

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

September 25, 2000

7:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

James Hayes, Carolyn Kearns, Esther Patt, Joseph Whelan, John Taylor, and Ruth Wyman (Chair)
- 6.

Committee Members Absent:

Laura Huth –1 (excused).

Staff Members Present:

Phyllis Clark, Mayor Satterthwaite, Police Chief Eddie Adair, Glenn Berman, Ron Eldridge, April Getchius, Bill Gray, Karen Rasmussen, Jack Waaler, and Bruce Walden

Others Present:

Dick Adams, Ben Thomason, Rick Wolken, and Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chair Wyman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that Urbana received recognition from the National Weather Service as being a Storm Ready Community. Urbana, Champaign and Savoy all received the award. The three cities are the first communities in downstate Illinois to receive this recognition. Our community has qualified with the 24-hour service, which consists of METCAD and ESDA.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2000 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kearns and carried by a voice vote.

Dick Adams, Urbana, addressed the Committee regarding the foul language used on "The Session" which is aired on Cable Channel 6.

Following debate, Mr. Taylor requested a position paper from legal staff detailing what powers the City would have in regard to vulgar and abusive language broadcast on UPTV.

Ben Thomason, 1111 Philo Road, addressed the Committee in support of council members elected at large.

Rick Wolken, 5406 N.W. Arrowhead, representing Somer Township, addressed the Committee in opposition of **Ordinance No. 2000-09-111: An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With University Construction, A Division of MACC of Illinois, Inc.**

Mr. Whelan stated that a resident has contacted him regarding an apartment building being built next to Briarcliff Park on Cottage Grove. This creates problems with regard to parking and litter in the neighborhood. Mr. Whelan suggested that the "Nuisance Ordinance" and parking requirements in the zoning laws be reviewed to see if the problem can be alleviated.

Ms. Patt followed up on Mr. Whelan's comments stating that the recent article in the newspaper gave the impression that the City did something to create this nuisance. That was not true. Ms. Patt agreed that something does need to be done about parking for multi-family residences.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that he attended a meeting with the residents by Sunnycrest Manor and Sunnycrest Towers last week and heard their complaints. Mayor Satterthwaite is in agreement with Ms. Patt and Mr. Whelan about being able to enforce our nuisance ordinance.

Mr. Taylor requested that the City Clerk put nuisance enforcement on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Taylor requested that staff report on specific problems at the two Sunnycrest locations and what they feel can be done to ease the problem.

Mr. Hayes announced that Neighborhood Cleanup would be October 21, 2000.

Mr. Taylor stated that today is Mayor Satterthwaite's birthday and requested that all join him in singing happy birthday.

Resolution No. 2000-09-030R: A Resolution Amending the Urbana HOME Consortium and City of Urbana Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2000-2004

Chair Wyman stated that she had requested that this resolution be forwarded to this meeting from a prior meeting. Chair Wyman moved to amend the resolution by the amendments (see attached) she distributed previously. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt.

Grants Coordinator Karen Rasmussen reviewed the list of amendments indicating where they fit in the consolidated plan.

Following debate, Chair Wyman withdrew her motion and moved to send Resolution No. 2000-09-

030R: A Resolution Amending the Urbana HOME Consortium and the City of Urbana Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2000-2004 to Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2000-09-111: An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With University Construction, A Division of MACC of Illinois, Inc.

Public Works Director Bill Gray presented staff report stating the City was approached by representatives of University Construction, a division of MACC of Illinois, Inc., about the development they own on North Lincoln Avenue. The University Construction representatives were informed that the City had recently completed a location study which defined a new alignment of North Lincoln Avenue, between Interstate 74 and Olympian Drive. This new alignment would serve the land that is proposed to be developed.

University Construction offered that the cost they would incur accessing the development site (\$750,000) to build a public street and bridge connecting existing Lincoln Avenue would be put forward toward the building of a newly aligned north Lincoln Avenue. Since part of the construction on North Lincoln Avenue is in the County, the City held discussions with County representatives and they have agreed in principal, to cost share with the City on a 50/50 basis.

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Following debate, Mr. Taylor moved to send Ordinance No. 2000-09-111: An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With University Construction, A Division of MACC of Illinois, Inc. to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kearns and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2000-09-111: An Ordinance Revising the City's Benefits Program for City Employees Exempted from Collective Bargaining Units

Comptroller Ron Eldridge presented staff report on the ordinance. The revision amends the City's Benefit Program to include described disability benefit enhancements and approval of the ordinance authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to sign a disability insurance contract with Guarantee Life Insurance Company and the City of Urbana.

Following debate, Mr. Taylor moved to send Ordinance No. 2000-09-111: An Ordinance

Revising the City's Benefits Program for City Employees Exempted from Collective Bargaining Units to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Language Regarding Authority Relating to Annexations and Development Agreements

Mayor Satterthwaite presented staff report on **An Ordinance Revising an Ordinance Authorizing**

the Mayor to Take Certain Actions on Behalf of the City (Annexation Agreements). This ordinance authorizes the Mayor to make requests on behalf of the City to submit annexation petitions to the City Clerk and report such actions taken on behalf of the City to the City Council no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council.

Following debate, Ms. Patt moved to send **An Ordinance Revising an Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Take Certain Actions on Behalf of the City (Annexation Agreements)** to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayes and carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Staggered Terms and Election At-Large for Elected Officials

Mr. Whelan opened the discussion regarding staggered terms and members at-large stating that he would like to see the issue on the ballot in November so the people could decide.

Mr. Whelan stated that having staggered terms would enable the Council to have an experienced member whenever a new member is elected. The Council would have continuity, be nondiscriminatory with no political bias.

Following debate, Mr. Whelan moved to send a resolution to place **Staggered Terms and Election At-Large for Elected Officials** on the April 2001 ballot to Council for adoption. The motion died for lack of a second.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

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**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

MINUTES APPROVED: