

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

March 22, 1993

Committee Members Present:

Joan Barr, Lonnie Clark, Michael Pollock, Clifford Singer (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Charles Smyth (Chairman), Bonnie Tarr and Joseph Whelan

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Bruce Walden, Tom Lindsey, Bruce Stoffel, Douglas Miller, April Getchius, William Gray, Glenn Berman, Ronald Eldridge, Ruth Brookens, Mayor Markland

Others Present:

Frieda Wascher, Traci Nally, Jerry Laughlin, Members of the News Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chairman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Chairman Smyth stated that Item 5, Sale of Three Lots to Habitat for Humanity and Item 6, Modification to Request for Funds - Eastern Illinois Food Bank will be considered before Item 3, Request to Vacate Park Street Between Orchard and Coler, and that Item 4, Railroad Right-of-Way Update, will be removed from the agenda and discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on Environment and Public Safety on April 26, 1993.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ms. Tarr moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 1993 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Sale of Three Lots to Habitat for Humanity

Community Development Manager Bruce Stoffel was before the Committee to present information on the sale (donation) of three single-family residential lots to Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County.

Mr. Stoffel said that lots at 1308 West Eads and 1203 West Dublin had been acquired through the Community Development Block Grant program and vacant, dilapidated houses had been removed to make the lots ready for new construction.

Covenant Medical Center demolished a vacant, dilapidated commercial structure located at 1306 West Hill Street. Covenant donated this cleared lot to the City for new housing construction for a low-income family.

Frieda Wascher, representing Habitat for Humanity, addressed the Committee in support of the sale of the three lots to that organization.

Following Committee praise for the efforts of the Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Clark moved that the ordinances authorizing the sale of the three lots to Habitat for Humanity be sent to Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tarr and carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Singer arrived.

Modification to Request for Funds - Eastern Illinois Food Bank

Traci Nally, representing the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, addressed the Committee to explain a request that funds that had been allocated by the City in 1991-92 to the Food Bank for the purpose of relocating their operations be modified from relocation to stabilization and renovation of their current building because the Food Bank no longer intends to relocate.

Ms. Barr moved to send the Modification to Request for Funds - Eastern Illinois Food Bank to Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Request to Vacate Park Street Between Orchard and Coler (Carle Foundation)

Jerry Laughlin, representing the Carle Foundation, addressed the Committee presenting extensive expansion plans which include development of Park Street corridor, increases in

physicians and support staff, increase in number of beds, etc. Information on construction schedules will be presented at a later date.

Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden stated that the City has been working with Carle for several months and have an agreement in principle. Mr. Walden further stated that he would like to hear input and questions and bring the request to vacate Park Street to Council in April.

Mr. Laughlin stated he has met with city staff both from Urbana and Champaign and there are neighborhood meetings planned to present the street closing to those most directly affected.

Mr. Laughlin expressed Carle's willingness to participate in whatever traffic signal requirements are necessary.

Mr. Smyth inquired about adding a fifth lane to University and adding the necessary traffic signals.

Public Works Director Bill Gray stated that there would be left turn lanes at the signalized intersections. As far as widening University, it is at the maximum right-of-way. The intersections at Orchard/University, and Coler/University will be enhanced with the latest technology in traffic signal equipment. That will enhance the traffic flow with the added traffic on University. There is a traffic signal planned for Fairview and Lincoln in the Capital Improvement Plan long range plans. It is possible that it could be escalated to the next year or two.

Frieda Wascher, 803 West Fairview, addressed the Committee in opposition to the vacation of Park Street.

Following debate about the fulfillment of specified needs and a request by the Committee for a comprehensive overview of the master plan, Mr. Singer moved to request staff to proceed along the lines as requested by Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Capital Improvement Plan - Ten Year List and Resolution

As required in Section 3 of Resolution No. 8788-R14, Public Works Director, William Gray presented the annual update of the Capital Improvement Plan, which also outlines various funding policies for projects, and the current ten-year cash flow projections and an updated ten (10) year plan incorporating information for each element, funding policies and projected funding levels.

Committee on Environment and Public Safety
March 22, 1993
Page 4

Mr. Gray reviewed the status of current projects and presented the projects projected in the fiscal year 1993-94 budget.

Mr. Clark left the meeting.

Following debate on the various current and future projects, Mr. Smyth moved to send the Capital Improvement Plan - 10 Year List and Resolution to Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pollock and carried by a voice vote.

Revision of Fees

City Comptroller Ronald Eldridge presented revisions in fees as required by the City's financial policies. The two major changes that are made yearly are in liquor license fees and the sewer benefit tax, which have been increased by 4%. There are other minor changes. Next year there will be a recommendation to increase the fees on all of the other permits.

Mr. Pollock questioned how the added category of a \$200 fee for Right-of-Way or Alley Vacation Request was determined.

Mr. Walden stated that this represents the cost for the technical engineering work that is required.

Mr. Pollock asked who pays the legal costs. The response was that there is a small filing fee (\$15-\$25) at the County office. The \$200 reflects engineering and drafting related time involved in preparing a vacation.

Mr. Singer moved to send the Revision of Fees to Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr and carried by a voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Secretary

*This meeting was taped.
**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Committee on Environment and Public Safety
March 22, 1993
Page 5