
DATE: Monday, December 4, 2023
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 Public Hearing Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin; Darcy E. Sandefur, 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: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the Public Hearing of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 p.m. Marlin explained the purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment regarding a proposed property tax increase for the City of Urbana for 2023. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$9,361,181.96. The proposed corporate and special service property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$10,265,792. This represents an 9.66% increase over the previous year. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$0. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$0. This represents a 0.00% increase over the previous year. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$9,361,181.96. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$10,265,792. This represents an 9.66% increase over the previous year.

2. Public Input

Steven McGuire asked questions about what the propose property tax increase would be utilized for and expressed concerns about some of the proposed programs to be presented on at the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole Police Department. *Danielle Chynoweth* expressed concerns about the proposed increase to the property tax levy and the proposed program costs associated with the Police Department. *Jane McClintock* expressed that the cost of housing is going up resulting in additional revenue for the taxing bodies. *Martel Miller* expressed concerns about proposals to add additional police officers and encouraged the City to pursue other avenues. *James Tyger Corbin* shared information from a survey conducted by FirstFollowers regarding community safety. *Chris Elli* encouraged the City to invest property tax dollars into other programs to support the community rather than expansions to the Police Department. *James Kilgore* shared information about the clients he supports through FirstFollowers and their needs, urged Council to not pursue further funding for the Police Department. *Tom Roth* shared the importance of supporting the growth of the Police Department to coincide with the needs of the City. *Ron Kester* talked about how additional community services funding could address community safety without having to hire additional police officers. *Marina Manetti* expressed frustration about how tax dollars are being spent, encouraged the City to support community services. *Katherine Solar* expressed the need for additional mental health services and spoke about how additional police officers does not address that. *Max* expressed that the additional tax levy funds should be utilized for community services and not for the Police Department.

George Hardwick expressed the need for more community involvement in the discussion about distribution of public funds. *Steven Matthew* spoke in opposition to additional Police Department funding and in support of additional community services funding. *Tony* spoke about the community violence and the need for something to be done to address it. *Anonymous* spoke in support of additional Police Department funding to address community violence.

3. **Adjournment**

With no further business before the body, Chair Marlin adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 02-19-2024**