

**CITY OF URBANA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - February 25, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL**

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The City Council Committee Of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, February 25, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building.

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Carrino, Elizabeth Tyler, Ronald O'Neal, Jr., William Gray, Liz Davis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lori Walker; Brittani Fryer; Joseph Petry; Ivan Richardson; Neil Richardson; Kristin Mennig; Members of the Media

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Chynoweth called the meeting of the Committee Of The Whole to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT**

There were no additions to the agenda.

Elizabeth Tyler announced the Cunningham Avenue Beautification Plan was progressing and workshops as well as a charette would be held next week in the Council Chambers. The workshop will be on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and charette following on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. She also announced that there would be a series of television programs aired on Channel 6 beginning March 1, 2008 and continuing through April highlighting "Inside Historic Urbana." The programs will be aired on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ms. Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2008 meeting. Mr. Lewis seconded. Mr. Smyth asked a change be made to reflect the Committee had a *moment of silence* and not *five minutes of silence* in honor of officials who perished in Kirkwood, Missouri.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

A presentation and report was given by Lori Walker and Brittani Fryer of the Don Moyer's Boys and Girls Club. They presented the Committee with picture albums as tokens of appreciation.

**Committee Member Input**

Charlie Smyth announced the Bicycle Master Plan had been formalized and approved at various committee levels and would be presented soon. A copy of the plan was given to Committee members for review.

5. **Ordinance No. 2008-02-006: An Ordinance Approving an Amendment to a Redevelopment Agreement with Five Points Realty, LLC (Northwest Corner of Cunningham Avenue and University Avenue - Gateway Shops)**

Tom Carrino (Economic Development Manager) presented staff report with input from Elizabeth Tyler (Community Development Director/City Planner). Additional information was provided by Joseph Petry and Ivan Richardson from Five Points Realty, LLC.

After discussion, Ms. Barnes made a motion to send to Council for approval. Ms. Stevenson seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. **Ordinance No. 2008-02-007: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Gateway Shops)**

Tom Carrino (Economic Development Manager) presented staff report. Ms. Stevenson made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Lewis seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. **Motion authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Real Estate Option and Contract for Property Located at 302 West Springfield Avenue (Allman's Auto Repair)**

Tom Carrino (Economic Development Manager) presented staff report. Mr. Smyth made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Lewis seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. **Ordinance No. 2007-10-115: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances (Vehicles for Hire)**

Ron O'Neal, Jr. (Acting City Attorney) presented staff report. Ms. Barnes made a motion to send to Council for approval. Mr. Smyth seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. **Motion to Approve Joining the Sister City Program to Establish a Sister City Relationship with the City of Zomba, Malawi, Africa**

Liz Davis (Executive Staff Assistant) presented staff report. Mr. Roberts read emails from Ezekiel Kalipeni, Carl Altstetter, W. David Kay and Jim Locher supporting the establishment of a relationship with the City of Zomba.

After discussion, the Committee recommended that the following action be initiated: joining the Sister City Program; drafting a plan; clarifying the partnership; initiating a meeting with the Zomba community; and making a final offer to Zomba. The Committee would like to see this program integrated among other established entities within the Urbana community. Mr. Roberts agreed to oversee the establishment of this partnership. Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve recommendations. Mr. Smyth seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. **Mayors Report**

Mayor Prussing recently attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors and reported sustainability is a large concern for cities especially regarding issues with funding. She stated citizens need to start lobbying their congressional delegation regarding this issue. There was some discussion at the conference of charging emission fees or a carbon tax to help control carbon dioxide growth. Code enforcement will also be critical. The Mayor announced there would be a forum held this Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers regarding sustainability.

Urbana has been cited in a recent issue of "Illinois Municipal League" for its thirty years as a Tree City USA.

Illinois American Water has proposed a 60% rate increase. The Mayor feels it is important to study all options at this time including possible purchase. The proposed increase does not include the costs of the new plant west of Champaign. Illinois American Water is requesting to have rate increases every two years. The City of Urbana will be splitting costs with several other communities to protest this increase with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

AmerenIP has also proposed rate increases which will impact Urbana greatly. The City is talking with other communities about joining together to protest with the Illinois Commerce Commission. The Council will be presented a resolution in near future to allow the Mayor to enter to intergovernmental agreements with other cities to intervene.

These rate increases have direct impact on economic growth and sustainability.

11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Chynoweth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

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Joan M. Ryan  
Recording Secretary

\*This meeting was taped.

\*\*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: March 10, 2008