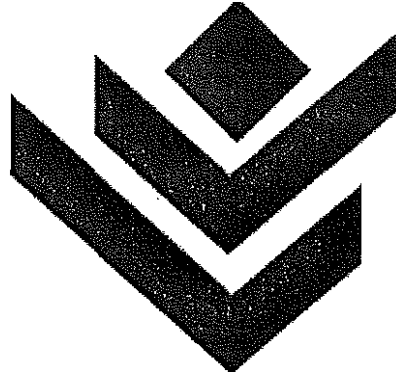




CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 16, 2018



City Logo Design Rationale

The symbol for the City of Bloomington is multifaceted in its visual and conceptual approach. Visually the symbol and the City's identity represent a modern progressive style which is consistent with the City's government. The symbol is based on three different concepts which combine to represent the City in a contemporary and appropriate way.

First and foremost is the chevron. The City government is a respected agency dedicated to serving the public. In this way, the chevron represents service, rank and authority.

The symbol may also be seen as a three dimensional building. This represents growth and diversity in our community.

Finally, the flower or plant derived from the original name "Blooming Grove," represents a community that is friendly and safe. Progress and growth are also associated with plant life as well as regeneration and renewal.

The symbol's positive upward movement is representative of the City's commitment to excellence!

Brief Summary of Five Council Priorities

Five Priorities

At the September retreat, Council informally selected its top five priorities, and since that time staff has seen that these five areas are the dominant focus of the Council's policy deliberations. The selected priorities are:

1. Economic Development
2. Infrastructure
3. Financial Planning
4. Reduced Emergency Response Times
5. Downtown Implementation Plan

The value in naming priorities is to establish policy direction, make that direction known to stakeholders and guide policy, budget and operational decisions. As we work to develop the City's FY17 budget, staff would find value in formalizing the five priorities for the next fiscal year.

Prior to formalization, we have prepared this brief summary to begin the dialogue about what each priority means, where it stands and what it will take to advance each going forward.

1. Economic Development

- A. Economic development was overwhelmingly recognized by the Council as **essential to the financial sustainability** of the community. It is our prime means to diversify our tax base and expand our revenue streams.
- B. City of Bloomington economic development is undertaken in parallel with **regional collaboration** and economic development initiatives of the EDC, B/N Advantage and others.
- C. The time is right to review our **economic development strategic plan and incentive policy**. Tools such as TIF are invaluable for the redevelopment of areas such as Colonial Plaza, and will be key to our success.
- D. Economic development cannot stand alone and depends on sound infrastructure and quality of life to successfully ensure a financially-sound future for our community.

2. Infrastructure

- A. The City is decades behind in funding much-needed **infrastructure maintenance**, estimated to total \$400M or more. Reliable infrastructure with the capacity to handle growth is essential to economic development, quality of life and the City's financial long-term stability.
- B. Our City's recently completed **infrastructure Master Plans**, encompassing streets, sanitary sewers, storm water, facilities, sidewalks and more provide detailed inventory, condition rating and make it possible for us to assess and prioritize critical needs.
- C. The next essential step is to develop a **five year Capital Improvement Plan** to address the most urgent/timely needs, AND a funding strategy.
- D. Some projects included in the City's Master Plans are prime candidates for borrowing. Financing options are many, and Council will determine a preferred strategy, ranging from conservative to aggressive.

3. Financial Planning

- A. Since the Great Recession, we are all adapting to a new economy that requires us to have a **long-term, continuously evolving plan for financial sustainability**, including a plan for appropriate reserves. We must have a balanced budget to avoid the pitfalls and reputational damage that many other governments continue to experience.
- B. A deficit in the City's General Fund was averted in the near term through Budget Task Force recommendations and the Council's recent adoption of a 1% sales tax increase. However, the City's expenses, especially those tied to Police and Fire pensions and labor costs, will continue to increase over the years. The **potential for a General Fund structural deficit** will continue to threaten future budgets.
- C. It will take all of us, including our citizens, to develop solutions for achievement of financial sustainability. We must focus on refining our financial projections, re-forecasting when appropriate, identifying programs and services, establishing appropriate levels of service performance measures, and prioritization.
- D. A **Capital Improvement Plan and funding** is critical to the City's financial strategy now and going forward.

4. Reduced Emergency Response Times

- A. Despite the excellent efforts of our first responders, the Fire Master Plan identified that **service to the City's northeast portion is inadequate and response times are below our standards**. Long-term, the Master Plan recommends a new Fire Station facility to serve the northeast area of the City. In the short-term, we must identify creative and innovative methods to reduce EMS and fire suppression response times.
- B. Quality public safety services are essential to a community's Economic Development and, with so many financial resources devoted to public safety, **finding efficient solutions to public safety issues** contributes to the long-term financial health of the community.

5. Downtown Implementation Plan

- A. The Downtown Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2013 without an Implementation Plan. Increased interest in Downtown economic development, notably in the proposed addition of hotel and/or convention center space, indicates this is the time to **design the City's role** in success of the Downtown.
 - a. It will take inside and outside **resources to vet potential Downtown projects**.
 - b. We must determine the amount and type of **public engagement** that is appropriate for Downtown development proposals.
 - c. Traditionally, municipalities play a role in Downtown **streetscape improvements** and meeting its **parking needs**.
- B. We can **build upon the qualities that make our Downtown special**, such as our ties to President Lincoln and Route 66, both expertly displayed in the new Visitors Center at the McLean County Museum of History. Smart economic development in Downtown will expand on existing assets and attractions like the Museum, the BCPA and the Coliseum.



RESOLUTION NO. 2016 -29

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MISSION, VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington ("City") is an Illinois home-rule municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City is known as the "Jewel of the Midwest;" and

WHEREAS, the City is a great place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt a statement expressing the Organizational Mission, Vision and Values of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Council of the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. The above stated recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Bloomington hereby formally adopt the following as the City's Organizational Mission, Vision and Values:

Mission: To lead, serve and uplift the City of Bloomington

Vision: A Jewel of Midwest Cities

Values: Service-centered, results-driven, inclusive.

Section 3. All resolutions in conflict with this Resolution, as well as any previous statements adopted on the mission, vision and values of the City are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its passage and approval.

APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington, Illinois, July 25, 2016, by a vote of 7 to 1. (Nay: Alderman Kevin Lower) (Absent: Alderman David Sage)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk

AGENDA



**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING AGENDA**

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
109 EAST OLIVE STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018, 5:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Attendance
3. Public Comment
4. Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2018. *(Recommend the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.)*
5. Presentation and discussion on the implementation of Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations (non-catalyst projects), including specifically discussion on:
 - (1) The potential future and formal adoption of the Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations;
 - (2) Initiation of a Downtown Work Plan; and
 - (3) The feasibility of certain improvements to Jefferson Street in Downtown Bloomington.

(Recommend presentation and discussion only.) (Presentation by Bob Mahrt, Community Development Director, Tricia Stiller, Downtown Division Manager, and Jim Karch, Public Works Director, 30 minutes, City Council discussion, 30 minutes.)
6. Adjournment



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

FOR COUNCIL: April 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Consideration of approving Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION/MOTION: The reading of the minutes be dispensed with and the minutes approved as printed.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK: Goal 1. Financially sound City providing quality basic services.

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE: Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner.

BACKGROUND:

In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Committee Proceedings must be approved within thirty (30) days after the meeting or at the Committee's second subsequent regular meeting whichever is later.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Committee Proceedings are made available for public inspection and posted to the City's web site within ten (10) days after Committee approval.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

Respectfully submitted for Committee consideration.

Prepared by: Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk

Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Rasmussen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Rasmussen
Interim City Manager

Attachments:

- March 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018; 5:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

The Council convened in Committee of the Whole Session in the Osborn Conference Room at the Bloomington Police Department, at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 19, 2018. Mayor Renner called the meeting to order and directed the City Clerk to call the roll.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager; George Boyle, Assist. Corporation Counsel; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brendan Heffner, Police Chief; Bob Yehl, Water Director, Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director; Bob Mahrt, Interim Community Development Director; Jim Karch, Public Works Director, Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director; Melissa Hon, Assistant to the City Manager; Nora Dukowitz, Communication Manger, and other City staff were present.

Attending Legislators: Senator Bill Brady; Leah Bullman, Legislative Aide with Jason Barickman's Office; Representative Keith Sommer; and Representative Dan Brady

3. Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. No comments were offered.

4. 2018 Annual Legislative Work Session to Discuss

Mayor Renner thanked the legislators for attending the meeting and provided brief comments and introduced Jim Karch, Public Works Director to discuss some of the projects that the City is currently working on. He realizes that there is no capital bill; however, wanted to take the opportunity to let the elected officials know of these projects that are critical from the standpoint of the City Council.

a. Recommended State Infrastructure Projects in the City of Bloomington

Mr. Karch thanked the legislators for attending and presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the infrastructure projects stating, the city of Bloomington has been making a lot of stride toward our own infrastructure. Our Comprehensive and Strategic Plan ties into the infrastructure

needs in our own community. The City has an award-winning Sidewalk Master Plan that the Council has been funding for the last three years. Council passed the Sanitary, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate increases so that we can improve other infrastructure in the City. Although we have been working to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure, we cannot do it alone and are seeking help from each of you.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently released its preliminary budget, and they have allocated \$444 million for roads and bridges in District 5. Of that, approximately \$25 million has been allocated to the Bloomington-Normal area. That amount is not nearly enough to cover both communities. District 5 covers five counties, including some major ones like, you know, Champaign and includes the major community of Danville. We are some of the biggest communities in District 5. We very much support the two projects that are designated as Veterans Parkway is going to be resurfaced.

Then there is Commerce Parkway that goes up and through the extent of Bloomington. Initially, IDOT will be going down to Eastland from Clearwater. The City is thankful for some of the work that's being designated. He highlighted the intersection of Empire and Veterans Parkway. That intersection has been discussed within the City, and it has been in that top five (5%) percent of accident locations.

The second project is Illinois Route 9 and Route 150 through town. That is within the next five (5) years. IDOT is in phase one engineering. There's some concern expressed by IDOT that they'll even be able to get through Illinois Rte. 9 and Route 150 through our community, even in the next five years. There is \$24,400,000 between those two projects over the next five years. It is not nearly enough funding for what we really need. Mr. Karch spoke of the multi-modal corridor, at Main Street, Business 51. Our Council has supported this multiple times in both resolution and in some of our master plans.

Mr. Karch spoke of assuming a state route as he expressed concerns with a state route going through a residential community where schools are located. The City is working to resolve this issue; however, expressed frustration with the process.

He discussed Center Street becoming a two-way roadway along Locust in some part of that area. It is doable at a minor cost. Clinton is in horrendous shape. IDOT Bridge over the railroad is terrible shape, as there are chunks of concrete falling from the bridge. Something really needs to be done with it.

Staff will be bringing forward the sample resolution included within the packet for Council consideration for continued support for ongoing advocacy for some of the state route improvements within our community. Once they have considered and approved it at a future meeting, staff will forward it on to our elected officials. Bloomington is wonderfully blessed to have many state routes. If they were in very good shape, it would be a wonderful thing for our community. The downside is, those state routes are some of our worst roads that we have in our community. We are asking for increased advocacy for infrastructure as much as you can do to help this district, and this county obtain additional funds, that fair share; to improve the roads in our community.

Mayor Renner commented about other projects within our Capital Improvement Plan that are equally important such as the Hamilton-Bunn to Commerce extension. All of these would have economic spillover benefits for the community. Something like the Hamilton-Bunn to Commerce extension would have real positive externalities for the community and for businesses for investing along that corridor. It would link our east and west side to the south.

Senator Bill Brady asked whether the City was looking assume responsibility for the maintenance and operations of state route of... Mr. Karch replied, through a jurisdictional transfer you will have the funds to be able to maintain the road at a one-time basis. The problem for any kind of a jurisdictional transfer is, as the Council has always pointed out, you then have ongoing maintenance of it. The key is, jurisdictional transfer of Route...of Illinois 9 and 150 between Center Street and Locust. This has been a challenging three (3) year process at this time.

Senator Bill Brady asked whether Bloomington has ever done a jurisdictional transfer. Mr. Karch affirmed stating, in our community we have Hamilton, and Fox Creek, and Veterans Parkway. That was a \$7.4 million project in 2003 that we did. There was a jurisdictional transfer of Cabin Town Road.

Representative Sommer asked for clarification of whether the City is looking to obtain authority from IDOT for the jurisdictional transfer, and will assume the operation and maintenance of those roads. Mr. Karch stated, the only facet that was missed is there's normally a one-time fee provided for resurfacing. IDOT has a formula when they do a jurisdictional transfer to where funds are given over to the municipality, so they can maintain it. It is not an annual amount, just a onetime fee.

Representative Dan Brady stated, he recalls they offered to set up a meeting last year. Mr. Karch stated multiple attempts were made to meet, they were able to meet with the District in three separate meetings. He mentioned the technical work that City staff has done, as well as hiring a Traffic Engineer.

Question was asked whether the projects were prioritized. Mr. Karch responded that they are considered needs at that this point. However, the City could began to look at that. Alderman Hauman stated, the City wants it all!

Question was asked whether the state have any other objection to the rerouting other than possible backup stabilization. Mr. Karch stated, there was one other corner that needed some additional modifications. From the intersection of Center and Locust, needed some...one of the corners needed to be modified to accommodate truck traffic. He deferred to Kevin Kothe, City Engineer for additional issues that may have overlooked. Mr. Kothe stated, Center at Empire needed work as well.

Mr. Karch stated, there are no other major concerns. However, the State has responsibility to maintain the route. The City of Bloomington does have an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Illinois by which they do transfer funds to the City to do some minor maintenance of some of the state routes. The City has stated to the State that, this is beyond minor maintenance. There is no minor maintenance about these roads.

Senator Bill Brady asked whether Mr. Karch is comfortable with transferring that responsibility beyond one fix. Mr. Karch stated, he would not likely ask for this again in the future. However, in this case, the City see the logic of getting this state route off one of our residential roads.

b. Sales Tax Administrative Fee Reduction

Ms. Silva provided a brief overview of the Sales Tax Administrative Fee Reduction and called attention to the increase percentage of sales tax to fill the City's deficit two years ago. Half of that ended up offsetting our deficit in the General Fund. Due to declining sales tax revenue at the mall and other places and the Administrative Fee that was recently passed, the City is hurting as a result. The Administrative Fee for the City of Bloomington on Home Rule sales tax is about \$450,000 a year.

Though the City has the added fee, we would like to ask for your support in helping to reduce that fee down to the one (1%) percent. There's two bills out there right now in each body, and we are seeking your support in reducing it to one (1%) percent. She referenced the memo from the Illinois Municipal League, stating they did a nice analysis on what they (IML) thought was fair. The City is still facing deficits, though they are smaller as Council raise the percentage point, and staff has cut and reduced its budgets. With many changes that are underway in our local community, we have some long-term concerns about some of the consumer-driven revenues that we have.

Representative Dan Brady confirmed the amount with Ms. Silva stating, \$450,000. Ms. Silva confirmed stating, because it is percentage-based, we will pay a little less if our sales tax goes down; however, it would be much more palatable if we could cut that in half. Especially as our sales tax is already climbing. Representative Brady asked whether the City is familiar with why focus sales taxes are declining.

Ms. Silva stated they are virtually flat, not declining. We try to bring it up one (1%) for the budget; however, we are working on closing a \$2.9 million deficit at this time. We have been pretty successful. We proposed a balanced budget. There has been some changes to solid waste that are coming as of May 1st. The Council also increased two other enterprise bumps of the Sewer and Storm Water rate increases recently. The City has been trying for six years, but the Council has been doing a lot of the heavy lifting in making tough decisions.

Representative Sommers stated, someone brought to my attention, recently, that when we're talking about online purchases that do get taxed, that municipalities see hardly anything of that. Is that accurate? Ms. Silva affirmed.

Representative Sommers stated, he was unaware of those figures. He asked whether Ms. Silva know can provide the amount of money proportionally that the City is not receiving for online purchases. Ms. Silva stated, it is estimated nationally that nine (9%) percent of all purchases, and growing rapidly in retail, is... Sommers stated he is referring to those funds that goes to the state for online purchases. Municipalities get almost nothing. He asked what the amount would be if the City were actually getting the proportional share as you already get from

sales taxes.

Alderman Mathy stated, this is the one (1%) percent that the City is missing. If you purchase from an online brick and mortar online who has a presence in Illinois, they collect 6.5%, the state base. So that one (1%) percent is what the City would normally get. We're not getting that.

Mayor Renner, one percent of our total sales taxes, wouldn't that be somewhere around \$7 million or so.

Representative Brady stated, it's a portion. They have asked the Department of Revenue (DOR) to look at this. Local share is something that's difficult for us to track. When it comes to automobiles, for instance, you buy one in Kankakee and you come here. Where it's licensed, you pay the local tax. They are having trouble at DOR tracking exactly how much of that increase that you put on your sales tax by home rule that you're not collecting on those internet sales.

Alderman Mathy stated, the second part of that, too, is when you buy from somebody where their shipping location, if they don't have a physical presence in Illinois, they're not required to charge any sales tax. That's pretty significant as well.

Senator Brady stated, that is why we have the Marketplace Fairness Act. Adam Kinsinger, as well as our Senators, and our U.S. Reps have said that they favor, but it's just not getting through.

Ms. Silva stated, her understanding is that the state is not receiving online sales tax either. Those who makes purchases online should be paying state taxes when they file their income tax.

Representative Brady asked whether the City has over the course of the last few budget cycles been able to track or have any figures that indicates a flat tax and sales tax portion of what you normally would be getting has been declining. Over the years, what is the percentage of decline? How much money used to be there five years ago that's not there now because of declining sales tax and business here in the city of Bloomington? Has the City been tracking it?

Ms. Silva stated, the City does track it. There are some obvious holes with what's going on with the mall and we've been very actively working with that. We have had some successes by Empire Crossing. It is delayed information for the IDR. The City will not have Christmas sales figures until March. That information is available three times a year, and it is difficult for the City obtain this information any sooner. The correlations there are very complex because it's all consumer-driven behavior. So, but we also have some changes in one of our major employers going on as well.

c. Potential Property Tax Freeze

Ms. Silva stated, though there isn't anything actively percolating at this particular time, she wanted to know the legislators thoughts on this topic, and whether the City should continue to be on the lookout for it.

Senator Brady stated, we know that there's nothing more taxing on the voters than their property taxes. The escalation of those in various parts of the state are even different than others. At some point in time, there's going to be enough pressure to provide legislative action. In most cases, those legislative restrictions will be overcome. When or if it happens, there will be an allowance for local control to take them back up by referendum. It is his belief that there will be continued pressure to provide some sort of relief. We have tried to provide some by ever-increasing the percentage of resources we provide to education through the state, record numbers. Over a billion dollars, in the last three years in increased funding to the schools. Schools are the greatest pressure point for property taxes, and that's why we've tried to alleviate that.

Ms. Silva stated, the City has not increased property taxes in six years. We have really tried not to use the property tax, as we are very sensitive to the overlapping tax rate. However, the City is coming full circle to that revenue possibly in the future. It certainly seems like a very logical place to go legislatively. She asked whether there were plans for this to occur as early as this year.

Representative Brady stated, he does not think anything will occur this year. However, as Senator Brady indicated, schools and the reliance upon that, and what reduction the General Assembly may or may not come up with remains to be seen, as well as what it will do or not do for this town. There are those that continue to talk about property tax relief, and we have to try and strike that balance of where we are going to be able to do something and still have...

Representative Sommers asked whether the City's next budget reliant on property tax increases beyond growth in terms of new assessments. Ms. Silva stated the City's fiscal year starts May 1st is not, but going forward... Representative Sommers stated, if the legislature passed something this year, it wouldn't affect your next budget. He asked whether the City would be looking at future budgets. Ms. Silva stated, the City is trying to get a handle on whether those tax dollars would be available for us in the future, beyond 2019. Many capital improvement projects relating to our infrastructure would probably depend on the property tax.

Mayor Renner stated, the last time the City has seen a property tax increase was in 2008 or 2009. He has seen an increase in his property tax bill, because of other taxing bodies. For example, all the property taxes have gone up. But in the City of Bloomington, they've been flat. However, there might be, for example, a renovation of O'Neil Pool. For those capital improvement projects that might be, \$18 or \$19 dollars per household, the amount would be fairly small. We have tried to stay away from property taxes. He believes the entire Council is fairly united in not wanting to increase property taxes in the City. The City would only consider that path if it was extremely minor, but totally targeted towards something.

Ms. Silva stated, the City has seen some growth in our EAV. It hasn't been too terribly high. One of the things that really hit the City last year was the Veterans Extension as there was an increase. The City took a nearly \$6 million hit in the first year; it took us by surprise.

Representative Sommers stated, the property tax freeze question is not going to go away. In fact, we may, in the House at least, see some votes on that issue. Perhaps, just as a political

exercise. Many times, with no intention of having those pass. He believes that probably the most likely thing, would be something that would not include municipalities over a million population. It is his opinion that the Speaker does not want that. So any legislation that would propose a so-called freeze would not include that municipality.

Alderman Bray, when we talk about the freeze, and the possible appetite to further explore freeze, is it a freeze as to every jurisdiction? As Representative Sommer spoke about exempting out this million population, let's think about cities like Bloomington that have not raised their taxes for many years. She asked whether there could be some consideration to municipalities that have well-managed this issue?

Representative Sommers stated, he understand Alderman Bray comments; however, decisions are not made that way. Her comments are well taken.

Representative Brady stated, the City is seeking some type of consideration for certain municipalities with a track record of not raising, potentially, over a certain number of years?

Alderman Bray stated, some kind of threshold, of a certain number of years. That is, if you have previously raised property taxes in the last three years, you can't raise.

Alderman Brady stated, you have those areas that have... It is very difficult to create a one size to fit all situation. He understood Alderman Bray concerns; however, the reality of carving something out like that would certainly be a big challenge.

d. Legislators Update and Roundtable Discussion

Mayor Renner opened the discussion for comments by Council and the attending legislators.

Representative Brady stated, they are getting the budget side of things for the state, and is supposed to have that wrapped up by May 31st. At this time the Appropriations Committee is working on the budget. In looking back at how we can change what was done with municipality's last budget. In other words, holding back a percentage of the one (1%) percent of sales tax revenue, is certainly they could begin work on to assist municipalities. He asked whether the City knows how things are going in your work comp costs for the city. They have many major challenges on the horizon for higher education, public higher education in the state of Illinois.

Mr. Rasmussen responded to Representative Brady comment on worker compensation stating Nicole Albertson, Human Resource Director would provide some information on that subject.

Ms. Albertson stated, she does not have anything concrete to share with you this evening. However, worker's comp is an area that the City has been taking a very hard look at. Two years ago, the City hired Alex Rosas to oversee our Safety and Risk Management. He not only increasing safety awareness across the City, but with the goal of cutting our costs related to worker's compensation.

Over the last year, the City has cost have decreased nearly \$200,000 as compared to year-to-date. That is, in incurred costs. When our claims adjustors assign dollar amounts to our claims from workers' comp, they assign what are called incurred costs. It could be reserves or it could be actual payments. The City is making big strides in reducing dollar amounts.

Representative Brady asked whether Ms. Albertson has an idea on the number of claims that have been filed during this year. Ms. Albertson stated, we are at six this year; one claim, year-to-date.

Mr. Rasmussen stated, hiring a Safety and Risk Manager has shifted the focus to improve safety across the City which are reflective in our numbers of worker comp. claims overall by 50%. It has been a big success, and we have more than paid for that one individual that we hired.

Alderman Schmidt stated, the City has heard a lot of conversation from Springfield about pension reform, perhaps moving from pensions to 401(k), and somehow changing the calculus of that. She just wanted to hear some of the Council and legislators thoughts about what the opportunities might be as it is such a big part of the City budget.

Alderman Mathy stated, forty-seven percent of our property taxes go to pension payments. Senator Brady asked for the percentage of the City budget is impacted by pension. Alderman Mathy stated twenty (20%) percent. Brady asked what is the percentage of the payroll is impacted. Ms. Albertson stated she did not have that information available. Brady stated, it would be interesting to know, the cost breakdown between legacy and normal costs, and what percentage of payroll that is. It'd be an interesting factor for us to see.

Senator Brady asked Ms. Albertson which systems are combined, and those that are not combined for Social Security, as police and firefighters are on totally different systems. Ms. Albertson stated, our sworn groups are fire and police. They have their own pension system. They are not combined and the City has the IMRF for our non-union employees.

Representative Sommers stated he has been an advocate of moving to 401(k) like responsibilities. He sponsored the legislation that moved state universities into an option to do that. He continue to think that is a fairer way, given what we know about the private sector. So there are really, though, a lot of things on the horizon right now. The only thing that's really being talked about, too, is saving money on the management side. They have prepared a resolution to see how much money the state can save in terms of the cost by combining. President Cullerton offered a model of offer and consideration to save the state systems. It has not been tied to any budget impact. It's only been tied to its success, which would take years. We'd then, potentially, apply toward reducing the income tax.

Senator Brady addressed Alderman Schmidt stating, the balancing act is finding something constitutional that will stand the constitutional test. We know what we had and finally passed _____ changes, which the Supreme Court struck down. We know that there's been other pieces of the legislation, and the one that he thought that had, probably, a better chance was backed by Senator Cullerton in the Senate, and certain others in the House. That has not come

back, and it did not have all five of our systems in the bill. In his opinion, if the state was going to change pensions, and we all know the 800-pound gorilla is the pensions, cost of pensions, we need to do it for all--of our five systems in the state.

Alderman Schmidt asked how the SURS move towards that having a choice.

Representative Sommer stated, it was legislative. In the rationale, which made a lot of sense, people who seeks to obtain higher education, particularly faculty, part of the benefit of that career is to location shop. They might want to spend, you know, four years at ISU and four years at Harvard. The rationale and the reason we did it as an optional program was that we could allow them to take...portability. That was the rationale behind that and why it went through without any opposition.

Senator Brady stated, Representative Brady said, and the pension, those are the big money items.

Mayor Renner stated, in a sense, the whole Western world is dealing with the reality. You cannot retire at 50 or 55 with a full pension when people live to 80. It is just not sustainable. It does not matter what your ideology, or your party preference. When you live to 65, it might have been okay.

Alderman Black stated, given kind of the restructuring that we've seen in the major employers, there's a palpable sense of uncertainty. He asked what are some ways that we can partner with you, whether it be Bloomington, the state, or Bloomington with the state, or our EDC in general to help maximize our assets, the interstates, and the railroads, so that we can see some engines of economic opportunity coming back to our community.

Representative Brady stated, this meeting is a start. In the past when the City has had these legislative discussions, you presented your priorities from a budgetary standpoint is very much helpful. A big part of the discussion tonight has been capital. It has been a long time since we had a capital bill in the State of Illinois. People want a capital bill. The issue become how it will be funded, and what that will look like. It has been a long time.

Senator Brady stated, people will negatively comment about the capital as we are in an election cycle, but he does not believe that is the case. They will give it a shot in the Senate, and work towards getting some things done in a bipartisan way. He continued stating, Governor Rauner, to his credit, has said, "Listen, I'll sign a budget if it's balanced, if we don't raise taxes, driving businesses out anymore. If you guys want to fight over the priorities, I'll sign it if you can come up with those two things." The involvement that I had in both, as well as these gentlemen did, in Rivian and in Brandt, would not have happened without intergovernmental cooperation. If the locals didn't do things to help facilitate and encourage things, it may not have happened. It is important that all the governments talk to each other, communicate with each other, stay active, and cooperate in a cohesive way.

Representative Sommer said Senator Brady made a good point about the amount of cooperation that...Certainly, this community and this county benefits from your institutions of

higher learning, the trained individuals. How many jobs, nationwide, are unfilled because people aren't trained for those jobs? I know the He asked state has a role in incentivizing certain industries, but what thought have you given to it as a municipality or a county with your institutions of higher learning.

Mayor Renner stated, in terms of B-N Advantage, which is one of the programs that this community have. Some people understand it as a branding, but it's more than that. There's also workforce development, which isn't just the...it is the institutions of higher learning, Heartland Community College, and ISU, probably, playing the biggest role, Wesleyan to some degree. But it's also working with District 87 and Unit 5, and some other groups. He and Mayor Chris Koos continue to bring a message that we are not only the best educated community in downstate Illinois, with the lowest crime rate. We have great schools. We have the best trained workforce.

Representative Brady asked has the Council, from the standpoint of potential loss and challenges to our community, our city, my city, our Districts, with the changes in our largest employer and more changes to come with State Farm, what that is going to potentially mean to the future for the operations of the budget, the whole market, schools, is there any thought given to, how do we start monitoring for that?

Mayor Renner responded stating, the City will continue to keep our local economy moving toward diversification so that we're not as economically dependent.

Alderman Mathy commented on sales tax. He spoke of his background being in computers and internet technologies. The original arguments on why there was no taxes or sales taxes collected on the internet sales. In the past, we needed to protect a newly developing area of the economy; computers couldn't process data fast enough in order to calculate sales tax for different areas. Perhaps we could solve the problem by requiring sales tax to be collected at the rate of that 160, maybe it's as many as 200, taxing bodies just inside the state of Illinois. As a small business owner, he is required to collect retail sales tax. If the state added just that language to the law to state, for businesses that have to collect Illinois sales tax, that municipal share would be reported back to the local unit of government. That would actually help our area significantly.

Mr. Rasmussen stated the Police Chief, Brendan Heffner had two issues that he wanted to bring forward during this meeting. However, Assistant Chief Ken Bays will present those in his absence.

Assistant Chief stated, there are a couple of pending legislation that you will be forced to vote on at some point down the road. One of them was House Bill 4208. There's a provision in there, under the safe schools and health learning environments program.

House Bill 4208 identifies a need to promote school safety and healthy learning environments including, but not limited to, the Start of Justice programs, increases of school psychologists, social workers, and other mental behavioral health scientists, drug and alcohol treatment services, and wrap around services for youth, training for school staff. It puts a contingent on the reallocation of dollars spent on school resource officers, towards those

programs. In essence, it trades one necessity for another, and places that, it's a competitive grant type proposal. In viewing the role of the school resource officers play in this particular proposal as written in the bill, it speaks to schools becoming known as school to prison pipeline. It allocates that or puts that reasoning on the presence of law enforcement in schools.

AC Bays spoke of Bloomington's experience with its school resource officers over the last year before moving positions. There's a huge level of relationship building and an understanding that the officers get of the individual children.

There were brief discussion by the Council and legislators on this topic.

AC Bays stated, the grant would be awarded in a dollar-for-dollar. Every dollar they take away from law enforcement, they would give a dollar of the grant. They could reallocate that way. It is a competition and you're competing for what's needed when both are needed.

The other one is the pending legalization of cannabis. Colorado as the example, have they gone down that since 2013. This data was collected by the Illinois Law Enforcement Legislative Coalition, which I'm sure you've heard from them. Regular use of marijuana has increased substantially in Colorado since the legalization. There has been an increase in use of marijuana in Colorado from 12- to 17-year olds. This is 74% higher than the average for the nation. Marijuana-related traffic deaths have increased by 62% since 2013 in Colorado. And the THC concentration in marijuana is 6 times more potent than 30 years ago, increasing the susceptibility to addiction and things of that nature.

The average potency for concentrates, is what they're making from marijuana today, is about 62% when the average bud is around 17% for THC. Calls to the Poison Control Center in Colorado between 2012 and 2015 increased 109% related to marijuana, since the legalization. And 10 of the 15 drug-related homicides in Aurora, Colorado were related to cannabis.

From experience, historically, here in our city and other jurisdictions throughout the county, the most violent home invasions that they have seen has been related to cannabis.

There were brief discussion by the Council and legislators on this topic.

Mayor Renner thanked everyone for attending the session.

5. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderman Hauman seconded by Alderman Black to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Session. Time: 7:15 p.m.

Motion carried. (Viva voce)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST

Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

FOR COUNCIL: April 16, 2018

SPONSORING DEPARTMENT: Community Development Department
Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Presentation and discussion on the implementation of Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations (non-catalyst projects), including specifically discussion on:

- (1) The potential future and formal adoption of the Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations;
- (2) Initiation of a Downtown Work Plan; and
- (3) The feasibility of certain improvements to Jefferson Street in Downtown Bloomington.

RECOMMENDATION/MOTION: Presentation and discussion only.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK: Goal 6: Prosperous Downtown Bloomington.

STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE: Objective 1.A – More beautiful, clean Downtown area; Objective 1.B – Downtown Vision and Plan used to guide development, redevelopment and investments; Objective 1.C – Downtown becoming a community and regional destination.

BACKGROUND: The Bloomington City Council had initiated the Downtown Bloomington Task Force to focus on merging the contents of the city’s various approved planning documents in order to provide a “line of sight” between the Task Force recommendations and the existing planning documents. These documents were previously developed with extensive public input. The Task Force also held public listening sessions and actively encouraged public participation in its discussions. The Task Force had presented their Final Report to the City Council on December 18, 2017. The Final Report is available for viewing on the Downtown Bloomington Task Force Committee webpage on the City’s website via the menu Government » Boards & Commissions at the following link <http://www.cityblm.org/home/showdocument?id=14918>

Following the presentation of the Task Force final report, City Staff has evaluated the recommendations and have generated preliminary implementation strategies for City Council consideration.

Items for Discussion:

- 1) Consideration on adoption of the Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations. While the Final Report of the Task Force has been presented to the City Council, there has been no action taken to formally adopt the recommendations. Staff recommends that City Council take action within the coming month to approve a Resolution adopting the Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations.
- 2) Consideration on adoption of a Downtown Work Plan. During the presentation, Staff will provide a working draft of the Downtown Work Plan to specifically implement the recommendations outlined in the Downtown Bloomington Task Force Final Report. Identified projects, consistent with the recommendations, will be broken into Short term/Medium term/Long term steps with the associated tasks, coordinators, timelines and costs included to serve as a guide for implementation. Staff recommends that City Council take action within the coming month to simultaneously approve the Downtown Work Plan along with the overall Downtown Bloomington Task Force recommendations.
- 3) Downtown Jefferson Street Improvements. Under the upcoming construction season Public Works is intending resurface Jefferson Street in the downtown area. Part of the recommendations and considerations from the Down Task Force report included making improvements beyond simple resurfacing to Jefferson Street between Main Street and Center Street. Public Works is seeking direction from City Council on whether to proceed with a simple resurface of this area or whether Task Force recommendations should be further evaluated.

COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED: The Downtown Bloomington Task Force encouraged members of the public to actively participate in its meeting discussions and had also received written public comment throughout the process. A public listening session was held on June 27, 2017 to gather solicit public input.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: For discussion purposes only.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT: Comprehensive Plan Goal: D-1 Continue to build a healthy Downtown that offers a range of employment, retail, housing, cultural, and entertainment opportunities for all.; D-2 Market and promote the unique brand and image of Downtown Bloomington; D-3 Protect Downtown's unique character and encourage appropriate new development; D-4 A clean and safe Downtown;

FUTURE OPERATIONAL COST ASSOCIATED WITH NEW FACILITY CONSTRUCTION: N/A

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration.

Prepared by: Bob Mahrt, Interim Community Development Director

Reviewed by: Jim Karch, Public Works Director
Tricia Stiller, Downtown Development Division Manager

Financial & budgetary review by: Chris Tomerlin, Budget Analyst
Scott Rathbun, Sr. Budget Manager

Community Development review by: Katie Simpson, City Planner

Legal review by: Jeffrey R. Jurgens, Corporation Counsel

Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Rasmussen
Interim City Manager