



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 25, 2007

Committee Members Physically Present:

Lynne Barnes (Chair), Brandon Bowersox, Robert Lewis, Dennis Roberts, and Charlie Smyth

Committee Members Present by Teleconference

Danielle Chynoweth

Committee Members Absent:

Heather Stevenson

Elected Officials Present

City Clerk Phyllis D. Clerk

Elected Officials Absent

Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing

Staff Members Present:

Economic Development Division Manager Tom Carrino, Assistant Police Chief Pat Connolly, Comptroller Ron Eldridge, Public Works Director Bill Gray, Planning Department Manager Robert Myers, Acting City Attorney Ronald O'Neal, Building Safety Division Manager Gordon Skinner, and Special Council Jack Waaler.

Others Present:

Tyler Fitch, Linda Lopez, Diane Marlin, Ilona Matkovszki, Theresa Michelson, Todd Salen, and Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

There were none.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2007 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth and carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Todd Salen, representing Ramshaw Real Estate, addressed the Committee on the projects on Philo Road and urged the improvement in appearance in that area.

Diane Marlin, 2203 Boudreau Circle, addressed the Committee in support of the Philo Road Beautification Project.

Theresa Michelson, 2013 Silver Court West, addressed the Committee in support of the Philo Road Beautification Project.

Linda Lopez, 2102 Meadowlark Court, addressed the Committee with her concern that the Philo Road area was called a corridor and urged the Committee to consider neighborhood conversation.

Mr. Smyth stated that the City Council meeting regularly scheduled for July 2, 2007 would be canceled due to the July 4th holiday.

Mr. Smyth stated that the Fire Department is pleased to announce the arrival of its newest engine, a state-of-the-art pumper truck at the North Station.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-063: An Ordinance Amending the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Public Works Director Bill Gray stated that there are three changes that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission would like to make. The first is to change the number of commissioners from 10 to 11; the second amended the terms of members by staggering; and the final was to amend the original ordinance to establish reasons for removal of appointed members from the Commission.

Following debate, Mr. Smyth moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-063: An Ordinance Amending the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission** with the request for 11 members to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-054: An Ordinance Amending Schedule H of Section 23-93 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Requiring Stop Signs at a Certain Intersection (Skyline Drive at Airport Road)

Mr. Gray presented staff report. The location is in the Somerset subdivision area. The stop sign is required due to the new street construction of Skyline Drive. This street construction will increase the traffic on the arterial street of Airport Road.

Mr. Smyth moved for forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-054: An Ordinance Amending Schedule H of Section 23-93 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Requiring Stop Signs at a Certain Intersection (Skyline Drive at Airport Road)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-055: An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at all Times on Certain Streets (Illinois Street east of Cottage Grove)

Mr. Gray presented staff report. This parking restriction was requested by a citizen who noticed that vehicles parked along the south side of the street were constricting the flow of traffic at the intersection of Illinois Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Mr. Roberts moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-055: An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at all Times on Certain Streets (Illinois Street east of Cottage Grove)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-059: An Ordinance Approving a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Urbana, Illinois (Adding Section XIII-5, "Neighborhood Conservation Districts", to the Urbana Zoning Ordinance – Plan Case No. 2023-T-06)

Planning Division Manager Robert Myers presented staff report. This ordinance would set up a process by which property owners or neighborhood groups could make an application to the City to designate certain neighborhoods or areas, a minimum of 25 properties, for various kinds of protections. These protections could include things such as design review for new construction; demolition review, parking standards or other sorts of changes that the neighborhood deems important. This would be a "grass roots" effort coming from the neighborhood.

Tyler Fitch, representing the Plan Commission, discussed the views of the Plan Commission on this issue. The path that the Plan Commission took was not to approve the ordinance as it was presented to them but send it the Committee that was three parts. First, the Commission believes that the concerns in the area of neighborhood conservation are important and need to be achieved. Second, it was clear to some

Plan Commissioners that these districts were the appropriate tool to achieve many of the objectives of neighborhood preservation. Third, five points of consensus emerged that if there was a neighborhood conservation district ordinance, it should contain the following five components: citizens' initiative, City assisted plan, designer review and guidelines, a protest petition, and adopt a historic preservation process with the Plan Commission with the main advisory board.

Following debate, Chris Stohr, 405 East High Street, representing Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association (HUENA), addressed the Committee with his concerns regarding Neighborhood Conservation Districts and requested an opportunity for HUENA to meet before Committee/Council proceeds too far with action on this issue.

Following extensive debate, Ilona Matkovszki, 412 West Elm Street, addressed the Committee in support of the Neighborhood Conservation District.

Following further debate, Committee Members made suggestions for staff to consider for the ordinance.

Mr. Roberts moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-059: An Ordinance Approving a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Urbana, Illinois (Adding Section XIII-5, "Neighborhood Conservation Districts", to the Urbana Zoning Ordinance – Plan Case No. 2023-T-06)** to the July 9, 2007 Committee of the Whole and request that staff review the ordinance and include some of the issues discussed by the public and Committee to further establish the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth. Following debate, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-062: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Outside Legal Costs, 2007)

Acting City Attorney Ron O'Neal and Comptroller Ron Eldridge presented staff report on this ordinance. This budget amendment transfers funds from General Reserve Funds to Outside Legal Services for expenses caused by issues such as negotiations, miscellaneous City Court Work due to the absence of a City Attorney, the billboard item, Amerin rate case intervention, etc.

Mr. Eldridge stated that in the past the budgeted number had been exceeded only by a few thousand dollars and this situation was caused by large litigation cases and the need for outside council.

Following debate, Mr. Lewis moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-062: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Outside Legal Costs, 2007)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowersox and carried by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 2007-06-061: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Fourteen of the

Code of Ordinances of the City of Urbana, Illinois, Adding University-Related Organization and Class CA, Caterer's Retail Liquor Licenses to the Schedule of Fees

Mr. O'Neal stated that there is an error on the first page of the ordinance. Section 1. (A) 1 (p) Caterer's Retail should be \$1,145.00 rather than \$765.00.

Mr. Roberts moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-061: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Fourteen of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Urbana, Illinois, Adding University-Related Organization and Class CA, Caterer's Retail Liquor Licenses to the Schedule of Fees** with the change to Section 1. (A) 1 (p) to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowersox.

Mr. Smyth requested that the fees of the City be compared to those of the City of Champaign as the changes are made to this ordinance the topic of those rates be brought back to the next Committee with a comparison between the two cities and what the City of Urbana might want to consider.

The motion to forward **Ordinance No. 2007-06-061: An Ordinance Amending Chapter Fourteen of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Urbana, Illinois, Adding University-Related Organization and Class CA, Caterer's Retail Liquor Licenses to the Schedule of Fees** with the change to Section 1. (A) 1 (p) to Council with a recommendation for approval carried by a voice vote.

Discussion: Philo Road Beautification Plan

Mr. Gray presented staff report. Last fall staff was asked to develop a comprehensive beautification plan for the south Philo Road area between Florida Avenue and Windsor Road.

Mr. Gray reviewed what has been done such as flower beds, ornamental trash receptacles, signage and banners, and litter pick up.

Mr. Gray presented the following list of ideas:

1. Convert four lanes striping on Philo Road between Florida Avenue and Colorado Avenue to three lanes with possible inclusion of bike lanes to promote a more pedestrian friendly and safer environment. Restriping, signage, and median removal work - \$50,000. (Resurfacing this stretch of Philo Road is budgeted in 2012 in the CIP at \$100,000)
2. Professionally design new banner art work to be installed on existing streetlight poles. New decorative type poles with banners could be added to the side opposite the streetlight poles along Philo Road to add symmetry. Estimated new banners cost \$10,000 - \$20,000. Add opposite existing streetlight poles 40 new poles with brackets at \$2000 each = \$80,000.

3. Identify a location, possibly acquire an easement, design, and build a mini-park that would incorporate landscaping, seating area, lighting, trash receptacles, art piece, etc. Estimated cost \$50,000 - \$100,000.
4. Establish a 50/50 parking lot landscape grant and challenge adjacent private property owners to convert the solid areas of concrete and asphalt with landscaped islands and borders. Program parameters would need to be established which would determine budget. Minimum estimated city share cost \$100,000.
5. Landscape and irrigate the parkways (area between the back of curb and sidewalk) between Colorado Avenue and Windsor Road similar to what was done north of Colorado Avenue or adopt more of a prairie landscaping theme. Estimated cost \$100,000 plus identify resources for annual maintenance.
6. Identify nodes within this area for beautification and art on private property/city right-of-way. Need to define specifics in order to establish a budget estimate of cost.
7. Score the concrete sidewalk and/or consider brick sidewalk accents along this corridor. Estimated cost \$25,000.
8. Establish a Special Service Area to provide one or more of the following: trash/litter removal, turf management (mowing, edging, weed control, fertilizing, etc.), sidewalk snow removal, etc. Expenses would be borne by adjacent/benefiting property owners.

Chair Barnes stated that the top issues she had heard mentioned by constituents was decorative lighting along the right-of-way, plantings and landscaping of the right-of-way, an interest in having that maintained more consistently, sidewalk repair and widening, garbage cans, and park benches. There is a potential need for matching grants from the City for improvements.

Following further debate, Mr. Smyth suggested a vision including the three lane aspect, prairie plantings that are consistent with the south end of the street, but street lighting and sidewalks that are consistent with the Downtown theme to blend the two aspects together with a certain number of dollars this year, next year, and the following year.

Theresa Michelson addressed the Committee a second time with her views on the beautification program.

Following debate, Mr. Bowersox moved that staff bring a slightly more concrete plan to tell the Committee for \$200,000 what roughly the scope of a consultant and work could be and inform Committee on from where the funding would come and bring a budget amendment and action list to be sent along to Council. This would be presented at the next Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth and carried by voice vote.

Discussion: Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

Special Council Jack Waaler addressed this issue stating that a very important governmental principle is involved in this case. That is whether the greater Champaign/Urbana community is best served by a fragmented transportation system or better off with a transportation system that serves the entire urbanized area.

In the year 2004, CUUATS established in the long-range transportation plan that the CUMTD should attempt to become coterminous with the cities of Champaign and Urbana and after becoming coterminous, to annex properties to the Champaign/Urbana Mass Transit District as each of the cities grow.

In 2005 Champaign/Urbana Mass Transit District embarked upon a program to make their boundaries coterminous with two cities. That is what prompted extreme southwest Champaign to petition the court to have a referendum to form the Southwest Mass Transit District. The referendum was held and approved.

The problem is that the Southwest Mass Transit District will permanently block the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District from ever serving the urbanized community to the west of I57.

This is similar to the Big Grove case a few years ago. In that case Champaign supported Urbana in supporting an important governmental principle and this is the same type of issue. Will the Cities stand together and vote to try to preserve a unitary transportation system that supports the entire area.

Following debate, Mr. Smyth moved to direct staff to provide Council with the appropriate motion supporting intervention by the City of Urbana. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowersox and carried by a voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes approved: July 9, 2007