

**CITY OF URBANA**

**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE - MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1996  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Pollock, Chair; James Hayes, Jr.; Carolyn Kearns; Esther Patt; Marya Ryan; John Taylor; Joseph Whelan, Jr.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor; Phyllis Clark, City Clerk; Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer; Jack Waaler, City Attorney; Eddie Adair, Chief of Police; Jeff McDuffy, Division Officer/UFD; Ron Eldridge, Comptroller; April Getchius, Community Development Director; William Gray, Public Works Director; Jonathan Hall, Information Services Manager; James Page, Lieutenant/Police Dept.; Bruce Stoffel, Grants Management Division Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Gnagey; Sarah Theobald; Judy Wyatt; Earl O'Shea; Vickie Wilson; Gerald Archibald; Brian Connery; Media

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

2. **Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report**

There were none.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**September 9, 1996** -- Ms Patt made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 1996 and was seconded by Ms Ryan.

Ms Patt moved to amend page 7, paragraph 3 beginning with "Project 18 ..." to read "Project 18 *specifically* focuses on families with children." Ms Ryan seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

The motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 1996 carried by voice vote with correction noted.

4. **Public Input**

Kevin Gnagey, 1002 S. Race Street, representing the Urbana High School Student Senate, addressed the Committee on the topic of parking on Race Street and expressed his support.

The following people addressed the Committee in support of the policy regarding handicapped accessible parking on City streets:

Sarah A. Theobald, 1202 Harding Dr., Apt. 407  
Judy Wyatt, 1202 E. Harding Dr.  
Vickie Wilson, 401 E. Adams (Springfield, IL), representing  
the Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities  
Brian Connery (no address available)

Earl O'Shea, 606-A Glover, addressed the Committee in support of a better government and problems regarding his neighbor's (Jeff Cross) property.

Gerard Archibald, 1105 E. Oregon, addressed the Committee on the topic of the tax levy and expressed his opposition.

#### **Council Member Input**

Chair Pollock read into record a letter from F. Donna Reed of 1506 Fairlawn Drive regarding property adjacent to the railroad right-of-way (Florida to Washington). (See Attachment A: Petitions & Communications - F. Donna Reed Letter.)

#### **5. ARMS Update**

Bruce Walden (Chief Administrative Officer) made a brief introduction and then had Jonathan Hall (Information Services Manager) and James Page (Lieutenant/Urbana Police Department) update the Committee on the project and how it was set-up. Mr. Hall gave a brief description and report about the project.  
[Note: ARMS = Areawide Records Management System]

At present, the City of Urbana is the only local agency who uses this as a computerized system. The system is secured with a password entry and is also user friendly. In part, the system was only being used for Urbana, however, other agencies are now involved. Agencies currently involved include the City of Urbana, the City of Champaign, and the University of Illinois.

#### **6. Policy Regarding Handicapped Accessible Parking On City Streets**

Chair Pollock asked that Ms Kearns and/or Bill Gray (Public Works Director) explain why this issue is before the Committee

and the results of the Traffic Commission meeting.

Ms Kearns stated that her position was that we (the Council) needed a policy. The City of Springfield's policy is that if anyone wants to have a handicapped space it can be done. She believes there should be a better policy than that.

Mr. Gray stated that putting a handicapped accessible space on Elm Street would set a precedent for the downtown area. The City of Champaign's policy is similar to Urbana's. Mr. Gray stated that it is not "required" by the State to provide these spaces, however, it is something the City "can" do.

Mayor Satterthwaite inquired if handicapped spaces were provided in every lot owned by the City. Mr. Gray's response was that these spaces are provided in all lots owned by the City of Urbana. With regard to the number of spaces, Mr. Gray was uncertain of the exact number but stated that the City of Urbana excels in the number provided.

Mr. Taylor asked if it were possible to obtain a brief report from Naperville and Springfield on how they handle handicapped parking space requests? He also wanted to know how the City of Champaign conducted its survey. Mr. Gray stated that he believed they went according to comparable in size. With regard to on-street parking, Mr. Gray stated that the City would not have to use the 16 foot ADA requirement. Mr. Gray also mentioned that there is a concern with liability for providing on-street parking.

Mr. Whelan asked that staff provide a memo that would include the report Mr. Taylor requested, as well as the number of handicapped spaces we now have available. Ms Kearns added that it would also be beneficial to include where these spaces are available in city lots as well as private property (if possible).

Ms Patt stated that she would like more information on whether there really is a legal question about liability for the City regarding on-street parking. Ms Patt also wanted to know what precedent would be set for the downtown area if the Library were to make accessible parking spaces on Elm Street for people with disabilities who are ambulatory and cannot walk the distance from the current accessible spaces to the Library. Mr. Gray indicated that he assumed other locations where there is on-street parking downtown would ask for these spaces also. He stated that similar requests have also been made for the campus area.

Mr. Whelan stated that the area on Elm Street in front of

the children's section of the Urbana Free Library would not be a safety hazard for handicapped accessible parking.

Chair Pollock summarized the issues staff should include in their report back to the Committee. The report should include: 1) copies of the policies from Springfield, Naperville and Champaign; 2) an inventory of the number and location of downtown accessible spaces (both public and private); 3) the best possible legal opinion we come up with to identify the City's exposure, in the event we decide to proceed with on-street accessible parking; and 4) a look at upgrading the space at the Library to see if there is a problem with the pavement (surface), the accessibility from that space around the corner to the Library. If the sidewalk is not good, perhaps there is something the City could do to make it easier to negotiate.

Ms Patt reiterated that there are people with disabilities who do not use a wheelchair. She stated that she would also like staff to address how the City determines the needs of people who are ambulatory without noticeable disabilities, but need closer parking because of other medical illnesses.

[Note: There was no motion from the Committee directing staff to do a report. The directive was given with the understanding that staff would prepare the report as requested from Council Members and would do so in a timely period, as with all reports to Council.]

**7. Railroad Right-Of-Way Issue - Florida to Washington**

Mr. Gray presented the staff report to Committee Members. (See Attachment B: Railroad R-O-W (Florida to Washington).)

Following debate, Mr. Whelan made a motion to send this item to Council for approval. Mr. Hayes seconded.

Ms Ryan moved to delete the last two "WHEREAS" clauses on the resolution. Mr. Taylor seconded. Ms Ryan explained that, in reference to the Carle neighborhood mentioned, the assistance given was in response to actions by the City that were going to help Carle Hospital expand. She indicated that the clauses may set a precedent where any neighborhood could say that "any other neighborhood for any other reason got money from the City and we should, too." Ms Ryan stated that she believes that the specific circumstances for each neighborhood should be considered.

Messrs. Whelan and Hayes accepted this as a friendly amendment to the motion.

The motion to send to Council, as amended, carried by voice vote.

**8. An Ordinance Amending Schedule J Of Section 14-3 Of The Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking On Certain Streets (Crystal Lake Dr., Race St., Main St.)**

Mr. Gray presented the staff report to Committee Members. (See Attachment C: Ordinances From Traffic Commission.)

Following debate, Mr. Taylor made a motion to send this item to Council for approval. Ms Kearns seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

**9. Neighborhood Organization Grants**

a. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of A Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreement With Urbana Teen Outreach Center Under The Neighborhood Organization Grant Program FY 1996-1997;

b. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of A Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreement With United Citizens And Neighbors Under The Neighborhood Organization Grant Program FY 1996-1997; and

c. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of A Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreement With First String, Inc. Under The Neighborhood Organization Grant Program FY 1996-1997

Mr. Stoffel presented the staff report. (See attachment D: Release of Funding and Approval of Subrecipient Agreements/NOG FY96-97.)

Chair Pollock inquired about the application for the Local Organizing Committee which was denied on the basis that the address was not in the target area. The address is on Busey, however, the direct aim of the group is centered around providing services in the Lakeside Terrace neighborhood, which is in the target area. Chair Pollock asked if there was any thought about getting a commitment to specifically spend all of the funds and direct the programs to this area and include this group in the program? Would it then become appropriate to allow them some of the grant money if this is where they intend to spend it? Mr. Stoffel responded that it was the Community Development Commission's feeling that on a relative basis, the other three

applicants were probably further along in their thinking and organizing to merit the funding.

Ms Patt made a motion to send all three resolutions to Council for approval. Mr. Hayes seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

**10. An Ordinance Revising The Annual Budget Ordinance (Eads/Lincoln Homebuyer Assistance Program)**

Mr. Hayes made a motion to send this item to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms Ryan. Motion carried by voice vote.

**11. A Resolution Determining The Amounts Of Money Necessary To Be Raised By The Tax Levy (1996)**

Ron Eldridge (Comptroller) presented the staff report. (See Attachment E: Comptroller's Report/Property Tax Resolution and Tax Levy Ordinances.) The proposed timetable for City Council action is as follows:

- |                   |    |  |
|-------------------|----|--|
| October 14, 1996  | -- | Truth in Taxation Resolution and property tax levy ordinances before Council Committee for review.   |
| October 21, 1996  | -- | Truth in Taxation Resolution before Council for action. Resolution must be approved at least 20 days prior to approval of levy ordinances.       |
| November 18, 1996 | -- | Levy ordinances before Council for action. The levy ordinances must be on file with the County Clerk no later than the last Tuesday in December. |

Mr. Taylor made a motion to send this item to Council for approval. Ms Kearns seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

**12. Tax Levy Ordinances (3 Ordinances)**

Mr. Eldridge reiterated that the 1996 tax levy ordinances

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could not be approved until the November 18, 1996 City Council meeting.

Mr. Hayes made a motion to send this item to the November 18, 1996 Council meeting for approval. Mr. Taylor seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning, Chair Pollock reminded Committee Members to contact Mr. Walden's office if they were interested in a tour of development projects underway.

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Pollock adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Roberts  
Recording Secretary

\*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.