

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

CITY OF URBANA

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk



***** SPECIAL MEETING ***
URBANA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in special session Monday, January 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Charlie Smyth, Alderman Ward 1
Danielle Chynoweth, Alderwoman Ward 2
Robert E. Lewis, Alderman Ward 3
Brandon Bowersox, Alderman Ward 4
Dennis Roberts, Alderman Ward 5
Heather Stevenson, Alderwoman Ward 6
Lynne C. Barnes, Alderwoman Ward 7
Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

None

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Ronald O'Neal; Michael Bily; Michael Dilly; William Gray; Elizabeth Tyler; Curt Boreman; Elizabeth Davis; Thomas Carrino; Norm Reinbold

OTHERS PRESENT

Ernest Wesfield; Vicki Mayes; Michael Walker; Members of the Media

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Prussing called the special meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:09 p.m.

II. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

William Gray (Public Works Director/City Engineer) presented an award to Norm Reinbold (Engineering Technician) from the Illinois Public Services Institute (IPSI). Mr. Reinbold recently completed a 3-year coursework training program with IPSI. Mayor Prussing commended Mr.

Reinbold on his accomplishment, and praised City staff in their dedication and services to the workforce and community.

Ernest Westfield, 918 N. Harvey, addressed the Council requesting that Urbana adopt a resolution recognizing the Negro Baseball League annually on May 20th. Congress recently established this date and Mr. Westfield is requesting that the City of Urbana follow suit. Mr. Westfield pitched for the Negro Baseball League and currently speaks at schools and functions throughout the United States about the League in an effort to educate youth about its history and the barriers that were overcome as a result of its existence. Mayor Prussing informed Mr. Westfield of Urbana's 175th birthday celebration and invited him to participate and share the history of the Negro Baseball League. Alderman Roberts is in charge of this event.

III. PRESENTATION: PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUM

Michael Walker (President/Urbana Park District Board of Commission) and Vicki Mayes (Executive Director/Urbana Park District) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the needs of the citizens of Urbana for the Urbana Park District. In summary, the citizens of Urbana have asked the Park District to re-invigorate and take care of Urbana's well-used and well-loved community and neighborhood parks by making needed improvements, construct walking and biking trails through the district, rejuvenate aging Crystal Lake Park and Pool, and restore more natural areas and maintain existing ones. On February 5, 2008 there is a referendum question on the ballot to increase the Urbana Park District's rate by 25 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

This item did not warrant action by the City Council.

IV. RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01-001R: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR CABLE REFRANCHISE NEGOTIATIONS

Ronald O'Neal, Jr. (Interim City Attorney) presented the staff report.

Alderman Chynoweth made a motion to adopt the resolution. Alderman Roberts seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Alderman Chynoweth made a motion directing the following actions by staff:

1. Pursue a joint "Champaign-Urbana Public Access Steering Committee" to report back to each City Council no later than October 2008. The Committee's charge would be to present a workable "Transition Plan for Champaign-Urbana Public Access."
2. Components of the "Transition Plan for Champaign-Urbana Public Access" would provide much needed information for each city to consider, including:
 - a. funding options including potential impact to city budgets and cable subscribers;
 - b. sample budgets demonstrating potential revenue needs and operating expenses;

- c. personnel and staffing needs;
 - d. detail how an independent community governance structure would look and work;
 - e. facility/studio space requirements and equipment needs;
 - f. possible studio locations within Champaign-Urbana that would be acceptable to both cities; and
 - g. a "roadmap" outlining the necessary steps (timelines, tasks, and activities) to be taken to insure a smooth transition from UPTV to a community television center.
3. Members of the C-U Public Access Steering Committee should meet with representatives of the University of Illinois and Parkland to discuss in-kind services, financial remuneration, and possible use of equipment and facilities.
 4. Members of the C-U Public Access Steering Committee should solicit input and ideas from interested community members and organizations.
 5. Members of the C-U Public Access Steering Committee study/visit successful public access stations.
 6. Given the participation of these entities, the C-U Public Access Steering Committee would consist of one staff member from each city, two members from CATV Commission, two members from UPTV Commission, at-large community member interested in public access appointed by the Mayor of each city, and one representative each from the University of Illinois, Parkland, and both public school districts.
 7. Urbana would provide support staff to assist with minutes, recordkeeping, printing and copying reports, etc.

Alderman Roberts seconded.

Following debate, the motion carried by voice vote.

V. ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01-001: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (CUNNINGHAM AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY)

Thomas Carrino (Economic Development Division Manager) presented the staff report.

Alderman Barnes made a motion to approve. Alderman Roberts seconded. The vote was as follows:

Barnes - Aye	Roberts - Aye
Bowersox - Aye	Smyth - Aye
Chynoweth - Aye	Stevenson - Aye
Lewis - Aye	Mayor Prussing - Aye

Disposition: Ordinance No. 2008-01-001, "An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Cunningham Avenue Corridor Study)", was approved by Council by roll call vote (8*-aye:0-nay). [**Requires Mayor vote.*]

VI. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Carrino presented the monthly economic development report.

Elizabeth Tyler (Community Development Services Director/City Planner) informed the Council and viewing audience of an article appearing in the American Planning Association magazine titled "Great Neighborhoods (Places that stand out for their character, livability, and positive community feeling)", where the West Urbana neighborhood was listed as one of the 10 great neighborhoods. The article also featured a quote from Mayor Prussing.

Mayor Prussing informed the Council that she had appointed Tom Costello as Chair of the Civilian Police Review Board. On January 28, 2008 there will be a joint study session with the City Council.

Mayor Prussing also informed the Council that she had appointed Alderman Lewis to serve on a task force with Champaign concerning park trails and open space in new growth areas.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Prussing declared the special meeting of the Urbana City Council adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Deborah J. Roberts
Recording Secretary

Phyllis D. Clark
City Clerk

This meeting was taped.

This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: January 22, 2008