

CITY OF URBANA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 12, 2005 - 7:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynne C. Barnes (Chair); Brandon Bowersox; Danielle Chynoweth; Robert E. Lewis; Dennis Roberts; Charlie Smyth; Heather Stevenson

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Phyllis Clark; Bruce Walden; James Gitz; Eddie Adair; Rex Mundt; William Gray; Elizabeth Tyler; Ryan Brault

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lisa Treul; Peter Resnick; Barbara Gladney; Members of the Media

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

Chair Barnes called the meeting of the Committee Of The Whole to order at 7:03 p.m. [Note: Mayor Prussing was not present at the meeting due to a scheduled out of town trip. Ms Chynoweth is Mayor Pro-tem in the Mayor's absence.]

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

Mr. Smyth requested to add "Presentation of the WUNA White Paper Document on Preserving and Revitalizing West Urbana Neighborhoods" prior to the Council Goals discussion. There were no objections. This item will appear as #12a on the agenda.

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

**November 14, 2005** - Mr. Smyth made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2005 Committee meeting. Mr. Lewis seconded.

Mr. Bowersox noted a spelling error on pages 1 and 3. "Justin Catendos" should read "Justin **Cajindos**". There were no objections.

The minutes of November 14, 2005 were approved by a voice vote, as amended.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Lisa Treul, representing WUNA (West Urbana Neighborhood Association), addressed the Committee in support of their specialty sign request for the area bounded by Florida Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Race Street, and Main Street. Ms Treul noted that the organization was able to raise a little over \$12,000.00 to help with the sign.

**Committee Member Input**

There was none.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-024R: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (LINCOLN AVENUE AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE)**

William Gray (Public Works Director/City Engineer) presented the staff report. [Note: Agenda items #5, #6 and #7 were presented and acted on in omnibus fashion.]

Mr. Smyth moved to send Resolution Nos. 2005-12-024R, 2005-12-025R, and 2005-12-026R to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Chynoweth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-025R: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT LINCOLN AVENUE (F.A.U. ROUTE 7177) AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

This item sent to Council with a recommendation for approval.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-026R: A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT BY MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (LINCOLN AVENUE AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE)**

This item sent to Council with a recommendation for approval.

8. **A MOTION APPROVING WEST URBANA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (WUNA) SPECIALTY STREET NAME SIGN REQUEST (AREA BOUNDED BY FLORIDA AVENUE, LINCOLN AVENUE, RACE STREET, AND MAIN STREET)**

*Noted for the record: Ms Lisa Treul, representing WUNA, presented a check this evening in the amount of \$12,250 to Bruce Walden (Chief Administrative Officer) as payment for their portion of this project.*

Mr. Gray presented the staff report.

Mr. Smyth moved to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

9. **ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12-173: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (WEST URBANA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (WUNA) SIGNS)**

Mr. Smyth moved to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

10. **ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12-177: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH BEAR PROPERTIES, LLC (400 NORTH BROADWAY AVENUE - DOWNTOWN REHABILITATION)**

Mr. Walden presented the staff report.

Following debate, Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

11. **ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12-178: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH OMNICARE LABS OF CHAMPAIGN (DOWNTOWN REHABILITATION)**

Ryan Brault (Redevelopment Specialist) presented the staff report.

Mr. Bowersox moved to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

12. **RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-027: A RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL BROADBAND INTERNET TRANSMISSION SERVICES LEGISLATION**

Chair Barnes recognized members of the audience who wanted to render public comment at this time.

Peter Resnick, 503 W. Indiana, addressed the Committee in support of the resolution. However, Mr. Resnick indicated that he was opposed to the legislation.

Barbara Gladney, 709 W. Michigan Avenue, addressed the Committee in support of the resolution.

Ms Chynoweth noted that she had scheduled a meeting with Congressman Tim Johnson's office for Monday, November 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this legislation.

James Gitz (City Attorney) presented the staff report. Mr. Gitz presented a revised draft of this resolution, "A Resolution in Regard to Broadband Internet Transmission Services Legislation Pending in Congress", to the Committee.

Following debate, Mr. Roberts made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Chynoweth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

12a. **PRESENTATION OF THE WUNA WHITE PAPER DOCUMENT ON PRESERVING AND REVITALIZING WEST URBANA NEIGHBORHOODS**

Mr. Smyth noted that this item is a part of goal #4 of the Council Goals with respect to preserving neighborhoods. He will draft a resolution of support for the next Committee meeting to be held January 9, 2006, and asked that it be placed on the agenda. There were no objections.

13. **DISCUSSION: COUNCIL GOALS**

Chair Barnes opened this item for discussion. Mr. Smyth put together and distributed a concise outline of the goals to the Committee prior to the meeting. These goals were approved by the City Council on September 19, 2005. The purpose of the goals was to outline a list of priorities for the Mayor, Council, and staff during the term of the current council in order that they may take a proactive role in the future of the city. The Committee reviewed the outline in detail.

In order to ensure the successful completion of each of these goals, Mr. Smyth suggested two Council Members be assigned to follow-up on each topic, and that the Council review and report back as a group on a routine basis (i.e., every six months). There were no objections. It was the consensus of the Committee that the goals be made available to the public via publications (i.e., newspaper), public access channel, and posted on the City's website. It was also the consensus of the Committee that each of them be included in discussions pertaining to their respective wards.

Midway in the process of reviewing these goals, the Committee took a five-minute recess at 9:03 p.m. and resumed their session at 9:08 p.m.

In closing remarks, Chair Barnes best described this document as a "road map" for the Council's work effort as a group of things they hope to get accomplished in four years.

*Note: Attached to this record is a copy of the goals reviewed by the Committee and the names of the Council Members assigned to the task. The Council's goals will be posted on the City of Urbana's website at [www.city.urbana.il.us](http://www.city.urbana.il.us).*

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

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Deborah J. Roberts  
Recording Secretary

Attachment

\*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

\*\*A video broadcast of this meeting is available on the City's website at [www.city.urbana.il.us](http://www.city.urbana.il.us).

Minutes Approved: January 9, 2006

**City of Urbana  
City Council**

**COMMON GOALS**

Reviewed by Committee Of The Whole  
December 12, 2005

1. **Promote Public Safety**

Assigned: Lynne Barnes and Heather Stevenson

- a. Provide police and fire service at the level needed for all neighborhoods.
- b. Support the Mayor in putting together a task force to pursue a Police Review/Oversight Board appropriate for our size of city that is effective, professional, and cost-effective.
- c. Establish appropriate ordinances to strengthen the city's ability to maintain safe environments within our neighborhoods.

2. **Strengthen Urbana's Economic Development Program**

Assigned: All Council Members

- a. Philo Road - Implement action plan, extend Florida, work with neighborhood and business leaders, stabilize nearby neighborhoods, consider additional safety enhancements, and examine further economic incentives.
- b. Recruitment visits, including Mayor/Council Members, to targeted businesses.
- c. General business development along Cunningham Avenue, including beautification.
- d. Monitor developments on 130/150 and develop consensus vision.
- e. Look at Olympian Drive completion over the next several years.
- f. Hire Economic Development Manager ASAP. Consider higher level position that answers directly to the Mayor and CAO.

3. **Create an Energetic, Vibrant Downtown that Provides Needed Services to the City**

Assigned: Danielle Chynoweth and Charlie Smyth

- a. Establish Downtown Commission that will propose Annual Action Plans before each budget season to Council.
- b. Create and implement redevelopment plans for key segments of downtown.
- c. Create and implement redevelopment plan for the Boneyard; especially Race to Vine.
- d. Implement downtown, public wireless.
- e. Develop trailway from Carle to Downtown.

- f. Increase outdoor activity - create single ROW usage license, market Farmer's Market tours, encourage outdoor dining and beer gardens and music events.
- g. Pursue increased outdoor green space/establishment of a public square.

4. **Preserve Neighborhoods and Promote Rental Safety**

Assigned: Charlie Smyth and Brandon Bowersox

- a. Develop conservation districts for historic and sensitive areas of the city. Conservation districts should include review of demolitions, approval of new construction, and design guidelines applied by a MOR-style Design Review Board or as fixed requirements required by the Zoning Ordinance.
- b. Increase code enforcement, particularly for rentals. Hire additional Housing Inspector, and pursue consequences for repeat code offenders.
- c. "Rebuild Urbana" - Encourage home maintenance, including painting in target areas, examine incentives for conversion of rentals and boarding houses to single-family and condos, and replace decayed stock to low-density or condos.

5. **Implement the 2005 Comprehensive Plan**

Assigned: Robert Lewis and Brandon Bowersox

- a. Rewrite our Zoning Ordinance. We propose hiring an outside consultant in order to accomplish this over the next year and to focus on billboards and sign issues now with current staff.
- b. Include use of design guidelines, form-based code concepts, modern sign and lighting standards, traditional neighborhood development standards, commercial big box store standards, neighborhood business zones, preserving historic neighborhoods, farmland, and natural areas and minimizing sprawl as guiding principles. (See Comprehensive Plan implementation section for complete action items and goals.)
- c. Update the Sign Ordinance for the city, setting new guidelines for commercial signs along main arteries and traffic corridors designated for redevelopment or beautification. Establish a timetable for the replacement of phasing out of billboards and tall pole signs along designated traffic corridors.

6. **Reduce Urbana's Environmental Footprint and Waste Stream / Expand Recycling**

Assigned: Danielle Chynoweth and Charlie Smyth

- a. Study and implement green building guidelines, incentives, energy conservation improvements, and environmentally-friendly public works.
- b. Implement recycling of bottles, paper, etc., in Downtown; particularly in light of local beer distributors' termination of bottle recycling.

- c. Target construction debris for waste reduction/recycling, since it is the greatest source of waste.
- d. Support hazardous waste collection.

7. **Promote Diversity and Non-Discrimination In:**

Assigned: Robert Lewis

- a. Hiring
- b. Contracts
- c. Public services
- d. Code enforcement

8. **Increase Affordable Housing**

Assigned: Dennis Roberts and Danielle Chynoweth

- a. Develop nationally recognized model neighborhood that is affordable and uses 10% of standard energy consumption.
- b. Develop replacement rental housing for Lakeside Terrace, 80 units or more, which are affordable to the poorest of the poor as per prior Council agreement.
- c. continue support for accessible, energy-efficient, affordable housing; including an effective mix of rent subsidized housing with homeownership programs.

9. **Get Urbana Bicycling**

Assigned: Brandon Bowersox and Charlie Smyth

- a. Create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and seek bicycle-friendly community designation.
- b. Staff and Council will implement Bike Committee recommendations on new and improved routes and regional connections, bike maps, designated routes, signage, improved off-street and on-street bike routes and facilities, increased bicycle parking, as well as creation of bike safety and public education programs.
- c. Take a leadership role on developing the regional trail to Danville that would include historic Lincoln sites in Urbana.
- d. Develop a local trail from Carle to Downtown and other in-town greenways and trails.

10. **Create a Public Arts Program**

Assigned: Danielle Chynoweth and Dennis Roberts

- a. Establish a dedicated revenue stream for public art – consider percent for arts approach.
- b. Encourage the preservation and commemoration of local and multicultural traditions and histories.
- c. Integrate art into every feasible public works project – promote functional and streetscape art.
- d. Create a public art program that represents our community in all its diversity – in terms of race, geography, gender, class, sexual orientation, belief system, etc.

- e. Provide opportunities for local and national, established and emerging artists in Champaign County.
- f. Develop a strong public collection of artworks representing diverse communities, artistic styles, and disciplines.
- g. Establish a Public Arts Commission.

11. **Recruit and Retain Top Quality Staff**

Assigned: Charlie Smyth

- a. Become more competitive and develop methods for better retaining staff.
- b. Identify immediate changes and long-term goals to attract and retain top-notch employees; include examination of pay scale and advancement through positions.
- c. Implement appointment contracts.
- d. Gather input from employees on how to improve the city's employment climate.

12. **Review City Code**

Assigned: Mayor

- a. Compare policy to practice.
- b. Review Code for inequities.
- c. Pursue relevant changes as required.

13. **Handle Council Business Efficiently**

Assigned: Lynne Barnes

- a. Improve Council Chambers audio.
- b. Provide three chairs at public comment table and replace with better microphone.
- c. Provide public with a "how to" brochure for public input and advice on how to make comments additions to the conversation instead of repetition.
- d. Improve meeting efficiency.
- e. Wherever possible, staff time at meetings should be consolidated and ordered with agenda items planned so that a particular staff member is not at every meeting.
- f. Several vacation periods have been set, including no meetings the weeks of July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event that a Council meeting is needed, it should be scheduled to precede the regularly scheduled Committee Of The Whole meeting of the subsequent week. Attempts will be mde to line up vacation periods in upcoming years.