

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FEBRUARY 26, 2001

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hayes, Huth, Kearns, Patt, Taylor, Whelan and Wyman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Police Chief Eddie Adair, Economic Development Manager Reed Berger, Arborist Mike Brunk, Comptroller Ron Eldridge, Environmental Manager Rod Fletcher, Community Development Director April Getchius, Public Works Director Bill Gray, Deputy Clerk Deborah Roberts, Mayor Tod Satterthwaite, City Attorney Jack Waaler and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Dunn, M. Fuerst, Tina Gunsalus, Carl Hill, Sherry Hingtgen, Margaret Klock, Martha Leary, Marilyn Pollard, Carl Webber and Members of the Media.

There being a quorum, Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT

Mayor Satterthwaite requested to add **Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street Traffic Signal Installation** as item 10 on the agenda. There were no objections.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that the budget timetable was put on Committee Members desk prior to this evening's meeting.

Mayor Satterthwaite stated that the Illinois Commerce Commission will have a public hearing on the Illinois Power Vegetation Tariff on Monday, March 12, 2001. The meeting will be held in the City of Champaign Council Chambers.

Ms. Patt stated that the joint Council/Town Board meeting is May 16th and the following Monday, recommendations are to be made. That does not give much time for turn around. Last year there was a week in between the joint meeting and the recommendations. Ms. Patt suggested that the joint meeting be May 9th rather than the 16th. The change was acceptable with the Committee.

Mr. Whelan stated that he had asked that the utility tax be reduced during the time that people are suffering from the high cost of heat and gas usage. Ms. Patt suggested that this kind of thing was symbolism and should probably be done during the budget review. Mr. Whelan stated his feeling that it is symbolism to consider the issue after the heat has been used.

Chair Hayes congratulated Ms. Wyman on being accepted in to law school.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms. Wyman moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2001, regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

The following people addressed the Committee in support of **Resolution No. 2001-02-007R: A Resolution Authorizing a Single-Family Home Construction Incentive Plan:**

Tina Gunsalus, representing Urbana School District #116
Carl Hill, representing Urbana Developers Builders Association
Sherry Hingtgen, 3205 Douglas Woods, Urbana
Martha Leery, 1705 Golfview, Urbana
Marilyn Pollard, 2701 Myra Ridge Drive
Carl Webber, 202 Lincoln Street, Urbana

The following people addressed the Committee in opposition to **Resolution No. 2001-02-007R:**

M. Fuerst, 802 N. Broadway, Urbana
Margaret Klock, 2209 Cottage Grove, Urbana

Robert Dunn, 406E Park Street, Champaign, addressed the Committee in opposition to the Mayor's conduct at the College Dems meeting.

Resolution No. 2001-02-007R: A Resolution Authorizing a Single-Family Home Construction Incentive Plan

Community Development Director April Getchius and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden introduced this resolution that will authorize a new incentive program for single-family home construction in Urbana.

With the availability of approximately 800 platted or upcoming lots, the City's home starts have averaged only 33 over the last three years. Discussions with homebuilders and realtors revealed Urbana's tax rate to be the largest deterrent.

Although the 2001 Financial Plan recommends lowering the corporate tax rate to \$1.31, which is equivalent to that of the City of Champaign, the over all tax bill for an Urbana property owner is higher. In order to overcome that obstacle, staff is recommending a tax rebate program.

For newly constructed, non-government subsidized single family detached homes for which a building permit is issued between March 1, 2001 and December 1, 2002, the City will reimburse the property owner the difference in an amount equal to the real estate taxes paid each year to the extent that such taxes are greater than what they would be if they were located in the City of Champaign, for a period of five years. (Beringer Commons homes are excluded as a result of a previous agreement.) Staff anticipates revenues beyond the property tax revenues.

Staff recommends approval of this program, as it will encourage new home construction in the City and expand the tax base.

Following debate, Mr. Whelan moved to send **Resolution No. 2001-02-007R: A Resolution Authorizing a Single-Family Home Construction Incentive Program** to Council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2001-02-014: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Urbana Home Show Marketing)

Ms. Getchius stated that the purpose of this ordinance is to provide \$5,000 for the marketing of the model home show in Urbana in coordination with the single-family home incentive program in anticipation of providing a boost to home starts in Urbana. There are sufficient funds in the Economic Development Fund to accommodate this expenditure. Staff recommends approval.

Following debate, Ms. Patt moved to send **Ordinance No. 2001-02-014: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Urbana Home Show Marketing)** to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2001-02-015: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (Choquette Residence / 407 N. Beringer Circle)

Economic Development Manager Reed Berger presented staff report stating that staff is requesting consideration of the annexation of one unincorporated lot located in Beringer Commons Subdivision Number 2b.

A petition for annexation was submitted by Kent and Lori Choquette after their purchase of 407 N. Beringer Circle last year and subsequent discovery that they had to pay more for Library and Park District services.

Staff recommends that this ordinance be sent to Council for approval.

Following debate, Ms. Wyman moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2001-02-015: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (Choquette Residence / 407 N. Beringer Circle)** to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2001-02-016: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (Snyder Commercial Site / 2210 N. Willow Road)

Mr. Berger presented staff report stating that this is a straight forward request to act on the initial annexation for the Snyder property at the northeast corner of Willow and Anthony Drive. It is one acre of commercial property.

Ms. Wyman moved to send **Ordinance No. 2001-02-016: An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Urbana (Snyder Commercial Site / 2210 N. Willow Road)** to Council with the recommendation of approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Patt and carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Nuisance Ordinance Update

Environmental Manager Rod Fletcher presented staff report. In response to Council's request to address concerns regarding nuisance violations and enforcement, staff has prepared a draft ordinance for consideration. The ordinance is intended to amend current nuisance provisions and will be more comprehensive in content and uniform in enforcement measures.

As previously presented to Council, the proposed ordinance creates a new Article in Chapter 11 of the City Code entitled "Health and Sanitation." This ordinance addresses two divisions of this article. Mr. Fletcher presented a review of the ordinance (see attached).

During debate, it was requested that the final line in the first paragraph of Section 11-47 that states "However, any such fines as provided herein, will be waived if the property owner abates the nuisance within the normal abatement time." be omitted.

Following debate, Ms. Patt moved to forward **An Ordinance Amending Chapters Ten and Eleven, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Urbana, Illinois Regulating Nuisances and Health and Sanitation**, as amended to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whelan. After debate, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street Traffic Signal Installation

Public Works Director Bill Gray presented staff report on the Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street Traffic Signal Installation. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana have identified the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street as having a need for a traffic signal. Approximately fifty percent of the funding for the project is coming from by IDOT. The remaining fifty percent will be funded by the City of Urbana and the University of Illinois. Mr. Gray presented three resolutions for the project:

A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street) authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and deliver the agreement on behalf of the City of Urbana.

A Resolution Providing for the Installation of Traffic Signals at Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street sets the amount and how the funds are to be paid for the City's share of the project.

A Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code (Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street) appropriates the use of MFT funds to pay for the City's share of the project.

Following debate, Ms. Patt moved an omnibus motion to send **A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street); A Resolution Providing for the Installation of Traffic Signals at Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street;** and **A Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code (Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street)** to Council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kearns and carried by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Hayes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes approved: March 12, 2001, as amended below.

AMENDMENT TO THE FEBRUARY 26, 2001 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Ms. Patt requested that the minutes be amended on page 2, in the first paragraph, by deleting the sentence "Ms. Patt suggested that this kind of thing was symbolism and should probably be done during the budget review." There were no objections.

