



**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2019.

Mayor Renner directed the City Clerk to call the roll and the following members of Council answered present:

Council Members: Jamie Mathy, Donna Boelen, Mboka Mwilambwe, Julie Emig, Joni Painter, Jenn Carrillo, Scott Black, Jeff Crabill, Kim Bray, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Tim Gleason, City Manager; Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager; George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; Clay Wheeler, Chief of Police; Scott Rathbun, Director of Finance; and other City staff were present.

Mayor Renner stated that Mr. Isaac Thorne, presenter and representative for Connect Transit, had another meeting in Normal conflicting with his presentation time for Item 5 on the agenda.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Emig, pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 85(c) of the Bloomington City Code, to change the placement of public comment, so that public comment would take place immediately following Agenda Item 5, the "Presentation and discussion of an update regarding Connect Transit."

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 5. Presentation and discussion of an update regarding Connect Transit, as requested by the Administration Department.

Isaac Thorne, Connect Transit General Manager, came forward to address Council. Mayor Renner thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Thorne provided an overview of Connect Transit's Community Engagement Sessions, public hearings, recent route changes, fare increases, and the adjustment of the value card Connect Transit implemented. He reminded Council that Connect Transit is not a taxing authority and that fares have remained the same since 2007. He discussed what would happen if Council rejected Connect Transit's budget, pointing out that it would be catastrophic and would result in suspension of service in December.

Council Member Crabill thanked Mr. Thorne for his presentation and asked him to discuss funding for public transit systems that have taxing authorities versus non-taxing authorities. He also asked if Connect Transit was to receive additional funding, would fare rates need to be increased. Mr. Thorne stated that public transit systems with taxing authorities receive three times the amount of funding received by those in non-taxing authorities.

Council Member Crabill continued by inquiring about proposed solutions to the Orlando Avenue route elimination and potential fare increases. Mr. Thorne discussed a deviation in the Pink route to accommodate Orlando Avenue and mentioned that Connect Transit's Working Group, comprised of community members and transit riders, would also be discussing alternative solutions. He stated that Connect Transit planned in October of 2019 to request additional funding from Council to prevent the fare increase.

Council Member Painter asked about the discount card for para-transit riders and requested more details. Mr. Thorne walked through examples of discounts and mentioned that 85% of their riders weren't using the previous monthly pass enough to break even, whereas the new value pass doesn't expire and can be utilized until the balance is depleted.

Council Member Boelen expressed concerns about the new 40-foot long electric buses, returns on investment from the solar panels, the amount of money budgeted for shelters, and the 30% increase in administrative costs. Mr. Thorne discussed \$888,000 being invested into the Better Bus Stops Campaign over the next four years and that his staff are looking into Federal discretionary grants for additional funding; electric buses being available in a variety of lengths and, if maintained correctly, are less expensive to run than diesel buses; and solar panels will power Connect's bus fleet and administrative building. He attributed the increase in administrative cost to an additional employee hired to process Medicaid billing. Connect Transit has been approved to allow riders to ride for free when the ride qualifies for Medicaid. Mr. Thorne stated that position will pay for itself as revenue is received from Medicaid.

Council Member Mathy expressed concerns regarding bus lengths, limiting accessibility to neighborhoods, and suggested that the Connect Transit Working Group investigate how to increase accessibility to fixed routes to accommodate more riders. He believed the focus should be on riders dependent on services and also explained how Connect Transit not being a taxing body is a benefit to the service.

Mr. Thorne stated that ridership has steadily increased since 2008 and discussed policies

on not entering parking lots due to safety and liability risks.

Council Member Emig thanked Mr. Thorne for all the information provided to the Council. She asked about Connect’s projected 16% increase in ridership by 2023 and whether funds raised for the Downtown Transfer Center could also be used for other projects such as sidewalks. Mr. Thorne stated there had been a 10% spike in ridership this year and that route restructuring had been a big factor in the increase. He also stated the Downtown Transfer Center is grant-funded and that the focus would be to provide adequate amenities to properly serve the current 1,800 riders per day.

Council Member Carrillo asked the anticipated income the fare increase would generate and requested info on the Member Engagement Sessions. Mr. Thorne walked through funding changes and sources and discussed details on the engagement sessions held throughout the community.

Council Member Black appreciated the work of the Connect Board and staff. He asked for additional information on what would happen if the Connect Transit budget was rejected. Mr. Thorne stated that if the budget was not passed by July 1, 2019, Connect’s application for IDOT funding would stop, and it generally takes about six months to receive funding. The delay would result in suspension of service in December of 2019 and staff would have to be laid off.

Mayor Renner asked George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, for confirmation on the potential outcome if one of the bodies in an intergovernmental agreement did not approve the budget.

Mr. Boyle responded that the Ordinance provides that if the budget is rejected by one or both cities, the cities will work together to create a new budget with the system. The Ordinance does not mention how to further proceed.

Public Comment

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to extend the Public Comment time from 30 minutes to 48 minutes.

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, and Crabill.

Nays: Council Members Boelen and Bray.

Motion carried.

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment at 6:29 p.m. The following people came forward for Public Comment.

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| Heidi Zimmerman | Rebecca Cook | Rebecca Brennan |
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| Thalia Klunick | Karen Bays | Jennifer Morsch |
| Eric Morenz | Peg Malcom | Rob Ballantini Jr. |
| Debra Hawkins | Carrie Handy | Janice Wellmerling |
| Carol Rueger | Gary Lambert | |
| Bradley Morris | RJ McCracken | |

Council Member Carrillo left the meeting (7:13 p.m.).

Mayor Renner asked Council Member Mwilambwe to take over running the meeting and excused himself (7:15 p.m.).

Mayor Renner and Council Member Carrillo returned (7:16 p.m.).

Public Comment ended at 7:17 p.m.

The following item was presented:

Item 4. Consideration and action to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, that the minutes from May 20, 2019 be approved as printed.

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The following item was presented:

Item 6. Presentation of the potential impacts the recently adopted State of Illinois FY 2020 Budget may have on the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Finance and Administration Departments.

City Manager Gleason discussed the recent passage of the FY20 State budget and the effects the Illinois Municipal League (IML) believed it will have on municipalities. He also mentioned that the four capital projects the City proposed, are still active.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, pointed out that the presentation being presented is preliminary. He discussed the FY 2020 State of Illinois Budget Impact on the Revenue Distribution for Home Rule tax collection, Income Tax distribution, and how it has minimal negative impacts on the City. He went on to discuss the State and City's Motor Fuel Taxes, the expansion of Internet Sales Tax Legislation and a few other potential tax items of interest

including a 3% local tax on legalized cannabis, potential revenues from the increase in the number of video gaming terminals allowed, aviation fuel sales tax, and a potential 6% parking tax.

Council Member Black thanked Mr. Rathbun and Mr. Gleason for the presentation and for being proactive in providing information. He suggested that Council hold local legislator meetings to focus on specific items to hear feedback.

Mr. Gleason mentioned that he had proposed the City's Legislative Session, typically held in April, be moved to a Special Meeting on a Saturday in January 2020 as he believed that April was too late to allow the meeting to be as productive as it could be. He asked Council Member Black if he was proposing to ask legislators to attend a Special Meeting to discuss the State Budget sooner or if he was okay with January 2020.

Council Member Black stated that he also believed January 2020 would be most beneficial and recommended that an agenda of specific policies for discussion be set for the meeting.

Council Member Carrillo asked why the meeting had to be as late as January 2020.

Mr. Gleason stated it is more beneficial to catch legislators after the holidays but before the Spring Legislative Session. He asked Council Member Carrillo if she is proposing an earlier time frame. Council Member Carrillo wanted to see the meeting take place before the holiday season, specifically to discuss the legalization of cannabis so the City could be as proactive as possible.

Council Member Bray stated that on Tuesday morning, June 18, 2019, there would be a State of State meeting to discuss matters at Illinois State University. Senator Jason Barickman had also agreed to speak for the CPCU group, a large insurance group of insurance professionals at ISU, to discuss cannabis legislation and what it means.

Council Member Mathy recommended that if the City had to use Motor Fuel Tax for State-approved projects, that Market Street and Main Street be a part of the approved projects. He believed the money should be used to fix roads that absolutely needed repair. Mr. Gleason replied affirmatively.

Mayor Renner and Council thanked Mr. Rathbun for his presentation.

The following item was presented:

Item 7. Presentation and discussion regarding Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Gleason opened with comments regarding boards and commissions, including a recap of what was requested by the Council. He called Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager, forward to present.

Mr. Tyus discussed the two different types of boards and commissions, the number of

boards/commissions and went on to talk about current appointment procedures.

Mayor Renner explained the process of appointing members.

Council Member Crabill asked for clarification on the approval process. Mayor Renner explained the approval process and pulling an appointment from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

Council Member Bray asked if staff maintained a list of current and upcoming boards and commission vacancies. Mayor Renner replied affirmatively.

Council Member Bray asked if notice is only given to the Mayor of a vacancy and if the Council could be notified. Mr. Tyus stated that if the Council requested notification, staff would comply.

Council Member Black left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 7:47 p.m.

Council Member Mathy requested more information on how positions are filled and requested clarification of Council powers. He offered a variety of suggestions and emphasized the need for all procedures and powers to be stated in the Code.

Council Member Crabill left the meeting at 7:48 p.m. and returned at 7:50 p.m.

Council Member Boelen inquired about which boards and commissions are statutory.

Mr. Tyus stated that the Zoning Board, Planning Commission, Police Pension Board and Fire Pension Board are required by statute.

George Boyle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, added that the Board of Fire and Police is also statutorily obligated.

Council Member Painter commented on the Police and Fire Pension boards having two staff liaisons on both boards. She had reviewed the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Handbook regarding boards and commissions and believed Council should be more involved in the selection process of appointees.

Council Member Mwilambwe suggested the City give boards and commissions appointees the opportunity to meet with Council members to get to know one another and understand their views and ideas for boards/commissions.

Council Member Carrillo agreed that Council should be more involved in the selection process. She also asked if the Council could be notified and/or the list of openings could be included in the City Manager's report or the Mayoral Comments to publicly notify the Council and the public. She also expressed concern with Council Member Mwilambwe's suggestion of meeting with Council Members.

City Manager Gleason replied affirmatively and stated that if Council requested that form of notification, staff would comply.

Council Member Mathy agreed that vacancies and any upcoming vacancies should be included in the City Manager's Report.

Council Member Black asked what power Council had if the Mayor didn't want to appoint a certain person to a board or commission.

Mr. Boyle stated that currently, per the Ordinances, Council didn't have the authority to overturn the Mayor's decision.

Mayor Renner asked Mr. Tyus about the qualifications for removing someone from a board or commission. Mr. Tyus responded by listing the qualifications from the Code.

Council Member Painter expressed concern on the process of voting on appointment.

Council Member Bray believed Council should be more involved with board and commission members and that expectations from Council should be made clear to them once appointed.

Council Member Mwilambwe expressed concerns about how Council should handle situations where appointed persons are not representing the vision of Council.

Council Member Emig summarized recommendations of Council that resulted from the discussion.

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 June 24, 2019 and pointed out future event calendar items available on the City's website.

B. Council Initiatives

i. Discussion regarding the Connect Transit Budget, as requested by City Council Member Jeff Crabill.

Council Member Crabill discussed his experience navigating the Connect Transit route in a wheelchair. He stated he would like to use Section 8 of the Intergovernmental Agreement to reject the budget of Connect Transit and that proposed alternatives exist that would not require increasing fares.

Council Member Carrillo excused herself at 8:37 p.m. and returned 8:40 p.m.

Council Member Black expressed concerns about what will happen if Connect Transit's budget is not passed by Council.

Council Members Painter and Mwilambwe agreed with Council Member Black's concerns.

Council Members Painter, Mwilambwe and Mathy expressed concerns and are not in favor of the initiative.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, to extend the discussion by ten minutes.

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

Ayes: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Carrillo, Black, Crabill, and Bray.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Council Member Bray echoed some of the other Council Members concerns previously mentioned.

Council Member Emig discussed opportunities to address expectations.

Council Member Black stated he would like to review the current intergovernmental agreement and add more specific verbiage of Council expectations.

Council Member Carrillo was in favor of the initiative.

Council Member Boelen mentioned that Ward 2 does not have bus service.

Mayor Renner requested a show of hands as to whether Council Member Crabill's Initiative to bring Connect Transit's budget should be brought to the next Council Meeting.

Ayes: Council Members Carrillo and Crabill.

Nays: Council Members Mathy, Boelen, Mwilambwe, Emig, Painter, Black, and Bray.

Adjournment

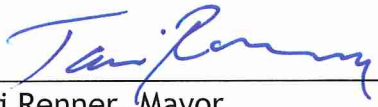
Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Member Painter made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (viva voce).

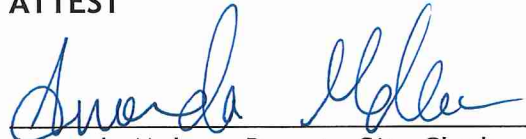
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk