

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018, 6:00 P.M.**

The Council convened in a Committee of the Whole Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 19, 2018.

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, Joni Painter, Diana Hauman, Kim Bray (Absent), Karen Schmidt, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brian Mohr, Fire Chief; Melissa Hon, Assistant to the City Manager; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Jim Karch, Public Works Director and other City staff were also present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment, and the following individuals provided comments to the Council:

Art Taylor	Surena Fish
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Item 4. Presentation of Certificates to the Bloomington 101 Fall 2018 Class: Ashley Berg, Dan Berg, Jr., Shelly Braxton, Sara Crowley, Michele Evans, Surena Fish, Linda Foster, Louis Goseland, Rebecca Gossard, Gina Grumke, Kent Gummerman, Gary Ifft, Shelley Lambert, Ashley Lara, Alyssa Mandula, Amanda Mohan, Marilyn Myers, Curtis Preston, Christine Sewell, Carol Straka, Jim Walters, and Patrick Zajac.

The following was presented:

Item 5. Consideration of approving the Minutes from the October 15, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting. *(Recommend the reading of minutes be dispensed and approved as printed.)*

Motion by Alderman Schmidt and seconded by Alderman Painter to approve the October 15, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes with corrections.

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

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

Schmidt.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following was presented:

Item 6. Presentation and discussion by the Police Department regarding Axon Body Worn Cameras, Axon Fleet and Evidence.com, as requested by the Police Department. *(Recommend this is a video presentation and discussion only.) (Brief overview by Tim Gleason, City Manager. Presentation by Clay Wheeler, Police Chief and Ken Bays, Assistant Police Chief 10 minutes, and Council discussion 20 minutes.)*

Chief Wheeler stated the Bloomington Police Department is committed to providing citizens of our community with outstanding service. Body cameras are proving to be an essential tool preserving evidence of crucial events and the equipment it also helps to ensure the trust given to us by the community is earned. Our staff include an A.C. Bass, A.C. Donath, Sergeant Arnold, and others have worked to ensure our use of body cameras is dependable and manageable as possible.

Alderman Black thanked Chief Wheeler, A.C. Bays, and his staff for the work on this project. The City has been talking about this for a long time and this is the diligence that staff brings to the table that is analytical, it has measurable results, and we are ultimately saving money. In the 21st century, we have to do body cameras and this is a smart investment for our citizens. Just thank you very much.

The following was presented:

Item 7. Presentation, discussion, and direction regarding the implementation of several proposed insurance programs for private residential water and sewer leak protection, water service line protection, and sewer lateral protection, as requested by the Public Works Department. *(Recommend the City Council provide staff direction regarding the implementation of several proposed insurance programs for private residential water and sewer leak protection, water service line protection, and sewer lateral protection.) (Brief overview by Tim Gleason, City Manager. Presentation by Jim Karch, Public Works Director 10 minutes, Council discussion 10 minutes.)*

Mr. Gleason stated on August 27 City staff presented to Council some ideas, opportunities, and some options, regarding sewer and water line leak protection. Council ask a handful of questions that staff needed to address. Tonight is the follow-up to the August 27 meeting. Staff is seeking direction from Council on the options presented by staff.

Mr. Karch presented a PowerPoint on the proposed insurance program and addressed questions and comments from Council. Mr. Gleason ask Mr. Boyle to address concerns related to the Illinois Tort Immunity Act.

Mr. Boyle explained there is a number of different factors. One of them would be, is it a contractor of the city, or a direct contractor of the city? Is it a separate entity altogether? Where it occurs, how it occurs. The Illinois Tort Immunity Act that may have some effect on it. As Mr. Karch alluded to, there is Illinois Commerce Commission regulations. There are franchise agreements. There are a number of laws that might be in place. It is not a simple yes-or-no answer that would be inappropriate now. Staff could take some time and legal would be willing to do some research and get back with a slightly more detailed answer to some specific questions.

Item 8. Presentation of Property Tax Levy considerations related to Public Safety Pension funding. (*Recommend: Presentation Only.*) (*Presentation by Tim Gleason, City Manager 10 minutes, and Council discussion 15 minutes.*)

Mr. Gleason stated municipalities have to set the property tax levy rate in mid-December, where it is adopted formally and recorded. This is a quick presentation to discuss some options and considerations. Currently, our rate is around 1.339 and just share on the property tax bill. The City of Bloomington's portion is around 15% of the total property tax bill. An option is to maintain that current rate, or another option for consideration is to set the rate to cover the entire public safety pension obligation that we have as a municipality.

If Council were to do that, it would increase approximately 9.8% to a rate of 1.47, up from the 1.339. The rate would remain below that at of the Town of Normal including their recently proposed decrease. The Town of Normal funds their entire public safety pensions via the property tax levy. If approved by Council, the impact to a homeowner with a home valued at \$165,000 would increase their annual property tax bill again, from the city's portion by about \$78. Utility tax considerations, Ordinance 2014-38 passed in 2014, amending the utility tax rates to address the anticipated Public Safety Pension funding gap. Nearly \$2.5 million in annual revenue increases resulted. These funds have been restricted for Public Safety Pension funding use.

If a property tax levy is adopted that fully funds the public safety pension needs, the Utility Tax Ordinance would be amended prior to the adoption of the FY 2020 budget. In 2014, Council made the decision knowing that the property tax levy was not going to fund the entire Public Safety Pension obligation. To fill that gap, Council raised the utility tax to cover roughly \$2.5 million. When the obligation was not the \$2.5 million, the City built up cash reserves of a more than \$5 million. We could pull from those reserves and continue to fund the gap with the Utility Tax. Council will need to take some action by or before 2023, where the funding from the Utility Tax will not fund the gap that is currently supported by the Property Tax Levy for the Public Safety Pensions.

He continued that he wanted to point out that if approved by Council, Bloomington property tax rate would still be slightly less than the Town of Normal. On November 26, the rate will be brought forward to Council as a proposed rate. If there is absent sort of direction from Council tonight, I will likely have an agenda item next week that will have an option A, and an option B. It would be the current property tax rate, or it would be a proposed property tax rate of 1.47 that would cover the entire public safety pensions. If adopted at the December

Council meeting, then staff would address the Utility Tax 2014 Ordinance. That would occur prior to the adoption of the 2020 budget.

Council discussed the impacts of increasing the property tax rate on homeowner's with a property-assessed value of \$165,000 per home. Council did not provide a consensus to increase the levy as discussed by the City.

Item 9. Presentation, discussion, and direction on Future Agenda Topics.

Mr. Gleason reported on the November 26 meeting, we have Bloomington the Airbnb Hotel-Motel Tax on the agenda for Council consideration. What this would do is, of the 110 plus websites that offers Airbnb options in the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington, the hotel-motel tax that we currently have in place would be applied to that as well. The Town of Normal is taking action on that this evening. Item number two is the proposed property tax rate and that will be similar if not identical to the current rate. Additionally, a bond refinancing will be placed on the agenda for Council consideration. The City has an opportunity if approved to save a little more than \$1 million. It does not extend the length of the bonds that are up for consideration. The City will continue to pay the same amount; however, it is paid sooner with a \$1 million in savings.

He further stated that Alderman Schmidt Council initiative on the Transportation Committee will also be on the November 26 agenda. The December 10 agenda staff will bring forward the Tax Levy for adoption. Tobacco 21 is another item that the Town of Normal Council is taking action on tonight. If approved, it will be contingent on the action that this Council may take. If it becomes an agenda item, I think ISU students have been a part of this and they will likely speak at the November 26 meeting.

- a. City Manager Report (5 minutes)
- b. Council Initiatives (*Presentation by Alderman Jamie Mathy, 3 minutes, Council discussion 5 minutes.*)
 - i. Alderman Jamie Mathy: Smart Street Lighting - Request that the City Manager, Public Works, and Information Services explore if Bloomington can save money by moving to a Smart Street Lighting program.

Alderman Mathy explained during the Illinois Municipal League Conference in Chicago, he and Alderman Mwilambwe came across a booth for the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and spoke with a representative of its program. It is part of a smarter Illinois program to help cities to upgrade all of the lighting from traditional HID bulbs to new LED bulbs. The program has been bid out by the state so we do not have to worry about taking things to bid. When you take into account the 20-year lifespan of LEDs, the significantly reduced electricity that they use, there is as much as a 50% savings every year in electricity.

When we talk about trying to find money and we talk about the thousands of bulbs that we are paying for every month across the city, most cities that have undertaken a program to swap out their bulbs with LED bulbs have seen a four year return on their investment. They are paying a significantly lower electricity bill every month. There is also options when you look at these new fixtures because the bulbs are so much smaller to embed things in them such as wireless access points. We could actually have real-time reading of water meters or once an hour or things of that nature. If we had a ubiquitous wireless program for city use across our area, we could deliver new services to people at a significantly reduced cost as well as pay less for electricity every month.

There was a consensus of the Council to move forward with this initiative. Mr. Gleason reminded Council that there is no Committee of the Whole Meeting for December 2018.

Alderman Black motion seconded by Alderman Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. (Viva Voce)

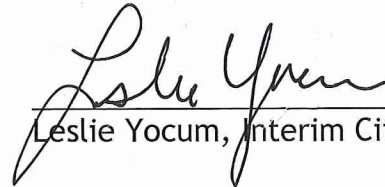
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Yocum, Interim City Clerk

