

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MARCH 24, 1997

7:30 P.M.

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**Committee Members Present:**

James Hayes, Carolyn Kearns, Esther Patt, Michael Pollock,  
Marya Ryan, John Taylor, and Joseph Whelan

**Committee Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Members Present:**

Stephen Holz, April Getchius, Bruce Walden, Rod Fletcher,  
Chief Pessemier, Chief Adair, Mike Brunk, Phyllis Clark, and  
Mayor Satterthwaite

**Others Present:**

Jean Shaw, Judy Wyatt, Bland Palmore, Greg Springer, Allen  
Booth, R. L. Langenheim

**Meeting Location:**

Urbana School District Office, 205 N. Race Street

There being a quorum, Chairperson Ryan called the meeting to  
order at 7:35 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report**

Chairperson Ryan stated there would be a presentation by  
Urbana Firefighters later in the meeting.

Mayor Satterthwaite reported that the expanded recycling  
program started today on schedule. This program picks up additional  
materials such as office paper, cardboard, magazines and plastics, in  
addition to the glass, cans and newspapers previously picked up.

Mayor Satterthwaite further said that the local court had  
made a decision that the recycling tax is illegal. The City plans on  
a vigorous appeal. This will not affect the recycling services.

Assistant City Attorney Stephen Holz stated that there were three points presented by the plaintiffs in the case.

1. The tax is actually a tax on real property. The court ruled against the plaintiffs on this issue.
2. This is an occupation tax. The court also rejected that argument.
3. State law that establishes recycling tax preempts local authority in imposing this type of tax. The court accepted this argument.

The cost for the appeal will be negligible and will be handled in house.

Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden stated that until such time as there is a resolution to the recycling appeal, there will be no recycling bills mailed out. This action will require the budget to be amended in a few weeks.

Mr. Whelan requested a written explanation of the court decision.

#### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Ms. Kearns moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 1997 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

#### **Presentation by Firefighters**

Mr. Walden explained that last week the Urbana Fire Rescue Services went live with a new service in the City of Urbana which is referred to internally in terms of EMTI level of service.

Company Officer Cheryl Horvath began the presentation by stating that Firefighters started training for the EMTI level last fall. In the past, first aid type medical care was provided. With the new program, the department is able to administer some drugs on the scene and offer some advanced life care.

Firefighters Tom Long and Rusty Chism assisted in the presentation by explaining the uses of the various equipment and drugs in the EMTI equipment bag.

#### **Public Input**

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Jean Shaw, an Urbana resident, addressed the Committee to express her concerns regarding the need for more police protection in her neighborhood.

Judy Wyatt, 1202 E. Harding, addressed the Committee regarding disabled parking. (See Attachment "A".)

Bland Palmore, 403 W. Vermont, addressed the Committee to express her appreciation for the expanded recycling service.

Greg Springer, 206 Wood, representing the Downtown Neighborhood Association, addressed the Committee regarding the moving of the SRO. (See Attachment "B".)

Joe Whelan, addressed the Committee as a citizen rather than a Council member. Mr. Whelan reported a problem of debris from the recycling drop-off at Jerry's IGA. (See Attachment "C".) Mr. Whelan also discussed the issue of the recycling tax.

Allen Booth, 302 W. High Street, addressed the Committee regarding the New Yorker Apartment Building and the BOCA Code regulations.

#### **Review of Traffic Commission Minutes**

There were no comments.

#### **An Ordinance Approving An Agreement With Champaign County And The City Of Champaign (Operation Of The Landscape Recycling Center**

City Arborist Mike Brunk presented the staff report on this ordinance stating that the changes from the original agreement are some minor language changes. The old agreement referred to the site as the Yardwaste Reclamation Site and the new agreement reflects a name change to Landscape Recycling Center. There are also date changes within the document, listing of equipment and some clarifications in certain components of the agreement.

Staff recommends that this ordinance be sent to Council for approval.

Ms. Kearns moved to send **An Ordinance Approving An Agreement With Champaign County And The City Of Champaign (Operation Of The Landscape Recycling Center** to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

#### **Telecommunications Ordinance Update**

Mr. Holz presented the staff update on the this ordinance

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stating that some months ago this Council enacted a moratorium to gain time to study the zoning issues related to Personal Communication System (PCS) tower and antenna sites.

The scope of this moratorium is solely on the issuance of permits for these kinds of towers and antennae. It does not restrict anyone from applying for a permit nor does it restrict the City from actually evaluating any permit applications. To date we have not received any formal requests.

The tentative timeline for proceeding with this ordinance is attached.

**An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Amendment (Home Recycling Program)**

R. L. Langenheim, 401 W. Vermont, addressed the Committee regarding the issue of recycling.

Environmental Manager Rod Fletcher presented the staff report on the above mentioned ordinance stating that it reflects changes to the current budget which are needed to implement a transition from direct municipal collection operations to private sector contractual service. In the Home Recycling Program Fund, the request is to add \$6,885 to Personnel Services and reduce Contractual Services by that amount.

Ms. Patt moved to send **An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Amendment (Home Recycling Program)** to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kearns and carried 6-1 by roll call vote. Voting aye were Members of the Committee: Hayes, Kearns, Patt, Pollock, Ryan and Taylor - 6; voting nay: Whelan - 1.

Mr. Hayes addressed the Committee regarding the other agencies involved in the financing of the SRO. Mr. Hayes expressed support for the referendum on medical waste incineration.

Mr. Whelan expressed his concern that the City of Urbana needs direction and a Council and Mayor that will not impose taxes on its citizens.

Ms. Patt stated that it is important to give credit where credit is due and to lay criticism at the proper door steps, stating that the Human Rights Ordinance was passed in 1979 under Mayor Markland.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairperson Ryan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor  
Recording Secretary

\*This meeting was taped.  
\*\*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.