

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 13, 2000

7:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

James Hayes, Laura Huth (Chair), Carolyn Kearns, Esther Patt, Joseph Whelan, John Taylor, and Ruth Wyman - 7.

Committee Members Absent:

None.

Staff Members Present:

Phyllis Clark, Mayor Satterthwaite, Reed Berger, April Getchius, Bill Gray, Rob Kowalski, Jim Page, Tim Ross, Jack Waaler, and Bruce Walden

Others Present:

Ann Gehant Dhom, Paul Wirth, Kip Pope, and Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

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

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

There were none.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Whelan moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2000 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Ann Gehant Dhom and Paul Wirth, representing the Urbana Business Alliance, were present in support of **Ordinance No. 2000-11-137: An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance**

Kip Pope, representing C U Poster Advertising Co., addressed the Committee regarding the Outside Advertising Sign Structures moratorium.

Interim Development Ordinance/Billboards

Planner Tim Ross presented staff report on this ordinance, which is intended to significantly limit the placement of new outdoor advertising sign structures (OASS), commonly known as billboards for a period of 180 days. During that period the existing regulations will be reviewed.

Recently a number of problematic OASS have been placed in the Champaign-Urbana area that call into question the adequacy of the City's current regulations. The issues regarding the OASS include their placement, design, and compatibility with their surroundings.

The draft IDO contains a statement of purpose, boundaries, use regulations, duration, and provisions or exceptions. The only action requested at this time is for Council to open discussion on the proposed Interim Development Ordinance.

Following debate regarding the definition of OASS, their design, restrictions and placement, Ms. Patt moved to direct the Zoning Administrator to file a request with the Plan Commission to consider an interim development ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan.

Following debate, Mr. Taylor moved a substitute motion that there be a moratorium on permitting OASS until Plan Commission has had the opportunity to study this further. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt.

Following debate, Mayor Satterthwaite recommended that starting tomorrow staff would take a look at expediting this process by whatever means they can, through Plan Commission, or if possible have a moratorium without a Public Hearing before the Plan Commission, or other options and come up with a process that will move this issue along as quickly as possible.

Mr. Taylor accepted the Mayor's comments as conditions to his motion.

Ms. Patt withdrew her original motion. This was agreeable to the seconder.

Mr. Taylor withdrew his motion in deference to the Mayor's statement.

Mr. Taylor moved that staff be directed to proceed with the moratorium in the most expeditious manner possible. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2000-11-137: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Downtown

Economic Development Director Reed Berger presented staff report on Ordinance No. 2000-11-137: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Downtown Promotion Program). At the

May 22, 2000 Committee of the Whole meeting, during discussion of the FY2000-2001 Annual Budget, a motion was passed to put \$25,000 in the Economic Development Fund from General Reserves for a "downtown promotional project". This project was intended to provide downtown marketing and promotion funds for the Urbana Business Alliance (UBA) on the condition that Council review and approve a specific marketing budget for use of the funds. (UBA Proposed Budget attached).

Following debate, Mr. Whelan moved to send Ordinance No. 2000-11-137: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Downtown Promotion Program). The motion was seconded by Ms. Wyman and carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Parking Requirements for Multiple-Family Residential Uses

Community Development Director April Getchius stated that staff is still reviewing information and talking with residents. This issue will be on an upcoming agenda. Staff has drafted an ordinance that amends the traffic code parking on unapproved surfaces and a repeat offender fining system associated with that.

Discussion: Treatment of Internet-Related Business in the Urbana Zoning Ordinance

Senior Planner Rob Kowalski presented staff report. Staff has evaluated the different types of uses that could result from an internet-related business and examined how the table of uses, specifically the B-1 Neighborhood Business Zoning District in the Urbana Zoning Ordinance could be amended to accommodate these new uses.

Internet-related business may mean the sale of a product via the Internet, which may or may not involve physical customer activity at a store or office and may or may not involve the sale of goods.

Staff recommends that the City Council give direction to the Zoning Administrator to initiate a text amendment to the Urbana Zoning Ordinance in order to include a new category in the table of uses called "Internet/Mail Order Business."

Following debate, Mrs. Kearns moved that Council give direction to the Zoning Administrator to initiate a text amendment to the Urbana Zoning Ordinance in order to include a new category in the table of uses called "Internet/Mail Order Business." The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Contract Snow Removal for City-Owned Parking Lots

Public Works Director Bill Gray presented staff report. The Public Works Department has four

vacant full-time positions. It will take an average of three months or more before these positions are filled. These vacancies have a definite impact on the level of service provided for ice and snow removal. The primary impact will be longer time before streets are cleared.

In an effort to provide a high level of service, it is recommended that the city-owned parking lots be contracted for snow removal. Proposals have been solicited and the lowest proposal would be \$2,000 per event in excess of one and one-half inches.

When the winter snow season is over, a budget amendment will be presented for City Council approval that will include the dollar amount expended for the season. The cost of the snow removal should be covered by the unspent salaries of the vacant positions thus a budget transfer should be all that is necessary.

Staff recommends that the Committee of the Whole move to allow the Public Works Department to enter into an agreement for contract snow removal for city owned parking lots.

Following debate, Ms. Wyman moved to accept staff's recommendation to enter into an agreement for contract snow removal for city owned parking lots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Gray stated that in an effort to encourage shopping in downtown Urbana and accommodate holiday visitor overnight parking, the attached holiday parking policies will be in effect.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Huth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

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MINUTES APPROVED: