



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
April 25, 2005

Committee Members Present:

Christopher Alix, Danielle Chynoweth, James Hayes, Esther Patt, Dennis Roberts, Joseph Whelan (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), and Ruth Wyman –7.

Committee Members Absent:

None.

Staff Members Present:

City Clerk Phyllis Clark, Personnel Manager Mona Shannon, and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden

Others Present:

Robert Michael Doyle and Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Chief Administrative Office Bruce Walden stated that on Committee Members' desk there is a packet of information related to a development agreement the City has with Fox Development Corporation and Provena Hospital. It came to Mr. Walden's attention today that there was a pending sale of this property between Fox, Provena and a new purchaser. The development agreement that was passed with Provena and Fox requires that the parties submit to Council a consent which is to be approved or not approved for the sale.

The sale is closing next week. Mr. Walden will list this on next week's agenda as it appears to be a standard transaction without it going through the Committee process.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ms. Wyman moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2005 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chynoweth and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Chair Hayes presented a Proclamation declaring the week of April 25 to May 1, 2005 to be TV Turnoff Week to Barb Linder. The Proclamation urges City of Urbana citizens, businesses and families to support health and media literacy of children, youth and families in Urbana by turning off all televisions for the week.

Robert Michael Doyle, 105 East Green, Apartment A-1, Champaign, addressed the Committee in support of the Domestic Partner Registry.

Discussion: Domestic Partner Registry

Ms. Chynoweth led the discussion by presenting the following information that would be included on the City of Urbana Domestic Partner Affidavit:

1. We are engaged in a committed relationship and intend to remain together indefinitely.
2. We are at least 18 years of age and have the capacity to enter into a contract.
3. We share a common permanent residence and are jointly responsible to each other for the necessities of life.
4. We are not related by blood closer than permitted for married couples under Illinois marriage laws.
5. Neither of us is registered with another Domestic Partner.
6. Neither of us is in a marriage recognized in the State of Illinois.
7. Neither of us may lawfully be claimed as a dependent on any other person's federal income tax return.
8. We understand that the registration of this Domestic Partnership Affidavit creates a domestic partnership of continuous duration until either of us files a Statement of termination or upon death of either of us.
9. We understand that an employer, including the City of Urbana, who relies on this Affidavit to provide domestic partner benefits, may have additional requirements and may require documentation of this relationship.

10. We understand that false statements made herein to establish a Domestic Partnership may nullify our registration as Domestic Partners and make us liable to civil action by employers seeking to recover payments of benefits under the Domestic Partnership provision.
11. Each of us agrees to file jointly or separately an Affidavit of Termination with the Urbana City Clerk within 30 days of a change in this domestic partnership such that we no longer meet the criteria herein.

Following extensive debate, Ms. Patt moved to forward **An Ordinance Establishing a Domestic Partnership Registry** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wyman.

Ms. Chynoweth moved to amend the motion to request that the ordinance be reviewed by the Urbana Human Relations Officer and the Legal Department and that direction be given to the City Clerk's Office and Ms. Chynoweth to incorporate 9, 10, and the information stating that this is a public affidavit into supporting documents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts. The motion was accepted by the mover and seconder as a friendly amendment.

Following further debate, the motion to forward **An Ordinance Establishing a Domestic Partnership Registry** to Council with a recommendation for approval carried 6-1 by roll call vote. Voting aye were Members of the Committee: Alix, Chynoweth, Hayes, Patt, Roberts, and Wyman – 6; voting nay: Whelan – 1.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Hayes declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

MINUTES APPROVED: May 9, 2005