
DATE: Monday, August 19, 2024
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, August 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken

STAFF PRESENT: Seok Hyun Cho, Bourema Ouedraogo, Breaden Belcher, Larry Boone, Rich Surles, Elizabeth Hannan, Will Kolschowsky, Matthew Roeschley, Michelle Brooks, Vince Gustafson, Carol Mitten, John Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Carlson, Neighborhood Programs Manager for the City of Champaign; Jim Roberts, Manager for Bristol Place Seniors, LP

Chair: *Jaya Kolisetty, Ward 4*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Kolisetty called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 08-12-2024 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Evans.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Marlin added that Larry Boone, Chief of Police, will be speaking as a presentation and also removed Resolution No. 2024-08-058R from the agenda.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Presentation from Chief Boone

Presented by Larry Boone, Chief of Police. Addressed the social media post that appeared on UPD's Facebook page regarding a concerned citizen's call to the department reporting criminal activity. Stated the social media post contained highly offensive tones and should have never been made. Shared that the City and UPD has launched an investigation into the

call received and the source of the post. Apologized on behalf of the UPD on how the situation has unfolded, apologizing to the reporter and the family of the person who had made the initial post. Shared the staff and himself have met with the reporter and their family that led to the arrest of the perpetrator. Commended the young lady and her family for their bravery throughout the circumstances. Stated the UPD should never punch down and misuse social media. Shared the internal investigations are ongoing and following the required laws for administrative investigations. Stated the information able to be shared is limited due to the circumstances.

b. Public Input

Elizabeth Sotiropoulos hoped for the incident to lead to further awareness on the sexual violence and threats that children and women face in the world. Stated women and children are commonly not believed when reporting sexual abuse and violence. Hoped for deep consideration on the events that occurred and that the City of Urbana, the UPD, and the City of Champaign learn from what has happened so that it does not happen again. Voiced that the rights of children are connected to human rights. *Brian Dolinar* expressed dismay regarding what had happened due to his own child's proximity to the child that reported the crime. Stated residents at public input seem like a vocal minority speaking on abstracted issues, but the issues are truly close to them. Stated he has submitted a FOIA request for further information on any disciplinary incidents that occurred and hoped for the public to learn the entirety of how the events occurred. Voiced appreciation for Chief Boone in publicly addressing the matter tonight. *Sarah Nixon* stated the UPD's handling of the report made mirrors her own personal traumatic experiences. Stated the City of Urbana is lucky to have Chief Boone and the accountability that they have taken for the social media post and failure to respond to the initial report made. Stated Urbana needs to consider changing its police culture and remove toxic biases brought into UPD. Stated the perpetrator caught has previous violations on record that could be easily found online. Requested reports from children not be minimized and abusers not be protected. *Karen* expressed the UPD has had an issue with its culture and in how the officers see their own work. Stated if the UPD's social media had targeted someone else who had less connections it would have scared the reporter into inaction, and it should not be written off as a mistake. Stated the handling of the report may lead the child to believe that the police will never help her if she reports anything again and is a significant mistake.

Written Public Input was received from Sana Saboowala regarding the UPD's recent unprofessional social media post, see attached.

5. Staff Report

Carol Mitten, City Administrator stated curbside recycling and multi-family recycling have resumed service. Stated that the contracting issues are being worked through to stabilize long-term service. CM Quisenberry asked if the services will be with the current contractor. Carol Mitten stated the services are through the current contractor and the contracting issues that prevented service have been addressed.

6. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-08-056R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement Regarding the use of HOME Funds on Behalf of the City of Champaign, Illinois (Bristol Place Seniors, FY 2024-2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolution No. 2024-08-057R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager with Jennifer Carlson, Neighborhood Programs Manager for the City of Champaign and Jim Roberts, Manager for Bristol Place Seniors, LP available for questions. The resolution seeks to authorize the Urbana HOME Consortium to commit up to \$1,043,000 in prior year City of Champaign HOME funds for the construction of a four-story building comprised of 60 one- and two-bedroom apartments in the City of Champaign with 6 of the units being supported through HOME funds. Breaden Belcher stated the agreement will commit \$1,043,000 in prior year HOME funds toward low-income affordable housing for seniors. Noted that the total project cost for Bristol Place Seniors is estimated to be around \$19,000,000 for an apartment with 60 units comprised of one- and two-bedroom units by Bristol Place Seniors located in the City of Champaign. Stated the monthly rent will conform to HUD rent limit guidelines for the affordability period in the terms and conditions which lasts 20 years. Stated construction is expected to begin September 2024 and complete in January 2026. Stated the funds for this agreement is sourced from the City of Champaign's prior years' HOME funds budgeted toward affordable housing. Stated the City of Urbana has all responsibility for executing HOME projects as the lead entity in the consortium. Stated the funding will have no impact on Urbana programs and projects as the funding was previously budgeted for within the City of Champaign. Stated the subrecipient agreement will outline the roles and responsibilities for the City of Champaign and the City of Urbana for overseeing the project. Stated the second agreement is with the housing developer, Bristol Place Seniors, LP, and it covers the terms and conditions of the project funding. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-08-057R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Rental Housing Developer Agreement (Bristol Place Seniors, LP FY 2024-2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolution No. 2024-08-056R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager with Jennifer Carlson, Neighborhood Programs Manager for the City of Champaign and Jim Roberts, Manager for Bristol Place Seniors, LP available for questions. The resolution seeks to approve and authorize a developer agreement between the City of Urbana, on behalf of the Urbana HOME Consortium, and Bristol Place Seniors, LP which contains the terms and conditions used for the development of the project.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

~~e. **Resolution No. 2024-08-058R:** A Resolution Approving Standardized Employment Agreement Templates for City Appointees – HRF/Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during additions to the agenda.

d. **Ordinance No. 2024-08-029:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule O-1 of Section 23-201 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Designating Load Restrictions upon Vehicles Using Certain Highways (Washington Street over Sunny Estates Ditch) – PW

Presented by John Zeman, City Engineer. The ordinance seeks to remove the load restriction of 12 tons from the bridge that carries Washington Street over the Sunny Estates Ditch due to the recent successful construction of a replacement bridge in December 2023. John Zeman provided background on the past need for a load restriction due to the poor condition of the former bridge over the Sunny Estates Ditch. Stated the bridge was replaced by the end of 2023 and the current bridge has an expected life-span of 75 years.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

e. **Resolution No. 2024-08-059R:** A Resolution Approving Amendment to the Public Safety Records Management System (“PSRMS”) Intergovernmental Agreement – PD

Presented by Rich Surles, Deputy Chief of Police and Matthew Roeschley, City Attorney. The resolution seeks to amend the intergovernmental agreement for the PSRMS to enable the Champaign County Circuit Clerk’s participation in the system’s management. Rich Surles provided background on the record management system used by the City of Urbana called ARMS and the Tyler record management system which replaced ARMS. Stated the Tyler system is overseen by the PSRMS Board. Stated the e-citation forms will improve efficiency, reduce staff costs, and now has sufficient funding with \$350,000 pledged by the Champaign County Circuit Clerk. Stated the process will begin with the dissolution with the ARMS Board and transferring its fund balance. Stated the PSRMS intergovernmental agreement needs to be amended to formally add the Circuit Clerk onto the PSRMS Board. Matthew Roeschley provided an outline of the amendments to the intergovernmental agreement. Stated certain pieces must be amended to facilitate the implementation of the e-citation module, allow User Agencies to add information to the record system, and add the Circuit Clerk into the User Agencies. Shared an example of how the State Attorney could be a read-only User Agencies member. Stated the changes will allow for more robust information sharing between law enforcement agencies. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

7. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans reported that the impacted family has been in good spirits recently after meeting with them on Saturday. Shared that the family is grateful for the UPD's cooperation in providing service to the child and her mother. Praised the UPD for holding themselves accountable and correcting their actions in the handling of the report. Recounted a memory where the late Reverend James Bevel said "Problems have solutions". Stated the incident has impacted the community's trust in the UPD and requested the UPD to post the entirety of the informational press release for the incident on its Facebook page. Requested the UPD also post a formal apology on its Facebook page addressed to Laura Haber. *CM Quisenberry* thanked Chief Boone for sticking with his promises of transparency and accountability by responding to the social media post that was made on the UPD's Facebook page. Apologized to the community on how the events have occurred and assured the community that the City will do better. Expressed interest in the ongoing investigation and in how Chief Boone intends to address this behavior in the future. Stated interest in learning how the arrest was able to be made and what police tools were involved in that process, and if license plate readers in the City of Champaign were used in the investigation. *CM Wu* echoed the sentiments from CM Evans and CM Quisenberry regarding the handling of the report and the social media post. Emphasized the importance of understanding the best ways to communicate with children and listen to children. *Mayor Marlin* shared that the Champaign County State's Attorney Julia Rietz had stated video evidence from the child who had made the report led directly to the arrest that was quickly made. Emphasized that Chief Boone has not yet begun the internal investigation into the social media response the UPD made. Stated the response from the UPD was unacceptable throughout the handling of the report made and the social media post. Shared that she had spoken with the child's mother and Superintendent Dr. Ivory-Tatum, noting that school counselors have been made more available to students throughout the week and Chief Boone indicated extra patrols have been put on duty around school areas. Reminded the public that the investigation will be governed by rules and laws that must be followed, but it will be conducted as swiftly and thoroughly as possible. Thanked community members Laura Haber and Danielle Chynoweth for their assistance to the victim and their family. Stated policies, procedures, and trainings will be examined to prevent incidents such as this from happening again. *Chair Kolisetty passed the Chair to CM Wu.* *CM Kolisetty* recognized the potential for the incident to have been much worse due to the inaction of the UPD to the report that was made. Recognized the courage the child had to take action and reach out to their support network to lead to the arrest of the perpetrator despite the unacceptable initial response from the UPD. Agreed that many questions regarding this incident must be answered in order to take the steps necessary in achieving closure and correcting the behavior. Expressed appreciation for what Mayor Marlin had said to her in conversations, for CM Evans in keeping her updated on the matter, and for local community organizations and non-profits for their support. Stated the steps toward healing are being made and expressed interest in hearing further updates on resolving this issue. *Chair Wu relinquished the Chair back to CM Kolisetty.*

8. Closed Session per ILCS 120/2(c)(2) - Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Motion to enter closed session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Entered closed session at 7:57p.m.

Motion to return to open session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Evans.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Returned to open session at 8:18p.m.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Kolisetty adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 8/26/24**

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Sana Saboowala <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:20 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 8.19.24

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my public input aloud at the council meeting:

My name is Sana Saboowala, I'm a resident of ward 5 in Urbana. I'm saddened to hear of the frightening experience a local child had and the ways it's been mediated through social media. I would like the council and the Alternative Responses to Policing Task Force to consider what could've happened to actually help this situation. I think we should consider what we value in terms of safety and what services need to be available. It seems that the police couldn't provide what was needed in this case. We should consider these factors when make budget choices as a city.

Best,
Sana