



MINUTES

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

The Council convened in Regular Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 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, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Melissa Hon, Economic Development 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. The following people came forward.

Table with 2 columns and 5 rows listing names: Tim Jones, Jim Waters, Tom Hubbard, Lorretta Jent, Surena Fish, Peter Pontias, Tony Wargo, Grant Jones, and Gary Lambert.

The following was presented:

Item 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2019, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Black, that the minutes from July 15, 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 5A. Presentation and discussion by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission on their Short-Range Transit Plan, as requested by the Administration Department.

Tim Gleason, City Manager, opened with a few comments regarding the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) presentation and introduced Teresa Anderson, Assistant Planner from the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Anderson came forward to address Council. She presented details on MCRPC's Short-Range Transit Plan. She walked through numerous process examples including survey analysis, transit propensity, mobility users, and funding. She provided insight on the data presented, discussed the research behind it, and offered a few recommendations MCRPC has derived from the data.

Council Member Black, along with the rest of Council, thanked Ms. Anderson for her presentation.

Council Member Bray asked a few questions to better understand the scope of the study presented. She inquired as to whether Ms. Anderson could speak to bus size, rider capacity, etc. Ms. Anderson stated that her study did not touch on such data. Council Member Bray also asked Ms. Anderson to define and describe FMLM. Ms. Anderson stated that FMLM stood for First Mile, Last Mile (FMLM) and described how data is considered under FMLM.

Council Member Boelen thanked Ms. Anderson for her time and complimented her on the study materials provided.

Council Member Mwilambwe asked whether the MCRPC had had conversations with any of the larger employers in the area. Ms. Anderson stated that some conversations have been had, but that she hopes to continue those conversations.

Council Member Emig pointed out that the presentation included discussion of both transit-supported mobility and transit-oriented mobility. She noted aging of the population has a large impact on the balance of both mobility types. She asked whether there is a way to be both transit-supported and transit-oriented focused. Ms. Anderson stated that both must be a focus in order to achieve a balanced, growing community.

Council Member Crabill highlighted numerous factors from the report and asked a few clarifying questions.

The following item was presented:

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

City Manager Gleason opened with comments regarding Connect Transit and introduced Isaac Thorne, Connect Transit General Manager; Martin Glaze, Connect Transit Chief Operating Officer; and Judy Buchanan, City of Bloomington Board Trustee.

Mr. Thorne came forward to address and present to Council. His presentation addressed the Short-Range Transit Plan prepared by MCRPC. He provided insight to the data presented and discussed the data presented in particular to Connect Transit.

Mr. Glaze came forward to address and present to Council. His presentation focused on Connect Transit's FY2019 Metrics and specifically looked at Fixed Routes and Connect Mobility. He discussed Connect Transit's most recent State legislative goals and provided insight on a couple wins achieved through those efforts. His presentation went on to cover regional comparisons for fixed route and paratransit fares.

Mr. Thorne picked back up on the presentation by providing information on bus stops including benefits of fixed stops, bus stop improvement process, and Connect Transit's Better Bus Stops campaign. He discussed the importance of upgrading bus stops to become ADA compliant and having partners in the community that equally value proper land use development.

Mr. Glaze readdressed Council by providing information on electric buses.

Mr. Thorne finished the presentation by providing an update on the downtown transfer center. He discussed issues that Connect Transit deals with due to not having a proper downtown transfer center, touched on economic development opportunities, and Connect's interest in finding a Bloomington property location.

Mrs. Buchanan came forward to address Council. She discussed Connect Transit's Working Group by talking about the members that make up the Group, the purpose of the Group, as well as goals of the Group and what the Group looks to accomplish by January 2020.

Council Member Painter asked questions about qualified Medicaid. Mr. Glaze provided insight on which Medicaid groups are qualified for use with Connect Transit.

Council Member Carrillo requested information on the number of ADA Compliant bus stops in Bloomington. Mr. Glaze provided detailed information and stated that about two-thirds of stops are accessible today. Council Member Carrillo ask a couple of follow-up questions.

Council Member Boelen asked a few clarifying questions from the presentation regarding ridership. Mr. Thorne responded accordingly. She went on to discuss propensity and stated that she believes the large size of buses are problematic. Mr. Thorne provided insight and support for the bus sizes used and talked about a few changes coming.

Council Member Crabill thanked the presenters for their presentation. He asked whether the Working Group could recommend an appropriate bus size for the community. Mrs. Buchanan stated that the Working Group can look at anything they desire. She believed the Working Group to be a very energetic and excited group ready to work and offer

recommendations. Council Member Crabill asked questions regarding additional studies, other municipalities, and comparative fares. Mr. Thorne responded accordingly.

Council Member Black made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bray, to extend the meeting by five 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 Black thanked the Board for their work. He expressed interest in seeing the Intergovernmental Agreement with Normal updated.

Council Member Carrillo asked whether the Working Group is limited in their discussion of fare increases. Mrs. Buchanan stated that Connect Transit's Board has delayed addressing fare increases until January 2020 so that the Working Group can offer recommendations.

Council Member Mathy thanked Mr. Thorne for always having open and honest dialogue. He pointed out the importance of including mobility and transportation plans in the City's review of economic development plans. He also recommended a few ideas for internally planning for sidewalk improvements and ways of generating revenue through advertising on bus stop shelters.

Council Member Emig expressed appreciation for what she felt like was an improved partnership with Connect Transit. She went on to ask Mr. Thorne to provide insight on why busses are used in their current size. He offered additional insight

Council Member Bray thanked Council Member Emig for her question and asked Mr. Thorne if the City should assume that the downtown transit center will be built for 40-foot buses. Mr. Thorne responded in the affirmative and stated that the best idea is to always build for larger buses because you can't predict the exact future. He also discussed autonomous buses.

The following item was presented:

Item 5C. Update and discussion on new video gambling regulations, as requested by the Legal and Administration Departments.

City Manager Gleason discussed video gaming a document that he and staff had crafted on their interpretation of Council's requests/recommendations. He walked through the document.

1) Lift the moratorium and place a cap of 60 video gaming licenses with the option for Council to reduce through attrition the number if desired;

- 2) Primary focus of businesses must not be video gaming:
 - a) unless the business has been in business for at least 12 months prior to applying, or opening a new location based on the same business model that is verified over a 12-month period that is consistent with City standards
 - b) gross receipts are comprised of no more than 50% of gross revenue
 - c) establishments must have at least 5 customer seats per video gaming terminal excluding terminal seats; truck stops are exempt from the seating requirement, and
 - d) no new establishment may be located within a residential zoning district;

3) Set a cap of 5 video gaming terminals per location with the exception of large truck stops which can have 10 video gaming terminals;

4) Promotion of addiction assistance and related counseling including a sticker with hotline for addiction services on each terminal, additionally, including a 'whereas' clause to explore additional partnerships with local addiction agencies

5) Transfer of license may be approved by City Clerk so long as all underlying requirements and conditions are met and there is not a lapse in operations for three months;

6) Change of location may be approved by City Clerk if location is not in a residential zoning area;

7) Sale of cannabis and any other gambling is not permitted with the exception of sports betting kiosks located within truck stops; and

8) Maintain existing fees of \$500 per video gaming terminal but, add a new fee for truck stops in the amount of \$1,500 per video gaming terminal.

Council Member Black offered support for fraternal and non-profit organizations to receive a discounted rate of \$250 per terminal.

Council Member Carrillo asked what five truck stops are in the City. Mr. Gleason provided research completed by staff. Council Member Carrillo offered support for setting aside funds for those suffering from gaming addictions. She expressed concerns of limiting cannabis and video gaming, but requiring a liquor license.

Council Member Boelen asked a clarifying question regarding auditing procedures and penalties involved. Mayor Renner provided feedback on how liquor evaluations occur, and Council Member Boelen recommended that the same evaluation and penalty procedure be implemented with video gaming. She offered insight on how to service addiction needs.

Mr. Gleason stated that he and staff were looking to achieve a balanced proposal that included a focus on addressing addiction as well.

Council Member Emig offered support for Council Member Black's recommendation on lowering terminal fees for non-profits and fraternal organization. She also asked questions

clarifying the number of machines has been capped at 5 and believed the document presented recommended a comprise of all opinions.

Council Member Emig made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, to extend the meeting by five 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 Mathy recommended that the proposal presented not include increasing the number of terminals for truck stops. He expressed support for keeping the number of allowable terminals equal for truck stops and smaller businesses the same.

Council Member Bray asked whether Council should revisit the consequences for violating the audit/evaluation process. She expressed concerns of allowing the truck stops to add additional machines.

Mr. Gleason covered what he heard from Council and went over a few items he would work with staff to prepare for Council's consideration prior to the Monday, August 26, 2019 Council meeting.

Mayor Renner asked Mr. Boyle to comment on consequences currently available and used in the City. Mr. Boyle discussed suspension of license, fines, and reduction in the number of machines.

Council Member Mwilambwe was supportive of the document and reducing the number of machines allowed at truck stops.

Mr. Gleason expressed appreciation for Melissa Hon, Economic Development Director, and her team for their work on the document presented. He also pointed out that only two truck stops in the City would technically qualify for the 10 terminals if Council had decided to go that direction.

The following item was presented:

Item 5D. Council Initiatives

- i. Discussion regarding the formation of a Cannabis Task Force, as requested by Council Member Jenn Carrillo.

Council Member Carrillo discussed her initiative brought forward and provided background information on the cannabis legislation. She recommended a Task Force to plan

for what's to come and offered support for being a cannabis-permissive community. She addressed some challenges that must be considered, but also discussed benefits of addressing the legislation head on. She requested support for staff bringing forward an item creating a Cannabis Task Force.

Council Member Bray expressed favoritism for the City's Ward breakdown and believed that there is no need for a Cannabis Task Force because the City's Ward breakdown allows for all the wards to be represented by individual Council Members.

Council Member Crabill offered support for the Task Force and thought that the benefit of a Task Force would allow stakeholders in the community to have a better opportunity to weigh-in.

Council Member Black offered support for the Task Force and discussed a few deliverables he would expect would result from the Task Force.

Council Member Painter was interested in a Task Force that would learn more about community and stakeholder opinions, but with the understanding that it would remain an opinion.

Council Member Emig was interested in a Task Force.

Council Member Mwilambwe was skeptical and unsure about the need for a Task Force.

Council Member Boelen recommended listening sessions rather than a Task Force.

Council Member Mathy expressed concerns with whether a Task Force could operate fast enough timely with business' potentially opening in January of 2020.

Mayor Renner requested a show of hands as to whether Council Member Carrillo's Initiative for the formation of a Cannabis Task Force should be brought to the next Council Meeting.

Consensus was achieved with only Council Members Bray, Boelen, and Mwilambwe being against or unsure of creating a Cannabis Task Force.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gleason walked through a future Council item for August 26, 2019, reminded the public of the upcoming Police Chief Meet and Greet.

Executive Session

A. Personnel - Section 2 (c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120

Mayor Renner entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel - Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120. He clarified that no formal action would be taken during Executive Session.

Council Member Crabill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to enter into an Executive Session meeting for the purpose of Personnel - Section 2(c)(1) of 5 ILCS 120.

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.

Return to Open Session and Adjournment

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to return to Open Session and adjourn the meeting.

Council Member Mwilambwe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to return to Open Session and adjourn the meeting.

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.

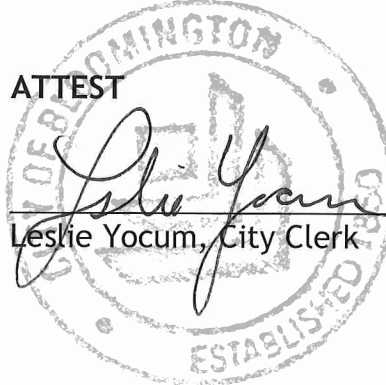
The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Yocum, City Clerk