



**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
WORK SESSION CITY COUNCIL RETREAT MEETING  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015; 12:30 P.M.**

The Council convened in Work Session at the Den At Fox Creek Golf Course, located at 3002 Fox Creek Road; Bloomington at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, September 12, 2015.

**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:

**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, Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporate Counsel, Steve Rasmussen, Assistant City Manager, Austin Grammer, Economic Development Coordinator, Brenden Heffner, Police Chief, Jim Karch, Public Works Director, Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director, and Brian Mohr, Fire Chief.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive public comment.

Bruce Meeks

**DISCUSSION TOPIC**

Retreat Activities: General discussion and communication exercises with City Council on City matters, including presentation of goals and priorities report, seven point framework report, general discussions on City priorities and goals, discussions on implementation of goals, and future action items and retreats.

Ms. Montei, provided an overview of the Teams that would be making a presentation and stated there will be a Seven Point Framework Report that will be discussed following the presentations. She introduced the Goals/Priorities Team.

Team members: Aldermen David Sage, Kevin Lower, and Scott Black. The Team had a handful of Desired Outcomes, bring forward goals and priorities, right side expectations and resources, create a culture in Council is present, discuss, adopt and commit to those goals that Council will work toward in FY17 as well as celebrate at year end. Alderman Sage stated, it is best that Council stop and reflect on its work over the course of the last year.

Goals and Priorities Team Report and Recommendations:

#### Team Intentions and Desired Outcomes

- Bring Clarity to high-level goals and priorities
- Right-size expectations and resources
- Create a culture in which we are present, discuss, adopt and commit to those things we will work on in FY 2017, and celebrate at year end.
- Consistently use the priorities list as the point of reference.

#### Principles for Goal & Priority Setting

- Be strategic, comprehensive, focus on the integrated big picture. Our commitment is to the well-being of the whole.
- Be grounded in fiscal reality.
- Address the balance of revenues and needs from a multi-year perspective.
- Bring both objective and subjective criteria to policy deliberations.
- Diverse opinion and disagreement is healthy unless it leads to paralysis, either analysis paralysis or avoidance /indecisiveness.
- Be accountable to each other; if there is something objectionable in a proposal, identify it and be part of a solution.
- Be intentional about public engagement. Create legitimate opportunities for public information, inquiry and discourse, diverse in form and accessibility.
- Achieve our goals through partnership and collaboration, with both external partners and colleagues and within the organization.
- Only a majority of elected officials can authorize expenditure of staff or other resources on new, un-adopted initiatives, and it is up to elected officials to garner the needed support.

*Review and discuss in small groups the Principles for Goal and Priority Setting outlined on the previous slides, and return to the full group with feedback, additional ideas and recommendations.*

#### Establishing goals and priorities will help the Council navigate several major impending decisions:

- \$7M general fund operating deficit must be addressed by some combination of expenditure cuts, new revenues or increases and eliminating enterprise fund subsidies.

- Major, critical infrastructure needs funding plan through declining bonded indebtedness and/or new revenue.
- Strategic economic development choices that position the City for an improved revenue picture both downtown and throughout the City

#### Seven High-Level Goals Background

Six high-level goals were selected last November, with the 7<sup>th</sup> labeled as “a given.” The Team restored *Financially Sound, Accountable Government* to the list of Goals because we came to realize that this Goal undergirds all decisions, is where the Council spends the majority of its time, and is essential to being a decisive, high-functioning Council. In addition, we note that many priority choices we may consider are found within this category.

#### Seven High-Level Goals

1. Accountable, fiscally sound government
2. Safety and security
3. Enduring, sound infrastructure
4. Vibrant local economy
5. Revitalized, thriving downtown
6. Healthy, livable neighborhoods
7. Distinctively Bloomington

#### Development of Priorities

We would be remiss not to mention at this point the newly adopted City of Bloomington Comprehensive Plan, a well-considered 20-year plan that offers many important recommendations. A deliberate approach to identifying what recommendations the City is ready to implement is advisable and should begin. However, that process should not delay identification of currently known and urgently felt priorities that the Council must make part of its deliberations as it poises itself for the major impending decisions identified earlier.

- Data was generated at the November 2013 and 2014 Retreats as an initial step to a prioritization process. The prioritization work was not completed for a variety of reasons.
- The Goals and Priorities Team resurrected and reviewed the data and made what they believe to be important additions, and Department Directors added a few others to bring the data set up-to-date. The Seven Point Framework document catalogues the options, indicating the source of each. There may well be others Council members wish to add.

Alderman Black stated that the Committee of the Whole meetings were confusing to the team in relation to the other meetings of the Council.

Ms. Montei stated, Council and Administration would need to look at its meeting design and have some conversations about its structure. She further commented on goals and efforts that the City could begin to address: Collaboration inter-governmentally, internally collaborating financially, the fiscal burden should not fall on the City it should be shared, and need to revisit whether it would be effective.

The Seven Point Framework for Selection of Priorities was reviewed.

1. Financially sound, accountable, service-oriented government.
2. Safety and Security
3. Enduring, sound infrastructure
4. Vibrant local economy
5. Revitalized, thriving downtown
6. Healthy, livable neighborhoods
7. Distinctively Bloomington

Ms. Montei facilitated the conversation as Council reviewed and discussed the merits of each of the priorities listed on the Framework.

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to recess for a break.

[2:20 PM Minutes]

Motioned by Alderman Schmidt, seconded by Alderman Hauman to recess for a 10 minute break.

Motion carried (Viva voce).

[2:30 PM Minutes] Meeting reconvene.

Ms. Montei directed Council in completing a prioritization process of tasks that the Council would like to have addressed. That on a high level each Council member nominated (by placing a color dot) on the item that they believed was most important to bring forward as an actionable goal.

1. More vibrant aggressive economic development program (4a)
2. Library and IT forward (7a)
3. Elevate safety and security (2e)
4. Master Plan CIP (3a)
5. Develop and Implement overall (1h)
6. More vibrant aggressive economic development program (4a)
7. Quality life investments
8. Prioritize/creation Downtown Plan (6i)
9. Transportation Planning (7d)
10. Reduce emergency response (2c)
11. Regional efforts (1n)
12. More diversified economy (4e)
13. Long range water planning (3a-2)
14. Active code enforcement (5e)

15. Long term financial planning (1f)
16. Reduce taxes to increase private (4d)
17. Increase public/private partnerships (4h)
18. Customer service – responsiveness – citizens (1l)
19. Ease of building code One Stop Shopping (1m)
20. Staff work life balance (1p)
21. Prioritize and create implementation Park/Recreation Master Plan (7f)

[3:27 PM Minutes:] Aldermen Jim Fruin and David Sage departed the meeting.

Council discussed the next steps in this process in terms of how to move the process forward, as well as the following areas: Cost analysis to be presented during the November Retreat Meeting; Evaluate whether item on the list would cost more of staff time; and other general analysis for Council to review at the November Retreat.

Ms. Montei provided a conclusion statement and thanked Council for its expression of achievement. She thanked the staff and community for coming out to support the Council in its efforts.

Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Montei, City staff, and the community members for coming out to attend the meeting session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Renner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alderman Black, seconded by Alderman Lower to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried: (Viva Voce).

Meeting Adjourned: 4:05 PM

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

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Tari Renner, Mayor

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Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk