

**CITY OF URBANA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JANUARY 14, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

The City Council Committee Of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, January 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Heather Stevenson (Chair); Lynne C. Barnes; Brandon Bowersox; Danielle Chynoweth; Robert E. Lewis; Dennis Roberts; Charlie Smyth; Laurel Lunt Prussing; Phyllis Clark

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: None

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None]

STAFF PRESENT: Ronald O'Neal, Jr.; Curt Borman; Michael Bily; Michael Dilley; William Gray; Elizabeth Tyler; Thomas Carrino; Elizabeth Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Trusner; Hadley Ravencroft; Richard Wellbank; Paula Vanier; Esther Patt; Rex Bradfield; Annette Stumpf; Stuart Levy; Gary Cziko; Tom Burtness; Members of the Media

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stevenson called the meeting of the Committee Of The Whole to order at 8:23 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT

Mr. Bowersox suggested changing the order of the agenda to move item #7 to follow Public Input. There were no objections.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

December 10, 2007 - Mr. Smyth made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 10, 2007. Ms Barnes seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

The following people addressed the Committee in support of the sidewalk snow and ice removal proposal:

Eric Trusner, 108 W. Stanage Ave. (Champaign);
Hadley Ravencroft, 2405 E. Illinois, also representing PACE;
Richard Wellbank, 1002 E. Kerr, #106;
Paula Vanier, 109 W. Illinois, #107; and
Esther Patt, 706 S. Coler Ave.

Rex Bradfield, 2101½ Pond, addressed the Committee in opposition to the sidewalk snow and ice removal proposal.

7. **DISCUSSION: SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL / GOOD SAMARITAN CORPS**

Mayor Prussing presented a summary of the sidewalk snow and ice removal proposal. She noted that most people were not aware that the law on sidewalk snow removal was changed in 1979 and presented a copy of the Civil Immunities Snow and Ice Removal Act. Mayor Prussing addressed safety hazards that were a result of snow and ice accumulation on sidewalks (i.e., children walking to school or waiting on school bus, the elderly, people with limited physical mobility). She proposed five solutions: 1) Education (the law and benefits of walking); 2) Good Neighbor Policy; 3) Concentrate on Major Streets; 4) Good Samaritan Corps (volunteers); and 5) Getting Broad Public Input for a Consensus (task force of neighborhood organizations, apartment complex managers, business owners, University students, persons with disabilities, Urbana schools, and the Tenant Union). Mayor Prussing addressed public concerns she had received and then introduced Elizabeth Davis (Executive Staff Assistant) who presented the staff report.

Ms Davis gave a summary of how the initial proposal for providing safe pedestrian travel in significant winter weather came about, noting the blizzard that occurred on February 12, 2007. She gave a PowerPoint presentation depicting her research of other communities with Big Ten universities and comparable societies in Illinois. The majority of communities surveyed have implemented some form of legislation requiring sidewalks to be free from snow. Her survey of other municipalities showed that communities with Big Ten universities had some type of sidewalk snow removal ordinance in their city code, and five comparable communities had ordinances requiring sidewalks to be free of snow and ice accumulation.

Mayor Prussing commended Ms Davis on her extensive research on this topic.

No action by Council was requested at this time.

5. **DISCUSSION: STREET LIGHTING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Chair Stevenson acknowledged public input regarding this item at this time.

The following people addressed the Committee in support of street lighting and sustainability:

Annette Stumpf, 319 Elmwood Dr. (Champaign);
Stuart Levy, 1108 Foley Ave. (Champaign); and
Gary Cziko, 506 W. Vermont Ave. [Mr. Cziko gave a brief
PowerPoint Presentation on lighting]

William Gray (Public Works Director/City Engineer) presented the staff report, addressing concerns raised at the December 10, 2007 Committee meeting. Mr. Gray introduced a consultant, Tom Burtness (Burtness Engineering Services), who's firm is assisting the City of Champaign, the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana in putting together a request for proposal for lighting equipment. Mr. Burtness reported on

LED lighting standards and technology, and addressed LEED certifiable street lighting for designated areas in the University District. He also addressed energy efficiency concerns. Mr. Burtness was available to answer questions of the Committee.

Mr. Smyth addressed energy and replacement costs and safety concerns. He focused on the need to use LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for environmental reasons and to achieve energy efficiency. Mr. Smyth will be meeting with staff regarding this issue and encouraged Committee Members to provide input they would like to see for developing an efficient ordinance and policy that incorporates LEED lighting.

This item did not warrant Council action at this time.

Chair Stevenson noted the late hour and that a representative from the Economic Development Corporation was in the audience to offer input on agenda item #9. She suggested moving this item up for discussion at this time. There were no objections.

9. **DISCUSSION: BUDGET AMENDMENT INCREASE SUGGESTION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION / ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01-002: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (CONTRIBUTION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)**

Mr. Bowersox and Ms Chynoweth requested to recuse themselves from discussion of this topic due to conflicts of interest. Chair Stevenson acknowledged. Mr. Bowersox and Ms Chynoweth left the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Ms Barnes presented this item and introduced Craig Rost (Chair/Champaign County Economic Development Corporation). Mr. Rost addressed EDC's mission, vision and strategic goals for 2008-2010.

Mr. Smyth made a motion to send the ordinance to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Bowersox and Ms Chynoweth returned to the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Due to the hour, in compliance with the Council's rule on mandatory adjournment time of 11:00 p.m., Chair Stevenson called for a motion to extend the meeting in order to finish the remaining business items on the agenda.

Mr. Smyth made a motion to extend the meeting time to 11:15 p.m. Ms Chynoweth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

8. **ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01-004: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 15-62 AND 5-262 OF THE URBANA CITY CODE CONCERNING FIREWORKS**

Curt Borman (Assistant City Attorney) presented the staff report.

Ms Barnes made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Chynoweth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. **ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01-003: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE J OF SECTION 23-183 OF THE URBANA LOCAL TRAFFIC CODE PROHIBITING PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS (PRAIRIE WINDS DRIVE)**

Ms Barnes made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Mr. Smyth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

10. **DISCUSSION: URBANA'S 175th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Mayor Prussing presented and noted that the first event is scheduled for February 17, 2008.

Due to the hour, Mr. Roberts requested that this item be placed on next week's Council agenda. There were no objections.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Stevenson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Deborah J. Roberts
Recording Secretary

This meeting was taped.

This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: January 28, 2008