

**CITY OF URBANA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - July 25, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session July 25, 2011 in the Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Marlin, Chair; Brandon Bowersox; Eric Jakobsson; Robert E. Lewis; Charlie Smyth; Laurel Lunt Prussing; Phyllis Clark

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Heather Stevenson

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Dennis Roberts

STAFF PRESENT: William Gray; Mike Monson; Patrick Connolly; Gale Jamison; Elizabeth Tyler; Tom Carrino; Curt Borman; Randy Burgett; Bradley Bennett

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Tracy; John Sullivan; Anthony Yannarell; Daniel Wertz; Dorothea Smith; Danielle Chynoweth; Tegan McDade, Tracy McDade; Bill Brown; Greg Kacvinsky; Ya'aqov Ziso; Jesse Phillippe; Dennis Robertson; Jereume Bamberger; Frank Baker; Josh Schwenk; Leighton Christiansen; Julie Watkins; Amy Allen; Karen Aram; Colton Bandav; Mike Smeltzer; Morton Brussel; Rohn Koester; Durl Kruse; Victor Parra Luckert; Chris Evans; Belden Fields; Dorothy Palmer; Neil Parthun; Members of the Media

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Marlin called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT

A request was made to move items #9 and #10 forward in the agenda between item #4 and #5 to accommodate the public who wished to speak about the items. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Smyth to move the items forward as discussed. The motion passed by a voice vote.

There was no staff report.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

July 11, 2011, July 18, 2011 - special meeting - Mr. Lewis made a motion to approve the regular minutes of July 11, 2011 and the special minutes of July 18, 2011 in omnibus fashion. Mr. Jakobsson seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Peter Tracy, Champaign County Mental Health Board and Champaign County Board For Care and Treatment of Persons with a Developmental

Disability, as well as John Sullivan, Executive Director of Women in Transition spoke to the Committee regarding their concerns about the decrease in funding for homeless and displaced citizens and the possibility that programs which are now operational could be discontinued in the future. Discussion followed.

The following people spoke to the Committee against the proposed amendment to the City code prohibiting aggressive panhandling ordinance: Daniel Wertz, 1010 Green Street; Danielle Chynoweth, 412 W. Illinois; Bill Brown, 304 W. Nevada Street; Ya'aqov Ziso, 903 E. Colorado, #62; and Jesse Phillippe, 181 Paddock Dr. E., Savoy.

Dorothea Smith, 2408 S. Pond spoke to the Committee in support of the proposed amendment to the City code prohibiting aggressive panhandling.

Frank Baker, 1909 S. Vine Street did not speak to the Committee but asked that his position be entered into the record in favor of the proposed amendment regarding aggressive panhandling.

The following people did not speak to Committee, but asked that their position be entered into the record against the proposed amendment regarding aggressive panhandling: Jereume Bamberger, 906 S. Maple; Josh Schwenk, 1804 Larch Place; Leighton Christiansen, 604 W. California, #1; Julie Watkins, 805 E. Green Street; Amy Allen, 505 S. Busey, #505; Karen Aram, 803 E. Green Street; and Colton Bandav, 112 High Street.

Dennis Robertson, CVB board member, spoke to the Committee in support of funding the Convention and Business Bureau.

5. ***Boneyard Creek Design Update***

William Gray (Public Works Director) introduced Bradley Bennett (Senior Civil Engineer) who gave the staff report and went over the wall treatment recommendations as well as the creek edge treatment, site benches, paving and railing recommendations. He also discussed a recommendation for the replacement of brick pavement on North Race Street between University Avenue and Park Street with new concrete pavement. Additional information was provided by Greg Dorolek, landscape architect from Wenk Associates Inc. via teleconference. Also Greg Kacvinsky, Senior Project Manager with Foth Infrastructure and Environment answered questions. Discussion followed. Consensus was to go with recommendations of buff/sand colored stone with changes in coursing, size, thickness and pattern to change throughout; use of textured concrete walls with a natural color concrete for perimeter retaining walls; incorporation of green screen living walls with vines and other plants in some areas; utilizing City standards for benches, trash receptacles, lighting, etc.; and reuse of City's brick street pavers at the Station Theater Plaza.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept all recommendations as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

6. **Funding for Convention & Visitor's Bureau:**

a. **Convention & Visitor's Bureau Performance Standards**

Mayor Prussing went over the recommendation of setting performance standards for increasing tourism. She would like to address what market is being impacted including number of visitors and event that brought them to Urbana area and how CVB will contribute to increasing this number. Also, it is necessary to know the pay back for each dollar spent in each category. The City needs to identify how CVB is providing service to Urbana and determine what return on investment would be the result of funding CVB. Any funding for CVB should be for work or services which yield measurable results. Discussion followed. Staff will review.

b. **Ordinance No. 2011-07-096: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Convention & Visitor's Bureau Funding, FY 2011-2012)**

The proposal is for the amount of \$18,800 to be taken from the general fund to subsidize the Convention and Visitor's Bureau pending review of agreements and contracts.

Mr. Smyth made a motion to postpone indefinitely and keep the item in Committee pending Staff review of agreements and contracts. Ms. Stevenson seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

7. **Discussion - Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B)**

a. **Ordinance No. 2011-07-094: An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program [BTOP])**

This item was handled in omnibus fashion with Ordinance 2011-07-098.

William Gray (Public Works Director) presented the staff report and went over budgetary concerns and discussed City obligations. Additional information was presented by Mike Smeltzer. Discussion followed. Curt Borman (City Attorney) answered questions regarding the details of the proposed agreement. He mentioned any adjustments made over the next week before Council takes action would be small and this agreement is essentially completed.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send both items to Council with no recommendation at this time. Mr. Smyth seconded. A friendly amendment was made to specifically send the three items to Council. There were no objections.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send all three items to Council with no recommendation. Mr. Smyth seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

b. **Ordinance No. 2011-07-098: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Big Broadband Construction, FY 2011-2012)**

This item was handled in omnibus fashion with Ordinance No. 2011-07-094.

8. **Ordinance No. 2011-07-099: An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Fifteen (Addition of Section 15-68, Regulating Aggressive Panhandling)** [Note: This ordinance replaces Ordinance No. 2011-07-080 "Regarding Panhandling"]

Mayor Prussing and Curt Borman (Acting City Attorney) gave the updated report and reviewed the language changes to the ordinance. Discussion followed. Questions were answered by Chief Connolly.

The following citizens spoke to the Committee in opposition to the proposed amended code: Morton Brussel, 2003 George Huff Drive; Rohn Koester, 1205 E. Florida Avenue, #32B; Durl Kruse, 2007 S. George Huff; Chris Evans, 202 S. Broadway; Belden Fields, 206 W. Pennsylvania; and Neil Parthun, 705 E. Colorado, #105.

Dorothy Palmer, 1201 E. Scovill Street spoke to Committee in favor of the proposed amendment to the City code regarding aggressive panhandling.

Victor Parra Luckert, 412 W. Illinois did not speak to Committee, but did want his position entered into the record in opposition to the proposed panhandling amendment.

Ms. Marlin read into the record a statement from Cynthia Hoyle, 202 S. Cottage Grove in support of the aggressive panhandling ordinance.

Committee discussed their concerns with some of the language in the proposed ordinance and asked that the word "compelled" be deleted from the language. Discussion followed. Mr. Lewis suggested that the wording be changed from "aggressive panhandling" to "aggressive solicitation". Committee also felt the ordinance should be effective City-wide, not just a specific portion.

Mr. Jakobsson made a motion to send to Council for approval with changes in language as discussed. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

9. **Ordinance No. 2011-07-095: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (2509 Somerset Drive / Tegan and Tracy McDade)**

This item was handled out of sequence after item #4 with no objections.

Elizabeth Tyler (Community Development Director/City Planner) gave the staff report and stated annexation would be effective on August 11, 2011 at noon. Mr. Smyth made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

10. ***Ordinance No. 2011-07-097: An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Estate (107 East Oregon Street)***

This item was handled out of sequence after item #4 with no objections.

Randy Burgett (Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator) gave the staff report and recommended the property be sold to Angela Kent and Anthony Yannarell who own the adjacent property at 105 East Oregon Street. They propose to buy the lot for \$13,000 which is slightly more than the appraised value of \$12,500. They plan to expand their yard and incorporate landscaping, turf and flowerbeds to improve the value.

Mr. Smyth recused himself due to a possible conflict of interest.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Jakobsson seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

11. ***Discussion: Public Comment by Groups***

Mr. Smyth made a motion to postpone definitely to the next Committee meeting. Mr. Bowersox seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

12. ***Adjournment***

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Marlin declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Joan M. Ryan
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: August 22, 2011