
DATE: Monday, November 16, 2020

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: *Held virtually due to Governor's and Mayoral Emergency Orders

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, November 16, 2020, at 7:00pm via Zoom.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: City Council Members (CM) Bill Brown, Bill Colbrook, Shirese Hursey, Jared Miller, Dennis Roberts, Maryalice Wu

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Hannan; Melissa Hendrian; Jason Liggett, Kay Meharry; Carol Mitten; Lorrie Pearson; Bryant Serphin; James Simon; Justin Swinford; Scott Tess; Katherine Trotter

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: James Dobrovolny; *Public Comment via Zoom:* Stacy Gloss; Dottie Vura-Weis; Tracy Chong; Brian Dunn; Beau Barber; Grace Wilken; Allan Axelrod; Rev. Dr. Evelyn Underwood

Chair: Dennis Roberts, Ward 5

1. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)

With a quorum virtually present, Chair Roberts called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00pm.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

CM Wu made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by CM Miller and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

3. **Additions to the Agenda**

There were none.

4. [Presentations and Public Input](#)

Public Input via Zoom

Comments via Zoom included: support for resolution accepting Lumpkin Family Foundation grant for the study and planting of street trees; increase police training on de-escalation techniques; police review boards should have access to all complaints; there has been no meaningful review of the Aleyah Lewis arrest; there should be more oversight by CPRB, not less; community should do everything possible to keep people in warm houses with running water; too many disconnections by Ameren and Illinois American Water; racial discrepancies in policing need to be addressed; make a more of an effort to stop evictions, water and electric disconnections; in support of Durl Kruse's resolution to improve equity in traffic stop practices and tactics.

5. [Staff Report](#)

Mayor Marlin repeated the announcement that the Ward 2 City Council seat is vacant. applications can be found on the City website homepage and will be taken through November 30, 2020.

The mayor thanked everyone who took part in the three Use of Force listening sessions. She said comments can still be submitted by emailing useofforcepolicy@urbanaininois.us until 5:00 Monday, November 23.

Mayor Marlin spoke about the pandemic, saying the positivity rate has increased and hospitalizations have also increased. She said city services could be affected as the spread continues to increase. she stressed that people should not get together over the holidays because the spread increases in private homes when people gather.

The mayor said the governor announced the eviction moratorium had been extended. There were changes made as of November 14 allowing landlords to file evictions unless the tenants give them a written declaration that states the tenant should be protected due to reasons related to Covid. She said the City is also looking into utility shut-offs and will speak to the City of Bloomington to see how they are dealing with it. Discussion ensued concerning utility shut-offs. City Attorney James Simon responded to questions during the discussion about the legal actions municipalities can take to stop utility shut-offs.

6. **Resolution No. 2020-11-059R**: A Resolution Estimating the Tax Levy (Fiscal Year 2020-2021)

Finance Director Elizabeth Hannan presented this resolution. She began by going through property tax basics. She said the mayor recommends maintaining the current \$1.3499 tax rate. The taxes levied by the City are levied for police pensions, firefighter pensions, library operations and corporate purposes.

Hannan said the library tax levy is about 1% more than the current levy. Police and fire pensions total \$3,262,658. This was based on the funding policy approved by City Council in May 2018 and the third year of a five year transition to bring police and fire pension funding to 100% in 20 years.

Discussion ensued as Hannan responded to questions from council members.

CM Miller moved to send Resolution No. 2020-11-059R to council with recommendation. Motion seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None.

7. **Resolution No. 2020-11-060R**: A Resolution Accepting a Grant from the Lumpkin Family Foundation to Study Street Trees and Plant Street Trees)

Sustainability and Resilience Officer Scott Tess presented this resolution. He said the grant from the Lumpkin Family Foundation totals \$37,000 and that amount would cover the cost of about 50 trees and a portion of the cost of personnel. Tess responded to questions from council members.

After discussion, CM Wu moved to send Resolution No. 2020-11-060R to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Brown and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

8. **Ordinance No. 2020-11-065**: An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (702, 704, 706 & 708 West High Street and 309 South Coler Avenue / Plan Case no. 2410-M-20)

Planner Katherine Trotter presented this ordinance. She said the property is in an area that is zoned for single and two-family residences, and the property owners would like to have the properties at 702, 704, 706 and 708 West High Street and 309 South Coler Avenue rezoned to medium high density multiple-family residential. Currently located on the properties are four rental homes, one of which has been converted into apartments.

After consideration, Plan Commission voted unanimously to forward this case to City Council with a recommendation to deny the request because it does not meet the rezoning criteria and does not align with the Comprehensive Plan.

James Dobrovolny, one of the property owners, was present and said the requested rezoning would open the area up to more residential diversity, and would put people closer to their workplaces. He stated there is no plan at this time to develop the properties. Dobrovolny answered questions and concerns from council members, and discussion ensued.

CM Wu made a motion to deny Ordinance No. 2020-11-065. Motion seconded by CM Hursey and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

9. [Ordinance No. 2020-11-066](#): An Ordinance Approving a Right-of-Way License Agreement with the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District

Interim City Engineer Justin Swinford presented this ordinance. He said this is an agreement to enter into a right-of-way agreement with the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) to construct and maintain an underground electric transmission line connecting a proposed solar power plant to a hydrogen fueling station in the City's right-of-way at the MTD's current location. The MTD will pay an annual fee of \$967.20, which can be adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index.

Discussion took place and Swinford responded to questions and concerns from council members.

CM Brown made a motion to send Ordinance No. 2020-11-066 to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

9. [Ordinance No. 2020-11-067](#): An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Three, Section 3-43 (Increasing number of Class R&T-1 liquor licenses for Baldarotta's Porketta & Sicilian Sausage, 300 S. Broadway Ave., Urbana, IL)

Mayor Marlin presented this ordinance. She said Baldarotta's at Lincoln Square has no liquor license at this time and has requested an R&T-1 liquor license because they want to expand their business to another location in the food court. This would allow them to offer beer, wine, specialty drinks and in addition to the foods they already serve.

CM Miller moved to send Ordinance No. 2020-11-067 to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Wu and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None.

11. [2019 IDOT Traffic Stop Presentation and 2021 Pilot Program](#)

Mayor Marlin introduced this item and said it was a two part presentation, which included the 2019 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) traffic stop report and the proposal for a pilot program that will change the approach to traffic stops by Urbana Police.

Crime Analyst Melissa Hendrian presented a report containing information about traffic stops made in the last 10 years by Urbana Police Department. She said the preceding five years of data serve as a baseline and is compared to the most recent data by year to monitor substantial changes over time. To summarize the report, the disparity ratio has decreased, but still exists.

Police Chief Bryant Seraphin presented the new concept in traffic stops to be adopted in 2021. He said after studying stops it became clear the system used for making stops was biased, not the

individual officers. The areas where many stops were made were the areas with more calls for service, some of which were more heavily populated with Black citizens. Urbana Police realized the disparity ratio disappeared while working Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) details. STEP details are more focused as far as area, and usually take place according to traffic data and is where the officer is on patrol. Regular patrol is less focused and produces more racial disparity in traffic stops.

Based on the results of comparing regular patrol and STEP detail results, and finding racial disparity disappears during STEP, the Urbana Police Department will conduct traffic enforcement in areas determined by data based on traffic accidents. The STEP model will be used for all traffic stops as a pilot program for 2021.

Dangerous driving behavior continues to be a concern and will be addressed in all parts of the city. Patrols will be assigned in areas predetermined by traffic accident data and officers may enforce traffic violations in those areas. The focus will be on dangerous driver behavior and driving that presents safety issues for the general public, like use of seatbelts, handheld cellphone use, speeding, etc.

Discussion ensued and Chief Seraphin responded to questions and concerns from council members.

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 10:28pm.

Kay Meharry
Assistant City Clerk

This meeting was recorded and is [viewable on-demand](#).

Minutes Approved: December 21, 2020