
DATE: Monday, May 28, 2024
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, May 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, Seok Hyun Cho, Bourema Ouedraogo, Breaden Belcher, Will Kolschowsky, Demond Dade, Richard Surles, Larry Boone, Andrea Ruedi

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- a. 05-20-2024 City Council Minutes
- b. 05-20-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Kolisetty.
Voice Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry
NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Minnie Pearson spoke in support of the hiring of additional police officers to support the vision of Chief Boone for the Urbana Police Department. Strongly proposed a community coalition town hall for Chief Boone to address the public's concern directly and to speak on his plan for the UPD. Emphasized the trust placed in Chief Boone's expertise and his commitment to Urbana's safety. Stressed the importance of community engagement, dialogue, and transparency between UPD and the community. Advocated for more face-to-face interactions with the UPD so the community can speak with Chief Boone and other officers directly. Stated that the decision made by the Council and community should be in the best interest of the

community as a whole. **Ron Kester** stated that the discussion on the budget of the police reflects morals of the community. Stated that police are not present to help and protect the community. Described the police's duties is to collect evidence. Stated that the ability for the police to use force through firearms robs the capacity for justice in a situation. Stated that most police officers do not live in their beats. Spoke in support of a community responder model with its own budget and department that contains licensed social workers to assist clients in solving their problems in place of a police department. Estimated that 73% of UPD's calls for service can be handled by community responders rather than police officers. Urged City Council to build a post policing institution by investing in a community responder model to build the foundation for a better city. **Denny Schubert** spoke in support of the expansion of the UPD's budget, citing her lived experience as a business and rental property manager. Cited personal property tax payment amounts as reasoning to be heard by City Council. Shared a story of how people had been cutting the trees in her yard without licensing, damaging her roof and property. Stated that she was informed that they were not breaking any laws and allowed to continue with their work without repercussion. Urged City Council to enact legislature forcing tree cutters to have proper licenses to conduct their business. **Paul Mewth** spoke in support of the implementation of a community responder model to calls for service received by the UPD. Stated that other cities have benefited from the implementation of community responders. Stated lack of confidence in BerryDunn's report regarding the implementation of a community service responder program. Noted that a community service responder should not be under the jurisdiction of a police department. Cited and shared a PBS NewsHour segment regarding the implementation of a community service responder program through the expansion of the unarmed behavioral response teams in the City of Minneapolis. **Ben Joselyn** reiterated the initial reasoning behind the commissioning of the BerryDunn report to research a different vision of public safety. Stated that the BerryDunn report lacks language reflecting the original intent behind its inception and that it indicates a lack of transparency between the City administration and the community. Urged City Council to not adopt the budget proposals in their current form for the UPD. Stated that police officers are expensive, citing that the lowest police officer made \$89,000 and the average officer made \$120,000 with some officers making \$160,000 in the FY2023 budget and compared it to the low salaries of the employees at Cunningham Township. Stated that there are already members within the community who could be hired to address community issues over hiring additional police officers. Mentioned that trust in a person is a bad foundation to build policy upon. Stated that if the budget is passed with the expansion of police staffing, it will prevent the creation of a new public safety model that would better serve the City of Urbana. **Faith Ryan** spoke against the expansion of the UPD, citing an experience being assaulted by a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) police officer who wore clothing that hid their identity. Stated that the police officers retreating from the grounds had left behind a body camera and a fully-loaded magazine on the ground. Stated that the fundamental priority of the police is to protect capital and not human beings. Questioned why taxes need to be increased and created to further invest within the UPD when the community does not benefit from that investment. Stated City Council has the ability to explore alternative response models that could better serve their communities. **Maxwell Haynes** stated that the expansion of UPD is a waste of money and unnecessary. Stated that they should use the funds that they are currently allocated, citing recent history of community harassment and national incidents of police brutality. Stated that the UPD spends most of their time in proactive activities such as traffic stops with a low amount of time spent on actively responding to crime. Cited results from multiple studies which display no correlation between the increasing of policing and the reduction of crime. Stated that the police are unable to solve half of violent crimes and even less non-violent crimes, as per data from the Pew Research Center. Stated that the City of Urbana is no exception to national statistics which reflect racially biased policing. Stated that at least 250,000 people are injured by police annually and 462 people have already been killed by police in America and there are only 9 days within the current year where a police officer has not killed anyone according to a University of

Chicago study. Advocated for a search for alternative policing methods and for alternative methods of response that also phases out police officers as they retire. **Caite** spoke regarding a peaceful protest at UIUC where police from local municipalities were brought to harass, intimidate, and arrest students for peacefully protesting. Stated that if they are capable of bringing riot gear to a peaceful protest on a Friday evening, they do not require any further funding. Stated that police do not keep the public safe and are responsible for killing almost 500 people nationwide this year. Urged City Council to consider the funding of other response models which involve mental health professionals and de-escalatory processes, citing personal experiences and fear for police. **Dottie Vura-Weis** stated that prevention is better than cure, and the aftermath of an issue and the curing requires adequate methods and appropriate professionals. Stated that a benefit of being in a university town is that people can provide their expertise on decreasing crime and improving public safety. Urged City Council to wait until the BerryDunn study is wholly completed before committing to large funding decisions regarding the police. Quoted Benjamin Franklin stating, "A stitch in time saves nine," regarding waiting on the BerryDunn study to be completed before making budgetary decisions on the UPD. **Steven MacGuire** urged City Council to postpone the decision to increase the budget of the UPD. Stated that the City of Urbana requires greater investment in social services and mental health services. Stated that shelters are at capacity and require further assistance. Stated that the diversion of funds from social services and mental health services does not draw outcry, unlike the diversion of funds from police or construction budgets where they are represented by their unions. **Jane McClintock** spoke in support of the postponement of the decision to increase the budget of the UPD, until the BerryDunn study has been concluded. Praised Professor Cobb's breakdown of the BerryDunn report and the information contained in the first phase of the study. Stated that there is a higher number of administrative staff in UPD when compared to other police departments. Stated that the increased amount of time spent in responding to a single call for service by a UPD officer is beneficial and should be considered already as part of their unobligated time. Urged for City Council to wait to see the results of the BerryDunn study before making any decisions on police funding and fund an alternative community response model that would better serve the community members and support police officers. **DeShawn Williams** spoke in opposition to over policing and in support of the community who came out to voice support for alternative response models. Stated that other cities, similar to Urbana, should be reviewed for their implementations of alternative response models to policing. Cited the case in Evanston where an alternative model was implemented and spoke in support of programs that support everyone within the community. Stated that investments into programs that support the most at-risk residents would result in a safer and more unified city for the community. **Derek Briles** spoke in opposition to raising the police budget. Reiterated the point made by Ben Joselyn regarding trust, stating that the City destroyed the trust placed in them by the community when initially commissioning the BerryDunn study by acting on the recommendations provided to them by BerryDunn during the first phase of the study. Questioned the raise in funding of the UPD instead of exploring alternative response models and stated that there are more appropriate methods to addressing issues faced within the community where the budget could be better and more appropriately spent. Stated that 28% of sexual assault cases and 51% of homicides are solved, questioning the efficacy and the purpose of investing in the UPD. Urged the Mayor, City Administrator, and Police Chief to consider their six-figure salaries while 28% of their community lives below the poverty line. Stated that further investments in affordable housing, mental healthcare, and poverty eliminating social services is what is required rather than an increase in policing. Urged the City to rethink what public safety could be in Urbana. **Chris Zelle** spoke on the better financial efficiency of investing in policing alternatives rather than an increase in UPD funding. Stated that the City of Urbana should learn the correct lessons from the murder of George Floyd to implement alternative responder models before a police officer inevitably kills a resident. **Evelyn Nettle** spoke in opposition to the proposed increases in the UPD budget, citing its increase in funding since 2019 and the repeated community calls to decreasing the UPD's budget and instead

increase community options. Expressed that Urbana residents commonly criticize increases to the UPD budget and that community sentiment is generally negative toward those increases. Questioned the purpose of increases in police budgets as crime rates continue to fall in the past two years, especially in violent crime rates within the City of Urbana. Stated that the increase in police funding is in response to recent student protests to protect the property, commerce, and image of UIUC. Urged City Council to not approve the UPD budget increase and listen to the constituents who are requesting decreases to the UPD budget and instead asking for investments into alternative response models. **Jada Fulcher** spoke in opposition to increasing the UPD budget. Cited an experience regarding the slideshow displayed in the City Hall lobby and the written purpose of the BerryDunn report. Stated that the community and City Council should wait to make a decision on the UPD budget until the BerryDunn report has been concluded. Stated that the BerryDunn quotes slave-owner Sir Robert Peel, founder of modern-day policing, multiple times in its report, and questioned the purpose of its inclusion. Noted that uses of force are disproportionately against African-Americans despite only comprising 18% of the population within the City of Urbana. Urged City Council to delay deliberations on the UPD budget increases for at least a year to compile more information before making a decision. **Skylar Riefsteck** spoke in opposition to the increased budget for the UPD, citing its lack of need for an increase of its resources. Shared personal experiences of being in times of danger and not being able to rely on the UPD without the threat of further violence to ensue. Urged City Council to investigate alternatives models to policing and allow for the BerryDunn report to be completed. **Rebecca Obuchowski** shared experience speaking with police officers, where the police officer stated that are 3 options for the police within their interactions: to do nothing, take a person to a hospital, or to jail the person. Shared personal experience of working in non-profits and the wide variety of options available in that position to offer assistance to people and respond to situations. Stated that further time is required to invest in a response method that better aligns with the community's needs and values. Stated that further community engagement is what is required to better the lives of people within the community and the further funding of police is not what will achieve that. **James Kilgore** spoke on obfuscation, citing personal experience of interpreting World Bank Reports and pointing to the BerryDunn report as an example of that. Stated that the information presented and reported on is inaccessible to the community being policed. Supported the suggestion from Minnie Pearson for a public forum to discuss policing and the amplification of voices for those who are victim to policing. Questioned why so much energy and funding is spent on policing when the poverty rate in Urbana is more than double than that of Illinois. **Written Public Input from the following individuals in opposition to the proposed increase in police funding were read by Mayor Marlin: Adam, Lilah Leopold. Written Public Input from the following individual in support of the proposed increase in police funding were read by Mayor Marlin: Ricky Parks. Written Public Input was received from Esther Patt.**

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Kolisetty expressed concern for the reading of written public input in deviation of regular written public input criteria. Shared overview behind the budgeting of the exploration of alternate response models through the lens of social and racial justice, and the source of the BerryDunn report funding. Voiced that the completion of the phase of the BerryDunn study investigating the implementation of alternative response models through the lens of social and racial justice is still being awaited. Stated that compromises and concessions have been made in order to allow for the City of Urbana to remain competitive in hiring higher quality police officers. Expressed that the City of Urbana intended to hire a Police Chief who would be different to previous chiefs. Stated that no promises were made by City Council regarding the shape of the difference in conduct would be. Expressed that the proposed FY25 budget was received at the same time as the public, and that the budget remains unfinished. **CM Wilken** expressed agreement with the points raised by CM Kolisetty. Thanked the public for providing input. Shared the personal opinion that all Urbana citizens have equal say and right to be represented

regardless of however much money they pay in property taxes or however much their property is worth. Expressed agreement in support of searching for alternative non-police community responses without the expansion of the UPD budget. **CM Quisenberry** shared to residents of Ward 7 that the annual SUNA (Southeast Urbana Neighborhood Association) meeting is going to be held on Thursday 05-30-2024, 7:00p.m. at St Matthew Lutheran Church at 2200 S Philo Road for Ward 7 residents to have a platform to engage with the City. **CM Hursey** stated that previous attempts, by previous City Councils, to implement the One Door policy was not successful, but a police-based Crisis Response Team was able to be formed as a result of that which has helped many people in receiving the assistance they required. Expressed that police officers are still human beings with the capability to assist others within the community. Shared personal experience with the UPD, stating that were never harmful or disrespectful to her when growing up in Urbana. Shared recent accounts of seeing police officers assisting people in various mundane situations. Expressed that those other experiences, referred to by the community, with the police are unknown to her as she does not associate with criminal elements and does not frequently interact with police officers. Stated people of color within the community, especially those within her Ward, will suffer the most without the support of a police department. **Mayor Marlin** clarified that the mayor makes \$75,000/yr. Stated that the proposed increase in social service funding only reflects the increase in Youth Services Grants and does not fully reflect the situation of social services provided and available within the City of Urbana to its residents. Noted that the \$10,000,000 ARPA funding and investments made there assist organizations in providing social services. Shared the accomplishments and merits of the Crisis Co-Response Team. Questioned the source and validity of the statistic of 73% of calls for service being nonviolent calls, citing the risks within domestic violence calls that had been included in the non-violent calls for service in the BerryDunn study which states that the nonviolent calls for service statistic as being 63%.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

8. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Shirese Hursey, Ward 3*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-05-028R:** A Resolution Approving the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium (Champaign/Urbana/Champaign County) FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan – CD

The Resolution seeks to approve the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium (Champaign/Urbana/Champaign County) FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan.

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-05-029R:** A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission – Housing Navigation Program – HOME ARP FT 2021/2022 – CD

This item seeks to amend the subrecipient agreement with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to extend the agreement terms from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025 while maintaining all other provisions of the original subrecipient agreement.

- c. **Resolution No. 2024-05-030R:** A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement – CU at HOME, LLC – Housing Navigation Program – HOME ARP FY 2021/2022 – CD

This item seeks to amend the subrecipient agreement with CU at HOME to extend the agreement terms from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2025 while maintaining all other provisions of the original subrecipient agreement.

- d. **Resolution No. 2024-05-031R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement to Share Cost for Use of a GPS Survey Base Station – PW

This Resolution seeks to approve an intergovernmental agreement to participate in a cost share for use of a GPS Survey Base Station predicated on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Champaign County GIS Consortium and the University of Illinois.

- e. **Ordinance No. 2024-05-020:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 24, Section 24-49 (Reimbursement for Sanitary Sewer Repairs) – PW

The item seeks to add rehabilitation of a sanitary sewer lateral within City right-of-way as an eligible expense for the City’s sanitary sewer lateral reimbursement program.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-04-018:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana City Code Chapter 14, Section 14-7, Regarding the Schedule of Fees (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025) – HRF

Introduced by CM Hursey with Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO available for questions. The Ordinance seeks to approve an amendment to the Schedule of Fees which includes the revisions resulted from questioning from City Council Members. The increases to fees allow for the continuation of providing City services.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Quisenberry. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

9. Reports of Special Committees

None.

10. Reports of Officers

- a. **Budget Presentation – HRF/EXEC**

Introduced by Mayor Marlin stating that the next few weeks will be comprised of presentations from departmental leadership focusing on key points within their budget requests. Expressed

pride for progress made and optimism for the future as the budget represents the foundational work undertaken throughout the previous 7 years and it also represents the framework for a more effective and efficient city government. Shared that this moment is bittersweet as it is also the final budget being present under her tenure as mayor and is reflective of the progress made in those 7 years. Thanked City staff and elected officials that she served with and listed accomplishments and accolades from the past 7 years across all sectors of the community and highlighted the community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shared that the maintenance and management of the public infrastructure system is a high priority moving forward. Shared recent accomplishments in the sourcing of 100% union labor for the construction of the new fire stations, and the strides taken in the Equity and Quality of Life (EQL) program. Highlighted recent \$10,000,000 ARPA allocation process and the projects it has funded. Requested the community to listen to the context and reasoning presented for budget requests. Stated that the City of Urbana requires both non-sworn officers and sworn officers to achieve true community policing and also have a community response model. Reiterated conclusions from Phase 1 of the BerryDunn review, stating that the UPD is understaffed proportional to the workload they have. Stated that the City of Urbana has not been able to create Community Engagement Teams within the UPD because of understaffing. Expressed support for Police Chief Boone's budget requests.

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator and Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO. Elizabeth Hannan provided an overview of the economic and financial outlook for the City of Urbana. Read economic statistics, raised concern for the rising Housing Price Index (up nearly 37% since Quarter 1 of 2020) and the passing of the budget without the 1% grocery tax. Expressed that the City of Urbana is in a better financial position than last year. Carol Mitten highlighted the main community outcomes of the City's budgetary investments, stating that its goals are to incrementally move toward implementing improvements for public safety; support Mayor/Council Strategic Goals in areas such as public safety, housing, infrastructure, and economic health; maintain beneficial services for the community; expand services in specific areas such as alternative response models, housing inspections, and nuisance abatement; and address other strategic priorities through the housing study and equity plan.

Reminded of the public of the scope of work of the BerryDunn study and the written intent behind the commissioning of the BerryDunn study through the RFP. Read quotes from the RFP to clarify the purposes behind the BerryDunn study. Stated that there were no plans to seek models that eliminate police involvement in responding to calls for service. Stated the purpose and intentions behind the increase in police and fire staffing to meet baseline staffing requirements to provide adequate services from first-responders that improves the likelihood of good outcomes. Stated that in order to begin incorporating an alternative response model, Mayor Marlin proposes two types of civilian positions for three Full-time Employees within the UPD that represents two Community Service Responders and one Social Worker. Noted that a higher pay is offered for a social worker as part of a civilian response team due to the special circumstances that may be faced when responding to calls. Shared that further information will be shared on the funding of a three-year pilot program for the Community Engagement Team in the budget presentation next week from the UPD. Stated that the goal for this unit would be improve the overall relationship between the UPD and the community to allow for co-production policing to be possible. Stated that the Community Engagement Team would be comprised of three sworn officers operating out of an office located in the Philo Road area.

Shared that Mayor Marlin proposes an additional \$200,000 to be allocated toward Social Services funding to further public safety and well-being. Further stated that the ARPA funded programs will continue to be funded through the 2025 Fiscal Year. Recognized the connection between housing quality and public safety/well-being. Shared that Mayor Marlin proposed an additional Code Compliance Inspector for rental housing, stating that with the current staffing

of two inspectors they operate on a 6.5-year cycle of inspecting every rental property, but with the introduction of another inspector the cycle will be improved to 4.3 years. Stated that Mayor Marlin proposes an increase in funding for nuisance abatement in the amount of \$20,000 to allow for the program to run an entire year rather than expending all funds early within the year. Stated that the City of Urbana is overdue to a comprehensive housing study and Mayor Marlin proposes that \$50,000 is spent toward this purpose. Shared information, previously presented on by Grants Division Manager, Breaden Belcher, regarding a 21% decrease in CDBG and HOME funding for the upcoming fiscal year that will not interrupt any current services, but indicate a need to find other sources of funding if the decreases continue.

Shared highlights of new projects and findings regarding infrastructure projects within the City as discussed within the Capital Improvement Plan. Stated that the City of Urbana's infrastructure needs are underfunded by \$20,000,000 annually. Noted that the only increase in tax from the current budget is a 5-cent increase in Local Motor Fuel Tax rate to fund infrastructure projects. Expressed that the increase in engineer staffing in the Public Works Department has allowed for the construction of two new fire stations while also maintaining other ongoing projects.

Shared highlights for economic recovery and development, focusing on reinvigorating Downtown and various projects supporting that area. Stated that RFPs for development on Illinois Street and 205 N Race Street are expected to arrive in the coming months. Shared that an influx of employees is expected for downtown Urbana when the County Plaza opens. Voiced hope for Hotel Royer being able to open within the calendar year and that H-Mart is expected to open at the end of the calendar year or at the beginning of the next year. Stated that further funding to complete the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan has been requested, with more information to come later this meeting. Stated that the City Council approved minimum revenue guarantee of \$50,000 for Willard Airport is also included in the budget. Spoke on other highlights of various City operations projects and services. Highlighted the adjustments being made to the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund in the form of a one-time correctional payment of \$1,950,000, an accompanying recurring payment of \$300,000, and an additional recurring payment of \$150,000 to account for the full extent of the one-time adjustment to be able to replace vehicles on schedule. Spoke upon the proposal of another IT position, the conversion of the Management Analyst position to permanent from limited-term, the adoption of Office 365, implementation of a new asset management system for Public Works, a proposal for additional funding to the Office of Human Rights and Equity to develop a City Equity Plan, and the implementation of an on-call interpretation service for non-English speakers.

Elizabeth Hannan noted that the charts displayed sometimes show figures across All Funds (excluding transfers) and sometimes focus on solely the General Fund. Stated that the chart displaying revenues across All Funds displays a total revenue figure of \$81,400,000 for FY25, with the \$7,800,000 increase being attributed to increases in State and Federal Grant funding. Stated that around \$43,000,000 is within the General Fund, providing funding for most City services such as the UPD, UFD, and most of Public Works. Shared that in FY24, sales tax and related revenues performed better than projected, resulting in a higher FY24 revenue estimate than previously shared.

Spoke on the distribution of Property Tax within Urbana, sharing a pie chart detailing the distribution of the 2023 Tax Levy. Noted that the City's portion of property tax revenues is estimated around 12%, with 5% of the total distributed to pensions, 5% of the total distributed to library funding, 3% of the total is distributed to the General Fund. Noted that the majority of property tax revenue goes to the school district as it takes 54% of the total property taxes.

Shared chart displaying expenditures by departments across All Funds, noting that the largest share goes to Public Works at 34.9% which involves expenditures such as capital improvements. Listed that Community Development is 20.7% of expenditures, Police is 17.4%, and Fire is at 11.3%. Elaborated upon the 7.4% share of expenditures from General Services which includes expenditures from the VERF and Retained Risk Fund which cannot be attributed to a single department.

Displayed chart viewing expenditures by classification across All Funds., sharing that in FY24 a higher amount of Capital spending can be noted when compared to other years due to the timing of putting funds toward the construction of the fire stations. Noted that FY24 and FY25 are higher in spending within the Services classification due to an increase in the amount of grants awarded by the City. Stated that despite the HOME and CDBG allocation decrease, the spending on Services continues to draw upon awards from earlier years. Stated that the total expenditures for FY25 is \$84,800,000 and 44% of that goes toward Personnel.

Shared pie chart displaying General Fund Revenues by Source, covering a total of \$43,080,000 from a wide variety of revenue sources. Stated that Sales and Use Tax compose the largest contributor to the General Fund at 32%, but it used to be 34% in FY24 and the decrease can be attributed to the elimination of the 1% grocery tax revenue. Listed that Income Tax at 14% and Property Tax at 13% are the next highest source of revenue. Stated that the Income Tax may seem high, but it is inflated due to the Fire and Police pension fund revenues having to be accounted for by passing them, within a day, through the General Fund.

Spoke upon General Fund Expenditures by Class, displaying a bar graph indicating that Personnel continues to be the largest part of the budget at 62% of expenditures within the General Fund. Stated that the growing portion spent on Transfers is related to the maintaining of the VERF and additional transfers for Capital Improvement Projects.

Spoke on how a balanced budget is determined, displaying a bar graph comparing recurring revenues and expenses within the General Fund. Stated that the financial policy goal is to not allow for recurring expenditures to exceed 98.5% of the recurring revenues. Noted that the current proposed FY25 budget almost reaches 98.5% in recurring expenditures proportional to recurring revenues. Stated that, based upon financial policies, adopting further recurring expenditures, outside of the currently proposed budget, is not recommended.

Shared that another key metric is viewing the General Fund balance and displayed a bar graph comparing General Fund balances from FY22 to FY25 with a line indicating the 25% expenditure point across the General Fund bars. Elaborated that the reasoning behind the policy of reserving an amount equal to 25% of recurring expenditures as Unreserved Fund Balance within the General Fund is to allow for the City of Urbana to provide services to residents even in the case of recessions or natural disasters. Also stated that having a strong fund balance is a metric used by external organizations to measure the City's financial condition when considering purchasing debt from the City. Stated that the ending FY25 General Fund Balance is \$17,000,000 with \$5,300,000 assigned for future expenditures and the unreserved portion is \$11,700,000 which calculates to being proportional to 26.1% of recurring expenditures.

Stated that services have been able to be expanded this year, but for future years an expansion in services cannot be sustained without additional revenue sources. Shared the timeline for the budget review process and presentation schedule. Noted that the adoption of the budget requires five of eight votes and a budget amendment requires a supermajority with six of eight votes. Proposed informal strawpolls for suggestions regarding changes to the budget. Questions and discussion followed.

~~b. Library Budget – UFL~~

Celeste Muotos, Executive Director of the Urbana Free Library, requested that the presentation is moved to the meeting on 06-03-2024.

c. Social Service Funding – CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager and Carol Mitten, City Administrator. Breaden Belcher spoke on the increases within Social Services Fundings, an increase of \$200,000 to bring the total funding for Youth Services Grant to \$300,000 in FY2025. Provided a comparison of program support that the current levels of funding allow to the potential program support using proposed levels of funding. Stated that up to 30 grant awards would be able to be provided with a maximum grant of \$30,000. Shared outcome of not receiving the increased funding and stated that no alternative sources for funding were available before making this request. Questions and discussion ensued.

d. Comprehensive Plan Related Requests – Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator; with Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO; and Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst and Assistant to the City Administrator available for questions. Described the two one-time expenditures to complete the comprehensive plan: extending the strategic advisor position with a \$81,000 expenditure to Andrea Ruedi and to source consulting services for mapping through a \$50,000 expenditure. Questions and discussion followed.

11. New Business

a. Staff Reappointments

Introduced by Mayor Marlin, stating that 15 positions are brought to Council for approval and not all 15 are currently up for reappointment due to differences in appointment times and cycles. Stated that the positions being considered tonight are for Carol Mitten, City Administrator; Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer; Andrea Ruedi, Special Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development (with a limited term ending 12-31-2024); HR and Finance Director/CFO, Elizabeth Hannan; Kent (Demond) Dade, Fire Chief; Tim Cowan, Public Works Director; Vincent (Vince) Gustafson, Deputy Public Works Director; John Zeman, City Engineer. Clarified that Thomas Webb, Information Technology Manager; Larry D. Boone, Chief of Police; and Kimberly Smith, Director of Community Development Services were all appointed to terms ending 06-30-2025 and they will return for reappointment in 2025. Noted that Kimberly Smith has recently tendered resignation to her position and additionally, the Deputy Finance Director position is vacant. Noted that Clinton Weidert, Deputy Fire Chief, is appointed through 10-04-2024. Stated that David Wesner, City Attorney, is under contract with Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley. Further stated that the appointments for positions of City Attorney and Deputy Police Chief will be brought to City Council at a later date.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Motion to divide the appointments to be voted upon individually by CM Wilken.

Carol Mitten – City Administrator (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Hursey. Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Wilken

PRESENT: Kolisetty

Carla Boyd – Human Rights and Equity Officer (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Hursey. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Wilken

Andrea Ruedi – Special Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development (effective July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024)

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Hursey.

AYE: Hursey, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: Bishop

PRESENT: Evans, Wilken

Kent (Demond) Dade – Fire Chief (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

Elizabeth Hannen – Human Resources and Finance Director/CFO (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

Motion to approve by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

PRESENT: Wilken

Tim Cowan – Public Works Director (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

Vincent (Vince) Gustafson – Deputy Public Works Director (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Wilken.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

John Zeman – City Engineer (effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

12. Discussion

a. Ward Map Continuing Discussion

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst and Assistant to the City Administrator. Provided an overview of the finalists and the feedback received regarding them. Stated that the goal is to select a finalist and then come back with an ordinance adopting the final map. Mayor Marlin noted that three members of the public favored Finalist Map 2 (Ward Map 8), one member favored Finalist Map 1 (Ward Map 7), and one member was not able to tell what the western boundary was.

Motion to extend the meeting to 10:45p.m. by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Quisenberry

Voice Vote:

AYE: Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Mayor Marlin asked if Council was ready to vote on the finalist. Council requested clarification on which maps were selected as the finalists based on the previous numbering system used. Will Kolschowsky displayed the finalist maps with their previous numbering system and their finalist map numberings. CM Quisenberry and CM Evans agreed upon forwarding Finalist Map 2 (Ward Map 8) for voting upon. CM Wilken stated that Finalist Map 2 (Ward Map 8) makes sense for campus areas, but changes the characteristics of Ward 6 severely, changes the split of SUNA, and alters SE Urbana in historic areas. CM Quisenberry echoed the points raised by CM Wilken and that SUNA will experience changes, but it is good in some aspects. Acknowledged the significant changes, but noted that Finalist Map 2 remains the best option of the three. CM Kolisetty noted that there are significant changes to Ward 4 which will have impacts on the demographics on the voting body to make it focused on campus residents more, but it still includes the centralized portion of the Ward. Stated importance of diverse representation within Wards and hesitance on reaching consensus. CM Wilken proposed modifying Finalist Map 2 to compromise on changes around campus and the changes around South Urbana. Mayor Marlin noted that significant changes across all Wards are a result of population changes measured through the census and seen across populations within Urbana. Further noted that the changes seem significant compared to historic changes as population changes were steady. Stated the urgency in completing this process as people looking to run for City Council need to know the Ward they will reside in. CM Hursey added that Ward 3 is limited in its growth, but changes to

Ward 6 are to be expected as there is large room for growth there. CM Wilken stated that there has also been no expansion to Ward 6 and the southern border of the City of Urbana. Mayor Marlin stated that Myra Ridge and South Ridge subdivisions have completed construction and are filling in, becoming a source of growth. CM Quisenberry noted that 52 homes in Stone Creek have been built within the last 4 years and many vacant lots still hold potential for residential construction. Mayor Marlin requested for a strawpoll to be held on if Council is ready to send Ward Map 8 to Committee of the Whole for approval. CM Quisenberry put forward that the discussion be continued next week alongside an action item to select a map to send to City Council for approval so that the entirety of City Council can be present for discussion and deliberations.

Consensus was reached by City Council to delay conversation to next week with a focus on Ward Map 8.

13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:36p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 6/10/24

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Esther Patt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2024 6:34 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: 5/28/24 PUBLIC INPUT - Ward Map

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members:

I write to encourage you to adopt OPTION 2 for the new Urbana ward map.

It's essential that every ward with a lot of housing for which occupancy is conditional upon University affiliation be balanced with a good supply of apartments and houses that are not University-affiliated. The balance ensures that every citizen age 18 and older who wants to run for city council can do so knowing that when s/he is no longer affiliated with the University, s/he will be able to find another place to live within the ward and not have to resign the position.

OPTION 1 leaves Ward 1 with too little housing east of Lincoln Avenue.

OPTION 3 leaves Ward 3 with too little housing east of Lincoln Avenue. Also, it seems to me that Option 3 divides a community of interest. I think of all of the years that the King Park neighbors and the Crystal Lake Park neighbors worked together as UCAN (United Citizens and Neighbors) to address neighborhood issues and wonder whether the dynamic has changed so much in 20 years to justify dividing the old UCAN area into 2 different wards.

For these reasons, I think OPTION 2 is best.

Thank you for your service and for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Esther Patt
(Coler and Nevada)

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Adam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 9:54 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input for city council meeting May 28, 2024

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

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Please read my comments into the record.

As I look at the proposed budget, I have to ask myself "What problems are we trying to solve here with the proposed changes?"

If approved, this will mean we are spending 49% more on police than we did in 2019, yet the crime is comparable to what it was in 2019. What is increasing police spending, by yet another million plus dollars, intended to do that we haven't done in the previous increases? I understand it makes the police happy to have more money, but what have the people gotten in return since 2019?

It seems like whenever the UPD asks for more money, they're basically issued a blank check, despite this being deeply unpopular with the people of Urbana. Spending more money on police is one of the few issues that regularly draws significant public input.

The proposed budget is telling us that policing our citizens is at least five times more important than social services. Instead of helping take care of people, the proposal is more police interactions.

An alternative would be to return the police budget back to 2019 levels, use some of that extra money to invest in non-police community responders, which would lighten the load of service calls on police officers, and invest the remainder of it into social services.

Another alternative would be to hold off on increases in police spending until the complete BerryDunn study comes back, or until a non-police community responder program is put in place to find out how many of the calls community responders could offload from police. Since the majority of emergency calls UPD currently services are not for crimes, it seems like there's a large opportunity for a cheaper and more popular option.

I want the city council to ask the question of what we are getting for our tax money. And I don't mean explain it in terms of the number of people hired, I mean how will it improve the lives of Urbanans?

Thank you.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Marlin, Diane; !City Council
Subject: Public Comment 5-28-24

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Members of the Urbana City Council,

Please read this statement during public comment at this evening's meeting.

As an Urbans resident (Ward 4), I urge the Mayor and Council to heed the call of your community members to pursue alternative community resources, including alternative responder models, to provide care which increased spending on policing simply cannot supplant. I am continually amazed by the number of organizations, coalitions, and partnerships across town, which actively work to keep this community safe, fed, housed, nurtured, and inspired.

As you all know, there are great and increasing needs to meet in Urbana, from the number of unhoused people, to food insecurity, and utility shut-offs (Cunningham Township), which should take precedent over any consideration to increase police budgets or hire more officers. Increased policing simply does not make sense. I write in strong opposition to the hiring of any new police officers or any expansion of the police budget.

I again urge you to see the big picture and put our money towards our community. This is the only viable path forward for the remnants of our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lilah Leopold

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Rickey Parks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 9:22 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Dear City Council Members,

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my full support for Chief Larry Boone and his request for additional officers at the Urbana Police Department (UPD). As the nationally recognized chief leading UPD, Chief Boone has a proven track record of implementing community policing strategies that build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Additional officers are critical not only for the safety of our hardworking police officers, but to allow UPD to fully realize Chief Boone's vision of authentic community policing. This approach directly addresses the social issues that undermine public safety by engaging those most impacted. It also helps alleviate any unwarranted fear residents have of police through compassionate interaction and relationship building.

UPD is lucky to have a chief of Chief Boone's caliber and commitment to progressive, constitutional policing. However, for his efforts to have their desired effect, he needs sufficient personnel. I urge you to support the chief and approve additional officers for UPD at your meeting this evening. Our community will be safer and stronger as a result.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if there is any other way I can voice support for this important initiative.

Regards,
Rev. Dr. Rickey E. Parks, Pastor
Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone