

URBANA CITY COUNCIL – CLOSED SESSION
(Property Acquisition)
June 20, 2005

Minutes approved August, 2005

Approved for release, Res. 2017-08-059R

The Urbana City Council met in closed session at 8:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Urbana City Building to discuss property acquisition.

Members present: Lynne Barnes, Brandon Bowersox, Danielle Chynoweth, Robert Lewis, Charlie Smyth and Heather Stevenson. Members absent: Dennis Roberts. Staff present: Bruce Walden, Mayor Prussing and Phyllis Clark. Guest: Mr. Rupert Evans former Urbana Free Library Foundation Chair.

The closed session was called to order by Mayor Prussing. The purpose of the closed session was stated and the meeting was turned over to Mr. Walden. Mr. Walden introduced Mr. Evans former Chair of the Urbana Free Library Foundation.

Mr. Walden discussed the building that is in question – the Auler Building at the corner of Green and Race Streets. The building is presently occupied by offices. Mr. Walden advised that the Library has some ideas and suggestions for the use of the property and turned the meeting over to Rupert Evans.

Mr. Evans gave an extensive over view of the properties involved in the acquisition and advised that the Auler property is in foreclosure with a possible sheriff's sale to take place later this summer. The block in question is bound by Elm to the north, Green to the south and Race to the east and Cedar to the west. The block include the Winkleman building, the Auler building and the Fegis property.

The Library Foundation and the Library Board would like to secure the property, demolish it and turn it into Cherry Alley Plaza.

Following discussion the question was raised addressing the value of the property and at this time neither the City nor the Library has secured an appraisal, however, the Auler property owners have said that they have an appraisal in the neighborhood of \$600,000.00. That appraisal has not been seen as of yet.

The Historic Preservation Society at present sees no historical value to this property.

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Staff needs to have clear direction from Council as to whether they should do more due diligence at this time, should they get some appraisals, should we spend some money? It is the consensus of the Council that staff proceeds and gathers more information, get a structural analysis and an appraisal then bring it back to Council.

Following further discussion and with no further business to come before the Council, we adjourned back into regular session at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Clark
City Clerk