



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019, 6:00 PM**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 PM, Monday, April 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; Melissa Hon, Economic Development Director; Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director; Russ Waller, Facilities Manager; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; and other City staff were present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment. No one came forward.

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Alderman Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Alderman Painter that the minutes from March 18, 2019 be 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. Presentation regarding World Circus Day, as requested by the Administration Department.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, opened with a few comments regarding John Wohlwend and World Circus day.

John Wohlwend came forward to address Council. He discussed the history of the circus in McLean County and overviewed plans in Bloomington/Normal for World Circus Day on April 20, 2019. He pointed out the impact the circus has had on McLean county and talked about plans for a commemorative statue to be place on the northeast corner of Washington and East streets in Bloomington.

Alderman Schmidt thanked Mr. Wohlwend for his efforts celebrating the history of the circus.

Alderman Mathy also thanked Mr. Wohlwend and pointed out that two (2) of the painted electrical boxes downtown showcased the circus.

Alderman Sage discussed additional history regarding Bloomington and pointed out that a former City Clerk had been married to a circus performer.

Alderman Hauman expressed her appreciation for Mr. Wohlwend's efforts and for bringing more art to downtown.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Presentation of the Public Safety and Community Relations Board Annual Report.

City Manager Gleason opened with comments regarding the presentation and talked about the importance of the Public Safety and Community Relations Board (PSCRB).

Arthur Taylor, Chairman of the Public Safety and Community Relations Board, came forward to address Council. Mr. Taylor discussed changes to the Board's rules. He walked through procedures and processes followed by the Board, considerations made to improve the public's opinion of the Board and talked about a few larger topics addressed during the year. He went on to discuss the single complaint received and reviewed by the Board during the year. He ended by stressing that the Board takes its responsibility very serious and thanked the Bloomington Police Department for being a great partner.

Mayor Renner and Council thanked Mr. Taylor and the rest of the PSCRB for their service.

Alderman Mwilambwe thanked Mr. Taylor and the rest of the PSCRB Board for their time and efforts. He pointed out the importance of communication between the Board, the community, Bloomington Police Department, and City Council.

Alderman Bray expressed appreciation for Mr. Taylor and the Board members and recognized them for their efforts in starting a new Board.

Mr. Taylor thanked Council and the Bloomington Police Department for partnering the PSCRB.

Alderman Black stressed the importance of adapting to the community's needs and complimented the Board on its listening and making changes based on the community's feedback. He pointed out how the Board regularly changes meeting locations to make it easier for the community to attend. He asked Mr. Taylor whether other municipalities had contacted the Board regarding how it functions/performs.

Mr. Taylor stated that he was not aware that they had been contacted, however, he pointed out that many other municipalities were used in determining this Board's plans and efforts starting the Board.

The following items were presented:

Item 7. Review of all the events, façade enhancements, infrastructure improvements, and facility upgrades happening in Downtown Bloomington summer 2019, as requested by the Economic Development, Community Development, Public Works, and Facilities Departments.

Mr. Gleason introduced the item as a public service announcement for all things downtown Bloomington.

Melissa Hon, Economic Development Director, came forward to address Council. She walked through a list of aesthetic improvements achieved through various community and City department partnerships. She went on to discuss some of the 120 upcoming events being held this summer, the downtown Bloomington's new website, and several other improvements to come.

Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director, came forward to address Council. He talked about the Harriett Rust Façade Grant and provided two (2) façade examples of improvement. He also discussed upcoming events and grant opportunities being investigated.

Russ Waller, Facilities Manager, came forward to address Council. He discussed parking and safety improvements such as the new automated parking gates, security cameras, and the ability to offer 24/7 parking assistance. He emphasized the importance of customer service and addressed aesthetic improvements to the parking garages including cleaning, striping, and new lighting.

Jim Karch, Public Works Director, came forward to address Council. He provided visuals and updates about work being completed in downtown including a focus on safety and aesthetic improvements. He walked through several projects such as wayfinding signage, trash and recycling pickup, and street sweeping.

Alderman Schmidt complimented the efforts of everyone involved.

The following items were presented:

Item 8. Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics.

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason walked through future Council items for April 22, 2019 and pointed out future event calendar items available on the City's website.

Alderman Hauman asked Mr. Gleason a question regarding the Circus statute and plans for additional art in the downtown area.

Mr. Gleason replied that the statute was a step in the right direction and that more discussion would be held regarding additional opportunities.

Alderman Black asked Mr. Gleason if he and City staff had what they needed to move forward with video gaming in the near future.

Mr. Gleason confirmed that staff had what it needed and was awaiting legislative decisions in Springfield, Illinois.

Adjournment

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Tari Renner, Mayor

Leslie Yocum, Interim City Clerk