

**CITY OF URBANA
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE - JULY 10, 1995
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Pollock, Chair; James Hayes; Esther Patt; Marya Ryan; Clifford Singer; John Taylor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Whelan, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor; Phyllis Clark, City Clerk; Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer; Jack Waaler, City Attorney; Eddie Adair, Chief of Police; William Gray, Public Works Director; Craig Grant, Building Safety Division Manager; Reed Berger, Economic Development Coordinator; Glenn Berman, Assistant Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Putman; Anderson Epps; Richard Robinson; John L. Johnson; Lular Thomas; Juanita Mason; Linda Peace-Nance; Betty Williams; Grady Wash; Mildred Barksdale; Maudie Edwards; Dr. Ollie Watts Davis; Robert E. Walker, Sr.; Sean Robertson; Laura Kurre; Rev. B. J. Tatum; Catherine Hogue; Media

Chairman Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

1. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT

Ms Patt made a motion that agenda item #9 (Hiring Practice) be moved after item #3 (Public Input). Ms Ryan seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Pollock made a motion to delete agenda items #6 (Tax Incentives for Existing Businesses) and #7 (Parking on Clark Street). The motion was seconded by Ms Ryan. Motion carried by voice vote.

It was acknowledged by the Chair that Mr. Waaler would like "Vehicles for Hire" added to the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms Patt pointed out a typographical error in paragraph 1, line 5 on page 10 of the May 8, 1995 minutes. It should read: "... Cunningham Township or the Housing Authority ..."

Mr. Hayes noted that page 3 appeared twice.

The minutes of May 8, 1995 were approved by voice vote.

3. Public Input

Richard Robinson, 111 W. 5th, Los Angeles, CA, introduced himself to the Committee and stated he would be visiting municipalities in this area.

Several people spoke on the topic of the hiring practice of the City Clerk with regard to the Deputy Clerk position. This issue was brought to light previously by Mr. Whelan, who was not in attendance at this meeting, and received some media coverage.

Mr. Whelan based his concerns on the grounds that Mrs. Clark, City Clerk, violated the hiring practices of the City of Urbana because she did not hire from the Civil Service roster, and nepotism--hiring her cousin, Deborah Roberts. It was the consensus of the audience present, on record, that the City Clerk was not in violation of the hiring practice she used. Ms Roberts has been an employee with the City of Urbana for 19 years and meets the qualifications for the position of Deputy Clerk.

Those persons who indicated their support, for the record, were: Jennifer Putman, Anderson Epps, John L. Johnson, Lular Thomas, Juanita Mason, Linda Peace-Nance, Betty Williams, Grady Wash, Mildred Barksdale, Maudie Edwards, Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, Robert Walker, Sean Robertson, Laura Kurre, Rev. B. J. Tatum, and Catherine Hogue. Others were present.

4. Hiring Practice

Chairman Pollock explained why this item appeared on the agenda. Basically, any Committee Member can bring a piece of business before this Committee and have it discussed. Everyone gets a fair chance to discuss what they feel is important. In order for this item (or any item) to appear on the agenda a second time it would require the support of two Committee Members.

Mr. Hayes stated that he would like to bring closure to this issue and that he does not believe it should ever come before the Council again. Mr. Hayes noted that the City Clerk has appointment authority and mentioned the ordinance passed by Council January 3, 1994 entitled: "An Ordinance Relating To Civil Service." The Illinois Compiled Statutes gives the City Clerk the authority to appoint one private secretary--deputy clerk. Even though Mrs. Clark had the power to appoint a deputy clerk when she took office, she did not. She waited until the previous deputy clerk resigned for better wages and opportunities.

Ms Ryan stated that she felt Mr. Whelan's charge of nepotism

against Mrs. Clark in the appointment of Deborah was absurd. Mrs. Clark violated no laws in the appointment of Ms Roberts. Ryan stated that this was a vile display of partisan politics.

Mr. Singer wanted to also bring this to closure. The City Clerk has said that she has come to an agreement with the Personnel Division to standardize practices between the City Clerk's office and the City. Mr. Singer wanted it noted for the record that the Clerk agrees with this, so that it is in writing, that this issue is buried through action of the City Council on city budget from this year and proceed through succeeding years. This is for the record so that, not only does this issue not need to come before this Committee again, it does not need to come up again at all.

Chairman Pollock stated that it was very clear to him that, although there was no violation of any kind in the Clerk's office, there was a violation on this Council and it was by Mr. Whelan, who was not present. The first problem is the fact that these issues are to be heard in closed sessions because they are personnel issues and people's reputations and lives at stake. Mr. Whelan violated it and discussed the entirety of that meeting with The News-Gazette, which was completely out of line. Chairman Pollock added that he was not happy that Mr. Whelan would see fit to through mud in a personal and political manner as he had and then walk away from it. This City is, and has been, committed to fair and proper hiring practices. If there are questions that arise there are proper ways to deal with them. It is up to this Council to make those determinations and take the appropriate action. In this case, those actions have been taken and this issue should not arise again.

5. House Moving Permit Ordinance Revisions

Mr. Walden presented staff's report and introduced Messrs. Grant and Berman. This is a review of a couple of amendments to the House Moving Permit Ordinance that basically stems from the Kennedy move over a year ago at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Vine Street. These amendments basically deal with bonding and determining the financial resources of the applicant in order that the project can be completed.

Mr. Taylor asked if it would be appropriate to require a bond for completion of the project. Mr. Grant responded that, although it may be within our purview to consider that, it would be a dramatic deviation from what we require for new structures that are built. This is done for public construction in order for the City to protect itself.

Mr. Singer made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Taylor seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Parking Permits**

Mr. Taylor stated that his idea is that the City could pass an amendment to the ordinance to allow someone who is already an existing permit holder prior to the new ordinance, who could prove a hardship to our Finance Director, to be given exemption. Once the permit was or given up no one else could take it in their stead.

Mr. Waaler stated that the original idea twenty years ago that created the 3:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. parking situation was to protect the neighborhood against University of Illinois employees using that as commuter parking space.

Ms Patt stated she would not support making any change. She explained that over the course of the last twenty years the situation has become so bad that residents of the area who have paid for permits have difficulty finding a place on the street to park their cars. This is because of the number of other people with permits who do not live in the neighborhood. In closing, Ms Patt stated that she does not believe it is the City of Urbana's responsibility to address employee relations at the University of Illinois with regard to the availability of parking.

Ms Ryan stated that she is also not in support of this because when dealing with hardship it should be in relation to what most other people are experiencing. With the number of University employees who work under these conditions, or even worse, it would be difficult to see this as being a hardship.

Singer made a motion to direct staff to work with Mr. Taylor in developing an amending to the ordinance. Mr. Taylor seconded.

The motion failed by a show of hands.

7. **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Urbana, Illinois Regulating the Storage of Loaded Firearms**

Mr. Singer presented.

Mr. Singer moved to send this item to Council for approval. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Ms Patt inquired if this would be directed to gun collectors or people who keep a hand gun for protection. Mr. Singer

responded that it is directed for people who have guns in their homes.

Mr. Singer entered his motion again to send to Council for approval. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

8. **Vehicles for Hire (Taxicabs)**

Mr. Waaler presented. This is an effort to have joint licensing of taxicabs in both the cities of Champaign and Urbana. This ordinance would make it possible to have "one stop" issuance of license. It would occur in Champaign. The City of Champaign would issue one license that would be good in both cities. If either city revokes the joint license issued, then it would be revoked in both cities. The ordinance needs to be in place by August 1, 1995.

Mr. Hayes inquired about the application process. Mr. Waaler explained that there would be one application that would be submitted to Champaign. They would collect our fee for us and transmit it to us.

Ms Ryan moved to send to Council for approval. Mr. Hayes seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Pollock adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Roberts
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.