

City Staff Response to Agenda Items
On the City Council Meeting Agenda
September 14, 2015

Council Question:

I seem to recall that earlier this year there was some discussion of moving to a claw truck for bulk waste pickup. I am wondering how the purchase of the new bucket vehicle fits into that discussion?

Thanks,
Amelia

Staff Response:

Please find the following response to Alderman Buragas' question on 7I for the council response tonight:

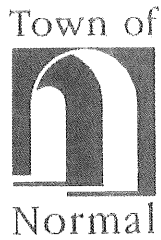
As part of the ongoing solid waste evaluation process, staff did investigate the use of a bucket truck for bulk waste collection. Attached is an update that was provided in June of this year which talked about the bucket truck assessment. Additional information will be provided as part of the upcoming update at the next City Council meeting on September 28. Staff does recommend that this equipment be purchased for use in the current operations. Unless significant changes are made to current service level of bulk waste and brush collection, this equipment replacement is needed for daily operations.

Thank you,

Jim

Jim Karch, P.E. CFM
Director of Public Works
Public Works Department

Public Response to Agenda Item No. 8D (See attached)



Office of the Mayor

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Tari Renner
Mayor
City of Bloomington
109 E. Olive St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Dear Mayor Renner:

As I'm sure you know by now, the Normal Town Council unanimously adopted the attached ordinance at its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 pertaining to an increase in the Home Rule Sales Tax rate from 1.5% to 2.5% beginning January 1, 2016. However, implementation of the sales tax rate increase is contingent upon the City of Bloomington taking action on a similar ordinance in advance of the October 1, 2015 filing deadline for a tax rate adjustment with the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Also incorporated into the ordinance that was approved by the Normal Council is a provision that specifically earmarks 25% of the additional revenue associated with the Home Rule Sales Tax rate increase for community mental health services and related facilities in accordance with the 2015 McLean County Mental Health Action Plan which was adopted by the McLean County Board earlier this year. Details associated with this funding commitment for mental health services and facilities will have to be negotiated as part of a three way intergovernmental agreement between the City of Bloomington, McLean County and the Town of Normal. The Town stands ready to participate in those negotiations as soon as the City takes action on the proposed Home Rule Sales Tax rate increase.

Although not specifically enumerated in the sales tax ordinance, the Normal Council would respectfully request that Bloomington Council consider allocating a portion of the additional revenue generated by the Home Rule Sales increase for the following community-wide initiatives in addition to the aforementioned mental health initiatives:

1. Connect Transit – The Town is suggesting that the two communities jointly provide an additional \$1 million of local funding annually to the Connect Transit System which will allow the system to leverage those local funds to secure substantially more state and federal funding than the System currently receives. This additional funding would then be used to significantly expand service levels to the Bloomington-Normal community by Connect Transit.

"Committed to Service Excellence"

11 Uptown Circle • Post Office Box 589 • Normal, Illinois 61761-0589
Telephone (309) 454-2444 • Fax (309) 454-9609 • TDD (309) 454-9630
www.normal.org

The Honorable Tari Renner

Page 2

2. Business Development – The Town Council is also suggesting that the two cities collaboratively provide an additional \$1 million in annual funding for various business development initiatives, specifically the implementation of the BN Advantage Economic Development Strategy that was unveiled in late August and other economic development programs including BN Tech Town, local work force development, tourism (Route 66 investment) and air service development at Central Illinois Regional Airport.
3. Outdoor Community Athletic Complex – The Town is suggesting that the two communities jointly fund the construction of a new outdoor recreational complex that would provide playing fields for such important and popular local recreational activities as youth soccer, competitive soccer, lacrosse, little league football, Cricket, and cross country. We have estimated that an annual allocation of \$1.2 million between the two communities would likely be sufficient to service the debt required to construct such a facility that the Town of Normal would agree to operate and maintain once completed.

As I stated earlier, the Normal Town Council chose not to include the aforementioned investment recommendations in the actual ordinance. This will give your Council complete flexibility to determine, beyond mental health initiatives, how the new revenue generated by the increased Home Rule Sales Tax rate would be used in your community. However, the Town stands ready to join with the City in funding these important needs/opportunities if you agree. Further, we understand that members of the Bloomington Council may have other ideas regarding community investment opportunities, beyond the ones listed above, that the Normal Council would be happy to consider for joint funding.

We thank you for your willingness to consider the proposed increase in the Home Rule Sales Tax rate and the proposed allocation of 25% of the resulting new revenue to address gaps in mental health related services and facilities in our community. We further appreciate your willingness to consider other recommended investments that we feel would benefit the greater Bloomington-Normal area. And finally, we stand ready to consider other ideas that might be generated from the Bloomington Council on other ways in which we can provide joint funding in order to benefit the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,



Chris Koos
Mayor

Cc: Bloomington City Council
David Hales, Bloomington City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 5596

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 25.9-1 AND SECTION 25.9-3 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL REGARDING THE RATE AND DISPOSITION OF THE HOME RULE MUNICIPAL RETAILER OCCUPATION TAX AND THE HOME RULE MUNICIPAL SERVICE OCCUPATION TAX

WHEREAS, the Town of Normal is a home rule unit of local government with power to enact legislation for the benefit and safety of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code authorizes the Town to impose a Home Rule Municipal Retailer Occupation Tax and a Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax and to change the rate of those taxes in increments of 0.25%; and

WHEREAS, the Town imposes a Home Rule Retailer Occupation Tax and a Home Rule Service Occupation Tax both at a rate of 1.5%; and

WHEREAS, the taxes are collected and administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that it is in the best interests of the health safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Normal to increase the rate of those taxes to 2.5% beginning January 1, 2016 in order to help fund mental-health services and to fund other priorities that are important to the citizens of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town intends to dedicate 25% of the increased rate to fund mental health services as identified in the McLean County Mental Health Action Plan of 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Town intends that the implementation of the increase in the tax rates be contingent upon the passage of a similar increase in the tax rates of the City of Bloomington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF NORMAL, ILLINOIS:

SECTION ONE: That the Municipal Code Town of Normal, Illinois 1969 is amended by changing Section 25.9-1 and Section 25.9-3 as follows, with strikeouts indicating deletion in text and underscore indicating addition to text:

SEC. 25.9-1 Imposition of Tax.

A. A tax is hereby imposed upon all persons engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property, other than an item of tangible personal property titled or registered with an agency of this state's government, at retail in this municipality. Before January 1, 2016, the tax under this subsection (A) is imposed at the rate of 1.5% one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the gross receipts from such sales made in the course of such business. On and after January 1, 2016, the tax imposed under this subsection (A) is 2.5% of the gross receipts from such sales made in the course of such business. The tax under this subsection (A) does not apply to (i) the sale of an item of tangible personal property titled or registered with an agency of this State's government or (ii) food for human consumption which is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold (other than alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and food that has been prepared for immediate consumption) and prescription and non-prescription medicines, drugs, medical appliances and insulin, urine testing materials, syringes and needles used by diabetics. This tax is imposed in accordance with Section 8-11-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-1) while this ordinance is in effect; and

B. Aa tax is hereby imposed upon all persons engaged in this municipality in the business of making sales of service. Before January 1, 2016, the tax imposed under this Subsection (B) at the rate of 1.5% one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the selling price of all tangible personal property transferred by such serviceman as an incident to a sale of service. On and after January 1, 2016, the tax imposed under this subsection (B) is 2.5% of the selling price of all tangible personal property transferred by such serviceman as an incident to a sale of service. The tax under this subsection (B) does not apply to the sale of food for human consumption which is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold (other than alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and food that has been prepared for immediate consumption) and prescription and non-prescription medicines, drugs, medical appliances and insulin, urine testing materials, syringes and needles used by diabetics. This tax is imposed in accordance with Section 8-11-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-5).

The imposition of these "home rule sales taxes" are in accordance with the provisions of Section 8-11-1 and 8-11-5 respectively of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-1 and 65 ILCS 5/8-11-5 State Bar Association Edition, 2008, as amended).

SEC. 25.9-3. Disposition of Certain Proceeds. The Town shall distribute 10% of the net proceeds collected from the 2.5% rate under Section 25.9-1 to the County of McLean for purposes of mental health and public safety in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement to be entered into between the Town of Normal, the City of Bloomington, and the County of McLean. For the purpose of this Section, "net proceeds" means the amount of the tax collected under Section 25.9-1 and remitted to the Town by the Department of Revenue.

SECTION TWO: That the Town Clerk is directed and authorized to publish this ordinance in pamphlet form as provided by law.

SECTION THREE: That the Town Clerk is directed to file a certified copy of this ordinance with the Illinois Department of Revenue on or before October 1, 2015 subject to the condition that the City of Bloomington passes an ordinance that:

(1) increases the rate of the City's home rule retailers' occupation tax and of its home rule service occupation tax to a rate of 2.5%; and

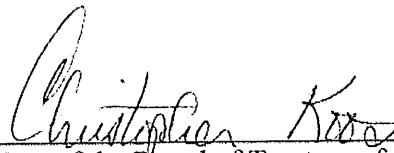
(2) requires that the City shall distribute 10% of the net proceeds collected from the 2.5% rate, beginning with the net proceeds received by the City after June 30, 2016, to the County of McLean for purposes of mental health and public safety in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement to be entered into between the Town of Normal, the City of Bloomington, and the County of McLean.

If the foregoing condition does not occur, then this Ordinance may not be filed with the Illinois Department of Revenue and is void and has no force or effect.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2016.

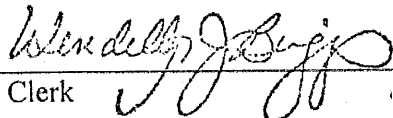
SECTION FOUR: That the Municipal Code, Town of Normal, Illinois, 1969, as previously amended and as amended herein, remains in full force and effect.

APPROVED:



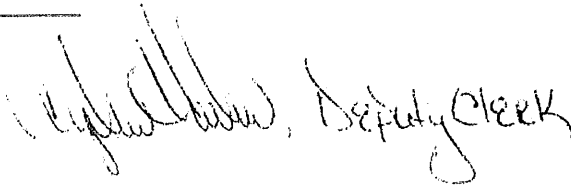
President of the Board of Trustees of
The Town of Normal, Illinois

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

(seal)


Deputy Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was voted upon and passed by the President and Board of Trustees of the Town of Normal on the 8th day of September, 2015, with 6 voting aye; 0 abstaining; 0 voting nay; and 1 absent.

	AYE	NAY	OTHER		AYE	NAY	OTHER
Councilwoman Lorenz	✓			Councilman Fritzen	✓		
Councilman Preston			A	Councilwoman Gaines	✓		
Councilman McBride	✓			Mayor Koos	✓		
Councilman McCarthy	✓						

The foregoing ordinance was approved by the President on the 8th day of September, 2015.

The foregoing ordinance was published in pamphlet form on the 8th day of September, 2015.

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Our work is only half done! We really need your emails!



PCSL Families,

The Normal Town Council earlier this week overwhelmingly approved the sales tax increase in support of new soccer fields. However, that increase is contingent upon Bloomington approving the same.

The City of Bloomington will be meeting to discuss the tax increase at their council meeting tonight, September 14th, with a vote scheduled for September 21st.

We are asking for your support to send emails to your respected alderman. Also, please attend the council meeting tonight with your player in soccer gear! The meeting will be held at 7pm at the City Hall Council Chambers (2nd floor) at 109 E. Olive Street in Bloomington.

To determine your specific alderman, here is a link to the City of Bloomington Alderman page: <http://www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=48>.

You may also send an email to all Aldermen at citycouncil@cityblm.org.

It is so important we continue to ask for support. We want to ensure the kids in our community will still have an opportunity to play soccer.

A sample letter is included for ideas. Feel free to cut and paste or use as you wish.

[Sample Letter](#)

Please let your support be known!

Sincerely,

Frank Schuler, President
Prairie Cities Soccer League
www.pcslsoccer.org
president@pcslsoccer.org

705 E. Lincoln, Ste. 113
Normal, IL 61761

See what's happening on our social sites



Forward this email

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This email was sent to eveal8@gmail.com by league@pcslsoccer.org |
Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Prairie Cities Soccer League | www.pcslsoccer.org | 705 E. Lincoln, Suite 113 | Normal | IL | 61761

From: David Hales/Cityblm
To: Cherry Lawson/Cityblm@Cityblm
Cc: Jeff Jurgens/Cityblm@Cityblm, Patti-Lynn Silva/Cityblm@Cityblm

Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 08:54AM
Subject: Fw: City Sales Tax

fyi

David
David A. Hales
City Manager
City of Bloomington
109 E. Olive Street
PO Box 3157
Bloomington, IL 61702-3157
P 309-434-2210 F 309-434-2802
dhales@cityblm.org

-----Forwarded by David Hales/Cityblm on 09/14/2015 08:54AM -----

To: "ward1@cityblm.org" <ward1@cityblm.org>, "David Sage (ward2@cityblm.org)" <ward2@cityblm.org>, "ward3@cityblm.org" <ward3@cityblm.org>, "ward4@cityblm.org" <ward4@cityblm.org>, "ward5@cityblm.org" <ward5@cityblm.org>, "ward6@cityblm.org" <ward6@cityblm.org>, "ward7@cityblm.org" <ward7@cityblm.org>, "ward8@cityblm.org" <ward8@cityblm.org>, "ward9@cityblm.org" <ward9@cityblm.org>
From: "Reilly, Barry" <ReillyB@district87.org>
Date: 09/11/2015 03:44PM
Cc: "mayor@cityblm.org" <mayor@cityblm.org>, David Hales <dhaless@cityblm.org>, Board of Education <boe@district87.org>, "Mark Daniel (danielmd@unit5.org)" <danielmd@unit5.org>
Subject: City Sales Tax

(See attached file: Sales Tax Issue 2015.docx)

Dear City Council Members,

I want to first thank leaders of the City of Bloomington for recognizing the importance of the local educational system to the broader success of the community and for working cooperatively with the school district to offer recreational and other opportunities to the community. Second, I want you to consider our concerns and proposal regarding the potential sales tax increase being considered by the City of Bloomington. I would certainly welcome the opportunity to speak with you about this but I understand time is short given an expected vote on this issue on September 21st.

Members of the District 87 Board of Education and I are very concerned about the long-term impact passing the sales tax would likely have on us and other local districts to ever get voters to approve the County Wide Sales Tax (CWST) or even a future local property tax referendum. Once passed, the local sales tax rate will be 8.75%, very close to that in Champaign and Macon Counties which include the full 1 cent CWST in their overall tax rates of 9.00%. District 87 and

all local districts face financial challenges similar to the City but without the ability to raise revenue on our own without voter approval.

Given this, we request you consider adding 0.25% for educational purposes. Much like a TIF, these funds can be time-limited and distributed through intergovernmental agreements spelling out expectations for use. Adding 0.25% takes nothing away from what the City has already planned in terms of addressing it's structural deficit, helping mental health, and improving infrastructure. We also believe this puts the town of Normal and the rest of our community on notice that our schools are important and need to be included.

Some may believe the vote on the recent McLean County Sales Tax shows the public does not favor directing sales taxes to schools. We believe the main issue was simply opposition to a tax increase and specifically the fear that the CWST would be pledged to repay bond issues thereby locking in the tax for the life of the bond issue and making it impossible to repeal. There is no similar element to the City's proposal or our additional 0.25% and we believe it's simply inaccurate to say that county voters already spoke on this issue. Remember, we had a very vocal opposition group rallying over a much greater period of time. We also think it is important to keep in mind that the CWST was for a full 1%. We heard in many conversations that something less may have been acceptable.

We only want what we believe is best for this community and fully believe that the community will support such an effort for the local schools. We hope our City leaders have the political will to make it happen. We are convinced we will not get another opportunity for many years to come.

We appreciate your willingness to listen and your service to our community. We fully realize the difficulty of the task you are given.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me further, you can reach me at 309-830-5210. I would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Barry Reilly

Dr. Barry M. Reilly

Superintendent

Bloomington Public School District 87

309-827-6031 Ext. 1013



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Bloomington Public Schools School District87
Bloomington, Illinois

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Attachments:

Sales Tax Issue 2015.docx

1% Sales Tax Bloomington-Normal

Importance of PK-12 Education:

* *"Bloomington-Normal is one of the most highly educated communities in the U.S. Education matters to the people and businesses of Bloomington-Normal, as evidenced by the unwavering commitment to championing the highest quality in P-20 education institutions and programs."* - (BNAdvantage.com)

* *"A good education system is the bedrock of our community. A major factor in consideration of a community for potential residential and business locations is the quality of educational opportunities available to its residents. The Bloomington-Normal area public schools have a great reputation of providing a high quality education. This image has and continues to serve the community well."* - (BringItOnBloomington.com)

Normal Tentative Plan:

- *25% to Mental Health Services
- *6.5% to Public Transit Services
- *6.5% to business development including BN Advantage, tourism, and "other" initiatives
- *.775% of the revenue will go to new soccer facilities
- *61.225% to other operating or capital needs of the community

Bloomington Tentative Plan:

- *50% to help close their structural deficit
- *25% to city streets and infrastructure
- *25% to Mental Health Services.

Current Challenges for D87:

- *Structural deficit continues despite deficit reduction plan to reduce expenses.
- *Revenue challenges due mainly to several years of declining equalized assessed values and pro-rated state funding.
- *Cannot increase rates as we are at statutory maximum in all operating funds.

Looming issues that could have significant negative consequences for local school districts:

- *Property tax freeze
- *Pension cost shift to local districts
- *Change to school funding formula

Other factors:

- *Increasing number of tax incentives through abatements and possible TIF.
- *Increased sales tax with no direct benefit to school districts.
 - Likely negative impact for other potential revenue streams for schools including district referendum or County Wide Sales Tax
- *Perception that the education of our children is not as high a priority in the community.

Can the City of Bloomington Consider Alternate Options?

*Setting aside a percentage of the revenue for the school districts.

*Additional quarter or half cent to go to the school districts.

*Time-limited intergovernmental agreement to address loss of tax dollars due to incentives - paid for by sales tax revenue.

*Fully fund School Resource Officers.

Other:

In the future, with all of the potential catastrophic things happening to PK-12 public education, how will the City support the needs of the local school districts?

District 87 and Unit 5 are two of the largest employers in the community. Continued loss of revenue will impact the local economy due to less buying power resulting from reductions in staff.

From: David Hales/Cityblm
To: Jay Tetzloff/Cityblm@cityblm, Cherry Lawson/Cityblm@cityblm
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015 09:58AM
Subject: Fw:Re: Support of a Tax Increase for Soccer Fields

Fyi

Sent from IBM Notes Traveler

Kris Nutt --- Re: Support of a Tax Increase for Soccer Fields ---

From: "Kris Nutt" <krisnutt@comcast.net>
To: "Jim Fruin" <jafruin@comcast.net>
Cc: "City Council and Mayor" <citycouncil@cityblm.org>, "David Hales" <dhales@cityblm.org>
Date: Sat, Sep 12, 2015 8:22 AM
Subject: Re: Support of a Tax Increase for Soccer Fields

Good morning!

Thank you for your note. I truly appreciate your consideration!

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 11, 2015, at 11:29 PM, Jim Fruin <jafruin@comcast.net> wrote:

Kris, I appreciate your comments. Thanks for sharing.

I have taken the liberty to copy the Council for the benefit of all elected reps and our Leadership.

The issues are community wide, B/N wide, Regional, and not limited to any one segment (i.e Ward 9) of our resident population.

Regards, jim

Jim Fruin

(309) 824-2628 (Text)

(309) 662-1197 (Home)

ONE community without neighborhood boundary lines

From: Kris Nutt [<mailto:krisnutt@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 4:05 PM
To: ward9@cityblm.org
Subject: Support of a Tax Increase for Soccer Fields

Mr. Fruin:

I live in Bloomington Ward 9 and support increasing the local sales tax for high priority community needs, but especially for building a replacement soccer complex for Community Fields.

There's no doubt soccer is a popular sport locally. In Bloomington-Normal, we are fortunate to have Prairie Cities Soccer League, a very successful and popular recreational league, the Illinois Fusion Soccer Club, and several competitive high school soccer programs. Thousands of young people and adults in our community play and support soccer and would love to see the kind of high quality facilities we see in many Midwestern cities right here in Bloomington-Normal.

There's no question what will happen when the FAA shuts down Community Fields. Soccer and our youth will suffer. Fortunately, this is a problem that's 100 percent avoidable. There is still time to plan and build a replacement complex. But, it will take political leadership to do it.

While it's never an easy decision to raise taxes, I support this sales tax increase, especially for the purpose of keeping plans for a soccer complex moving forward.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kris Nutt

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