



**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019, 6:00 PM**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 PM, Monday, March 18, 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, Diana Hauman, Kim Bray, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Scott Rathbun, Finance Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

Alderman Bray called in by phone (5:55 PM).

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to allow Alderman Bray to participate by phone.

**Alderman Hauman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schmidt to permit Alderman Bray to participate by telephone.**

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

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

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. The following individuals came forward.

Gary Lambert

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2019.

**Alderman Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hauman that the minutes from February 18, 2019 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, Black, Hauman, and Bray.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

The following item was presented:

Item 5. Review of revenues collected and expenditures related to the Local Motor Fuel Tax approved in 2014 as per a request of the Bloomington City Council.

Mayor Renner opened with a few comments regarding Local Motor Fuel Tax history. He requested that Council work to get answers for citizens and focus on street improvements.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, spoke about the presentation and emphasized that the focus of the project will be made on presentation would focus on asphalt and concrete including sidewalks. He supported reasoning for the project and addressed Motor Fuel Tax history. He reviewed cost projections and discussed the need for long-term planning.

Jim Karch, Director of Public Works, came forward to address Council. He discussed the City's pavement rating system, revenue trends, the General Fund, and road bonds. Mr. Karch broke out how funding has changed over the years, specifically sidewalks being funded from the same budget as streets, the State implementing a \$500,000 Motor Fuel Tax, and a few other items.

Mayor Renner reminded citizens that many of the main streets in the City are maintained by the State.

Alderman Schmidt pointed out that a lot of times when roads are being addressed Public Works also completes underground improvements at the same time. Mr. Karch confirmed that when they work in an area they try to address all apparent issues with the intention of the improvements having a life of 20 years.

Alderman Buragas thanked Jim Karch and Tim Gleason for the presentation. She asked for the average annual revenue generated by the \$.04 Motor Fuel Tax. Mr. Karch stated that \$2.3 million dollars per year has been historically generated. Alderman Buragas went on to ask a few more clarifying questions and emphasized the need for the City to be transparent about the shifts in funding models that have been experienced over the years. She suggested that the Council and the community have a conversation about the level of service that the

City would like to have, and then discuss how to fund to achieve that level. She emphasized importance of the Transportation Commission and that she looks forward to the support they will provide to the Council.

Alderman Mathy stated that he wished the presentation dated back to 2004 and asked a few clarifying questions regarding the presentation. He talked about an opportunity that he and Mr. Karch had discussed a couple years ago where the City could purchase a smaller machine for street repairs completed on a smaller scale. Mr. Karch responded by saying that he will pick back up on that conversation and will schedule time to meet with Mr. Gleason about that opportunity.

Alderman Mwilambwe expressed support for transparency of the projects.

Mr. Gleason provided additional information on plans for transparency and the newly purchased website, [www.BloomingtonStreets.com](http://www.BloomingtonStreets.com). He stated that the goal is for the City to tell the story of how funds are spent.

Alderman Bray asked whether any studies had been completed to capture funds from the impact of electric vehicles on roads. She recommended that the City not just focus on Motor Fuel Tax as the resource will become antiquated with vehicles moving away from fuel.

Alderman Black echoed Alderman Bray. He suggested that street ratings be completed by areas of the City rather than the entire City being averaged together.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Presentation of the FY 2020 Proposed Budget process, including department expense reviews and the potential effects of the capital equipment lease reduction, as requested by the Administration and Finance Departments.

City Manager Gleason opened with comments regarding the presentation and talked about a policy decision that staff desires from Council.

Finance Director Scott Rathbun came forward to address Council. He discussed a few possible changes that could occur between the proposed budget and passing of the final budget. He addressed two (2) previous meeting requests of Alderman Mathy: (1) Department by department proposed budget savings and (2) potential equipment savings as the City moves away from leasing. He went on to walk through notes on the Fund Balance including credit rating, reserve policies and the importance of holding a fund balance.

Mayor Renner asked clarifying questions regarding the City's credit rating and Mr. Rathbun responded accordingly.

Alderman Black expressed support for remaining a "Double - A" rated City over being a "Triple - A" rated City.

Alderman Mathy asked how the City's fund balance is invested. Mr. Rathbun stated that the City is primarily invested in CDs. Alderman Mathy recommended that the City look at

additional investment opportunities. Mr. Rathbun stated that he work to bring Council additional investment opportunities.

Alderman Bray expressed interest in learning more about “Triple - A” credit ratings.

The following items were presented:

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

A. City Manager’s Report

City Manager Gleason walked through future Council items for March 25, 2019 and pointed out future event calendar items available on the City’s website.

**Adjournment**


Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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


Motion Carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

  
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Tari Renner, Mayor

**ATTEST**

  
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Leslie Yocum, Interim City Clerk