



**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:01 p.m., Monday, January 22, 2019.

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

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; Jay Tetzloff, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director; Scott Rathbun, Finance Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment and no one came forward to speak.

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2018.

**Alderman Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Alderman Painter that the minutes from November 19, 2018 approved as printed.**

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

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

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following item was presented:

Item 5. Presentation of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommend Council*

*provide feedback on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan and recommend a future date for it to be adopted.)*

City Manager Tim Gleason made a brief introduction and turned it over to the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts, Jay Tetzloff.

Mr. Tetzloff overviewed the plan, emphasized that no funding is attached to the Master Plan, and introduced Tim Diehl, Project Consultant with GreenPlay, LLC.

Mr. Diehl came forward and discussed GreenPlay's planning process and final recommendations. He walked through a variety of observations and opportunities for the City's parks. He then began taking questions from Council.

Alderman Mathy thanked Mr. Diehl for the Plan. He discussed concerns regarding mowing and expressed support of fewer parks with higher quality services.

Alderman Schmidt brought up the Lincoln Leisure Center and whether GreenPlay had examined that facility. Mr. Diehl responded that the Center had not been included as the Plan evaluation was performed on a higher level.

Alderman Mwilambwe expressed concerns in minimizing the number of parks and asked what GreenPlay has seen in other areas for resolving funding issues. Mr. Diehl responded with a few examples and ideas.

Alderman Bray asked a few questions about how data in the report connected to the City's population. Mr. Diehl mentioned that the City's GIS was identified as incorrect, and that the recommendations are relevant to that update, not an issue of population calculations. Alderman Bray continued and discussed usage rates, repurposing, economics and cost recovery. Mr. Diehl addressed each area of mention.

Alderman Buragas complimented the Plan and addressed the higher level of service that will be received if the City moves towards better quality parks. She went on to discuss access limitations presented in the Plan and the importance of removing those barriers.

Alderman Sage addressed the addition of walking trails and the additional value-adds available when they are incorporated into plans.

Alderman Bray requested other models around the country that might incorporate downtowns to parks and historic routes, etc.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Presentation of FY2020 Budget Overview.

City Manager Tim Gleason spoke on the Overview being presented. He gave a few examples of recent budget changes and mentioned some high-level opportunities. He introduced Finance Director Scott Rathbun.

Finance Director Scott Rathbun came forward. Mr. Rathbun provided a comparison to the budget presented last year and how the City has recovered from the deficit originally anticipated. He provided examples of trends, savings opportunities, implemented changes, expense increases, and upcoming projects. Mr. Rathbun discussed upcoming budgetary dates and plans.

Alderman Mathy asked about the Budget Retreat.

Alderman Sage asked for budget books on a CD.

Alderman Mwilambwe supported Alderman Mathy's comments on the Budget Retreat.

Alderman Schmidt asked about how the City is trending and the need for specific exhibits so that comparisons can be examined properly. Mr. Rathbun responded that those numbers are coming soon.

Alderman Buragas addressed Department Capital Improvement lists and the importance of having those available.

The following items were presented:

Item 7. Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics.

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Tim Gleason stated that unless he hears otherwise from Council the Parks Master Plan will be brought forward for approval at the next Council meeting. He also mentioned that his City Manager's report will also be ready.

B. Council Initiatives

i. Alderman Jamie Mathy - Research on Creation of a Technology Innovation Commission to be led by the City Manager

Alderman Mathy discussed the importance of being forward thinking and having a panel of technology educated members to advise the City on big picture technology ideas, partnerships, resources, policies, etc.

Alderman Schmidt asked about whether the Commission would be inward or outward focused, or both. Alderman Mathy pointed out that he sees the Commission as both, while also partnering with others in the Community.

Alderman Mwilambwe was supportive but also emphasized concerns of staff time. He liked the idea of the Commission being advisory only.

Alderman Painter expressed support. She emphasized the need for placing the right members on the Commission.

Mayor Renner mentioned a few resourcing ideas for members to place on the Commission.

The Council was overall supportive of the Technology Commission creation moving forward.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Alderman Hauman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schmidt to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried (viva voce).**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

  
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Tari Renner, Mayor

**ATTEST**

  
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Leslie Yocum, Interim City Clerk