

CITY OF URBANA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - November 14, 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 Monday, November 14, 2011 in the Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Heather Stevenson (Chair); Brandon Bowersox; Eric Jakobsson; Robert E. Lewis; Diane Marlin; Dennis Roberts; Charlie Smyth; Laurel Lunt Prussing; Phyllis D. Clark

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: None

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Monson; Patrick Connolly; William Gray; Curt Borman; Elizabeth Tyler; Robert Myers; Jen Gonzalez; Gale Jamison; Brad Bennett; Bart Hagston

OTHERS PRESENT: Garvin Weitzel; William Brown; Jaren Bowers; Mark Pruitt; Ed Bland; Members of the Media

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stevenson called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT

There was none.

Staff Report

William Gray (Public Works Director) announced the recent electronics recycling event went well with over 157,000 pounds of material collected. Overall there has been over 207 tons collected this year which is more than the 107 tons collected the year before.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

October 24, 2011 - Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 24, 2011. Ms. Marlin seconded. The minutes of October 10, 2011 meeting were approved by voice vote.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Brandon Bowersox gave an update on the broadband project and announced that the ambassadors had been hired and trained. They will begin canvassing neighborhoods this weekend.

5. *Resolution No. 2011-10-036R: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement for a Class C Retail Liquor License (1501 North Lincoln Avenue/Circle K Store #1234)*

Mayor Prussing requested this item be postponed definitely for six months to allow Police time to work with the manager on strategies to reduce calls to the location first. Discussion followed. Garvin Weitzel, Circle K manager, answered questions. Mr. Lewis made a motion to postpone definitely for six months. Mr. Jakobsson seconded.

Mr. Bowersox made a friendly amendment to bring the item back sooner if staff deemed appropriate with no objections. The amended motion to postpone definitely for six months or sooner if staff deems appropriate carried by a voice vote.

6. ***Ordinance No. 2011-10-116: An Ordinance Redistricting Wards of the City of Urbana, Illinois (2011)***

Mayor Prussing went over the revised map for Committee to consider. The revision was necessary as it was discovered that the 10% rule does not mean a 10% variation in either direction from the ideal, but a variation of plus/minus 5% (or 10% between highest and lowest wards). Discussion followed.

William Brown spoke to Committee and gave a short presentation of his concerns regarding the map as proposed and gave his suggestions for a revision.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to postpone definitely to the next Committee meeting to allow for more public input. There was no second and this motion died.

Mr. Smyth made a motion to send the item to Council with no recommendation for approval at this time. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

7. ***Discussion: Residential Tiers for the Stormwater Utility***

Alderman Smyth made a motion to reconsider this item again. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion to reconsider was approved by a voice vote.

Committee had considered this item on 10/10/11, but the vote was split evenly and the motion was defeated. Staff would like to proceed with plans for the rate fee at a rate estimated between \$4.90 and \$5.15 per month per residence. The fee is based on amount of impervious area on a residential lot as opposed to a flat fee which is considered more equitable. Champaign as endorsed a similar fee. To implement the tiered approach would incur about a \$25,000 to \$35,000 additional costs which would be a one-time fee. Discussion followed.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to send to Council with recommendation for approval. Mr. Bowersox seconded. Mr. Smyth asked for a show of hands for the vote. The motion is defeated 3-aye:4-nay.

8. ***Discussion: Municipal Electric Aggregation***

Bart Hagston (Environmental Sustainability Manager) gave the staff report. Mark Pruitt, Illinois Community Choice Aggregate Coalition, gave a presentation.

State law (Illinois Power Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3855/1-92) allow local governments to aggregate the electric accounts from residences and small businesses in order to receive bids from alternate retail electric suppliers. This has the potential to save consumers money and to increase the use of renewable energy if desired. It allows governments the opportunity to bundle residential and small retail electric accounts and seek bids from cheaper and cleaner sources of power. Ameren customers obtain power through a set rate. However larger

commercial customers can obtain lower rates by seeking other providers in the market. Municipal electric aggregation must be approved by a referendum vote. Several governments are reviewing for placement on the March 20, 2012 ballot. Citizens can opt-out if they prefer to remain in the default provider at the set rates. Discussion followed. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to direct staff to continue working on this proposal. Mr. Smyth seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Smyth made a motion to move items #12 and #13 up in the agenda due to the lateness of the meeting and the public that were attending for these items. Ms. Marlin seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

9. ***Resolution No. 2011-11-040R: A Resolution Approving the 2011 Update of the Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Urbana***

Gale Jamison (Assistant City Engineer) gave the staff report. Revenues are collected from the sewer tax, motor fuel taxes and CR&I Fund. Costs are affected by increases in material prices. Increases in construction expenses have surpassed inflation rates. This has resulted in increased costs for some projects and new programs. There also are future projects which are not reflected in the cash flow projections. Discussion followed.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to send to Council with recommendation for approval. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to extend the meeting for an additional 15 minutes to finish the agenda items. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

10. ***Discussion: Sidewalk Snow Removal in the Central Business District and the University Business District***

Mayor Prussing announced this item will be discussed at a later date. No discussion or action taken at this time.

11. ***Ordinance No. 2011-11-122: An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at All Times on Certain Streets (400 Block of West Iowa Street)***

William Gray (Public Works Director) gave the staff report. The property owners at 406 West Iowa Street have requested additional feet be included in the existing parking restriction on the south side of the street to allow for easier driveway access. Adding an additional 20 feet to the east side would result in one parking spot being lost, but better visibility would be gained for motorists at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Iowa Street. Discussion followed.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to send to Council with recommendation for approval. There was no second. The motion died for lack of a second and no further action was taken,

12. ***Ordinance No. 2011-11-123: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (2710 Somerset Drive / Jaren Bowers)***

This item was handled out of sequence before item #9.

Robert Myers (Planning Manager) gave the staff report. There is a petition to annex 2710 Somerset Drive into the City corporate limits. The area to be annexed is 0.628 acres in the area, including single

family residence, and adjacent Airport Road right-of-way. This annexation would complete agreement with developer of Somerset Subdivision. The annexation would be effective on 12/1/11 at noon if approved.

Jaren Bowers, owner of the property, discussed his concerns regarding this annexation even though he was aware of the annexation agreement with the developer for this property when it was purchased.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send to Council with recommendation for approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

13. ***Resolution No. 2011-11-041R: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Certificate of Consistency for the Housing Authority of Champaign County (Hamilton on the Park - Dunbar Court Redevelopment Project)***

This item was handled out of sequence before item #9.

The Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) has requested that the City prepare a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan for the proposed Dunbar Court redevelopment project. The application is to be submitted in December, 2011 to the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to qualify for Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Although HUD no longer requires submittal of the Certification of Consistency, the HACC is required as part of the 2011 Qualified Allocation Plan guidelines to submit the Certification as part of the Tax Credit application. The HACC, on behalf of its developer, The Benoit Group, LLC, has requested the City of Urbana provide a Certification of Consistency by December 1, 2011 in order to complete the application due to IHDA by December 19, 2011. Ed Bland from the Housing Authority answered questions. Discussion followed.

Ms. Marlin made a motion to send to Council with recommendation for approval. Mr. Smyth seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Stevenson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Joan M. Ryan
Recording Secretary

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

Minutes Approved: November 28, 2011