

**CITY OF URBANA**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 8, 2001 - 7:30 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laura Huth (Chair); Danielle Chynoweth; James H. Hayes, Jr.; Milton Otto; Esther Patt; Ruth Wyman

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joseph A. Whelan, Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tod Satterthwaite; Phyllis Clark; Bruce Walden; Stephen Holz; Eddie Adair; Rex Mundt; William Gray; Ronald Eldridge; Reed Berger; Elizabeth Tyler; Vacellia Clark; Rodney Fletcher; Ronald Gremore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ian Goldberg; Cope Cumpston; Muhammad Sharif; Jeff Hays; Jameel Alsaqri; Ahmad Judeh; Brenda Diehl; Jennifer Rachels; Ralph Langenheim; Del Rachels; Members of the Media

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

There being a quorum, Chair Huth called the meeting of the Committee Of The Whole to order at 7:36 p.m.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT**

There were no additions to the agenda.

Rex Mundt (Fire Chief) reminded Committee Members that this is Fire Prevention Week. Annual events will be at Lincoln Square beginning tomorrow from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This year we are celebrating Sparky's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thursday will be a recognition evening to recognize individuals, including some children who were helping in getting the fire out at Thomas Paine School recently. This year's theme is "Strike Out Fire", and the University of Illinois is allowing the baseball team to participate and sign autographs.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

September 24, 2001 - Ms Wyman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2001 Committee meeting. Ms Chynoweth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Ian Goldberg, 708 S. Goodwin, representing The Canopy, addressed the Committee in support of a block party he organized on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Downtown Urbana. Mr. Goldberg thanked Mayor Satterthwaite and Chief Adair for their assistance in helping to carry this event out, and apologized for any mistakes they made that caused disturbance to some of the residents. He supports having standards for the public to go by for having such events in the future.

The Chair recognized others in the audience who wished to wait to enter their input at the time the agenda item was up for discussion.

**Committee Member Input**

There was none.

5. **ORDINANCE NO. 2001-10-124: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (TAX INCREMENT FINANCING)**

Elizabeth Tyler (Assistant City Planner) presented the staff report.

Ms Patt made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Wyman seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. **TIF THREE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (FOX)**

Bruce Walden (Chief Administrative Officer) presented the staff report. Staff recommends amending the original agreement to adopt a new contract which incorporates this addition. Final agreements are not complete, however, staff is working with all of the attorneys involved in order to get this issue finalized. Staff is requesting that this item be forwarded to the November 5, 2001 City Council meeting.

Ms Wyman made a motion to send this item to the November 5, 2001 Council meeting with a recommendation for approval. Ms Patt seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. **ORDINANCE NO. 2001-10-125: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (FEMA FIRE GRANT)**

Chief Mundt presented the staff report.

Mr. Otto made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Wyman seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 2001-10-029R: A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO BE RAISED BY THE TAX LEVY (2001)**

Ron Eldridge (Comptroller) presented the staff report.

Ms Patt made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Wyman seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

9. **PRESENTATION ON CUNNINGHAM AVENUE DRAFT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Ms Tyler presented the staff report and gave a brief overview of the Plan. The plan affects the North Cunningham Avenue Corridor, which includes Frasca Airfield and other Frasca properties. Two TIF Districts would be involved: 1) North Cunningham Avenue; and 2) North Lincoln Avenue. Ms Tyler noted that this project requires a budget of \$32,000,000 for improvements. No action is requested at this time. Staff will report back on December 3, 2001.

10. **COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Rodney Fletcher (Environmental Manager) presented the staff report.

Following debate, Ms Wyman requested that staff bring this item back to the Committee in 30 days, or by the first Committee meeting in November. There were no objections from staff.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Mr. Fletcher informed the Committee and viewing audience of "Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day" which will take place on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the City of Champaign Public Works Center. A list of suggestive hazardous waste that can be collected will be posted on the City's website ([www.city.urbana.il.us](http://www.city.urbana.il.us)).

11. **IDOT MASTER SIGNAL AGREEMENT**

Bill Gray (Public Works Director/City Engineer) presented the staff report.

Ms Patt moved that an ordinance be placed on the next council agenda authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement. Mr. Hayes seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Before proceeding with the next item on the agenda, Ms Patt requested to change the order of the business to hear item #14 next. There were no objections.

14. **DISCUSSION: DEVELOPMENT AT LIERMAN AND WASHINGTON STREETS**

**Public Input**

Muhammad Sharif, 708-A Crescent (Champaign), and Jeff Hayes of Erwin, Martinkus & Cole Law Offices, 411 W. University (Champaign) addressed the Committee in support of the proposed development at Lierman and Washington Streets, and gave a brief slide presentation.

The following people were in opposition to the proposed development at Lierman and Washington Streets: Jameel Alsaqri, 1509 E. Washington; Ahmad Judeh, 1617 E. Fairlawn; Brenda Diehl, 410 N. McKinley (Champaign); and Jennifer Rachels, 1609 E. Washington.

The following people did not wish to address the Committee, but submitted public input cards expressing their position: Del Rachels, 1609 E. Washington, opposed; and Ralph Langenheim, 401 W. Vermont, support (would also like to see Lierman upgraded with curbs, etc.).

Reference was made to a petition that was circulated opposing the issuance of a liquor license. Mayor Satterthwaite noted that the development meets all of the criteria and there are no grounds to deny a liquor license.

Following debate, Chair Huth noted that there would be a public meeting concerning this project this Wednesday evening.

12. **SPECIAL EVENTS/LOUD MUSIC**

Ms Patt presented this item. She inquired if there were any laws that governed how people obtain permits. Mayor Satterthwaite explained that this type of permit is technically a parade permit. The City is trying to establish a better tool to use.

Following debate, Ms Patt moved to request that staff bring to the next Committee meeting an ordinance amending the noise to 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 p.m. Friday through Saturday for the use of amplified noise events. Ms Wyman seconded. Debate ensued.

Mr. Otto would like to hear from more of the Urbana businesses in the area, and suggested deferring this item for several weeks.

Following debate, Mr. Otto suggested having Legal staff draft an ordinance leaving the time and decibel blank and present it to the Committee with an agreement to insert. Ms Patt concurred.

The motion to bring this item back to Committee in two weeks carried by voice vote.

Chair Huth requested that a report of the number of citations issued for car noise also be available at the next Committee meeting.

13. **DISCUSSION: HIRING AND DIVERSITY FOR CITY OF URBANA**

**Public Input**

Cope Cumpston, 402 W. Nevada, representing the Urbana Human Relations Commission, addressed the Committee on the topic of the Urbana Personnel Report. A subcommittee of the Human Relations Commission met and presented the 2000 report, which showed only White hires for that year.

Debate ensued with questions of Committee Members to staff concerning the City's Affirmative Action Plan and diversity within the City. Staff members Vacellia Clark (Human Relations Officer) and Ronald Gremore (Personnel Manager) were available to respond to questions. The City of Urbana does not have an Affirmative Action Plan at present, but has a diversity goal in place. Ms Wyman requested that a timetable be given as to when goals would be done.

At 11:00 p.m., Ms Wyman made a motion to extend the time of the meeting for ten minutes. Ms Patt seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was extended to 11:10 p.m. Debate ensued.

Mayor Satterthwaite noted that when the report first came to his attention it was really a cause for concern. As a result, he has been working with staff to see where improvements can be made in the hiring process, which includes upgrading the pool used to make the selections. Mr. Walden also expressed his concerns pointing out that the demographics of the pool and the City do not match.

At 11:16 p.m. Ms Patt moved to extend the time of the meeting for another ten minutes. Ms Wyman seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was extended to 11:26 p.m. Debate ensued.

When asked how soon staff could supply the Committee with a report on the progress of this issue, Ms Clark indicated approximately two months. Committee Members expressed interest in the retention rate at the City (i.e., how many people leave the City as a result of family move, better job offer, etc.) and a timetable for when goals would be in place.

Staff will report back at the first Committee meeting in December scheduled for December 10, 2001.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Huth declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

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Deborah J. Roberts  
Recording Secretary

\*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: October 22, 2001