
DATE: Monday, January 13, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:21 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey*, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Breaden Belcher, Bourema Ouedraogo, Will Kolschowsky, Larry Boone, Elizabeth Hannan, Carol Mitten, Matt Roeschley

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Wilkey, Partner at Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:21p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. 11-25-2024 City Council Minutes

b. 12-02-2024 Committee of the Whole Public Hearing Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

Presented by Jamie Wilkey, Partner at Lauterbach & Amen, LLP with an introduction provided by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO. Elizabeth Hannan provided an overview of the financial report covering FY2024 and thanked Jamie Wilkey as well as City Staff for their work in completing the audit. Noted the basis of accounting seen in the report differs from what is provided in quarterly financial reports from staff and in the budget. Stated

things will look different due to the method in which the funds are presented and combined specifically for the report. Jamie Wilkey thanked City Staff for their assistance in the lengthy auditing process. Highlighted the first page in the abridged packet sent by Elizabeth Hannan is a copy of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association that was presented to the City of Urbana for the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Stated the required Independent Auditor's Report through a public CPA firm ensures the facts presented in the report are materially correct. Reported there were no areas of concern found through the internal control testing. Noted the Management's Discussion and Analysis section can be found in pages 11 through 27 in the full report and it provides the executive summary of the report. Highlighted all transactions and funds for the City in FY24 increased this fiscal year and the General Fund ended FY24 with a 44% reserve which can cover up to 5 months of operating expenses. Stated a breakdown for the General Fund was provided from the standpoint of revenues and expenditures as well. Highlighted the required Statistical Section as it provides significant information on 10-year trends and histories for the City. Reported two management letters of recommendations were received regarding two incoming standards from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Questions and discussion followed.

b. Public Input

Written Public Input in opposition to Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual and read by Mayor Marlin: Elizabeth Powers. Written Public Input in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual and read by Mayor Marlin: Jenny Forster. Written Public Input regarding Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual but was not read: Adam Nichols.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Kolisetty recognized and thanked Deputy Chief of Police Rich Surles for his 27 years of service to the City of Urbana and his leadership as his last day in office was last week. *CM Wilken* echoed congratulations to Deputy Chief of Police Rich Surles for his retirement and wished him the best in his future ventures. Highlighted an email she had sent to Council containing an updated version of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 which addresses concerns raised in previous discussions. Stated she had also provided information and post-implementation reports from other cities with similar surveillance technologies policies. Hoped for further constructive deliberation regarding the Ordinance. Noted she will be traveling for the next couple of weeks. *CM Quisenberry* thanked Deputy Chief of Police Rich Surles for his service and commended his time spent as Interim Chief of Police. Appreciated his willingness to engage with questions and openness to conversations. *CM Hursey* expressed the presence of Deputy Chief of Police Rich Surles and his straightforwardness in conversation will be missed. Wished him well in his future living situation.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

8. **Committee of the Whole** (*Council Member Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-12-086R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Donation of Land to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District – Exec

The Resolution conveys a vacant parcel of real estate at 2310B E. Main Street owned by the City to the Forest Preserve District for the extension of its Kickapoo Rail Trail project.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-12-043:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 12 (Human Rights Ordinance – Changing the Name of the Human Relations Commission) – HREO

The Ordinance formally changes the name of the Human Relations Commission to the Human Rights Commission in Chapter 12 of Urbana City Code (Human Rights Ordinance).

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

None.

9. **Reports of Special Committees**

None.

10. **Reports of Officers**

Mayor Marlin shared the City of Urbana has received a \$10,000,000 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Federal grant from the Federal Department of Transportation to complete the Florida Avenue Corridor Project, rebuilding 1.3 miles from South Wright Street to Hillcrest Avenue. Stated the grant will be combined with the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant to also build a multi-use path on the southern end of Florida Avenue. Stated side paths are currently being designed and hoped for ground to be broken for that development later this year. Stated the design and development of the RAISE grant project will commence soon. Thanked the federal representatives who assisted in lobbying for the grant, thanked Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski, Senator Tammy Duckworth, and Senator Dick Durbin as well as the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Champaign County First, and the University of Illinois. CM Quisenberry asked regarding the signalizing efforts, when the changes to the Traffic Ordinance will be introduced to accommodate the additions, and when there will be an opportunity for public input regarding the signalization. Mayor Marlin stated an update will be provided in the future. Additionally announced H-Mart will be opening on Thursday, January 16 and the ribbon cutting will take place at 9:50a.m. with the store to open at 10:00a.m. Shared the Martin Luther King Jr. Countywide Celebration will be taking place on Sunday, January 19 at 5:00p.m. at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Stated the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 21 as Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday will be observed on Monday, January 20. Thanked Deputy Chief of Police Rich Surlis for his service to the City of Urbana and spoke on his 27 years of contributions to the City.

11. Discussion

- a. Potential Extension of the IGA Between Urbana and Housing Authority of Champaign County (Washington and Lierman Avenues) – CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. Breaden Belcher provided background on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) which was approved through Resolution No. 2022-10-081R on October 10, 2022 and approved construction of mixed-use, multi-family units of the Washington/Lierman site. Stated the IGA expired December 31, 2024 and shared the activities that were held to-date for the project. Shared a neighborhood meeting was held on December 1, 2022 to gather community input; a partnership was made with Northpoint Development in 2023 to apply for low-income housing tax credits from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA) but was not selected, stalling the project; City staff, the Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC), and RPC met regularly to discuss progress and projects at the site; and an architecture firm was contracted in November 2024 to develop a proof of concept for the project and note what gaps the project is meant to address in the community.

Stated despite the expired IGA, work is continuing on building a proposal for a development on the site as the investments will further the City's and the HOME Consortium's affordable housing goals. Expressed the high demand for housing options for low-income households at or below 50% Average Median Income (AMI). Shared information regarding the two City-owned lots on E. Washington Street, that was originally purchased to support affordable housing projects through Ordinance No. 2012-01-006, and S. Lierman Avenue which was donated to the City through Ordinance No. 2012-12-108 and previously had affordable housing built on it. Shared 1603 E. Washington St. has a square footage of 43,217.72 and an acreage of 0.99; and 1001 S. Lierman Ave. has a square footage of 153,539.70 with an acreage of 3.52.

Stated the next steps involve continuing to collaborate with local stakeholders in developing the affordable housing, evaluate the local needs, and the potential need for a new IGA as the project progresses. Questions and discussion ensued.

- b. RFP for Alternative Response Task Force Facilitator – Exec

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst & Assistant to the City Administrator. Mayor Marlin provided an introduction, speaking on the work conducted so far and the need for Council feedback on the current version of the RFP. Will Kolschowsky stated the draft of the RFP is ready to be published once Council approves of the scope of work.

CM Kolisetty stated an evaluation of existing Alternative Response models must be included in the scope of work to align with the initial intent of the project and to inform the task force of what options are available to them in modeling an Alternative Response program for the City of Urbana. Mayor Marlin asked for further clarification on the evaluation and if it is supposed to cover local models or a literature review. CM Kolisetty stated the evaluation can take the form of a literature and program review, or a study on existing, implemented models such as Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) in the City of Eugene in the State of Oregon.

CM Wu stated the intent of the Alternative Response model was to have non-sworn responders and the language of the RFP should reflect the responders are also not non-sworn or sworn police officers. Asked for clarification on the extent to which internal City departments play a role in Alternative Response models. Asked if there would be a preliminary report released before the final report. Mayor Marlin asked for further clarification on the

preliminary report to see if it aligned with the suggestion from BerryDunn to act as a midpoint report to Council. CM Wu confirmed that to be the case.

CM Wilken proposed the language regarding the number of meetings or hours met be changed to include “at least”. Stated the scheduling of meetings should be revised to note the facilitator will work in coordination with the task force to ensure availability. Voiced appreciation for the listed responsibilities from the City to the facilitator. Asked for clarification on who the task force and facilitator are sending the deliverables to. Stated the BerryDunn reports were previously filtered through the City’s Executive department rather than having the information be publicly accessible and proposed the facilitator provide the deliverables directly to the task force in a public format. CM Hursey asked for clarification on who the task force reports to. CM Wilken stated the reports from the facilitator should be presented publicly to the task force instead of going to the City’s Executive department for revision before being made accessible to the public and Council. Council discussed the drafting and presentation process for the deliverables from the facilitator and task force. Council discussed adding an initial draft report delivered directly to the task force by the facilitator as a deliverable or as a task item.

CM Wilken asked regarding the evaluation criteria and how the scoring method would be used. Will Kolschowsky stated there is currently no set scoring or weightings ahead of the release of the RFP as they provide a general overview of a proposal and set criteria to review.

CM Wu asked if it were realistic for a RFP to be submitted by the deadline at the end of January. Will Kolschowsky stated the dates in the draft are out of date.

CM Wilken asked what the next steps would be after this draft RFP is revised and approved. Will Kolschowsky stated Council can decide if this is the final step before approval and release or if a revised version should come to Council before final approval. CM Wilken voiced preference for the updated RFP to be presented to Council before final approval. Mayor Marlin asked if it could be available by next week’s Committee of the Whole. Will Kolschowsky stated its possible and asked for further clarification on the robustness of the review of existing Alternative Response models and if the facilitator is expected to provide commentary on reviewed models. CM Kolisetty stated the scope of the review should cover Alternative Response models and a departure from the BerryDunn review would be that it would cover models that can exist externally from the police department rather than solely be housed or work in collaboration with the police department. Stated the review should build upon the work of BerryDunn and cover gaps within their literature review conducted to allow for the task force and community to make the best-informed decisions for the City of Urbana. CM Bishop stated the review should include Alternative Response models used in similar municipalities as Urbana, models that utilize non-sworn officers, and provide more options for the task force to have for reference. Expressed it could fall under the General Responsibilities section of the facilitator within the RFP. CM Wilken stated a consulting firm knowledgeable on Alternative Response models should already have information on Alternative Response models and the benefits and challenges of models should be presented to the task force if possible.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 8:34p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 2/17/25

Rafael Cho

From: Elizabeth Powers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:09 AM
To: City Council
Subject: STATEMENT FOR JANUARY 6 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I request that the following statement be read at tomorrow night's city council meeting:

My name is Elizabeth Powers. I have lived in Urbana since 1997 and work at the University of Illinois. Over the lengthy period of time I have lived in Urbana, there has been a very obvious deterioration along the Philo Rd. corridor, the area where I live. This includes a decline in business activity, deteriorating housing, increased thefts and break-ins, and gun violence.

There are members of this city council who have adopted a knee-jerk and fact-free adversarial stance towards any attempts to improve the security of this community. Instead, they engage in fear-mongering. This has resulted in inadequate support for a secure environment for our citizens. The recently hired police chief has been stymied at every turn in his attempts to restore a sufficient police force to just cover the basic security needs of the city. The ordinance under debate tonight moves further towards an extreme micro-management of every aspect of policing by the council.

The ordinance written by council members Wilken and Kolisetty is a collection of hysterical, over-the-top assertions that the sky will fall and Urbana will become a police state if any modern policing methods are adopted. This doomsday screed was written by council members who have zero expertise in civil liberties law or in the technologies under discussion. The city should not adopt a policy that is based on personal beliefs. The fact that there was no consultation with the police chief, who actually has knowledge of how technologies would be implemented, their limitations, and their usefulness indicates an unwillingness to engage in objective dialog. Adopting this extreme ordinance without any serious study by the council would be a highly irresponsible action. I ask that the city council reject this ordinance and instead take a serious, factual look at these issues.

Elizabeth T. Powers
[REDACTED]

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Regards,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth T Powers
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rafael Cho

From: Jenny Forster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 9:46 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input

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

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Please read this aloud at the next public input meeting.

During the meeting on December 16th, council and Mayor Marlin discussed police surveillance technology and an ordinance that would require council approval to use police surveillance technology.

After hours of public input urging council members to consider the implications of making Urbana a surveillance state, Mayor Marlin proceeded to state that she has people tell her every day that they want police surveillance, pushing her personal preference for allowing UPD to spy on its citizens. There were many arbitrary questions put forth by certain council members. While body cameras technically would count as a surveillance technology, body cameras are required to keep the police accountable. We have seen many instances in recent history where police have abused the fact that there were no recordings of arrests or murders they have committed, or purposefully switched off their cameras to get rid of evidence before making an unlawful traffic stop, etc. This is not the same as the surveillance technology that will be putting communities in danger. Surveillance technology, when used as police forces typically use it, serves only to protect the upper class and those in charge. It is never used to protect the average citizen.

Many speakers at public input brought forth crucial and enlightening information on how police technology was used, but it seems that certain council members and the mayor don't listen to these speakers. If the mayor knows so many people who are begging her to allow police surveillance technology, then why are they not showing up for public input? They must not want it that much if they can't even email about it. There is a clear show of representation and support to enact the ordinance that allows city council members to approve or deny technology put forward by the UPD.

Cities that are referenced for using this technology should also have their crime rates, incarcerated citizens, and happiness among minority communities compared too. I live in Urbana because it is a welcoming place to all, and I want to keep it that way. I don't want my friends, my kids, my family to fear existing in Urbana. You should not want this either.

There was also talk about having to discuss "every" item the police use and approve or deny technology, which was seen as tedious. Would you not want to put the time and effort into voting on matters that are important to your community? If the council members, or the mayor, do not wish to put this effort into keeping their community safe and keeping transparency in the PD and the technology they use, then they should not consider being a political figure. Simply put.

I do appreciate all the work that the council and the mayor have put into keeping this city safe, but there have been times where certain members of the city do not listen to the citizens who take time out of their day to be able to show up at city council meetings and give their support, or lack of support, for items on the agenda.

I implore all the council members and the mayor to reflect on their actions. Not only in this instance, but in previous instances where the public was not listened to and votes were made against the wishes of your constituents.

Rafael Cho

From: Adam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 4:37 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public input for city council meeting 2024-01-06

*** Email From An External Source ***

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Please read my comment out loud into the public record.

Dear City Council,

Thank you for the conversation about transparency and accountability at the last meeting. I was not able to attend, but I caught the instant replay on YouTube.

I'm most interested in hearing more from the people who want to have transparency but would not vote yes for the proposal in its current form.

One question I hope will be explicitly answered as you work toward a proposal that the majority can agree with is this:

What categories of police technology should be immune from transparency to the public, and accountability to the city council?

Thank you,
Adam Nichols