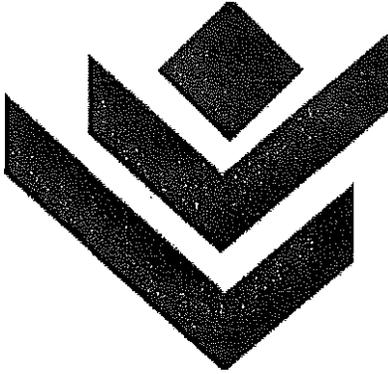




CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 15, 2015



City Logo Design Rationale

The symbol for the City of Bloomington is multifaceted in its visual and conceptual approach. Visually the symbol and the City's identity represent a modern progressive style which is consistent with the City's government. The symbol is based on three different concepts which combine to represent the City in a contemporary and appropriate way.

First and foremost is the chevron. The City government is a respected agency dedicated to serving the public. In this way, the chevron represents service, rank and authority.

The symbol may also be seen as a three dimensional building. This represents growth and diversity in our community.

Finally, the flower or plant derived from the original name "Blooming Grove," represents a community that is friendly and safe. Progress and growth are also associated with plant life as well as regeneration and renewal.

The symbol's positive upward movement is representative of the City's commitment to excellence!

City of Bloomington – Strategic Plan

Vision 2025

Bloomington 2025 is a beautiful, family friendly city with a downtown – the heart of the community and great neighborhoods. The City has a diverse local economy and convenient connectivity. Residents enjoy quality education for a lifetime and choices for entertainment and recreation. Everyone takes pride in Bloomington.

Jewel of Midwest Cities.

Mission

The Mission of the City of Bloomington is to be financially responsible providing quality, basic municipal services at the best value. The city engages residents and partners with others for community benefit.

Core Beliefs

Enjoy **S**erving Others

Produce Results

Act with **I**ntegrity Take

Responsibility Be

Innovative Practice

Teamwork

Show the **SPIRIT!!**

Goals 2015

Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities

Strong Neighborhoods

Grow the Local Economy

Great Place to Live – A Livable, Sustainable City

Prosperous Downtown Bloomington

12/11/2010



2015 Strategic Plan Goals

Goal	1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Budget with adequate resources to support defined services and level of servicesb. Reserves consistent with city policiesc. Engaged residents that are well informed and involved in an open governance processd. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient mannere. Partnering with others for the most cost-effective service delivery
Goal	2. Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Better quality roads and sidewalksb. Quality water for the long termc. Functional, well maintained sewer collection systemd. Well-designed, well maintained City facilities emphasizing productivity and customer servicee. Investing in the City's future through a realistic, funded capital improvement program
Goal	3. Grow the Local Economy
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Retention and growth of current local businessesb. Attraction of new targeted businesses that are the "right" fit for Bloomingtonc. Revitalization of older commercial homesd. Expanded retail businessese. Strong working relationship among the City, businesses, economic development organizations
Goal	4. Strong Neighborhoods
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Residents feeling safe in their homes and neighborhoodsb. Upgraded quality of older housing stockc. Preservation of property/home valuationsd. Improved neighborhood infrastructuree. Strong partnership with residents and neighborhood associationsf. Residents increasingly sharing/taking responsibility for their homes and neighborhoods
Goal	5. Great Place – Livable, Sustainable City
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Well-planned City with necessary services and infrastructureb. City decisions consistent with plans and policiesc. Incorporation of "Green Sustainable" concepts into City's development and plansd. Appropriate leisure and recreational opportunities responding to the needs of residentse. More attractive city: commercial areas and neighborhoods
Goal	6. Prosperous Downtown Bloomington
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. More beautiful, clean Downtown areab. Downtown Vision and Plan used to guide development, redevelopment and investmentsc. Downtown becoming a community and regional destinationd. Healthy adjacent neighborhoods linked to Downtowne. Preservation of historic buildings

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING AGENDA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
109 E. OLIVE STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

Light dinner available at 5:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call of Attendance**
- 3. Public Comment (15 minutes)**

(A Public Comment period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes will be held during each Board and Commission meeting, as well as all regularly scheduled City Council, Committee of the Whole and Special Meetings of the City Council not designated as Work Sessions. Nothing herein shall prohibit the combination of meetings, at which only one public comment period will be allowed.

Anyone desiring to address the Board, Commission or City Council, as applicable, must complete a public comment card available in the meeting location up to fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The person must include their name, address, and any other desired contact information, although said person shall not be required to publicly state their address information. If more than five (5) individuals desire to make a public comment, the order of the speakers shall be by random draw. (Ordinance No. 2014-82))

- 4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from May 18, April 20, and March 16, 2015. (Recommend that the reading of the minutes of Committee of the Whole Proceedings of May 18, April 20, and March 16, 2015 be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.) (5 minutes)**
- 5. Executive Session**
Discussion Topic
A. Purchase or Lease of Real Estate – Section 2 (c) (5)
- 6. Adjournment**

Note: No action will be taken on any matters at this meeting beyond approval of the minutes.



AGENDA ITEM NO. 4A

FOR COUNCIL: June 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from May 18, April 20, and March 16, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION/MOTION: That the reading Recommend that the reading of the minutes of Committee of the Whole Proceedings of May 18, April 20, and March 16, 2015 be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK: Goal 1. Financially sound City providing quality basic services.

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE: Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner.

BACKGROUND: The Joint Work Session Meeting with the Town of Normal, IL occurred on May 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the ISU Alumni Center, 1101 N. Main Street, Room 118 Normal, IL at time, no meeting minutes were taken by the Town of Normal. Council of the Whole Proceedings of April 20, and March 16, 2015 have been reviewed and certified as correct and complete by the City Clerk. Due to the Committee of the Whole not having a Regular Session Meeting, an extended workload, and new City Clerk beginning employment, the Council Proceedings of April 20, and March 16, 2015 were delayed in being brought forward for the Council consideration.

In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Council Proceedings must be approved within thirty (30) days after the meeting or at the Council's second subsequent regular meeting whichever is later.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council Proceedings are made available for public inspection and posted to the City's web site within ten (10) days after Council approval.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk

Reviewed by:

Recommended by:



David A. Hales
City Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment 1. Draft Joint Meeting Council Proceedings for May 18, 2015
- Attachment 2. Draft Council Proceedings for April 20, 2015
- Attachment 3. Draft Council Proceedings for March 16, 2015

Motion: That the reading Recommend that the reading of the minutes of Committee of the Whole Proceedings of May 18, April 20, and March 16, 2015 be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.

JOINT WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS
OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL AND CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
ISU Alumni Center, 1101 N. Main Street, Room 118 Normal, IL.
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015; 5:30 P.M.

Council present: Alderman Joni Painter, Mboka Mwilambwe, Jim Fruin, Diana Hauman, Kevin Lower, Scott Black, Karen Schmidt, Amelia Buragas and Mayor Tari Renner

Staff present: City Manager David Hales, City Clerk Cherry Lawson, Human Resource Director Nicole Albertson, Public Services Director Jim Karch, Library Director Georgia Bouda, and other City staff members were in attendance.

Mayor Chris Koos called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M., and announced that this is Joint Work Session Meeting of the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington, IL.

MINUTES

Ioanna Morfessis, Ph.D. provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the community economic development strategy she has been developing during the past several months.

Mayor Koos adjourned the Work Session at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherry L. Lawson, C.M.C.
City Clerk

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Osborn Room
305 East St., 2nd Floor
April 20, 2015

Council present: Aldermen Judy Stearns, Mboka Mwilambwe, Diana Hauman, and Scott Black, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Council absent: Aldermen Kevin Lower, David Sage, Joni Painter, Karen Schmidt and Jim Fruin.

Staff present: David Hales, City Manager and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk.

Others Present: Senator Bill Brady, Senator Jason Barickman, Representative Keith Sommers, Jane Chamberlain, District Office Director at Representative Dan Brady's Office and Alex Henderson, Chief of Staff for Senator Brady.

Mayor Renner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Renner opened the Public Comment section of the meeting. He added that there would not be a response from the Committee under the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Patricia Marton, 1114 E. Grove St., addressed the Council. She noted two (2) articles that she had read on American Aging on Society, elder abuse and safety for elders and the younger generation.

Gary Lambert, 3018 E. Oakland Ave., addressed the Council. He questioned if any municipality had expressed admiration for the current Administration in Springfield.

ANNUAL STATE LEGISLATORS

Mayor Renner introduced the topic and recognized Senator Brady, Senator Barickman, Representative Keith Sommers, and Jane Chamberlain, District Office Director at Representative Dan Brady's Office.

Senator Brady addressed the Council. He noted that Gov. Rauner's budget plan was based from approximately \$6.8 billion in unpaid bills. The City was fiscally responsible. The same was not true in Springfield.

Mayor Renner noted that revenue and budget were challenges. He read from Resolution 2015 – 14 adopted April 13, 2015. He cited section 2 of same.

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. The City maintained fiscal responsibility and cooperated with unfunded mandates. He cited pension costs as an unfunded mandate. He noted costs were increasing; there were inflationary pressure and pension funding policy that challenged the budget. He cited City's the Fire and Police Pension Policy. Annual contributions over the next five (5) years would double.

Mr. Hales noted that Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget was balanced but was not sustainable. The trend over the next years was expenditure increase and decrease revenue. He requested that the Local Government Distribution Fund (LGDF) remain intact.

Council had requested staff develop a contingency plan for the possible FY 16 \$4 million loss of State shared Income Tax Revenue. He read from Fiscal Contingency Plan. He noted that Fire and Police budget would be reduced by \$1.8 million with a reduction of seventeen public safety personnel. Other Departments budgets would be reduced by \$2.2 million reflecting approximately thirty (30) fulltime employees (FTE). The employee reductions were almost fifty (50) FTE's or seven percent (7%) of the City's workforce.

He believed citizens wanted a balance of revenue increases with budget reductions. It was projected that FY 17 would have a \$7.5 million deficit. Sales tax revenue was on a downward trend. He believed the cause for same the elimination of 3,000 to 5,000 State Farm positions. Hotel Motel Tax had declined fifteen percent (15%). State Farm had conducted training here now same was sending personnel elsewhere. The City had eleven (11) collective bargaining units.

Mr. Hales stated that Illinois (IL) needed to create employer incentives. He believed the Worker's Compensation reform was an essential part of same. He requested support for: Senate Bill (SB) 1283; Worker's Comp – Arm – Shoulder – Comp, SB 1284; Workers Comp – Misconduct and House Bill (HB) 2422; Worker's Comp – Arm – Shoulder – Comp.

Mr. Hales noted that the IL Department of Transportation (IDOT) had proposed reducing spending/funding projects in District 5. District 5 received \$19,820,285 for bridges less than the second (2nd) lowest funded District and \$560,033 less per mile of roads. He believed that less funding resulted higher unemployment.

Jim Karch, Public Works Director, addressed the Council. He cited the following FY 2015 – 2020 IDOT projects: 1.) rerouting US Rt. 150/IL Rt. 9; 2.) Veterans Parkway and IL Rt. 9; 3.) resurfacing US Rt. 150 (Clinton St.) US 51N (Center St.) north of Downtown and elsewhere and 4.) Hamilton Rd: Bunn to Commerce. The City would be applying for the Tiger Grant 6 for the later IDOT project. He believed that the city lacked east/west connectivity.

He noted that the Fox Creek Rd. project was projected to receive Grade Crossing Protections funds in FY 18. The bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad was two (2) lanes with no pedestrian accommodations.

He cited the state roads in the community. June 30, 2015 the IDOT agreement for maintenance of same would expire. The city received \$92,000 to maintain plow, salt and patch state roads.

Chief Brendan Heffner, addressed the Council. He cited the increase in Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA). He believed some were beyond the spirit of the law. He noted that the volume of FOIA's was handled by the City Clerk's Office, Corporation Counsel and the Police Department.

Senator Brady noted the Public Works projects were geographically located. He invited Mr. Karch to Springfield to same. He questioned the Tiger Grant share amount. Mr. Karch stated same was unknown at this time. Senator Brady requested notification of same. He noted that a long term transportation program was being worked on to address the needs of the state over time.

Senator Brady acknowledged FOIA's challenges. He encouraged placing all City matters on the website. He requested assistance with determining the mandate costs. He cited worker's compensation and minimum wage as mandates. He cited his involvement with pension costs reduction.

Senator Brady noted Gov. Rauner's turn around agenda. The Local Distributed Fund (LDF) collected and returned was twenty percent (20%). Same would be reduced fifty percent (50%). The Governor had outlined a balanced budget, the first (1st) in twelve (12) years. He cited the \$8 billion in unpaid bills. He cited internet services/retail sales tax collection as additional revenue.

Representative Sommers, addressed the Council. He acknowledged FOIA challenges. He believed Gov. Rauner's proposed budget plan gained statewide attention. There was a will to change the state finances. He requested recommendations from Municipalities. He encouraged ongoing communication.

Alderman Sage questioned unfunded mandates. He believed same was controlled by the Executive Branch. Senator Brady requested identifying those that require administrative/statutory relief and the importance of same. He noted that prevailing wage was established by County government. Alderman Sage believed the administrative mandates could be fast tracked. Senator Brady requested identification of same.

Alderman Stearns questioned final budget knowledge. Senator Brady believed possibly by July 2015.

Alderman Black requested future legislative meeting be held in the Council Chambers. He believed same should be live streamed. He cited concern for the reduction in social services and childcare. He questioned attracting businesses statewide. He questioned unintended consequences. He believed local governments were the front line for constituent concerns.

Jay Tetzloff, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Director, addressed the Council. He questioned the Public Museum Capital Grant. He stated the DeBrazza Plaza project started and had to stop due to funding. Senator Brady believed as the budget came together some grants would be released. He requested staff informing them of projects funded from grants that were at risk of losing money.

Motion by Alderman Hauman, seconded by Alderman Mwilambwe to adjourn. Time: 6:55 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham
Interim City Clerk

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
City Hall Council Chambers
March 16, 2015

Council present: Aldermen Judy Stearns, Mboka Mwilambwe, Joni Painter, Jim Fruin, Diana Hauman, Kevin Lower, Scott Black, Karen Schmidt and David Sage, and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff present: David Hales, City Manager and Renee Gooderham, Interim City Clerk.

Alderman Mwilambwe participated remotely via telephone.

Mayor Renner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Renner opened the Public Comment section of the meeting. He added that there would not be a response from the Committee under the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Julian Sigler, 904 W. Grove St., addressed the Council. He believed the Solid Waste (SW) Program had a fee associated with same. He stated the SW fee approval would result in citizens stock piling items. This would require more code enforcement. SW should be moved from an Enterprise Fund to General Fund (GF).

Josh Schmidgall, 2212 Beacon Ct., addressed the Council. He believed that a Downtown strategy would be approved. He believed citizens were being forced to live in similar ways as Chicago, IL and St. Louis, MO.

Gary Lambert, 3018 E. Oakland Ave., addressed the Council. He believed purchasing software to report potholes was not required. He stated that road maintenance was not included in the budget.

MINUTES

Motion by Alderman Painter, seconded by Alderman Schmidt that the reading of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole of November 17, 2014 be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – FEES AND SERVICES

Mayor Renner introduced the topic.

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. He requested Council direction on SW changes and fee structure. He recommended the following: 1.) no charge for brush service

removal; 2.) bulk waste fee reduced to \$25 per bucket and 3.) transfer \$1.5 million from the GF to SW. Staff recommendations would avoid same. Mr. Hales explained that SW would have a \$1/2 million projected FY16 deficit. Staff would review efficiencies over the summer to address same. Possible efficiencies: frequency of brush and bulk waste pick up service or modifications to the three (3) crew model. Citizens would change habits with the \$25 fee. Mr. Hales noted labor costs and equipment maintenance associated with SW.

Alderman Fruin concurred with the not charging for brush pick up. He recommended the first (1st) SW bucket not have a fee associated with same. The second (2nd) bucket would be charged \$50. He believed staff should enforce refuse cart lid closure. The refuse fee should be \$25 monthly regardless of size.

Alderman Schmidt believed not charging for brush pick up was best. She questioned SW as an Enterprise Fund (EF). Citizens wanted SW simplified. She appreciated that SW crews would assist with efficiencies.

Alderman Painter believed \$50 for bulk waste would cause dumping in other areas. She stated that previous fee charges were up to crew discretion. Any fees associated with SW should be for everyone and fair. She appreciated removal of the brush pick up fee. She noted that SW assisted with snow removal and alley clean up.

Alderman Stearns appreciated comments from the SW crews and citizens. She believed SW was a core service. It was the heart of what a city does. She questioned EF as a proper place for SW. She questioned what made up a bucket load. She echoed Alderman Fruin's comments on BW. Enforcing dumping rules was impossible. Entertainment venues should be reprioritized.

Alderman Sage concurred with Mr. Hales' \$25 fee recommendation. Increased efficiencies was the priority. He suggested citizen's call for BW and brush pick up bi weekly.

Alderman Lower stated support for the SW crews. He believed current rules be enforced. He was not in favor of any changes. He believed that SW be subsidized through the GF and property tax. Reduction in pick up frequency could affect property values. He believed there were city services that were not core that could be reduced. The following departments were core to the city: Police, Fire, Public Works, and Water. Private tree removal could have a cost associated with same.

Alderman Black noted that a Ward meeting with Aldermen Sage and Schmidt was held on March 10, 2015. Citizens wanted to pay for services utilized. Apartment turnover and bulk from same should be addressed. He questioned what constituted a bucket load. He requested specific BW pick up scenarios. He echoed Alderman Stearns reference dumping enforcement. He suggested increased fines. SW should not be an EF. Raising property taxes should be reviewed. He requested feedback from BW crews.

Mayor Renner suggested the \$25 fee and providing free stickers for certain times of the year.

Alderman Hauman stated that the city's purpose was to provide citizens with services they were unable to obtain on their own. She believed that refuse pick up assisted with maintaining a clean city. Dumping was a concern. She suggested a refuse fee increase. To move away from charging for SW bucket loads. The program should be simpler. The goal should be to close the deficit.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated his appreciation for the compromise to remove brush pick up charges. He noted that citizens go out of their way to not pay for additional refuse bags. Staff efficiency was the solution before fee increases.

Mayor Renner requested Council specifics and/or ideas emailed to Mr. Hales by Friday, March 20, 2015.

PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. He cited the milestone achieved. He noted the Fire and Water Department collaboration to increase the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating.

Brian Mohr, Fire Chief, addressed the Council. He provided a brief history of ISO. ISO was widely used by insurance companies to reduce premiums. There was the potential of an eight percent (8%) reduction in same. ISO collected data analyzing same using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule.

The highest rating was one (1); the City received a two (2) rating. The rating was achieved by working the Water Department and establishment of the fire hydrant testing program. Other factors involved were: building the all hazards training facility, development of the command training center, development of the probationary firefighter task manual and the fire priority dispatch system.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710, to maintain ISO rating #2 the following was required: 1.) continue to improve six (6) minute response times; 2.) supporting current Fire Department deployment model; 3.) maintaining minimum staffing requirements; 4.) maintaining current training hours and 5.) continued fire hydrant inspection program.

Alderman Sage acknowledged collaboration across departments.

Alderman Black noted the response time challenges for Fiscal Year 2016. He requested strategies and costs associated to increase ISO rating.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

George Boyle, Corporation Counsel, addressed the Council. He provided Council copies of Public Act 098-1173, Transportation Network Providers Act. He explained that the State had passed same requiring Municipalities to allow Transportation Network Companies (TNC) to

operate beginning June 1, 2015. He was currently working with the City Clerk's office and Police Department to draft an ordinance.

The City and Town of Normal (TON) had an Intergovernmental Agreement allowing Taxi Cabs and Vehicle for Hire (VFH) companies to operate in both jurisdictions. The goal was to provide safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transportation. Responsibility/accountability of companies and drivers insures same. He explained the company and driver licensing process. He noted that there were fifty – six (56) vehicles which were inspected twice a year by a state approved mechanic and the Police Department. Insurance was required for same. Taxicab companies were required to operate seven (7) days a week, twenty – four (24) hours a day. Rates for same were fixed. Enforcement was through sanctions for noncompliance.

Alderman Sage left the dais at 6:41 p.m.

The TNC ordinance would be incorporated into Chapter 40 Taxicabs. TNC was defined as entity which operates using a digital network or software application to connect passengers to services. The Act states that a TNC does not own, control, operate, or manage the vehicles used by its drivers. Nor is same considered a taxicab company or VFH owner. A TNC driver was defined as an individual who operates a vehicle that is: 1) owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by the individual; 2.) not a taxicab or VFH and 3.) used to provide TNC services. Mr. Boyle explained that the Act requires TNC to maintain insurance should the driver not, drivers to submit an application relating driving history and criminal background, and drivers provide insurance to same. The Act does not monitor same was completed/maintained.

Alderman Sage returned at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Boyle cited concerns that the City would be monitoring various business entities with various backgrounds. The goal was to ensure public safety. He explained that staff would use home rule authority to provide monitoring. Mr. Boyle acknowledged that Wayne Karplus, Deputy Corporation Counsel for the TON was attending tonight's meeting. He cited the following concerns: no consequences for companies and/or drivers who fail to follow the act, possible insurance gaps and current staffing resources.

Alderman Lower left the dais at 6:48 p.m.

Staff was working to ensure public safety, affordability reliability and fairness to operating taxicab and VFH companies. Staff would continue to work with the TON, reach out to taxicab and VFH companies. He requested Council direction and type of regulation. The plan was to present an ordinance on the April 13, 2015 Council meeting. He noted that this was uncharted territory.

Mayor Renner believed TNC was the future. Current transportation providers would converge with TNC.

Alderman Black questioned not having a TNC ordinance. Mr. Boyle believed in the absence of ordinance state law was the defacto.

Alderman Black questioned TNC drivers operating. Mayor Renner stated that the Act takes effect June 1, 2015. Drivers operating as a TNC were doing so illegally.

Mayor Renner requested Council specifics/ideas emailed to Mr. Boyle by Friday, March 20, 2015.

FORMATION OF DOWNTOWN SIGNAGE

Alderman Fruin left the dais at 6:57 p.m.

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. He requested conceptual consent from Council for the formation of the Downtown Signage Committee (DTC). A Resolution would be brought before Council at future meeting. Same would provide DTC direction and length.

Jim Karch, Public Works Director, addressed the Council. He read the city's Vision Statement. The DTC would focus on assisting visitors find their way to various places in the downtown. DTC would determine location of signs, design/style and costs/funding.

Alderman Hauman suggested not limiting signs to the Downtown area. Mr. Karch noted that same could be researched. Mr. Hales explained that signage on the Interstate would require working with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Bloomington Normal Visitors and Convention Center.

Alderman Sage questioned costs. Mr. Karch noted that in November 2103 the Downtown Strategy listed signage as a recommendation. City staff could make the signs to reduce costs.

Alderman Schmidt recognized the Downtown Business Association's assistance with same. Mr. Karch stated same was a key stakeholder.

Alderman Stearns questioned DTC member selection. Mr. Hales stated that the Mayor would appointment same, which would be incorporated into the Resolution.

MY BLOOMINGTON REQUEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director, addressed the Council. He explained that My Bloomington was a mobile application. Same was integrated with Munis. A pilot program was underway in the Public Works Department.

Mayor Renner and Alderman Stearns left the dais at 7:07 p.m.

Craig McBeath, Webmaster, addressed the Council. He explained that the application would create a knowledge base allowing citizens to upload pictures. After submittal the work flow process would begin. Citizens were able to look up the status of their request. The software system tracks duplicate requests, notifies citizens on status and delegates workflow and staff tasks. The program was currently in the Beta testing period.

Mayor Renner returned at 7:11 p.m.

Alderman Stearns returned at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. McBeath noted that the program allowed citizens to be a part of the conversation and kept same informed on polices. Reporting issues currently being accepted were: potholes, garbage issues, street light outage and clogged inlets. The program offers instant translation utilizing Google Translate. There was a data analytics feature providing custom reporting tools, resident engagement levels or staff response time. Aldermen would have the ability to access items within the Wards. ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) integration allows GIS mapping system. Service requests would be viewed in real time. Same allowed work order requests for bulk waste pick up.

Swiping up on the application will provide widgets. These link to the city's website, calendar, news, nearby requests and contact information. Widgets can be customized. Service requests were categorized.

Alderman Painter questioned using the software for snow plowing. Mr. McBeath explained My Bloomington was a service request application.

Alderman Sage questioned cost benefits on personnel time versus traditional report requests. Mr. McBeath stated that reports were customized. Calculated costs could be used.

Alderman Schmidt believed the application empowered citizens. She noted the ability to address resource needs and balance of same.

Alderman Mwilambwe cited concerns with requests being received faster than the ability to handle same. Mr. McBeath noted that current requests were received via telephone or email. The application provided customers a tracking mechanism.

Motion by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Painter to adjourn. Time: 7:28 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham
Interim City Clerk