



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
October 23, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Lynne Barnes (Chair), Brandon Bowersox, Danielle Chynoweth, Robert Lewis, Dennis Roberts, Charlie Smyth, and Heather Stevenson

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Elected Officials

Mayor Laurel Prussing and City Clerk Phyllis Clark

Staff Members Present:

Police Chief Mike Bily, Economic Development Manager Tom Carrino, Comptroller Ron Eldridge, City Attorney Jim Gitz, Public Works Director Bill Gray, Planning Division Manager Robert Myers, Community Development Director Libby Tyler, and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden.

Others Present:

Dianna Visek, and Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Mr. Smyth requested to add a discussion of what Council Members would like to see on the City website to the agenda following agenda item 8. There were no objections.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Smyth moved to approve the October 16, 2006 minutes of the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Dianna Visek, 608 West Pennsylvania, addressed the Committee with her concerns regarding the Neighborhood Conservation District.

Ordinance No. 2006-10-128: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (FY06-07 Property Tax Appropriation)

Comptroller Ron Eldridge presented staff report. The revision to the annual budget would be revised in the following amounts:

Fund: General Operating		
Increase Expense: Payment to Police Pension Fund	\$37,000	
Decrease Expense: Payment to Fire Pension Fund		\$99,930
Reduce Revenue: Property Tax Appropriation		\$85,726
Increase Revenue: State Income Tax		\$22,796

Following debate, Mr. Roberts moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2006-10-128: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (FY06-07 Property Tax Appropriation)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2006-10-129: Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of the City of Urbana, Illinois, for the Year Beginning July 1, 2006 and Ending June 30, 2007 and Resolution No. 2006-10-026R: A Resolution Directing the Champaign County Clerk to Abate the Tax Levy for the General Corporate Purpose for the Year Beginning July 1, 2006 and Ending June 30, 2007

Mr. Eldridge presented staff report stating that he recommends approval of the ordinance and resolution to levy the City's 2006 property tax. These documents must be filed with the County Clerk no later than the second Tuesday in December. The ordinance and resolution will levy a tax rate of 1.2942, which is a reduction from the current rate of 1.3120.

Following debate, Mr. Smyth moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2006-10-129: Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of the City of Urbana, Illinois, for the Year Beginning July 1, 2006 and Ending June 30, 2007** and **Resolution No. 2006-10-026R: A Resolution Directing the Champaign County Clerk to Abate the Tax Levy for the General Corporate Purpose for the Year Beginning July 1, 2006 and Ending June 30, 2007** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried by a voice vote.

Update to Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) Report

Planning Manager Robert Myers reviewed staff response to the following issues that the Committee of the Whole requested staff to follow up on at the August 28, 2006 meeting:

- (1) Information on review of building demolitions.
- (2) Making presentations to neighborhoods on the NCD concept.
- (3) Consideration of the idea of forming a special task force to identify potential historic landmarks and districts.

Following debate, Mr. Smyth moved to direct staff to pursue items 1 through 6 with a caveat attached to item number 4 which is that as we proceed to figure out what exactly we mean by neighborhood conservation district, that we engage in several public discussions where the concepts of neighborhood conservation districts are raised and different ideas and versions are talked about, that we get input from the public and what they want. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chynoweth and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Smyth moved to direct staff to draw up a demolition review ordinance, something that is a combination of the ordinances in place in Chicago and Highland Park. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Following further debate, Ms. Chynoweth moved to request that staff look at both the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Historic Preservation process to identify potential changes in both to help to be able to designate more properties in the future. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowersox. Mr. Lewis suggested that when the public review is held, the City should take a look at demolition from the public's perspective. Mr. Smyth moved that Mr. Lewis' suggestion be taken as a friendly amendment. Mr. Roberts seconded that motion. Following debate, the friendly amendment was withdrawn.

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

Ms. Chynoweth moved that Council invite the Historic Preservation Commission to a joint study session to discuss the barriers to historic preservation and neighborhood conservation and to brainstorm solutions for Council to move forward and develop long term plans for historic preservation and neighborhood conservation including demolition review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth and carried by a voice vote.

Motion to Direct Staff to Prepare an Ordinance to Establish a Public Arts Task Force

Ms. Chynoweth moved to direct staff to prepare an ordinance to establish a Public Arts Task Force. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth. Following debate, the

motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Smyth requested that Committee Members forward to him list of what they would like to see on the **City Website**. He will then forward them to IS Manager Bill DeJarnette for implementation.

Mr. Smyth moved that the Committee enter into **Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining Issues Pursuant 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and Property Acquisition**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowersox and carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Voting aye were Members of the Council: Barnes, Bowersox, Chynoweth, Lewis, Roberts, Smyth, and Stevenson – 7; voting nay: none.

The Committee entered into closed session at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 9:27 p.m. with all Members previously in attendance still present.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes approved: November 13, 2006