

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OCTOBER 24, 1994

Committee Members Present:

James Hayes, Esther Patt, Michael Pollock,
Marya Ryan, Clifford Singer (Chairman), John
Taylor, and Joseph Whelan

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Bruce Walden, Charles Gordon, Jack Waaler,
April Getchius, Bruce Stoffel, Phyllis Clark,
and Mayor Satterthwaite

Others Present:

Earl O'Shea, Ben Thomason, William Johnson,
Gary Shae, Naomi Jakobsson, Arthur Zangerl,
Karen Kummer, Justine Schoeplein, David Monk,
Norman Baxley, Chris Albert, Joan Zagorski,
Maria Danberger, Sandra Batzli, Diane Kruse,
Richard Wilson, Kevin Willis, Cindy Eaglen,
Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chairman Singer called
the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Ms. Patt moved discussion of item 10. Sale
of Jaques House to between items 4 and 5 on the agenda.
The motion was seconded by Chairman Singer and carried
by a voice vote.

Mr. Whelan moved to discuss item 8. A Resolution Providing For the Licensing Of Garbage

Collection, Disposal And Recycling In The City Of Urbana after the Sale of Jaques House. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pollock and carried by a voice vote.

Mayor Satterthwaite mentioned a memo from Community Development Director April Getchius, which requested that the use of Home Funds be put on this agenda. This was discussed at the City Staff meeting and due to lack of preparation time, Mayor Satterthwaite requested that this item be put on the agenda of the Committee on Administration and Finance on November 14, 1994. There were no objections.

Chairman Singer requested Committee agreement to put the end time for public input to 9:30 p.m., discussion of Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Chair to 9:40 p.m., Jaques House discussion to 10:00 p.m., the garbage resolution to 10:20 p.m., and to add one and one-half hours to the remaining items.

Mr. Taylor moved to end public input at 9:00 p.m., the motion was seconded by Mr. Pollock and failed by a show of hands vote.

Chairman Singer moved to accept the orders of the day. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and failed by a show of hands vote.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chairman Singer moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 1994 regular meeting with one amendment which is changing "wasn't" to "was" in the first paragraph under Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report in the statement "Mayor Satterthwaite made reference to an article in the newspaper regarding the trailer park, and reminded Council Members that the discussion on relocation costs wasn't in open session and that staff comments were public information that were used in the article." The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Petitions and Communications

Earl O'Shea, 606A South Glover, addressed the Committee on the topic of better government.

Naomi Jakobsson, 803 W. Main Street, Arthur Zangerl, representing PACA, Karen Kummer, representing Preservation and Conservation Association, Justine Schoeplein, representing Champaign-Urbana Herb Society, David Monk, 115 N. Market, Champaign, and Norman Baxley, 510 W. Main Street, addressed the Committee in opposition to the sale of and in favor of the restoration of Jaques House.

Chris Albert, 402 S. Race, Jon Zagorski, 1605 S. Race, Maria Dambergen, 411 W. Indiana, Sandra Batzli, 711 W. Indiana, and Diane Kruse, 104 S. Grove #1, did not wish to address the Committee but did indicate opposition to the sale and removal of the Jaques House.

Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Chair

Mr. Whelan stated that Anna Merritt is an excellent choice for the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Singer stated that Ms. Merritt will be on the agenda for approval of the next City Council meeting.

Jaques House

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that Fred Schlipf, Executive Director of the Library, and the Library Board plan to be at the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance on November 14, 1994. They will be prepared at that time to answer questions and concerns which have been presented at this meeting.

Mr. Pollock discussed questions of concern regarding the status of Jaques House and stated that the Library Board is currently reviewing their options with architects.

Mr. Pollock stated that he was concerned about a letter from State level regarding a possible loss of funding for the library expansion should Jaques House be moved without proper review.

Ms. Patt questioned the consequences of moving the house and costs incurred if the house should be damaged in such a

move; can it be insured against damage and who would pay for that?

Ms. Patt questioned the deadline for Requests for Proposals which is soon, and what the library would do if there is no appropriate party interested in acquiring the house?

Ms. Patt further questioned what the role of the City of Urbana is regarding the expansion and the move of the house. The Request for Proposal stated that this is City property and the City will assume all the costs of the move? Ms. Patt stated that the Library Board is responsible for the library and the City Council is responsible for the City as a whole. She stated that the City has a responsibility for preserving one of the oldest buildings in the area with special historic significance the City and to the library.

Mr. Whelan stated his concerns regarding the Jaques House are very similar. Something that should be given more consideration is the significance of the move. If the house was moved it seems it would lose some authenticity. More information is needed on possible alternatives.

Ms. Ryan said that she favors the City taking an active roll in exploring what the other alternatives for the Jaques house might be.

Chairman Singer explained that it is possible to attach a covenant to the sale of a house to regulate its fate when it is no longer used for the purposes stated in the covenant. He would like comments from staff on that possibility.

Chairman Singer stated that the City commitment is one million dollars in a fund for library use if the library can raise matching funds. He further stated that he does not feel the City is committed to the costs of moving the house.

Chairman Singer maintained that it would be a disaster if the library and the historic preservation group could not reach a compromise. Donations for the matching funds needed for the library expansion come from donors who have an interest in both the library and historic preservation.

Chairman Singer shared his view that the historical context of Jaques House was destroyed when Lincoln Square and

Busey Bank were developed; therefore it is his opinion that it does not make sense to say that Jaques House cannot be moved ten feet.

Chairman Singer further stated that he feels the library is fine the way it is and doesn't want to see it expanded. That should be planned for the distant future.

Chairman Singer noted that Sale of Jaques House will be on the agenda of the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance on November 14, 1994.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that it is his hope that there will be a final solution to this problem with which everyone can agree.

Solid Waste

Cindy Eaglen, representing the Waste Haulers Association, addressed the Committee to request that the Waste Haulers Association be given notice when there is any agenda item regarding solid waste.

Ben Thomason, 1111 Philo Road, Gary Shae, 708 W. Florida, Richard Wilson, Urbana, and Kevin Willis, 1702 Trails Drive, addressed the Committee in opposition to a franchise system for solid waste removal.

William Johnson, 1007 N. Walnut, Champaign, addressed the Committee regarding problems he had with the Urbana Landfill.

Mr. Whelan stated that not considering the alternative of A Resolution Providing For The Licensing Of Garbage Collection, Disposal And Recycling In The City Of Urbana would be a mistake. The proposal is basically the same as used in Champaign with the exception that this proposal calls for new effort to address tenant recycling. The City of Champaign's recycling is increasing, while Urbana's is decreasing.

Choice is important to Americans; the choice of front door or curb pick up, the number of days, etc. The City has a system of choice that works.

Mr. Whelan moved to add this to the agenda of the Committee on Administration and Finance on November 14, with the direction to staff to provide a certainty about the figures

comparing Champaign and Urbana's recycling figures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that Champaign staff says that figures cannot be compared with what the City was previously picking up for a number of reasons. The materials are not the same, the area being served is different, and the reporting can't be verified so there could well be business recycling included in the figures.

Chairman Singer questioned whether or not it makes sense to expand into recycling plastic. He stated that it was his understanding that Champaign had a substantial cost increase when plastics were introduced. Chairman Singer stated the question needs to be asked whether the plastics put into landfills are a significant environmental hazard.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that the Solid Waste RFP and Proposal from Environmental Manager Rodney Fletcher and Public Works Director William Gray should be presented at the Committee on Administration and Finance meeting on November 14, 1994. He further stated that the public would have an opportunity to convey their views on radio station WDWS on October 25, 1994 when the waste hauler are guests of Mr. Hirschfeld, and again on October 26, 1994 when Mayor Satterthwaite will be a guest on the "Penny For Your Thoughts" program.

Following debate, the motion to add this to the agenda of the Committee on Administration and Finance on November 14, with the direction to staff to provide a certainty about the figures comparing Champaign and Urbana's recycling figures carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Singer requested consent for a five minute recess. There were no objections. The Committee recessed at 9:57 p.m. and reconvened at 10:05 p.m. with all members previously in attendance still present.

Labor Force Development

Chairman Singer addressed the Committee regarding the lack of an adequately trained labor force which is undermining the City's development.

Chairman Singer stated that a large majority of the city's public safety problem, which requires police calls, occurs

in a relatively small section of the City. In that section there is a high concentration of extremely low income households.

Chairman Singer stated that problems in areas of economic development, housing strategy and tax base development point to the same difficulty. A fundamental problem with our public safety is that some people do not have enough hope to be willing to dedicate their lives to staying out of trouble with the law. There is a problem maintaining our neighborhoods for the same reason.

Chairman Singer read a sense of the committee motion, as follows: "The Committee suggests that affording two percent per year of the extremely low income households under housing stress, as described in our CHAS, a reasonable opportunity to extricate themselves from this category should be one of a number of goals given serious consideration in the Urbana City and Cunningham Township's fiscal plans." This is just a suggestion. Is there any reason we should not make this suggestion as a Committee?

Chairman Singer discussed one method for meeting the "two percent" goal. Identify 38 households per year and allocate enough money so that an average of \$3,000 per year of matching funds from the City would be used to compliment other sources for accomplishing that goal. The average retention of people in the program would be four years.

An example of how these funds might be broken down is: \$200,000 for vocational training and employment services, \$200,000 a year for child care matching grants, \$50,000 for pregnancy counseling and related medical services, plus \$30,000 a year for an administrator for this program. Funds could come from the TIF funds.

Chairman Singer moved to approve a sense of the Committee motion that the Committee suggests that affording two percent per year of the extremely low income households under housing stress, as described in our CHAS, a reasonable opportunity to extricate themselves from this category should be one of a number of goals given serious consideration in the Urbana City and Cunningham Township's fiscal plans. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt.

Mr. Pollock addressed the Committee in opposition to the motion, stating that the motion called for the direction to

be of consideration and it already is a serious consideration. There are repercussions from motions that the Committee makes even though they are merely suggestions; they are not made in a vacuum. Recommendations from staff should be seriously considered.

Ms. Patt inquired if the proposal is to move people up from being extremely low income to being very low income or is the goal to move people up to the point where they can afford market rents so that they don't have housing problems? If that is the case, the appropriate approach should be very specific about the goal. If that goal is for the City of Urbana to move 38 households from being extremely low income to having incomes over \$30,000, the City should put out some type of requests for proposals to see if there are programs available that we could receive to get matching funds that would actually help do that.

If the plan is to add money to existing programs that move people from welfare to \$5.00 an hour jobs where their incomes are still below the poverty level, Ms. Patt stated she is not against funding those programs but is not sure spending one half million dollars a year on such a program is the way to spend City money.

Mr. Hayes stated that if the City makes an attempt to deal with this, it should be left at two percent the first year to find out what direction the program will take.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that no one can disagree with trying to help a certain percentage of the population to extricate themselves from the category of being extremely low income households under housing stress. When the Council votes on a resolution of this nature it makes a statement, not only of the direction that the Council wants to take, but that we should be creating programs to address these particular goals. It is those programs that are not addressed here, nor is the financial impact. Mayor Satterthwaite further stated that he cannot recommend that anyone support a motion such as this when it seems that the ultimate goal is to create a new city department which hasn't been discussed with the members of the public.

Chairman Singer stated that he would be the last person to suggest that the entire program be started next year. It should be started with one quarter of the scale and try to get two percent of the households in this category into this program and determine if the community is willing to match the City's willingness to do this.

In response to Ms. Patt's comments, Chairman Singer responded that it is a bad idea to get people to learn how to go to a job interview to get minimum wage positions. That creates competition for a limited number of service jobs. The City

should strive to prepare people for skilled and semi-skilled labor which earns substantially more than minimum wage.

Chairman Singer stated that the Committee was not ready to act on this issue and moved to table it until the committee meeting on the 14th. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayes.

Mr. Whelan stated that rather than just move the issue to another meeting, he would like to see Chairman Singer investigate the idea and present a more specific plan.

Chairman Singer responded that he would be willing to present a plan if the motion carries.

The motion failed by a voice vote.

Mr. Taylor called the question.

The motion to approve a sense of the Committee motion that the Committee suggests that affording two percent per year of the extremely low income households under housing stress, as described in our CHAS, a reasonable opportunity to extricate themselves from this category should be one of a number of goals given serious consideration in the Urbana City and Cunningham Township's fiscal plans failed by a voice vote.

CDBG Budget Amendment

Community Development Division Director Bruce Stoffel addressed the Committee to request approval for an ordinance revising the annual budget ordinance as it pertains to the Community Development Block Grant program. The proposed ordinance redirects \$59,750 in CDBG Contingency/Cost Overrun funds toward specific CDBG-eligible projects. Most of this amount was carried over from FY1993-94 above and beyond what had been projected as carryover in the FY1994-95 CDBG Final Statement. These excess funds represent savings from projects that were completed in FY1993-1994 under budget and 1993-1994 revenues that had not been anticipated and programmed for specific expenses.

The proposed amendment would not require raising of any new revenue and would not affect the city's general fund.

Following further debate, Mr. Whelan moved to send An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Following further debate, the motion to send An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance To Council for approval carried by a voice vote.

Neighborhood Organization Grants Policy

The proposed Neighborhood Organization Grant Program was included in the City's FY 1994-1995 Community Development Block Grant Final Statement. The program is intended to encourage formation of representative neighborhood-based organizations, to assist such organizations in building capacity to provide services to their residents, to further the CDBG goal of creating viable urban neighborhoods through resident involvement, and to enhance the identity of individual neighborhoods in the Community Development Target Area.

Community Development staff requests comment on the draft program guidelines at this time. Council Comments would be forwarded to the Community Development Commission for consideration at the October 25, 1994 meeting. The Commission would then finalize program guidelines, advertise for and review proposals, and recommend funding for specific organizations to City Council later this year.

In response to a request for an explanation of meaning of in ineligible use of funds for expenses related to implementation of neighborhood improvement projects, Mr. Stoffel stated that staff is recommending that this project be geared for capacity building activities rather than for expenditure for specific bricks and mortar improvements. Staff is proposing that items like money for physical activities not be eligible for these funds, that these funds be used primarily for more capacity building, organizing sort of efforts instead.

In response to Ms. Patt's inquiry about the limit to any one applicant of \$3750, and what if there is only one

applicant, Mr. Stoffel responded that the reason for the limit is to encourage spreading the funds around to all census tracts. In the event that there is not sufficient applicants and there is money left over, a second round would be started immediately after the first of the year.

Ms. Patt moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes until 11:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ryan and carried by a voice vote.

Following further debate, Mr. Pollock moved that funds not be spent outside the City of Urbana. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock moved that rental for meeting space be limited to five percent of funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Pollock asked for a straw poll on a motion limiting any particular group's funding to once per fiscal year for a total of \$3750. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Chairman Singer moved a sense of the committee motion to recommend the guidelines as changed by the previous motions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Cable

Chairman Singer stated that he had received a number of calls from people who are interested in the cable situation.

Mr. Pollock stated that he supports the idea of a consumers union as way to deal with a monopoly organization. Given that the City has not established the direction of PEG in the City of Urbana, he feels the City should only provide moral support at this time.

Chairman Singer moved to set up an open, televised meeting to invite people to talk about the mechanics of organizing a consumer action group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayes.

Mr. Whelan stated that he doesn't feel a consumer action group is a good idea because it could give false hope.

Mr. Pollock stated his agreement with Mr. Whelan, stating that this type of meeting might lead the public to believe there is actually something the City can do about the cable issue, when in fact there isn't.

Following further debate, the motion to set up an open, televised meeting to invite people to talk about the mechanics of organizing a consumer action group failed by a show of hands vote.

Parking on Clark Street

Chairman Singer stated that he has talked with Assistant City Attorney Thomas Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey is looking into the legality so when the issue comes to Council, Council Members will be informed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Singer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.