

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018; 5:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Committee of the Whole Session in the Osborn Conference Room at the Bloomington Police Department, at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2018. Mayor Renner called the meeting to order and directed the City Clerk to call the roll.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager; George Boyle, Assist. Corporation Counsel; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brendan Heffner, Police Chief; Bob Yehl, Water Director, Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; Bob Mahrt, Interim Community Development Director; Jim Karch, Public Works Director, Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Melissa Hon, Assistant to the City Manager; Nora Dukowitz, Communication Manger, and other City staff were present.

3. Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. No comments were offered.

4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2018. *(Recommend the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.)*

Motioned by Alderman Schmidt second by Alderman Painter to approve the March 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

5. Closed Session

A. Personnel – per Section 2 (c) (1) of 5 ILCS 120 (5 minutes)

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

Motion by Alderman Painter, second by Alderman Schmidt to enter into Closed Session Meeting per Section 2(c) (1) of 5 ILCS120.

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

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 Black to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting.

Motion Carried (Viva Voce).

7. Return to Open Session

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

Motion by Alderman Painter, seconded by Alderman Schmidt to return to Open Session.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

8. Presentation and discussion on the implementation of Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations (non-catalyst projects), including specifically discussion on:

(1) The potential future and formal adoption of the Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations;

- (2) Initiation of a Downtown Work Plan; and
- (3) The feasibility of certain improvements to Jefferson Street in Downtown Bloomington.

(Recommend presentation and discussion only.) (Presentation by Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director, Tricia Stiller, Downtown Division Manager, and Jim Karch, Public Works Director, 30 minutes, City Council discussion, 30 minutes.)

Mr. Mahrt provided an overview from the last time this item was discussed in December 2017, and current status of projects from the Community Development Department. He spoke of the potential of adopting the Task Force Recommendations with or without exceptions, and to consider the Draft Work Plan that staff will present.

The Downtown Task Force initially reviewed several documents related to the Downtown and to the overall community, prioritizing low-hanging fruit, and some projects that we could get done within the year or thereabout. The recommendations that came out of the Task Force were Beautification and Public Art, Public Spaces and Walkability, Public Parking, and Areas of Opportunity. Staff is preliminary recommending Council adopt the Final Task Force Recommendations. Staff is asking Council to consider evaluating the impacts that those recommendations would make on the community in the Downtown, identify workable projects, assign the coordinators that are responsible for those projects, define a timeline, and establish cost estimates for budgeting.

He stated staff initially developed a work plan, and the Downtown Bloomington Final Task Force Final Report Implementation is the first one. There are ongoing tasks, short-term tasks, and medium, and long-term tasks along the right side. Assigning those tasks in coordination across the table. Staff is asking the City Council to adopt the Task Force Recommendations, and then staff would implement it in the spring. Although it is not a requirement, it is something that we would like City Council to consider whenever we bring a plan forward.

Under the Task Force Recommendations:

- Beautification / Public Art Work Plan, we had several projects that we wanted to continue and implement for the community. The Tree Well Program is already existing, staff is working to coordinate some additional efforts on themes so that there is a consistent planting plan throughout the Downtown. Looking at our Public Right-of-Ways and Public Lands Program, there was a need for, and expressed in the Task Force to create a park-like setting in our Downtown.

Along Mulberry and Main landscaping aesthetics and bump-outs that are going in. They are looking at our Adopt A Pot Program, and we are reviewing implementation of self-watering planters. Those planters that are still in good shape if we phase-in an approach to purchasing new planters for specifically to the Downtown core. We may be able to move those other planters off into the Warehouse District or some other transition areas throughout the Downtown.

- Mural Program is ongoing as well as the paintings of the traffic signal boxes. They are looking at Tactical Urbanism and Adoption of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. There were some elements of the plan or of the Task Force Recommendations regarding lighting. In areas of Center Street and Front Street that does not have decorative lighting in place; it's difficult to provide holiday decorations and create that aesthetic that you see on Main Street with the hanging light, and that type of thing, when we don't have those same streetscape elements on these other streets.

In the work plan, they identified under Beautification, the layout for the Tree Well Garden Program, the Adopt A Pot, the Tactical Urbanism, and the Mural Program, along with associated timelines.

Though the plan was essentially accepted in 2015, staff has been periodically implementing through efforts in the Downtown area. Staff is at a cross road in terms of moving forward with recommendations as Council had not formally taken any action to adopt it.

Alderman Painter inquired about the Adopt A Pot Program, and whether the City will allow citizens to plant their own plants, or themed planting, or even uniform plants. Mr. Mahrt stated staff is looking into how best to coordinate the program. Alderman Painter asked for clarification on the Tree Well. Mr. Mahrt explained, the purpose is to have plants that are more sun-tolerant and shade tolerant, rather than those that were one or the other.

Alderman Painter asked whether the Parks Department would be responsible for the Downtown Corridor. Mr. Mahrt stated that is not their initial intent. Right now, they are responsible for the bump-outs and the landscape plantings within the Municipal parking lots.

Alderman Schmidt spoke of the bump-outs and asked whether something will be placed throughout the Downtown in those areas.

9. Adjournment


Motion by Alderman Schmidt seconded by Alderman Painter to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Session. Time: 7:28 p.m.

Motion carried. (Viva voce)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST


Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk