
DATE: Monday, November 21, 2022
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in special session Monday, November 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis 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: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Dave Wesner, Carol Mitten, Darcy Sandefur, Tim Cowan, Rich Surles, Matt Bain, Will Kolschowsky, Sheila Dodd, Stephany McMahon, Darius White, Elizabeth Hannon

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called this special meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. 10-10-2022 Minutes

*Addition of verbiage denoting correction of dollar amount by staff at that meeting.

Motion to approve minutes as corrected by CM Wu and seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice vote:

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

NAY: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Closed Session: Pending Litigation, Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)

Motion to enter closed session by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Wu.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

Entered closes session at 6:02 PM

Motion to return to open session by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Wu.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

Returned to open session at 7:01 PM

5. Presentations and Public Input

1. Public Input

Nick spoke in support of Hotel Royer extension. *CM Quisenberry read on behalf of Theresa Michelson, see attached. CM Quisenberry read on behalf of Steve and Kenitha Fey, see attached. CM Wilken noted other emails were received will be included in the minutes.*

6. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken announced upcoming event on December 1st at foursquare church to discuss rezoning of the Lierman Avenue City property. **CM Quisenberry** noted that he did receive a number of communications about the Hotel Royer.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

9. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Christopher Evans, Ward 2)

A. Consent Agenda

None.

B. Regular Agenda

1. Ordinance No. 2022-11-045: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #4 - Omnibus) - HRF

Presented by CM Evans. Item amends the budget to account for three key changes: Police retention and recruitment, Human Resources restructuring, and modifications to the criminal investigations office space.

Motion to approve by CM Evans and seconded by CM Wu. Discussion ensued.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

2. Resolution No. 2022-11-086R: A Resolution Estimating the Tax Levy (Fiscal Year 2022-2023) – HRF

Presented by CM Evans. Item places the estimated property tax levy on file

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

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

3. Ordinance No. 2022-11-046: An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Three, Section 3-43 (Maintaining the number of Class R&T-2 liquor licenses for Colbrook Enterprises, LLC dba The Courier Café, 111 N Race St, Urbana, IL) – Exec

Presented by CM Evans. Item authorizes transferring the liquor license to the new owners of The Courier Café following the purchase of the property.

Motion to approve by CM Evans and seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

10. Reports of Special Committees

None.

11. Reports of Officers

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

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

Minutes approved: 12-12-2022

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Theresa Michelson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 11/21/22

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Members,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of the budget amendment that contains funding for an incentive program to retain the officers in the Urbana Police Department and also assists in Urbana's ability to attract new officers. Cities of our size are all fighting for the same talent pool and we need to be able to attract those individuals and keep the officers we have. The last vacancy number for the department that I heard was 8 officers--a large number given that due to illness and approved leaves, the department is never at full complement in the best of times. Public safety is one of the priorities of the council. Understaffed police departments cannot do the job they are hired to do.

I do feel that several council members have been less than supportive of our police department; I would hope that none of those individuals choose once again to show their disrespect by voting against this amendment.

I also urge you to support increased funding for HR staffing. This is the department that is doing the hiring for the large number of vacant positions in the city. I have heard that there are as many as 45 open positions. I also know personally of three excellent staff who moved to Champaign in the past year for higher salaries. It's easy to talk about loyalty and dedication, but in this inflationary time, the salaries and the retention bonuses that the city is able to offer will make a difference.

As a comparison, the Urbana District #116 recently raised the daily fee for substitutes in order to be competitive in that area. There is something to be said for adequately compensating employees.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Theresa Michelson
Urbana, IL

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Steve and Kanittha Fay <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 5:21 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input - Please read

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

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Good Evening!

First, Happy Fall Break!

We also would like to thank you for your service, and particularly for your vote for the School Resource Officers earlier this year. Special thanks to Councilmember Bishop and Evans for visiting our High School.

In light of threats of school shootings, **we encourage you to support the Urbana Police Department in offering competitive compensation packages**, so we will be able to hire the most qualified police officers. We are certain that you have been informed of the police shortage in our neighboring city.

Again, thank you for your time and have a wonderful break.

Steve and Kanittha Fay

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Amanda Tempel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 7:29 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/21/22

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

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I am unable to attend the city council meeting this evening but wanted to share a story. On July 1, 2022 at around 6am my 2 month old grandson stopped breathing. We called 911 and within 3 minutes there was an Urbana Police officer in the living room performing life saving CPR on my grandson. There is no doubt in my mind that this man saved this baby's life. Within a few minutes after that several more officers showed up, before fire department or EMS workers arrived. I don't think my grandson would be here today if it wasn't for the amazing officers on shift that morning. Not only were they essential in that moment but they have since checked in on us and offered to help in any way. I truly believe the Urbana Police Dept is essential in more than just fighting crime. We need them, all of them. I hope you consider this when making any decision to keep or hire additional officers. It is money well spent and our community needs them.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Anne Wenglarski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 12:50 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input11/21/22

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the Urbana City Council:

I am a close acquaintance of a current Urbana city police officer and I am writing on behalf of this individual to support the proposed recruitment and retention incentives.

I am an emergency medicine physician and I believe that I can provide a unique insight into how a group of first responders operates. In the emergency department we work as a team. During emergency situations experience and teamwork count. Our ability to work efficiently together yields better and more successful outcomes for our patients. The same can be said for police officers. The ability to trust and depend on their long-term partners and colleagues is crucial. This can't happen if there is no long-term retention of officers or if the team is short staffed due to unfilled positions.

What happens if you call 911 and no one is there or the response is delayed due to understaffing? How will you feel if no one is there to stop the drunk driver from killing a friend or family member? Remember, these officers have sworn to protect and serve YOU. Don't you want the most experienced and highly qualified personnel doing that job? Someday your life may depend on one of these officers. I urge you to support the recruitment and retention incentives that have been proposed.

Thank you for your time.

Anne Wenglarski, MD

Sent from my iPad

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Brian Weldy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 3:43 PM
To: !City Council
Cc: Henry, Elizabeth
Subject: Public input 11/21/22

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

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Dear Urbana City Council,

I am writing regarding the Urbana Police Department's importance to our community. As a Fire Department member, we depend on Urbana Police officers to provide adequate emergency responses to our community stakeholders. Together our departments form two bodies of public safety that work in unison to offer impactful interactions with the public. Our collective efficacy is reduced if we do not retain human capital within our departments.

As I'm sure the council is familiar, the police and fire departments commonly respond to calls together. The Police Department provides critical services during rescue calls, fire calls, and medical responses. One of the duties of the police officers during this type of response is to provide safety for the public and the firefighters during these interactions. Police officers are often required to enter emergency scenes first to ensure the "scene is safe" or otherwise free of imminent dangers before firefighters can enter and render medical aid. While ensuring scene safety appears simplistic, this requires police officers to have a high degree of intellectual discretion and familiarity with the community to appropriate further actions. The fire department often depends on the experienced police officer's previous interactions and repour with the community to assist in de-escalation efforts to deliver medical aid or other assistance effectively.

Although there are many examples of this mutually beneficial relationship, I would like to take the opportunity to share just one. Earlier this year, in the early hours of the morning, the fire department received a call for an infant in cardiac arrest. As typical, we responded to the incident as quickly as possible from our fire station.

As we responded from the station, the child's parents were on the phone with our dispatch center receiving pre-arrival instructions. These parents were experiencing what I can only assume was the most stressful and emotional situation of their life. Simultaneously the police officers heard the fire dispatch over the radio. Being nearby and knowing the severity of the call, several police officers responded to the scene. The police officers arrived at the scene first and visualized the motionless, silent, colorless child in the arms of a caregiver. Without hesitation, the officers took the limp child from the caregivers' arms and began CPR. A few officers worked on the child, as others consoled the parents, who watched from the edge of the room.

We arrived with our medical equipment, and our paramedics noted that the child remained lifeless and not breathing. We began advanced interventions immediately. A short time later, the ambulance arrived and assumed care as the fire paramedics assisted. The police officers continued to support the child's parents and gather any information they thought may be helpful.

We removed the baby from the scene and transported the child to the hospital. When the infant was delivered to the hospital, the child's heart was beating as we continued to provide artificial ventilation. We transferred the

child's medical care to the emergency department staff as we debriefed our team and returned to service, awaiting another call.

Unfortunately, after experiencing similar situations in my career, I have accepted that the outcome of an infant arrest is often unsuccessful. As I received news that the baby survived 24 hours later, I began to feel cautiously optimistic. Seventy-two hours later, hearing good news, I began to feel excited. A few months later, I received a picture of the police officers that responded to this call, reunited, holding the infant alive and well. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, and the police's early intervention undoubtedly led to a positive outcome for that family.

It's difficult to grasp what the police officers' early intervention meant to the family that day. How much emotional despair was saved due to the positive outcome? What are the emotional and economic impacts of an infant fatality?

The City Council has tools to inform policy decisions as we invest in public safety to reduce risk in the community. The value of statistical life (VSL) and quality of life adjusted years (QALY) can be applied to cost-benefit ratios of policy decisions. An in-depth analysis would likely indicate that underinvestment in public safety would lead to an unacceptable risk for our community.

Kind regards,

Brian Weldy

Sandefur, Darcy

From: SN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 5:57 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT | 11/21/22 | WCIA story on Urbana COW approving 1.34 million dollar spending on UPD

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

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Hello City Council,

[This WCIA news story](#) (link here embedded) claims that the Urbana City Council has passed a resolution to spend 1.34 million dollars on bonuses for the Urbana Police Department, and will "finalize" it "next week," i.e., at this evening's meeting.

I have seen no mention of this issue on any meeting agendas.

The constituency trusts its Council members not to allow spending of this magnitude on an issue of this much public importance to be slid through the back door. This discussion appears to have been hidden from the public. I would like to know and would like to know why the absence of transparency, outreach, and public discussion?

Sarah Nixon

Family Court Reform Advocate



2022 Invited Presenter

Battered Mothers Custody Conference

Co-Organizer | 2022 Mothers Pilgrimage to The White House



Sandefur, Darcy

From: David Guth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 6:11 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT, 11/21/2022 City Council Meeting: Support for Urbana Police Retention & Recruitment Bonuses

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

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Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members,

I would like to voice my strong support for the City of Urbana to use retention and recruitment bonuses on behalf of the Urbana Police Department. I also support bonuses for all City of Urbana employees who make successful referrals of new hires in the police department.

The City of Urbana can ill afford to leave our neighborhoods and community unprotected due to a lack of qualified police officers in an era of rising gun violence and crime. The City must create a safe, welcoming space for our community members to raise our families, conduct our daily business, engage in recreation, as well as to learn and grow within our schools and at the University of Illinois.

The Urbana Police Department buffers us from threats both inside and outside of our community (such as the recent threats to Urbana High School and Middle School). Daily, our officers put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe from harm. With that in mind, we need to ensure that our police force is compensated with competitive salaries in alignment with local prevailing wages. As you know, the Champaign Police is offering a premium roughly \$20,000 higher than UPD's. This is untenable and we cannot allow a rapid departure of qualified officers or potential candidates to the City of Champaign or other departments with higher salaries.

Please vote "YES" when it comes time tonight to vote for the recruitment and retention package for our Urbana Police department as presented. Without our safety and wellbeing, our community will not continue to flourish and grow.

Thank you,

David C. Guth
Ward 6 constituent

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Julia Guth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 6:21 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT I November 21, 2022

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Members of the Urbana City Council:

As an Urbana resident and constituent of Ward 6, I am writing to respectfully request that you vote to support the proposed Retention and Recruitment package as presented for the Urbana Police Department.

As you may know, Urbana High School has experienced multiple soft and a hard lockdown in the past several weeks. Urbana Middle School also has experienced threats of gun violence over the past year.

We remain grateful to the service and dedication of our Urbana Officers--in particular those who have been going above and beyond to protect every child in UMS and UHS. At such a tumultuous time of local gun and gang violence coupled with unknown shooter threats which are requiring the additional support of the FBI, we encourage our Council to seek all possible avenues to recruit and retain Officers of the highest caliber.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Loofbourrow Guth