
DATE: Tuesday, July 5, 2022
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 7:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, Bourema Ouedraogo, Kate Brickman, Kat Trotter

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Reifsteck, Reifsteck Reid Architects; Darlene Kloeppel, Champaign County Executive; Dustin Heuerman, Champaign County Sherriff;

Chair: *James Quisenberry, Ward 7*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Quisenberry called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

In observance of a national holiday, the pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

June 6, 2022

Motion to approve by CM Wu and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Input and Presentations

a. Public Input

Paul Muke spoke in opposition to the Champaign County Jail special use permit, encouraged stipulations that the \$5 million of ARPA funds being spent are allocated for intended purposes. Suggested that the Brookens Administrative building be repurposed as a workplace training center/school. *Paul Debevoc* read a written statement detailing a history of the Champaign County

Jails and their unsafe conditions and the County's responsibility to maintain one. Expressed concerns about potential lawsuits should the County and the City not respond appropriately. **Dustin Huereman** the Champaign County Sherriff shared information about the population of the jail and the needs of the facilities. Spoke in support of the special use permit for the Champaign County Jail as a necessary part of the jail consolidation plan. **Darlene Kloeppe**l the Champaign County Executive shared support for the approval of the Champaign County Jail special use permit and the importance of having ethical and safe corrections facilities. **Stephanie Fortado** the Finance Chair of the Champaign County Board shared concerns about the conditions of the former downtown jail facility. Shared support for the special use permit and that another approach would reduce the future capacity of the County to invest in programs. **Allan Max Axelrod** shared what organizing efforts he had done up to this point to oppose the existing jail consolidation plan. Expressed concerns about the causes of the increased jail population. Suggested investing in community resources to reduce the jail population. **Jim McGuire** a Champaign County Board member spoke in support of the Champaign County Jail special use permit. Expressed concerns about the safety of the downtown jail facility and the understaffing of the Sherriff's Department. **Emily Rodriguez** a Champaign County Board member explained why she voted no on the County's jail consolidation plan. Expressed hope that Council would table this item until the next meeting to allow opportunity for additional public input. **CM Evans read a written statement on behalf of Charles Davidson, see attached. CM Kolisetty read a written statement on behalf of Claudia Lenhoff, see attached.**

5. Staff Report

Mayor Marlin announced that second batch of ARPA funds has been received by the City of Urbana.

6. Ordinance No. 2022-06-026: An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit (Champaign County Jail Consolidation at 502 South Lierman Avenue / Plan Case 2449-SU-22) – CD

Presented by Kat Trotter of the Community Development Department. Trotter shared a PowerPoint presentation. Item grants Champaign County a special use permit to expand the existing satellite jail at 502 South Lierman Avenue to allow the County to consolidate operations that are currently split between the existing satellite and downtown jails. The downtown jail is uninhabitable and was closed earlier this year. A special use permit is required for the expansion of the existing use which was proginally permissible via a previous special use permit at this location. Plan Commission voted to send this item to council with a recommendation for approval with the condition that the construction adheres to the proposed site plan. Trotter shared a location map, a zoning map, a future land use map, site photos, and the proposed site plan. Trotter reviewed historical analysis of the jail facilities. Chuck Reifsteck from Reifsteck Reid Architects, Darlene Kloeppe Champaign County Executive, and Dustin Heurman Champaign County Sherriff assisted in answering questions. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to Council with no recommendation by CM Wu and seconded by CM Hursey.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

***Chair Quisenberry announced a five minute recess at 9:34 p.m.**

***Meeting resumed at 9:39 p.m.**

8. Ordinance No. 2022-06-023: An Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 3, Liquor – Exec

Presented by Mayor Marlin and Kate Brickman the Deputy Local Liquor Control Commissioner. Mayor Marlin explained that this item is to ensure the Liquor code is compliant with recent state updates and to make Urbana’s code consistent with Champaign’s. Brickman shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) that outlined the new definitions and the changes to the code. New changes include: temporary emergency suspension duration change, hours of operation specific to package liquor sales, applicant requirement to be age twenty-one or older, permanent allowance for “to go” cocktails and deliveries, video gaming fees adjustment, and duty to maintain premises and adjacent areas with a duty to report disturbances. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Wu. Further discussion ensued.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

9. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken inquired about updates on Police Department budget allowances resolution and discussion of pursuing hybrid meetings. *CM Bishop* talked about the importance of staying connected to the community and the important decisions being made. Encouraged the public to continue to reach out to her.

10. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Quisenberry adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

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

Minutes approved: 08/01/2022

Sandefur, Darcy

From: ! Evans, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 10:30 AM
To: Sandefur, Darcy
Subject: Charles Davidson's input

Importance: Low

Darcy, Below is Charles Davidson's July 5 input.

Thanks, chris

From: Charles Davidson
Sent: Sunday, July 3, 2022 10:36 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***]

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

New Project For Urbana! My name is Charles Davidson. Outreach Specialist for First Follower's! First Follower's Mission is to build strong and peaceful community's by providing support and guidance to the formally incarcerated! And there loved one's. We also combat against gun violence. F. F. Would like to start a drop in center in Urbana. We have ran a drop in center in Champaign. For 7 years, serving over 400 people! We did research in three wards in Urbana. There are hundreds of young people in these areas. There's always been a challenge between the twin cities, or turf issues, we can solve that problem. By putting a drop in center. Here in Urbana . I myself never liked living in Champaign, and im71 year's old and i still feel the same. So this is a great way to support. Victory over Violence. Thanks. If you can read this in public input. Would be great. Have a blessed day. And thank you for supporting First Follower's. More to come!

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Claudia Lennhoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2022 5:17 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - Tuesday, July 5, 2022 - Special Use Permit for Champaign County Jail

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

My name is Claudia Lennhoff and I am the Executive Director of the Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC). **I am writing on behalf of CCHCC to express our support for the Special Use Permit for the renovation of the Champaign County Jail.**

Our support for the renovation is based on our direct experience working inside the Champaign County Jails, and working with our clients who were either incarcerated in the jails, or whom we met while working in the jails.

The jail renovation is needed for public health, public safety, and increased service delivery reasons. It will NOT result in an increase in the total number of beds from what we currently have.

We also come to our position through our belief that people who are incarcerated have human rights and deserve better conditions and better services than what are possible right now, given the physical configuration of the satellite jail.

Our first-hand knowledge of the jail conditions: CCHCC has had a grant from the Champaign County Mental Health Board for several years now, which funds CCHCC for providing services to individuals who are "justice involved", including by having a CCHCC staff member work inside the county jails (Satellite, and downtown) to provide services.

The services we have been providing include enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), medical debt assistance, health care coordination and prescription assistance. Many of our clients start out in the jail, but are then released, and we keep up with them and help them and their families once they are out of the jail.

The current congregate configurations of the pods and multi-bunk cells has placed everyone at risk of covid, despite mitigation efforts. In fact, mitigation efforts are especially challenging, given the physical configuration of the jail - it is hard to keep people separated, who need to be separated. The last two years have been very challenging because of covid, and our staff member - Chris Garcia - has not been able to do his work inside the jail, but has instead been providing services to jail inmates through referral and usually over the phone.

"Renovation" vs. "Expansion" - some misconceptions. Although the jail renovations are commonly referred to as a "jail expansion", it's important to understand that, while the physical space will be expanding (the "footprint" of the jail will be larger) and reconfigured, after the downtown jail is closed and the satellite jail space is expanded, there will be fewer beds than what we currently have. *Therefore, the jail "expansion" or "renovation" is NOT about incarcerating more people, but about re-configuring the jail so that it is a healthier*

and safer environment for the people who do have to spend time in the jail, as inmates, Sheriff Office Correctional Staff, and service providers such as CCHCC.

What have Satellite Jail Inmates had to say about their needs, in relation to the physical configuration of the jail? Several years ago, we held Focus Groups inside the jail, hearing from groups of men (the limited space did not allow us to hear from the women) who were serving their sentences inside the jail. Overwhelmingly, the men told us that more programming space is needed and that inmates who are serving sentences AND working programs for improving themselves, needed a better housing situation so that people working programs who are serious about their self-improvement, could be housed with like-minded people and work their programs together. In order to conduct the Focus Groups in the one and only meeting room/library, an AA meeting had to be canceled. There is currently only one meeting room/library, so only one activity can take place at a time. Men and women cannot be in the same place at the same time, so women get less of the program opportunities than men.

Providing services inside the jail is essential. There are many successful models involving providing "reentry" services in the jail, to help reduce recidivism and improve the lives of the incarcerated individuals. In fact, many people who go to jail, first get sober when they are in the jail. Many people first get health and mental health care when they are in the jail. Even if that care is available in the community, many people do not seek it out until it has become evident that their lives have gotten out of control. Being able to provide key health and social services to people inside the jail is as important as providing those services outside the jail - a public health perspective informs this approach and has an evidence basis behind it. You have to meet people where they are at, and make services available to them when they are ready to ask for that kind of help. Therefore, being able to provide those stabilizing services when someone is in the jail, is extremely important, and productive.

From a provider's perspective, though, the current layout of the Satellite Jail is less than conducive to programming inside the jail. For example, when CCHCC's staff member, Chris Garcia, is able to work in the jail, he has no space where he can work. He literally has to set himself up on a chair in a hallway to try to meet one client at a time in order to do Medicaid or SNAP applications. Sometimes people want to request mental health services, but because of the lack of privacy, they are reluctant to do so.

Furthermore, there is no good way of dealing with inmates who have medical issues that might require greater observation, for keeping them healthy and safe. A few years ago, I had a client who had a mental breakdown as a result of life circumstances and drug addiction. He was dangerous at the time, due to his psychotic state induced by lack of sleep, stress, and substances. He also had a cardiac issue and there were no beds in state hospitals or local hospitals (local hospitals do not have forensic wards). Therefore, he had to go to Champaign County Jail, but because he needed to be constantly observed due to his violence, as well as his health issues, he had to stay in the Booking Area of the Satellite Jail. This is the only place where he could be under close and constant observation

Other reasons that CCHCC supports the jail renovation currently being proposed include the following:

- **The current space at the Satellite jail is outdated and doesn't allow for greater separation of inmates based on classification.** (Note: this is perhaps one of the most important reasons to renovate the jail.) Classification has to do with the nature of the crime alleged or committed, as well as gang affiliations or enemies. There are people in jail in our community for trying to kill someone else to get revenge, and some people will try to kill an "enemy" if they are jailed with them. The current space is not "dividable" enough, so keeping people safe from one another is a huge priority and made all the more challenging because of the space configuration. This situation is only getting worse with increasing gang activity in our community.
- The current space does not allow for a good set up of medical spaces/beds, which is desperately needed.

- Our county is currently sending people to Kankakee in order to get them housed and away from the downtown Jail. This is costly and it is a hardship on those inmates, their families, and their legal representation.

- People incarcerated in the jail deserve more humane conditions. That also includes being able to be in an individual cell, if needed, for one's own safety or the safety of others. It is not reasonable to refer to single cells as "isolation cells". Yes, sometimes people need to be isolated away from others for safety, but also, people often prefer being in their own space for mental health, privacy, and other reasons. Note: we don't refer to single hospital rooms as "isolation" rooms, for example.

I hope this input is helpful. I am sorry I cannot attend tonight's meeting, but I'm available to correspond over email.

Thank you,

Claudia Lennhoff

--

Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director
Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
