
DATE: Monday, January 4, 2021
TIME: 7:00pm
PLACE: *Held virtually due to Governor's and Mayoral Emergency Declarations
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, January 4, 2021, at 7:00pm via zoom.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: City Council Members (CM), Bill Brown, Bill Colbrook, Jared Miller, Dennis Roberts, Erik Sacks, Maryalice Wu

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Shirese Hursey, Ward 3

STAFF PRESENT: Wendy Hundley, Jason Liggett, Carol Mitten, Andrea Ruedi, David Wesner

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Tracy Chong, Christopher Hansen, Jaya Kolisetty, Emily Klose, Meghan McDonald, Sarah Nixon, Grace Wilken

Chair: *Maryalice Wu, Ward 1*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum virtually present, Chair Maryalice Wu called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:45pm, following a rescheduled City Council meeting

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

CM Roberts made a motion to approve minutes from the December 7, 2020 and December 21, 2020 meeting. Seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Brown, Colbrook, Miller, Roberts, Sacks, Wu

Nays: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

There were none

4. Presentations and Public Input

Public Input via Zoom

The following people submitted public input via Zoom: Tracy Chong, Christopher Hansen, Emily Klose, Meghan McDonald, Sarah Nixon, and Grace Wilken. Some of the comments included: when is the City going to talk about all of the FOIA violations against the City; FOIA language clarification in regards to Public Access Counselor (PAC) complaints determinations; be more transparent; stop lying and own up to your mistakes; Aleyah Lewis still facing court because the Urbana Police won't own up to their mistake; stop killing people in Champaign-Urbana; racial policing issues; in support of gender inclusivity; limit council input to four minutes; questioning mayoral appointment qualifications; continuous concerns about the One Door pilot program.

Mayor Marlin provided a statement to address the mentioned allegations about Aleyah Lewis, ongoing FOIA violations, and Human Relations Commission (HRC) informal hearing. A report will be forthcoming to address all of these issues. Mayor Marlin said "I would appreciate if people brought facts to public input, thank you"

5. Staff Report

There was none

6. **Discussion:** A Resolution Regarding the Implementation of Gender-Inclusive Language in Official Written and Verbal Communication by the City of Urbana

CM Miller began the dialogue by talking about the revisions made to the proposed resolution. Additionally, CM Wu reported that she contacted Municode in regards to the process to change city code to gender neutral. Municode gave two different program options, one would update the code and go through it with an editor to make sure gender neutral language was added to it, the cost for this service is a one time fee of \$4,500.00. The second option would implement gender neutral revisions by a supplementation to update the code for a one time fee of \$3,000.00. This does not include all of the policies and procedures that the City has.

City Administrator Mitten said that an inventory would have to take place in each department to get a sense of the work required to be in compliance with the proposed resolution. This process will need time, money, and training, but the ultimate goal would be to update all of the City's correspondence forms and external communications. Mitten and Miller will work together to map out time, financial commitment, and present a clean draft with all of the suggested language before the next committee meeting.

7. **Discussion:** Addition of Council Input Agenda Item and Reordering of the Regular Agenda

CM Miller began the discussion by asking council's input in the proposed changes to the order of the agenda and an additional rule to be added to allow for council input after public input. To accomplish these changes the proposed resolution will need additional work from legal and an ordinance will have to be drafted to provide the changes to the code.

After extensive discussion, the following changes were agreed upon:

- Council members would be limited to three minutes for comments and public announcements immediately after public input during City Council, and at the end during Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Rule 3 (sect c) strike language and replace with: If the Council wishes to respond, they will have up to 30 seconds to make a one-time response.
- Drop item (e) under Rule 3
- Staff will draft an ordinance reflecting changes to the code

8. **Adjournment**

With no further business before the committee, Chair Wu adjourned the virtual meeting at 9:03pm.

Wendy M. Hundley
Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable on-demand [HERE](#).

Minutes approved: January 19, 2021