

**SPECIAL SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall Conference Room  
109 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Monday, August 28, 2017; 5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Special Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 5:15p.m., Monday, August 28, 2017. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt directed City Clerk Cherry Lawson to call the roll and the following members of Council answered present:

Aldermen Joni Painter, Diana Hauman, Mboka Mwilambwe, Jamie Mathy, Scott Black, Kim Bray (Absent), Karen Schmidt, David Sage, Amelia Buragas and Mayor Tari Renner (Absent).

Staff present: David Hales, City Manager; Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; and Cherry Lawson, City Clerk.

3. Public Comment

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. The following individuals provided comment.

Bruce Meeks                  Donna Bolen

4. Closed Special Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt requested a motion to go into Closed Session per Section 2(c) (21) of 5 ILCS120 and Section 2(c) (11) of 5 ILCS120.

**Motion by Alderman Mathy second by Alderman Hauman to enter into Closed Session Meeting per Section 2(c) (5) of 5 ILCS120, and Section 2(c) (11) of 5 ILCS 120/2.**

**Ayes: Aldermen, Painter, Sage, Mathy, Schmidt, Buragas, Black, Mwilambwe, and Hauman.**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Alderman Kim Bray**

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**Motion carried.**

A. *Review of Closed Session Minutes – Section 2(c) (21) of 5 ILCS 120/2) (5 minutes)*

B. *Pending Litigation - 2(c) (11) of 5 ILCS 120/2) (10 minutes)*

5. Adjourn Closed Session

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt requested a motion to adjourn the Closed Session Meeting.

**Motion by Alderman Hauman second by Alderman Mwilambwe to enter adjourn the Closed Session Meeting.**

**Motion carried (Viva Voce).**

6. Return to Open Session

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt asked for a motion to return to the Open Session Meeting.

**Motion by Alderman Black seconded by Alderman Painter to return to the Open Session Meeting.**

**Ayes: Aldermen, Painter, Sage, Black, Mathy, Schmidt, Buragas, Mwilambwe, and Hauman.**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Alderman Kim Bray**

**Motion Carried.**

7. Presentation and discussion regarding the Establishment of Downtown Development division within the Community Development Department. (*Presentation by Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager 5 minutes, Council discussion 15 minutes.*)

Aldermen Joni Painter and Jamie Mathy recused themselves from deliberating on this item due to conflicts.

Mr. Rasmussen presented information on the Downtown Implementation Plan and this is to try to help to design the City's role in the success of downtown and says three things: To help vet potential downtown projects, to help determine public influence and play a key role in a number of different things, including streetscape and parking. The Downtown Master Plan was adopted without an implementation plan, so we can take a significant step forward in actually putting something towards that implementation plan, which is funding it. He emphasized that this

is a great ability for us to move forward with significant support of one of your downtown priorities at a relatively modest amount of money.

Staff recommendation is that we move forward with this.

Alderman Hauman asked what the Downtown Development Division's role would be in fundraising with the DBA.

Mr. Rasmussen replied that the DBA would have its own budget line item to support downtown activities.

Mr. Hales stated that he felt that is still kind of subject to modification. We want to be careful that if there is going to be any fundraising activity by City employees for an outside nonprofit, we would want to bring back to the Council some sort of agreement.

Alderman Hauman stated she would have a problem with City staff being involved in fundraising activities.

Alderman Sage stated that he still was not clear on the direct tangible benefits of incorporating the DBA inside the City. He asked whether there thought given to, the remainder of this budget year; that is, having the City take over and help with the back office activities which should free up some capacity within the current DBA to begin to have a proof of concept or be able to demonstrate how that new capacity would benefit moving downtown efforts forward.

Mr. Rasmussen stated he did not think they had researched that element but could certainly look at that.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated that one of the things he still was not clear about is the level of urgency to do it now. I see it as if you do something midstream, it means that it is an emergency and you absolutely have to do it. He also stated that he liked pilot programs that give an opportunity to try something because nothing is guaranteed.

Mr. Rasmussen responded that there is not a sense of urgency, but there is some pressure on that for two reasons. One is that the DBA is essentially broke now and cannot continue to do what it is doing the way it is funded and cannot move things forward, and one of the advantages of doing it now is that when we do go through the budget process, we will already have it behind us.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated the other thing he was thinking about in terms of trying something a little different and asked could there be a possibility for them to move in with the City-owned facility in the Government Center and have them save some money that way to begin with.

Mr. Rasmussen stated that we could consider that as kind of a halfway measure.

Alderman Black stated that he had heard downtown talked about a lot. The Mayor has talked about it frequently and the Council has listed it as a priority, and people define priority in

different ways. He feels that a priority is where are we going to spend our resources. We only have limited resources.

Alderman Buragas stated, downtown is a well-stated priority for the Council and for the residents of the City. In our retreats, we have identified specifically better integration between the DBA and the City administration as being a goal and staff has now brought to us a way to accomplish that goal.

Alderman Bray stated that she was somewhat in support of this initiative, but does appreciate the input about there being a way to do something a little different and questioned could this be housed under our City roof for a time to see what that would look like or feel like.

Mr. Hales stated there was a time when that proposal did come up, but he recommended against it. The other alternative could be to provide supplemental funding such as increase their funding so that they could continue to stay at their current office.

8. Presentation and discussion of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article II, Section 17 of Bloomington City Code, of the City's Shade Tree Ordinance. *(Recommend Council discuss and provide direction on the proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article II, Section 17 of Bloomington City Code, of the City's Shade Tree Ordinance.) (Presentation by David Hales, City Manager 5 minutes, Council discussion 15 minutes.)*

Mr. Hales presented information on the Shade Tree Ordinance and why it was originally prepared. He asked Council for help on the question of a homeowner removing a healthy tree for home improvements, placement of sidewalks, etc. When these issues come up, there can be a lot of emotion and disagreement on the part of elected officials and property owners.

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt asked for clarification of the language that is used the ordinance.

Alderman Buragas asked for clarification of Paragraph 3. Alderman Hauman asked how often this situation occurs. Mr. Jurgens responded that it was extremely rare.

Alderman Mathy asked who was making the final decision – the Forester or the Traffic Engineer.

8. Adjournment

**Motion by Alderman Hauman seconded by Alderman Painter to adjourn. Time: 6:27 PM.**

**Motion carried (Viva Voce).**

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

**ATTEST**

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Karen Schmidt, Mayor Pro Tem

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Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk