

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
WORK SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013; 5:42 p.m.**

The Council convened in regular Session in City Hall Building, City Council Chambers, 109 E. Olive Street; Bloomington, at 5:42 p.m., Monday, August 12, 2013.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Mayor who directed the City Clerk to call the roll and the following members answered present:

2. ROLL CALL

Aldermen: David Sage, Mboka Mwilambwe, Judy Stearns, Karen Schmidt, Jennifer McDade, Scott Black, Robert Fazzini, Kevin Lower, Jim Fruin and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff: David Hales, City Manager, David Hales, Tracey Covert, City Clerk and Alex McElroy, Assistant to the City Manager.

3. Draft Downtown Nightlife Project Report (DNPR)

David Hales, City Manager introduced DNPR. He noted highlights and staff involvement.

Alex McElroy, Assistant to the City Manager, addressed the Council. He noted the following downtown concerns: fights, damage to property, underage drinking, pedestrian safety, public urination and overcrowded tavern.

Mr. McElroy questioned the downtown vision. He recommended Council establish a policy for same. Staff had developed four (4) areas of analysis with thirteen (13) actionable items.

The Police Department provided downtown staffing in the areas of public safety including license and code enforcement. Staff suggested a hire back program to cover overtime expenditures. Criminal damage to property was four percent (4%), the majority occurred between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Mr. McElroy noted the most commonly occurring incidents from November 2012 to May 2013. These were fights, illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor, resisting or obstructing arrest and crowd control.

Police Officers and Supervisors recommended the following to assist with same: increase the number of officers at times; assigned an officer to attend the Liquor Commission and the Downtown Bar Association meetings; set clear expectations with tavern owners; continue tavern

sweeps and compliance checks; require BASSETT (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education); and hold tavern owners accountable. The establishment of an Alcohol Compliance Unit was recommended. The total policing costs were approximately \$178,000. Mr. McElroy questioned raising liquor license fees to cover same. He noted that the City received two percent (2%) from liquor sales and property taxes.

Alderman Lower arrived at 5:53 p.m.

Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, established license classifications and liquor violation fines. Mr. McElroy noted that fines range from \$250 to \$3,500 for each violation. Planning and Code Enforcement staff visited the downtown to review occupant loads. It was noted that 138 occupant decreases could be accomplished with set capacities. It was suggested that occupant loads be contingent upon previous Ordinance Violations. Mr. McElroy stated that there were thirty (30) downtown establishments with liquor licenses. Fourteen (14) establishments had conditions placed upon them by the Liquor Commission. There was a perception that some restaurants operated as taverns in the late evening hours. Staff recommended conducting an annual audit to ensure license holder satisfy the appropriate requirements for alcohol sales.

In 2006 Taxi Cab owners informed staff that “party buses” were transporting individuals from the Town of Normal to the city’s downtown area on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Chapter 40, Taxicabs, was amended to include vehicle for hire (party buses) regulations. The establishment of same assisted in discovering renegade vehicles. Staff continues to work on establishing vehicle for hire Hub locations. Mr. McElroy noted that the fee assessment for vehicle for hire should be equitable and reflective of staff time and resources.

In 2008, the Police Department received a grant from State Farm. \$81,000 from same was utilized for the design, testing and implementation of a downtown corridor wireless public safety camera network. The cameras were placed at the 300 through 600 block of N. Main St. Staff recommended continued camera network expansion.

Mr. McElroy requested Council recommendations.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn 6:47 p.m.

Tari Renner, Mayor

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk
for Tracey Covert, former City Clerk