

Public Comment Emailed in Advance of the 3/26/20 City Council Meeting

(In no particular order. Email and physical addresses have been omitted; all other content remains as submitted.)

With the mayors from around the country speaking out about the pandemic, where does our city stand? Do we have a city website with links to needed services?

Thanks,

Jeff Wilson

Respected Council,

Energy is not the top priority on everyone's mind right now, but keeping our local economies strong is very much so. It would be in everyone's best interest--the residents, government, tax payers, local businesses--to allow another energy broker to represent the City's interests to various energy suppliers rather than just one, which is what is currently being done. A second opinion, a different perspective; especially one that shares revenue with organizations in our community (like The Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, and Child Protection Network) that are filling needs and meeting challenges every day.

Respectfully,

Ronald Slagel
Electrical Engineer for over 15 years

To the Bloomington City Council,

I wish to thank the members of the Bloomington City Council as you take a step back from the extreme measure of activating Section 11 of the Chapter 12 Code regarding emergency orders. Thank you for sending a message of confidence in the citizens of Bloomington that we are able to conduct ourselves in such a manner at such a time as this not to require excessive governmental control. I appreciate the challenge that our city council faces on a regular basis to make wise decisions on behalf of our community. Thank you for serving Bloomington.

Connie Beard
Bloomington
Ward 9

Please do not pass any Extraordinary Emergency Powers at the 3/23/2020 meeting. Our focus needs to be on healing and keeping healthy, not taking away citizens rights.

Seizing extraordinary government powers should be last resort only.

I am a resident of Bloomington, Illinois.

Thank you,
Chris Allison

I don't feel comfortable attending in person. Please read my comment.

The city council agenda has a boat load of expenditures to approve.

ALL NON ESSENTIAL expenditures should be tabled and NOT APPROVED.

Influx of taxes and fees are taking a nose dive right now with just about everything shut down.

Who knows what expenditures are going to be needed to address the coronavirus crisis.

We should be saving these expenditures in case we need this money to cover the money in taxes we are not taking in now and the next few months.

People with their personal budget are not spending their money on NON ESSENTIAL spending because they know they are going to need that money to weather out this crisis.

Our City council needs to act to protect the taxpayers by NOT spending this money at this time. If they spend it now, that guarantees very high tax increases because of this irrational spending.

I am sure you can quickly spend it in a few months if I am wrong. But if you spend it, that can't be undone.

Dave Kobus

Why can't citizens get the basic need of toilet paper? If the merchants don't understand the premise of supply and demand to be able to work with their manufacturers to adequately stock their shelves, then why can't we get FEMA in here to distribute some? Ridiculous!!!

Ryan Roberts

I think who ever created the city emergency powers was thinking of a natural disaster where infrastructure was impacted. This pandemic is not to that level. The governor has already

implemented enough things so the mayor shouldn't have this kind of power in this situation. Please do not approve the emergency powers. Provide for city council to meet remotely with electronic means to make decisions. We we don't need to allow this kind of power in a few hands especially with the wording that gives powers that people done agree should be given. Some of these are unconstitutional.

Dave Kobus

To whom it may concern:

If anyone is saying that the people of Bloomington will need to police them, please consider that those who need to be out like those who help disabled people in their homes to not get in trouble if traveling about.

Sincerely a concerned citizen.

Debbie S

Please vote no on implementing the emergency plan. We do not need the intense oversight in our town. It completely infringes on our civil liberties. Our community will rally together and do what is needed to minimize the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

Monica Schnack

I oppose this ordinance as government overreach. Please vote against it. I support enabling council to meet electronically. I do not understand why we are planning to give powers to stop alcohol, gasoline or firearm sales, or control ingress and egress. Surely at this point and in the foreseeable future our local council members should be involved in making these determinations. Please err on the side of liberty.

Elizabeth Blankenship

Just a citizen that wants to keep curbside and delivery options open during the stay at home timeframe. Our local breweries are great, responsible, community advocates.

Jon Voegele

Keep alcohol sales alive. Our brewery's depend on your leadership! Do you really care if someone wants to have a beer at home?

Thank you!
Jon Voegele

I am reaching out to echo the work of local organizers in Bloomington/Normal on the COVID-19 crisis. I am urging you all to take immediate, concrete action to alleviate the affects of the crisis on your residents, particularly our community's most vulnerable members.

I know you are proud of the food distributors, grocery store runners, and mask-sewers in Bloomington/Normal-- I am, too. I've even signed up to volunteer for the McLean County COVID-19 Mutual Aid Team to do my part! However, now is not the time for elected officials to sit back and wait for churches, charities, and kind hearts to do the work you should be doing yourselves.

I am especially concerned about securing safe living spaces for our housing insecure residents who don't have a place to self-isolate during the stay at home order, about victims of domestic violence who should not be quarantined with their abusers, about residents in high density housing who are at an increased risk of infection, and about people being detained in the county jail pre-trial (not because they have been convicted but because they cannot afford to post bond) who are at enormous risk of widespread infection (and who should instead be at home self-isolating with their families). As our elected officials, you have an opportunity to step up to this moment and designate alternative housing: all publicly owned vacant homes, libraries, recreation centers, and other properties can be used to house anyone in need of shelter.

We need a coordinated, local, intergovernmental plan to protect our community, especially vulnerable populations.

- Each of our local units of government should designate a substantial amount of money to be used collectively to address the community's health and economic needs during and after the COVID-19 crisis.
- Each of our local units of government must leverage their power to advance policies, practices and decisions that protect residents, with our most vulnerable at the center.
- Each of the local units of government must direct their resources (staff, facilities, etc) towards meeting the emerging needs of the community.

You are the ones with the resources, the taxpayer funds, and the responsibility to make this happen.

I am proud to live in Illinois under Governor JB Pritzker, who I believe history will smile on. What makes Governor Pritzker stand out as a leader amidst this crisis is his willingness to act *boldly* and *fast*, rather than waiting for his citizens to do (or not do) the work on their own. I am eagerly awaiting the day my elected officials here in McLean County follow his lead.

Thank you for your time and attention amidst all this craziness. I hope you and your family are staying healthy and safe (and sane) in this crisis!

Thanks again,
Radiance Campbell

I am opposed to passing an amendment that gives the Bloomington Mayor executive power over controlling firearms, etc. I feel like this is too much power for one person and defeats our democratic principal and rlis an infringement on our rights. I have heard of the reaction that Champaign, etc. had when executive power was passed there. In this time of uncertainty, this type of power further puts people on edge resulting in gun, ammo, etc. purchases. All of us know that any lockdown on these items will just result in increased illegal usage by criminals, with the rest of society having no protection.

Please help instill a level of confidence and calmness in Bloomington vs. More panic and do not enact executive power.

Janice Stotler