



**MINUTES
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:01 p.m., Monday, July 15, 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; Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; 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.

Council Member Bray called in to participate by phone (5:27 p.m.)

Mayor Renner requested a motion to allow Council Member Bray to participate by phone.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Painter, to allow Council Member Bray to attend by phone.

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

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

Nays: None.

Recuse: Council Member Bray

Motion carried.

Recognition

A. Proclamation recognizing the “2019 Friends Forever International Visitors”.

Two representatives came forward to accept the proclamation, and one addressed Council. He complimented the City and thanked Council and the rest of the community for their hospitality.

Public Comment

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

Katie Kassing

The following was presented:

Item 5. Consideration and action to approve Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Painter, that the minutes from June 17, 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 6A. Update and discussion regarding Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, opened with a few comments regarding Boards and Commissions. Mr. Gleason provided an update on why he has brought the item forward. He stated that he looks to see whether a consensus exists amongst Council and pointed out that one of the Boards and Commissions had experienced a change in status. He discussed the Transportation Commission and that it had recently lost members for job related reasons. The Commission no longer has a quorum. He walked through his proposal.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked how proposed candidates would be shared with the rest of Council.

Council Member Mathy mentioned two paths that Council had previously considered. He offered support for Council getting notifications of proposed candidates before the actual candidates received notification.

Mayor Renner offered support for Council Member Mathy's suggestion.

Council Member Carrillo asked how the proposal affects the appointments that had

previously been presented, but were later postponed. Mayor Renner and Mr. Gleason stated that the appointments will be revisited.

Mayor Renner encouraged Council to send him any ideas of candidates that they may have in mind.

Council Member Crabill sought information on timelines, as well as Council's expressed concerns on appointments. Mr. Gleason stated that he was trying to avoid set timelines, but would follow Council's direction. Mayor Renner stated that Council concerns are considered, but that no veto power exists for individual Council members.

Council Member Black clarified procedure and mentioned the value that Bloomington 101 adds to potential Board and Commission appointees.

Council Member Boelen discussed a suggestion she had received regarding putting appointments on the agenda as separate items.

Council Member Mathy had concerns with appointments being listed as separate items.

Council Member Black asked a clarifying procedural question.

Council Member Carrillo expressed concerns with Boards and Commissions currently having quorum issues.

Council Member Bray offered support for the City Manager's proposal and expressed concerns about adding a timeline.

City Manager Gleason thanked Council for their discussion and stated that staff would work to do better at managing Boards and Commissions.

Council Member Emig thanked City Manager Gleason for his change in procedure.

The following item was presented:

Item 6B. Discussion and direction on the City of Bloomington's moratorium on the issuance of additional video gaming licenses, as requested by the Legal and Administration Departments.

City Manager Gleason reviewed where Council left off when video gaming was last discussed and mentioned options for upcoming discussions, should additional discussions be necessary.

Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel, addressed Council and made a presentation. He began with an update on new legislation on video gaming.

Mayor Renner asked a question clarifying the City's ability to limit the number of video gaming terminals. Mr. Jurgens confirmed that the City had the power to limit the number of terminals.

Mr. Jurgens continued with his video gaming update. He discussed sports betting and new land casinos expected throughout the state.

Council Member Mathy asked whether sports betting locations would be able to also have video gaming. Mr. Jurgens responded that sports betting will only be allowed at large-scale locations and that Bloomington would not likely see sports betting locations.

Mr. Jurgens moved on to provide a brief update on cannabis legislation and moved back to video gaming. He discussed Code provisions for gaming parlors, liquor license evaluations, general licensing, and the moratorium.

Council Member Crabill requested a timeline for when the provisions discussed were implemented. Mr. Jurgens and Mayor Renner discussed the implementation. The liquor license provisions were set in 2013 and revisited in 2014.

City Manager Gleason provided history on the Parkview Inn that had burned down 2.5 years ago, which resulted in their gaming terminals being removed. He stated that owner had requested an exception to the video gaming moratorium.

Mr. Jurgens discussed three options Council could choose between in deciding how to address video gaming and pointed out that Council could also come up with additional options.

Council Member Mathy asked whether liquor and gaming could be further separated. Mr. Jurgens clarified current City procedure and stated that both City licenses are currently separated as such. Mayor Renner provided further clarification as well.

Council Member Mathy questioned whether staff had looked at mimicking the Town of Normal's practices. Mayor Renner made a couple distinctions on how Normal and Bloomington differ.

Council Member Mwilambwe discussed options for limiting the number of machines rather than licenses. Mr. Jurgens stated that limitations on the number of machines could be added, but that currently are not set.

Council Member Boelen asked whether Council could limit licenses to three machines. Mr. Jurgens stated that limitations could be placed.

City Manager Gleason pointed out that the options available are limitless. He mentioned the importance of also understanding the economic development impacts and turned the table over to Melissa Hon, Director of Economic Development. Ms. Hon came forward to address Council.

Council Member Mathy asked Ms. Hon what types of businesses have expressed interest to the City. Ms. Hon stated that the majority have been restaurants and small bars.

Council Member Black offered support for bringing Parkview Inn's video gaming license back for an exception on July 22, 2019. He expressed concern for land casinos and mentioned

a few options that he'd like Council to consider. He discussed an article that had been shared with him by Council Member Painter.

Council Member Painter read a lengthy statement in opposition of lifting the video gaming moratorium. She suggested that the moratorium remain indefinitely.

Council Member Bray thanked the rest of Council for the discussion. She discussed some of the effects that video gaming has on participants and pointed out that she does not support increasing the number of licenses. She preferred a reduction in licenses.

Council Member Mwilambwe stated that he doesn't have a sense of the local impact on citizens of the City. He believed that the City needed to consider what image or brand it wants to portray and take that vision into consideration. He sympathized with business owners and did not support suppressing their visions, but wanted to be considerate first of those visions and then work towards limiting the number of licenses and terminals.

Council Member Carrillo discussed some research that she had found and pointed out that the major issue she had was the lack of funding being set aside for counseling and supporting those with addictions. She asked what the median income received by video gaming license holders has been. Mr. Jurgens stated that staff could get that information back to her. Mayor Renner also added additional comments.

Council Member Carrillo continued. She asked how the City settled on the \$500 per terminal fee. Mr. Gleason and Mr. Jurgens stated that staff completed research on other municipalities and \$500 was a middle-ground fee.

Council Members Carrillo and Painter discussed Council Member Painter's opinion and suggestions.

Council Member Boelen suggested looking at a prohibition rather than a moratorium. She made additional suggestions on how to pull back on gaming in the community.

Council Member Painter expressed concerns with pulling licenses from businesses.

Council Member Mathy offered support for Council Member Black's opinion. He did not want to allow businesses to add a 6th terminal. He also believed, like Council Member Painter, that pulling machines would be more harmful than helpful. However, he wanted to make it clear to license holders that their terminals would not automatically go with them if they moved locations or sold their business. He expressed concerns on licenses being bid on when made available.

Council Member Emig clarified that all video gaming license holders must pay the \$500 per terminal fee and mentioned allowing and enforcing self-exclusion lists. She offered support for limiting the number of licenses and perhaps adding location limitations.

Council Member Carrillo asked the difference between two of the options Mr. Jurgens had discussed: Option 1, which would limit the number of licenses and Option 3, which would extend the moratorium. Mr. Jurgens clarified the differences and discussion continued

between Council Member Carrillo and Mr. Jurgens.

Mayor Renner offered another suggestion.

Council Member Bray offered support for Option 1 and suggested that right-sizing the number based on comparisons to other municipalities was key to getting to that number. She was also in favor of bringing Parkview Inn forward for an exception.

Council Member Carrillo asked what the rest of Council would like to see happen with the number of licenses and terminals.

Council Member Crabill thanked Council Member Painter for the information and research she provided. He offered support for Option 1 with additional restrictions and noted social injustice issues that result for those with addictions.

Mayor Renner offered support for limitations, but suggested that economic development be considered.

Council Member Mathy was interested in learning more about the idea of rightsizing. Mr. Jurgens offered data on comparable communities. Council Member Mathy was not interested in expanding with additional machines.

Mayor Renner looked to Council to see what direction they looked to provide.

Council Member Carrillo favored generating an informal Working Group that would work with staff to draft ideas or restrictions.

Council Member Bray asked Mr. Gleason whether a Working Group would be helpful. Mr. Gleason thought that a Working Group would be helpful.

Mr. Gleason discussed points and direction he was able to take away from the discussion.

Council Member Black offered support for an additional meeting for continued discussion.

Council Member Crabill recommended a decision being made before September 1, 2019.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason reminded Council and the public that the Special Liquor Commission meeting, made at the request of Council, would be held on July 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. He stated that the Economic Development Council had selected a new Executive Director and discussed the City's involvement in that selection.

Adjournment


Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Yocum, City Clerk