



**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
WORK SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015; 5:45 P.M.**

The Council convened in Work Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building, at 5:45 p.m., Monday, October 12, 2015.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: City Manager David Hales, City Clerk Cherry L. Lawson and Finance Director Patti-Lynn Silva, Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporate Counsel, Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager, Scott Sprouls, Information Technology Services Director, Nora Dukowitz, Communication Manager, Georgia Bouda, Library Director, Austin Grammer, Economic Development Coordinator

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke during Public Comment.

4. DISCUSSION TOPIC

a. Fiscal Year 2015 First Quarter Financial Update

Finance Director Patti-Lynn Silva noted that she was pleased so far with the quarter. She referred to the Executive Summary to the General Fund. Revenues are 30% ahead and the revenues are 25% spent. We received a large payment for income tax in May. These trends are good indicators at this snapshot in time.

Mr. Hales noted that this time last year, we were behind in revenue. We have not factored in the closing of Mitsubishi Motors, as well as the State's contribution into our 12 year plan yet.

We have several capital projects that are currently on hold due to lack of manpower and are having conversations with project managers to see what we can do to move these projects along. We will report on that in the future.

b. Bloomington Task Force Report of Council Priorities

Alderwoman Schmidt gave a brief summary of the background—to have an engaged conversation about the budget cuts independently with a few members of the City Council. Alderman Black suggested that the goal be to finish by the end of next fiscal year. Alderman Lower maintained that prioritization was the key with not just the Downtown area, but all of Bloomington.

Alderwoman Schmidt discussed the additional need for a regular and open process. Alderman Fruin appreciated the teamwork, and believed that the Council needed to “take stuff” off of their plates, including items that may not need Council direction.

Mr. Hales noted that the most critical issue is solid waste. We have made progress on efficiencies, but the deficit continues to grow. This could have immediate impact in helping us balance the budget.

c. November Retreat Discussion

Mayor Renner addressed the Council to ask for specifics of scheduling the retreat. Alderwoman Hauman volunteered to organize the retreat. Alderman Lower requested clear cut goals and expectations as well as the thought that they may not need an outside person to facilitate. Mayor Renner agreed. Mr. Hales noted that time was of the essence as Lynn Montei has those dates reserved right now. Mayor Renner suggested that Alderwoman Hauman get some ideas to Council and the Council can meet informally on the details.

d. Solid Waste Efficiencies Report

Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager noted that they reduced personnel in the Solid Waste Department without laying anybody people off. He thanked Patti-Lynn Silva and Nicole Albertson for their assistance. He presented a presentation regarding the Solid Waste Efficiencies Report and discussed Solid Waste Efficiency/Savings Ideas.

There is still a deficit. The Budget Task Force suggested charging for every bucket of bulk at the curb, charging extra for large loads, and making the drop-off center free.

Another suggestion from the Budget Task Force was to increase the amount of the cart. The conclusion was that a small increase would not close this deficit, but it does help a bit. If Solid Waste were to charge a flat rate, it would cover the deficit and they would still be able to offer the \$16 charge for low-income citizens. The expense is in the manpower, and not in the cart.

If Solid Waste were to simply use the General Fund, there would still be a deficit and there would need to be cuts elsewhere in the budget, as well as revenue enhancement. Mr. Rasmussen noted that from the Department cuts mentioned earlier, they were able to reduce the budget by 20%. The earlier figure that he gave to the Budget Task Force included a subsidy from the General Fund. The deficit, without that subsidy, is \$2.7 million.

Mr. Rasmussen suggested that there be a separate ordinance for house clean-out for landlords as the garbage on the side of the road can look unseemly in the neighborhoods. Mayor Renner agreed with the possible ordinance and suggested that Council take the direction on that.

Mr. Hales noted that the staff would be willing to provide the Council with any information needed. We just need majority direction. If we do not hear anything back from the Council, then we can go from what the Budget Task Force recommended. Mayor Renner agreed that that would be a great starting point.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Black, seconded by Alderman Hauman, that the meeting be adjourned. Time: 6:54 p.m.

The Mayor directed the clerk to call the roll which resulted in the following:

Ayes: Aldermen Schmidt, Hauman, Sage, Lower, Buragas, Black, Fruin, and Mwilambwe.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Tari Renner, Mayor

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk