



## **Grow Local Newsletter January 2019**



Welcome to my first newsletter. My goal is to inform you about my campaign and what is happening with the City of Bloomington. Visit my page on Facebook @ Jeff Crabill for Bloomington Ward 8 or at [votejeffcrabill.com](http://votejeffcrabill.com).

### **Voting Information**

**Vote by Mail:** You can request a ballot starting January 2, 2019. Go to [www.becvote.org](http://www.becvote.org), where you can do the request online. You can also contact me for a paper request form at [jeffbloomingtonward8@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbloomingtonward8@gmail.com)

**Early Voting:** Early Voting starts February 21, 2019 at the McClean County Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street.

### **My Background**

First in my family to graduate from college, I majored in economics, journalism and political science. During college, I interned for Fort Wayne's Economic Development Department. For the last 16 years, I have worked as a trial attorney and corporate counsel for State Farm. During that time, I obtained designations for property casualty underwriting, life underwriting, and financial consulting (CPCU, CLU & ChFC).

As an attorney, I study the issues, listen to all sides, advise on risks, and advocate for my clients. As an alderman, you will be my client. That means I will listen to you. That means I will advocate for you. That means I will study the issues to explain how City Council decisions impact you.

In 2017, I graduated from the Multicultural Leadership Program. MCLP focuses on servant leadership. A servant leader acts with integrity, listens, strategizes, resolves conflicts, and is results-oriented. Listening to you, I will strategize and work to resolve conflicts within City Council to obtain results that benefit you and Bloomington as a whole.

### **Jeff's Platform**

I love Bloomington - that's why I'm running. Our leaders need to promote the City. Otherwise, why would any person or business want to move or stay here? We need our leaders to be more engaged with the people they serve. Council members need to have more open houses and attend more public events.

*Grow Local Business:* While the City needs to continuously look at expense management, economic development needs just as much focus. Ward 8 has many local businesses, from interior design and e-gaming to student enrichment and music therapy. We need to cut the red tape to make it easier to start a business in Bloomington. We need to invest more in the Small Business Development Center to help local people start and grow their businesses.

*Accessibility:* Many people in the community have some type of permanent disability, whether it's mobility, vision, hearing, etc. The rest of us could be temporarily disabled from injury or become disabled as we get older. So it's an issue that impacts everyone. Yet, some businesses in Bloomington are not accessible;

**April 2, 2019 ELECTION DAY!**

some crosswalks are not accessibility-friendly; and some bus stops are not accessible. The first step is to work with LIFE CIL (an advocate for the disabled) and the City designating someone to solely work on ADA compliance issues.

*Eastland Mall:* All of our property taxes will increase because the assessed value of the Mall decreased. It is in everyone's best interest that CBL, the owners of the Mall, recover from the loss of anchor tenants, and re-envision what the Mall could be.

### **Council News**

Council normally meets at 6 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month. Here are some highlights from 2018:

*January:* Motion passed to help fund the Small Business Development Center with \$26,068.

*February:* Council votes NO to adding \$450,000 to budget to improve intersection of Towanda Barnes and Ireland Grove. Council votes YES to increase solid waste fees and reduce bulk collection to twice a year.

*March:* Council votes YES to adding \$370,000 to budget to improve intersection of Towanda Barnes and Ireland Grove. Council votes YES in support of expanding library at current location (versus new location).

*April:* Council votes YES to spend \$17,625 for the Feasibility Report and Economic Impact Analysis regarding a potential multi-sport complex in Bloomington-Normal.

*May:* Council discussed how the City uses Tax Increment Financing (TIF), including that staff review components to the policy that would include shop local, buy local, hire local, and use prevailing wage rates.

*June:* Tim Gleason approved as city manager. Council votes YES on a TIF Redevelopment Plan for East Washington Street area near the old

high school. Council votes YES to pay \$100,000 for economic development consulting services from the Economic Development Council of Bloomington-Normal.

*July:* Council votes YES to pay \$475,000 for economic development to the Bloomington-Normal Convention & Visitors Bureau. Council votes YES for adding a \$610,500 elevator for Grossinger Motors Arena to comply with the ADA.

*Aug/September:* Council votes YES to enter into a \$1 lease with the Boys & Girls Club for 3 acres of Sunnyside Park to build a new facility. Council votes YES for a Rental Assistance Program of \$43,217 in support of the redevelopment of the former Bloomington High School building. Council votes YES for an Economic Incentive Agreement between the City and Commercial Bag Company, Inc., a longtime local business.

*October:* Council votes YES to registration fees for all businesses in the City. Council addressed pension spiking through unpaid sick leave for 198 grandfathered employees with ordinance: "The City Manager shall not bring to the City Council any renewal of a collective bargaining agreement unless it modifies the timing of how accrued sick leave is paid to eligible employees to significantly reduce the artificial inflation of employee pensions."

*November:* Council votes YES to purchasing equipment for the Harmony Park inclusive playground at Rollingbrook Park.

*December:* Council passes tax levies for the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Public Library for \$20,286,384.

### **Events**

*January 26th* 9:00 a.m. Listening session, Carmela's Restaurant, 2303 E. Washington St.

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>* 9:00 am, Listening session, Carmela's.

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