this revised plan. Mr. Karch agreed that they had not. However the Transportation Commission approved over four-to-one vote to go forward with the full \$900,000 option, but to...I wanted to make sure that it is clear, they did not have that revised option. We were able to figure out a way to utilize some resources we have to be able to do this reduced improvement to the intersection.

Alderman Black, this is great to see a revised version of this. I appreciate the opportunity to meet with Phil, and talk about this project, and learn a little bit more about it. He views this as a priority questions. He would be voting no on this project, because I believe that there are better ways to spend this money.

Alderwoman Buragas, commented on the priority of projects. That was never taken into account when they were approved so we had no plan in place to deal with the fact that we were about to increase traffic at this particular intersection. It is a priority, and we need to get to it, but I'm not saying at this point in time that it is our highest priority.

Alderman Painter expressed concern with having engaged the County on this project, then to not move forward would be disappointing.

Alderman Bray stated it would be good to keep a city-wide approach to priorities. She prefers to focus on the City as a whole rather than a sector of the city. The priority should be on the safety of the community, and Towanda Barnes is a high speed road. Overall, it is also a gateway to our City. She encouraged a holistic approach and indicated that she would vote in support this project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 07

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE FY 2019 BUDGET FOR INTERSECTION DESIGN, PLANS, CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, UTILITY RELOCATION, AND CONSTRUCTION FOR THE INTERSECTION OF TOWANDA BARNES ROAD AND IRELAND GROVE ROAD AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MCLEAN COUNTY

Motion by Alderman Bray second by Alderman Mwilambwe Council approves the Resolution directing staff to include funds in the FY 2019 Budget for Intersection Design, Plans, Construction Documents, Right-of-Way, Utility Relocation, and Construction for the Intersection of Towanda Barnes Road and Ireland Grove Road; and authorizing an Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County be approved; and the Mayor and City Clerk authorized to execute the Resolution, and authorizing the Interim City Manager or Mayor to execute an amended Intergovernmental Agreement.

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

Ayes: Aldermen Painter, Sage, Mwilambwe, and Bray.

Nays: Alderman Mathy, Buragas, Schmidt, Black, and Mayor Renner.

Motion failed.

The following was presented:

Item 8B.

Consideration of:

- a. Presentation of the Downtown East Washington Street Redevelopment Project Area Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan (Presentation by Bob Mahrt, Interim Community Development Director, 10 minutes presentation, City Council, 10 minutes discussion.); and
- b. Approving an Ordinance to set a date for, and to approve a notice of a public hearing for the Downtown East Washington Street Redevelopment Project Area as recommended by the City's Community Development Department (The Redevelopment Project Area generally includes the East Washington Street Corridor bounded by North Gridley Street on the west and North Evans Street on the east including the former Bloomington High School building at 510 East Washington Street).

Recommendation/Motion:

(Recommend an Ordinance to set a date for and to approve a notice of a public hearing for the Downtown East Washington Street Redevelopment Project Area be approved and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.)

Bob Mahrt, Interim Director, Community Development provided a brief overview of this item stating, the City Council had already previously made a commitment regarding the former high school property at 510 East Washington with Iceberg Development Group. Part of that Redevelopment Agreement required that the City adopt a TIF. He had an opportunity to review the prior work on this project. The original project area encompassed almost 15 blocks, and it has since been scaled back to roughly four blocks in area. The boundaries of that intended targeted TIF area is, essentially, along the East Washington Street corridor. On the west side, it would be North Gridley Street. On the east side, it would be South Havens [SP]. On the north side, it's the alley fronting on East Jefferson Street. On the south side, it is East Front Street. Within your TIF Redevelopment Plan, we have excluded the Lafayette Apartment Complex because that did not meet the standards for being a blighted area. The timeline included within the staff report was that the PDAV, the consultant on this project, completed their feasibility study. That feasibility study is now available for public inspection; and therefore, ask the City Council to consider in order to setting the time and place for the required public hearing.

Alderman Schmidt asked whether staff had any conversations with District 87 regarding the structure of the TIF, the length of time and the payout to the school district. Mayor Renner stated he, Alderman Black

and Alderman Buragas attended a meeting to have preliminary conversation with some school board members along with Barry Riley about the misconceptions about this particular project.

Alderman Schmidt clarified her question asking, how can the City when we have a TIF, when does that take place? Will that take place at this hearing or prior to the meeting?

Mr. Mahrt stated, when you identify a project area, you oftentimes reach out to those persons or groups that are part of your Joint Review Board. The economic development team here at the city met with the school district to identify their preliminary project area. At that time, it was identified that they felt that the size was extensive. And as I talked earlier, it was almost 15 blocks and that size has since been reduced down to the actual study area, specific within the report of being about a four block area. Within your own community right now, you have the downtown Southwest TIF district, you have the empire district. Those are some of the smaller, a little bit smaller than what you would have seen originally with the entire downtown being with that TIF.

That it's going to take several years to generate any increment off this project area. The City will have some initial costs associated with setting up the TIF of this size. When you're working with consultants, whether that's Kathy Orr and Associates, or whether that's PGAV, we have some upfront cost to establish the TIF. Once it is set up to acquire property, we would also have to look at the cost to acquire those additional properties that go towards this TIF. It may be several years before an increment is generated to provide either a surplus, if that's what you're referring to.

Austin Grammer, Economic Development Coordinator provided an explanation to Alderman Schmidt questions stating, you can look at a TIF as a framework and a process to get a tool in place, and then there can be additional specialty items that could potentially be added to it. One of those could potentially be an agreement between the city and all of the taxing districts to say, you know, upfront, we're going to declare surplus every year, 25% of all the increment, no matter what. The whole premise of the TIF in qualifying the area is, that but for intervention by the City Council, development would not take place. That has definitely been proven out in this area. This area is qualified as a blighted area, not a conservation area. A conservation area is an area that's on its way to becoming blighted, and so it's even appropriate to intervene in a conservation area under the pretense that you're trying to prevent it from becoming blighted.

Mayor Renner asked whether there is any evidence that any of the TIFs cost District 87 any money that we have established over the last five years, possible future revenues.

Alderman Mathy commented on the timespan for TIF that it would be valuable data for later discussion on where the City started over 20 years ago to present day.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 – 08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO SET A DATE FOR, AND TO APPROVE A PUBLIC NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DOWNTOWN EAST WASHINGTON STREET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA

Motion by Alderman Schmidt second by Alderman Mathy Council approves an Ordinance to set a date for and to approve a notice of a public hearing for the Downtown East Washington Street Redevelopment Project Area be approved and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

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

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

Nays: Alderman Painter

Recused: Alderman Buragas (7:41 p.m.)

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

- A. Item 8C. Consideration of an Ordinance approving a Contract to purchase the vacant property at 404 East Washington Street (the "Smith Property" which is adjacent to the City-owned former Coachman Motel property at 408 East Washington Street) for \$95,000.00 as recommended by the City's Community Development Department. *(Recommend an Ordinance approving a Contract to purchase commercial real estate located at 404 East Washington Street in the amount of \$95,000.00 be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.) (Presentation by Bob Mahrt, Interim Community Development Director, 5 minutes presentation, City Council, 5 minutes discussion.)*

Mr. Mahrt, this property is within the East Washington TIF area, but the City has had an opportunity to purchase this property for several years. It is directly adjacent to the land the city already owns, which it will identify as the Coachman parcel. We have had negotiations with the property owner to purchase the property for \$95,000, which would help us assimilate additional properties, adjoining properties, for potential redevelopment in the future.

Mayor Renner asked, what would the total, roughly, acreage be on the two combined? Mr. Mahrt stated two combined, nearly 0.94 acres.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - 09

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
LOCATED AT 404 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
(The Smith Property)**

Motion by Alderman Buragas second by Alderman Black Council approves an Ordinance approving a Contract to purchase commercial real estate located at 404 East Washington Street in the amount of \$95,000.00 be approved and 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, Mathy, Buragas, Black, Bray, and Mayor Renner.

Nays: Alderman Painter, Sage, Mwilambwe, and Schmidt.

Motion carried.

City Manager Comments

Mr. Rasmussen commented on the City Manager search and thanked Council for the opportunity to serve in his current capacity.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Renner commented about the need to have clear and open communication by the Council regarding matters that impact the City. One of the things that he requested of all Council, is to try to do better in terms of communication. Communication all around, and sometimes, text messages, emails and other things, can be misunderstood. In future, he would appreciate it if Council copies all colleagues if an email goes out to the media as we know we may get questions. That would be useful.

He mentioned a conversation that he had with Mr. Rasmussen regarding the agenda stating, that we're five aldermen who had sent an email a week ago. Aldermen do not have the authority to put something on an agenda. They can get rid of it. They can even vote to not vote on it. He referenced the Welcome City ordinance as there were a collection of factors of those who supported the ordinance, who had still wanted to tweak the proposed ordinance.

He stated, he consulted with the Executive Director of the Illinois Municipal League for Open Meetings Act issues involving emails that are being sent by five or more Alderman over directions that were provided during a December meeting. He encouraged Council to stop these actions as matters needs to be handle publicly.

Alderman Comments

Alderman Black expressed concern over the expediency of which purchases of property occur and the perception in the community that the City is acquiring property, but not doing anything with them. That even with an RFP process, it is a slow process to turn over the property. He asked that the City come back to Council within three months to provide an update on the status of these efforts. Mayor Renner concurred with Alderman Black's comments stating, though the City has only purchased three properties in five years, there is a public perception that nothing is occurring with those acquired properties.

Alderman Schmidt commented on the Welcome City Ordinance and the reasons for having the item removed from the agenda. She explained that this would be a difficult conversation; however, five members of Council felt for various reasons that it was not a good idea to have a public conversation and a vote on the Welcome City Ordinance. She stated, this is a critical community conversation, and there are many people, including Council, who feel very passionately about protecting people in this community that

are very vulnerable. There is various levels of discomfort about the ordinance. There is discomfort about the fact that our partner in Normal are not moving forward with this. She commented on the letter that some members wrote and stated they have taken much criticism over it without having an opportunity to provide background. She addressed Mayor Renner and expressed dismay over alleged public comments he had made during a social justice conference in reference to the five members of Council, stating his comments were untrue.

Alderman Schmidt stated she would like to invite the Town of Normal, coalitions or other organizations that are interested in moving this ahead, to have some serious conversations. She could imagine Not In Our Town leading this conversation, as all parties find a workable solution that we can reinforce to be, and are a welcoming community. She expressed feeling hurt and demoralized by how this issue has played out in the community. We have a responsibility to one another to think well of one another, and to try to move this conversation forward.

Mayor Renner indicated he is unaware of where the comment may have come from. However, the Town of Normal was very interested, but have since changed their minds. He expressed disappointment over being blindsided by the Council over a simple email that was sent to the media, but not to all of Council. He reiterated that the Town of Normal is very interested in moving forward with a Welcome City Ordinance and discussion, and would pass whatever Bloomington pass.

Given that we have an administration that is now taking up to 20 years to process many of the visas and immigration, we have, a moral obligation to stand up and act and to speak out. He has not yet met anyone from our immigrant community who does not support this. They are absolutely supportive of this. They understand it, including our Indian subcontinent community.

Alderman Schmidt asked for clarification. Mayor Renner stated that his comments are in the broader sense of the matter. He was referring to a few xenophobic comments that Council had heard over many, many months. He stated, people may not agree with me, at least as long as he is Mayor, we need to stand up for what we believe is right. Council need to stand up for a welcoming community.

Alderman Painter commented on the needs of the Council to follow Robert's Rules of Order during meetings and constructing the agendas. Mayor Renner stated Alderman Painter does not have the legal authority to call a Point of Order, as he relies on legal counsel. He stated, the Council cannot remove items from the Council, that this is the agenda.

Mr. Jurgens provided clarification to the ordinance stating, our current ordinance provides for a process for the city manager, the mayor, and the aldermen to put items on an agenda. It does not have any provisions for the ability to, for any of those entities to withdraw an item, it just talks in terms of putting items on an agenda.

Alderman Painter stated, Robert Rules of Order states the agenda belongs to the Council. Mayor Renner replied, we are referring to the law, not Robert's Rules of Order. Alderman Painter stated, that needs to change, because the Town of Normal has its agenda approved as a proposed agenda. Many other municipalities have the first order of business to approve the agenda. Mayor Renner stated, he relies upon legal counsel.

Alderman Painter expressed her support for Alderman Schmidt in her comments that Mayor Renner is dragging Council through the mud. She alleged that it is done publicly in the media when Council does not agree with him. She expressed her frustration over reports of Mayor Renner attending meetings and making comments that the Council are a big problem. That business leaders need to lobby Council for certain things. She asked Mayor Renner to discontinue his comments, as Council may begin to treat him similarly.

Mayor Renner stated, it is not wrong to speak with business leaders to lobby the City Council, as that is what a mayor is supposed to do.

Alderman Mwilambwe commented on the Welcome City Ordinance stating, he did not see the need to have it on an agenda. His recollection of the December 18, 2017 Council Meeting is very clear; that he along with Alderwoman Bray, were interested in continued discussion. This is a very difficult issue, as is shown right here at this moment. It can get pretty emotional. People have differing views on what is actually the right thing to do. He is not sure that an ordinance is necessarily the right thing to do. The Council may need to look at many workable solutions before bringing the item back for consideration.

He like Mayor Renner comes from the academic arena. When you bring forth something, people will ask you for your proof, your research to support your assertions. In his opinion, it's not that I don't believe those who are bringing those forward, I'm just saying let's have a conversation. That solution could come in many different forms such as: ordinance, education for people in the community, or any number of things. After spending an hour of discussing this item, it is not enough to vote on an ordinance. He is never one to assume the worst in people. Many people want to do the right thing, including the members of the council; including the five who decided to delay this. As you heard today at the podium, the leader of the IPA said yes, the ordinance that was presented was redundant. It is kind of affirming what the five of us were saying. Alderman Mwilambwe asked, if we pass an ordinance tomorrow, then what happens? Does the problem go away? In practical terms for the people that we're concerned about? I don't know that. Those are things that I would like to explore and talk about.

Alderman Sage responded to comments he believed were negative and disparaging, then posed questions to Mayor Renner for response to the comments he allegedly said against Council. Mayor Renner stated, in the 11 minutes that he was at the conference, he was asked for his thoughts on whether the item would be considered that evening. However, he does not recall exactly what he had said as some comments could be taken out of context.

Mayor Renner stated, he said some things, empirical things that we said here, and gave an impassioned speech for why I thought we should have welcoming city ordinance. Even if it is largely symbolic, even it's for people who he has spoken with who will not call the police on domestic violence because they feel like their visas have expired and they might be taken by the cops.

Alderman Sage suggested Mayor Renner be aware of those around him when he make public comments, and he should remember what is said. He, too, has heard some of the same comments, and is very disappointed. He addressed Alderman Schmidt and said, she is one of many that he has the greatest amount of respect for. He praised Alderman Schmidt for her integrity, and the way that she treats people in the community. He stated, bullying and name-calling needs to stop as it is reprehensible.

Alderman Mathy spoke about the apartment fire on Route 9, and stated the Fire Department did an amazing job in putting out the fire. He also thanked the community for coming out to assist individuals who were displaced as a result. He and Assistant Chief Bays had a chance to go to Ameren Emergency Readiness seminar earlier today. He thought it was interesting to learn of some actually fairly massive infrastructure upgrades that Ameren is actually working on currently in Bloomington in creating a redundant electrical network in Bloomington with the chief goal of reducing power outages.

Alderman Bray stated she wanted to address the email that was sent concerning the welcoming ordinance, as well as some of the conversations that were expressed during this meeting. She commented on conversations that were publically and individually shared with Mayor Renner and Interim City Manager, Steve Rasmussen as there were no surprises in regards to what was contained within that email.

The real surprise was to most of us when we found out that welcoming city ordinance in its current state, which as we've already talked about was poor, was being put on the agenda for a vote when again, when the majority of the Council already fully and carefully and thoroughly expressed their concern to vote further; and have further discussion in a community manner, and have some community engagement.

Alderman Bray expressed disappointment with Mayor Renner as he moved forward with the welcoming ordinance without listening to the elected body. She stated, not listening is not an option here. Then denigrating those that disagree, is not a productive manner to go forward. While Council may disagree, we listen carefully to one another about that which we disagree, and then we think of ways to address the concerns and the disagreements. She stated, this whole issue concerning the immigration matters is something that we could all work together on and come up with something that's far better than the piece that was presented. She supports the comments from Alderman Mwilambwe when he spoke of the need to educate the public, as well as, Alderman Schmidt comments about engaging the donor community and sitting down with all these community partners to review and decide what makes the most sense. There is a way to take on an issue like that, it's not just to check a box to say we have welcoming city ordinance and when can we move on?

As an attorney, the idea that we would pass a law that says we have signed the law, or that we pass a law that says that..., it says on the Statue of Liberty, we have the grace of our resources. If you pass the law that says you'll file along you run the risk of getting on the wrong side of that law should there be amendments to it. I appreciate the work that was done in putting together the email and putting it to paper, because the messaging was simply being ignored. I think that we need to go forward in the manner where we don't ignore these vital divisions about us, and we develop a listening posture and think about what we say before we say it, because we're smarter. She commented on the need for Council and the Mayor to have better communication.

Alderman Buragas stated she appreciates the robust conversation tonight and wanted to know how Council can ensure communication continues as there are important issues within the community that needs to be discussed. She asked, how do we make sure that these conversations continue to happen like this where there is the ability for this robust, transparent process? As it was her understanding of why there was so much concern from members in the community about the letter, was that it was denying this from happening, that there's no criticism necessarily, of where people stood, but this fact that Council was not having the conversation in this public forum.

Adjournment

Motion by Alderman Black seconded by Alderman Painter adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Motion carried. (Viva Voce)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk