

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

July 28, 2003

7:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Danielle Chynoweth, James Hayes, Laura Huth (Chair), Esther Patt (arrived at 7:35 p.m., Ruth Wyman, and Joseph Whelan – 6.

Committee Members Absent:

Milton Otto – 1 (excused).

Staff Members Present:

Police Chief Adair, Bill Gray, Mayor Satterthwaite, Jack Waaler, and Bruce Walden

Others Present:

Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street

There being a quorum, Chair Huth called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that Mr. Otto had contacted him to say that he would not be present at this meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2003 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wyman and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Mayor Satterthwaite welcomed a delegation of government officials from Shandong Province, Peoples Republic of China.

Ordinance No. 2003-07-074: An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance (Consultant, Landfill Mitigation)

Public Works Director Bill Gray presented staff report. Work activity is continuing to address the violations of the Urbana landfill along the Butzow drainage ditch and along the Saline drainage ditch. The City has gone through the process to engage the services of an environmental engineering consulting firm. Proposals were received and a review committee of staff members from our Public Work's Department and University of Illinois staff performed a review and selected the firm of GeoSyntec Consultants from Chicago.

The scope of work includes site investigation field work/data analysis, preparation of site investigation report, development of remediation options and preparation of pre-final remediation plan bid documents.

A budget amendment of \$78,560 is needed for the fees. The General Reserve Fund balance would be reduced by \$78,560 and an expense for Landfill Remediation would be added in that amount.

Staff recommends approval.

Following debate, Ms. Wyman moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2003-07-074: An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance (Consultant, Landfill Mitigation)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt.

Following further debate, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2003-07-074: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Road Right-of-Way Dedication (City of Urbana – 706 S. Glover)

Mr. Gray presented staff report. The Public Works Department has prepared the plans and specifications for a sidewalk improvement program this year. One area for improvement is to provide a new side walk along the east side of Glover Street, between Oregon Street and Washington Street. A portion of this sidewalk crosses the Public Works Center at 706 South Glover. In order for the sidewalk not to encroach into the street along the east side of South Glover Avenue, it is necessary to dedicate a six-foot strip. The building setback will still conform with the zoning code. There is no fiscal impact to the City and staff recommends approval.

Following debate, Ms. Wyman moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2003-07-074: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Road Right-of-Way Dedication (City of Urbana – 706 S. Glover)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chynoweth and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2003-07-076: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Elm Street and a Portion of Fish Alley

Mr. Gray presented staff report. This is unfinished business with the Champaign County Courthouse Complex. As a part of the City of Urbana/Champaign County agreement City owned portions of Elm Street and Fish Alley public right-of-ways need to be vacated. Staff recommends that this ordinance be forwarded to Council for approval.

Following debate, Ms. Chynoweth requested that a footprint of the parking lot be available for the next Council meeting.

Following further debate, Ms. Wyman moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2003-07-076: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Elm Street and a Portion of Fish Alley** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2003-07-077: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Boyden Street (Between Oakland Avenue and Thompson Street)

Mr. Gray presented staff report. The development agreement between the City of Urbana and Town and Country Apartments requires that the City reconstruct Oakland Avenue, between Cunningham Avenue and Boyden Street next year. In addition, the City is obligated to consider vacating the Boyden Street right-of-way, from Oakland Avenue north to at least the northern most point of such right-of-way that Town and Country owns, abutting Boyden Street on both sides. City staff has been in contact with the two property owners of the property abutting both sides of Boyden Street, between Oakland Avenue and Thompson Street and both are willing to accept the land if Boyden Street is vacated.

Vacating this right-of-way will remove maintenance responsibility and potential liability from the City. Staff recommends approval.

Ms. Chynoweth moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2003-07-077: An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Boyden Street (Between Oakland Avenue and Thompson Street)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Ms. Wyman referenced a letter with an attached petition that was placed on Council desks prior to the Council meeting. The petition was signed by 64 individuals requesting installation of a stop sign at Windsor at the Vine Street intersection. Ms. Wyman questioned if this is an issue the Traffic Commission will address.

Mr. Gray stated that intersection traffic signal warrants are done to see if an intersections warrants are met. This intersection had a thorough study performed by the Traffic Engineer at CUATS two or three years and a stop sign is not warranted.

Mr. Whelan pointed out that of the 64 names on the petition, 30 are from as far away as Tennessee.

Ms. Chynoweth asked if signage could be put up warning that motorists not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk would be fined.

Ms. Patt stated that the issued has been raised several times. There are two conflicting positions. The pedestrians that don't want to wait for traffic before crossing to the park and the motorists that have to stop at Race and then right away at Vine when the majority of times there are no pedestrians crossing. If there is a determination that something is necessary, a sign warning motorist of a fine for not stopping for pedestrians in the cross walk would be the way to go, or a sign stating that motorists should stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that addition of a stop sign that doesn't meet warrants can be more unsafe than having no signage.

Ms. Wyman requested that the author of this petition be informed if this issue is discussed at Traffic Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Huth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes approved: August 11, 2003