

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

April 12, 1993

Committee Members Present:

Michael Pollock (Chairman), Joan Barr, Lonnie Clark, Clifford Singer, Charles Smyth, Bonnie Tarr, Joseph Whelan

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Bruce Walden, Jack Waaler, Tom Lindsey, Chief Schlieter, April Getchius, Bruce Stoffel, William Gray, Joe Smith, Mayor Markland, Ruth Brookens

Others Present:

Members of the News Media

Meeting Location:

City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Pollock.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Chief Administrator Officer Bruce Walden stated that the ADA Advisory Group has requested a postponement of discussion of possible revision to Section 3 of ADA Plan. There were no objections to removing Item 9 from the agenda.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Clark moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 1993 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Public Participation

Earl O'Shea, 606A South Glover, addressed the Committee regarding better government.

Frieda Wascher, 803 West Fairview, stated her opposition to closing a portion of Park Street for the Carle development proposal. She encouraged the Committee to carefully consider the consequences of additional traffic in the surrounding neighborhood.

Ronald Smith, 2120 S. Vine, asked for support in establishing a Spanish Language Channel on cable television. He presented a petition with 173 signatures in support of the request. Committee members suggested that Mr. Smith direct the request to the CATV Commission.

Alice-Anne Kingston, 402 North Lake, representing a neighborhood group concerned about the closing of Park Street, asked the Committee to carefully consider the traffic study to determine the projected impact on the area.

An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Carle Foundation Development Agreement and An Ordinance Vacating A Portion Of Park Street

Mr. Clark stated his concerns regarding the fact that a warrant study at the intersection of Fairview and Lincoln now favors installation of traffic signals, but did not when previously studied. He also raised the question of how traffic from the Carle Day Care facility located at the corner of Lincoln and Park would be distributed.

Responding to the questions raised, Director of Public Works William Gray noted that the proposed closure of Park Street would not alter the route by which individuals exit the day care facility. He also noted that traffic signals are now warranted at the intersection of Lincoln and Fairview even if Park Street is not closed. Mr. Walden added that they are not only warranted, but planned for installation in 1994.

Mr. Whelan moved to send to Council An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Carle Foundation Development Agreement and An Ordinance Vacating A Portion Of Park Street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

In answer to questions raised by Mr. Smyth, Mr. Gray stated that pedestrian traffic may decrease after the proposed expansion is complete and that traffic signal improvements are in progress for the intersection of Coler and University.

Mr. Smyth requested that staff provide information that would demonstrate the cumulative effect of projected traffic on Fairview and Church Streets at all intersections. Mr. Smyth raised the

question of whether left turn signals would be needed on University at the intersections of Race and Broadway.

Ms. Tarr stated that the Carle expansion is very important to the City and the community, but she requested that the City and Carle work together on alleviating the fears of residents by determining the impact on the neighborhood before approving the closure.

Ms. Barr asked if a time frame has been established for construction on Park Street. Mr. Walden stated that he believes Carle will begin using Park Street as a staging area immediately and construction on the first phase of the project could begin as early as May.

Mr. Smyth pointed out that closing Park Street for construction staging could provide an opportunity to determine what traffic concerns may exist if Park Street were permanently closed. He added that he does not think the issues can be resolved by the next Council meeting.

The motion to send the ordinances to Council carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock stated that the ordinances will be on the April 19, 1993 Council agenda.

An Ordinance Approving A General Variance To Reduce The Minimum Required Setback For Free Standing Sign To One Foot (1') At 1701 South Philo Road, Urbana, Illinois (ZBA-92-GV-3/1701 S. Philo Road (Marathon Oil Company))

Mr. Pollock reported that legal staff has recommended that the Marathon Oil Company case be directed back to the ZBA for the purpose of adding information to the record and rebuttal.

Mr. Smyth asked City Attorney Jack Waaler if the intent of the General Variance procedures is that the Council's role would be "judicial" in nature. Mr. Waaler confirmed that when the procedures were established that was the intent.

Mr. Smyth moved to send the case back to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Acquisition of 1104 North Gregory

Mr. Smyth moved to send to Council An Ordinance Authorizing The Purchase Of Certain Real Estate (1104 North Gregory). The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock stated that the Ordinance will be on the April 19, 1993 Council agenda.

Amendment to CDBG Budget for FY 1992-93

Mr. Clark moved to send to Council An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance (Community Development Block Grant: Housing Rehab Program). The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock stated that the Ordinance will be on the April 19, 1993 Council agenda.

Family Services Contract - Transitional Housing

Ms. Barr moved to send to Council A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of An Administrative Agreement For Transitional Housing For Homeless Families With Children. The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock stated that the Ordinance will be on the April 19, 1993 Council agenda.

1993-94 ISWDA Budget Review

The Committee reached a consensus that the 1993-94 ISWDA Budget should not be approved until after a hearing to receive public comment is held May 19, 1993.

Cable Television Franchise Extension and Rate Cut Issue

Assistant City Attorney Tom Lindsey reported that due to scheduling conflicts, Cable negotiations have proceeded more slowly than anticipated, which will necessitate an extension of the current franchise agreement with Cablevision for two months.

Mr. Lindsey noted that review of rates will be postponed to June because of recent action by the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. Lindsey explained what items may still be negotiated and the anticipated process for addressing specific items.

Mr. Singer asked if Mr. Lindsey is prepared to answer in open session the question of the relative legal implications of renewing the franchise or continuing without the franchise. He also suggested that the resolution passed by Council regarding a franchise fee be reviewed prior to making a decision in order to determine what franchise fee would be effective during the two month extension.

Mr. Lindsey recommended that discussion of extending the current agreement be held in closed session based on the possibility of litigation. He listed three options available: 1) agree to the current terms for the two month extension; 2) provide specific direction for negotiating an interim agreement; 3) not enter into an extension. Mr. Lindsey stated he is not prepared to speak on the third option and would need to conduct further research on the matter. He noted that it does not seem to be a wise use of resources to spend a lot of time negotiating an interim agreement.

Mr. Clark moved to send An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement To Extend The Cable Television Franchise For A Period Of Two Months to Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan.

Ms. Barr asked if a communication tax can be imposed during the two month extension period. Mr. Lindsey said Council could choose to address imposing a general tax which is permitted under the federal act.

Mr. Singer moved to amend the motion to schedule a closed session at the next Council meeting on the consequences of non-renewal. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The motion to send to Council the extension ordinance and schedule a closed session carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock stated that the ordinance and closed meeting will be on the agenda of the April 19, 1993 Council meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Pollock declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Menges, Secretary

*This meeting was tape recorded

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television