
DATE: Monday, June 17, 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, June 17, 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 Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken*, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner, Bourema Ouedraogo, Seok Hyun Cho, Larry Boone, Richard Surles, Kyle Kapper, Elizabeth Hannan, Marcus Ricci, Demond Dade, Tim Cowan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Bishop called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 9:45p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 06-03-2024 & 06-04-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

CM Wilken requested that “CM Wilken stated that the budget proposals seem reasonable...” be changed to “...the budget proposals by CM Evans seem reasonable...”

Motion to approve, as corrected, by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Written Public Input from the following individuals regarding the proposed UPD budget increases was read by Chair Bishop: Wyatt Kuehster, Sara Berthier, Kathryn Dullerud, Lee Ann Kelly, Sam Ehlinger, Lashaunda Cunningham, Ruth Kantorovitz,

Lesley Owens, Deborah Hollenberg, Rohn Koester. Written Public Input from the following individual emphasizing funding for social services by CM Evans: Jovonda White. Written Public Input regarding the proposed UPD budget increases from the following individuals was read by CM Kolisetty: Jeff Glassman, Lilah Leopold, Dua Aldasouqi, James E. Corbin II “T.Y.G.A.R.”.

Motion to extend the meeting to 11:00PM by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: Hursey

5. Staff Report

None.

6. New Business

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-021:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (A 2,625-square-foot strip of land adjacent to 710 Cunningham Avenue / Plan Case No. 2490-M-24) – CD

Presented by Marcus Ricci, Planner II. This item seeks to rezone a 15-foot by 175-foot strip of land under purchase by contract by Mark Allen from Eastlawn Burial Park to change the zoning district from AG (Agriculture) to B-3 (General Business). The rezoning would allow for the expansion of the existing vehicle service facility (Speed Lube #6) at 710 Cunningham Avenue. Marcus Ricci stated the purpose of the rezoning is to change it from agricultural to business to allow for the extension of an existing business. Requested it be approved and placed on the City Council’s consent agenda for approval. Shared maps and photos displaying the area and building expansion proposed. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-022:** An Ordinance Redistricting the Wards of the City of Urbana, Illinois (2024) – Exec

Presented by Mayor Marlin. The item seeks to redraw Ward boundaries to reflect the Census 2020 count and to rebalance the population among the seven City Council Wards. Mayor Marlin stated the proposed Ward Map would become the Ward Map for the next election. Elaborated on the reasons for the remapping due to the decrease in population reported in the 2020 Census and balance the populations across the Wards. Described the public input process and the resulting Council discussions and tweaks. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey. Questions and discussion followed.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-023:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #9 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Estimates) – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO; and Kyle Kapper, Financial Services Coordinator. This Ordinance amends the FY2024 budget to conform to the estimates provided in the proposed budget. Kyle Kapper stated the amendment is to create projects for each fire station to allow for better management and tracking of the projects instead of being tracked under the 40800 project. Added a proposed increase of \$20,000 for the Sanitary Sewer Fund to cover new applications received for the Sewer Lateral Reimbursements program.

Motion to approve the regular agenda by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- d. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-024:** An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO; and Kyle Kapper, Financial Services Coordinator with Carol Mitten, City Administrator; Larry Boone, Chief of Police; and Richard Surles, Deputy Chief of Police available for questions. This Ordinance approves the Annual Budget. Elizabeth Hannan shared that the elimination of the grocery tax had been delayed until 01-01-2026, noting it is accounted within the budget as a one-time revenue of \$1,000,000. Stated a \$200,000 recurring expense has been included within the budget for Social Services funding under the Community Development department, as per City Council's direction. Stated an estimated \$127,000 has been added to the Public Works department's budget to add an Arbor Technician alongside other minor amounts being rolled forward. Stated the Urbana Police Department's budget has been adjusted to move the Social Worker personnel expense to be a professional services expense to continue contracted service such as the one ongoing with Rosecrance. Noted the UPD's budget has also had a reduction in professional services to pay for the BerryDunn study. Stated the budget also includes an \$800,000 one-time transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund to reconcile a transfer between funds. Noted rollovers within the VERF and adjustments to the ARPA fund have also been included. Stated the General Reserve Fund has seen a change in the amount and timing of the settlement for the Carle Property Tax case, with it being settled after 07-01-2024 for a lower amount than initially anticipated. Shared further details had also been included regarding discussion items from the meeting on 06-10-2024 for City Council's consideration. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to recess and reconvene in City Council Chambers on 06-18-2024 at 7:00 p.m. by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Quisenberry at 10:55 p.m.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

With a majority vote, City Council entered recess at 10:55 p.m. and will continue from this point in the meeting on 06-18-2024 at 7:00 p.m.

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 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 reconvened regular session Tuesday, June 18, 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 Shirese Hursey*, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Grace Wilken^, CM James Quisenberry

***ARRIVED AFTER ROLL CALL**

^PRESENT VIA REMOTE

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Scott Tess, Elizabeth Hannan, Rich Surles, Larry Boone, Carol Mitten, Tim Cowan, Demond Dade

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: ~~Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5~~ James Quisenberry, Ward 7

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

6. New Business

d. Ordinance No. 2024-06-024: An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR and Finance Director/CFO; and Kyle Kapper, Financial Services Coordinator with Carol Mitten, City Administrator; Larry Boone, Chief of Police; and Richard Surles, Deputy Chief of Police available for questions. This Ordinance approves the Annual Budget. Elizabeth Hannan shared that the elimination of the grocery tax had been delayed until 01-01-2026, noting it is accounted within the budget as a one-time revenue of \$1,000,000. Stated a \$200,000 recurring expense has been included within the budget for Social Services funding under the Community Development department, as per City Council's direction. Stated an estimated \$127,000 has been added to the Public Works department's budget to add an Arbor Technician alongside other minor amounts being rolled forward. Stated the Urbana Police Department's budget has been adjusted to move the Social Worker personnel expense to be a professional services expense to continue contracted service such as the one ongoing with Rosecrance. Noted the UPD's budget has also had a reduction in professional services to pay for the BerryDunn study. Stated the budget also includes an \$800,000 one-time transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund to reconcile a transfer between funds. Noted rollovers within the VERF and adjustments to the ARPA fund have also been included. Stated the General Reserve Fund has seen a change in the amount and timing of the settlement for the Carle Property Tax case, with it being settled after 07-01-2024 for a lower amount than initially anticipated. Shared further details had also been included regarding discussion items from the meeting on 06-10-2024 for City Council's consideration. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu failed without a second.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda, as amended and without recommendation by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- i. Motion to retain the leveraged debt for fire station construction at \$9,000,000 by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion ensued.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans

- ii. Motion to express intent that the allocated \$105,000 public safety funds for the BerryDunn study remain to fund alternative response model exploration with City Council input by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wilken. Questions and discussion followed.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- iii. Motion to not increase funding for the Urbana Police Department until the BerryDunn study is completed by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wilken. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

NAY: Wu, Hursey, Quisenberry

- iv. Motion to divide the question by CM Evans revoked by CM Evans.

- v. Motion to remove the proposed 3 Community Engagement Officers and Satellite Location by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

NAY: Wu, Hursey, Quisenberry

- vi. Motion to reduce the amount of proposed Community Engagement Officers to 2 instead of 3 by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Wilken

PRESENT: Kolisetty

- vii. Motion to remove the proposed 2 non-sworn Community Service Responders by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- viii. Motion to remove the proposed 3 additional Patrol Officers until further information on staffing impacts to overtime is received by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Hursey. Questions and discussion followed.
Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Wilken
NAY: Wu, Quisenberry

7. Discussion

a. Municipal Electric Aggregation Agreement Authorization

Presented by Tim Cowan, Public Works Director and Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer. Tim Cowan provided an introduction to electric aggregation and provided an overview of the history behind the Municipal Electric Aggregation program (MEA). Scott Tess shared and defined terminology used within discussing electric aggregation. Defined MEA as the bulk purchase with other agency partners of electric supply for residential and small commercial accounts within the City of Urbana. Stated it allows for an expert to search for better electric prices and bids on behalf of a large population. Noted that the City of Urbana's program is an opt-out system and provided the history and rationale behind that decision. Detailed how to know if you are a participant in the MEA based on your Ameren bill. Displayed a chart which details the MEA cost against the Price to Compare (PTC), the default electricity supply price. Tim Cowan noted that the MEA has saved residents money over time, but recent market volatility has made the market price more difficult to retain. Scott Tess shared a chart detailing annual savings from MEA, noting that there are years that display a net loss in certain years, but has mostly saved a significant amount of money for participants. Shared information regarding the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), stated the RECs had to be reduced recently to maintain savings for participants. Stated the first 8 years of the program provided consistent savings, but the energy market has recently seen many changes in regulations, politics, and the natural gas market. Stated the PTC used to be stable for 12 months at a time, but has now changed to be stable in 4 month and 8 month increments to reflect the Summer and non-summer months. Shared statistics regarding solar power adoption within Urbana and that 4% of Urbana accounts have on-site solar generation. Requested Council action and direction to provide administrative authority to accept bids within the short timeframes they are available, and to ensure that the administrative decisions for the MEA remain consistent with Council directives. Shared difficulties with recent market volatility and the need for the ability to quickly accept beneficial supply offers. Tim Cowan stated there are many factors that require Council direction on before entering into MEA agreements.

CM Wilken asked if informal guidance is being requested or if the guidance would be used to form the official purchasing policy for MEA agreements. Tim Cowan stated the purpose of the guidance is for gathering feedback from Council before tailoring a resolution or ordinance.

CM Hursey asked if residents who had opted-out and accepted other electricity offers are still experiencing a ballooning of fees after a few months of having a better rate. Scott Tess stated the purpose behind the program being opt-out is to mitigate residents from receiving bad supply offers that increase in cost after a low introductory cost. CM Hursey asked if residents would be able to opt-in to the program again if they had opted-out. Scott Tess affirmed that residents are able to opt back into the program, but the bad offers may have other fees attached to it for items such as early cancellation.

CM Hursey asked regarding a postcard that a resident had received regarding the MEA and

the opt-out process. Scott Tess stated residents can opt-out by returning the opt-out postcard, call the supplier, or opt-out on the supplier's website and that this information can be found on the City of Urbana's website.

CM Wu asked for clarification on how to provide direction and feedback regarding MEA. Tim Cowan stated email would be good and it would be ideal to receive the direction within the first week of July. Scott Tess stated previously, the Mayor and City Administrator had authorization to execute the supply agreement as the time-frame to execute it may range from 2 to 6 hours. Stated the energy broker is ready to bring another group of cities to market and it would be ideal to pass the authorization to allow for the Mayor to execute an agreement within July.

CM Quisenberry asked if the City of Urbana staff would ever directly solicit a resident at their household for MEA or any solar installation projects. Scott Tess stated that it would never be a City of Urbana staff person, vendor, contractor, or partner. Further stated residents should ask those individuals to leave if necessary.

CM Wilken asked how much longer is left in the current MEA. Scott Tess stated that the current supply agreement will end in December. Further stated the best time to go to market for bids does not necessarily line up with when the agreement ends.

CM Quisenberry asked if, due to the current market conditions, a lower than 100% renewable rate would cause increased participation and eventually see an increase in renewable energy usage due to the increased participation. Scott Tess stated the program is based on generating savings and buying RECs with those savings and that if enough savings are not generated by the rate, a lower number of RECs would be purchased. Stated it would be possible to purchase more RECs, but it would cause the price to be above the PTC and be less appealing to residents. CM Quisenberry spoke in support of maximizing RECs despite it seeming counterintuitive.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Wu shared findings regarding trends within Urbana crime statistics. Stated the federal government changed crime reporting methodology in 2021 and the 2022 statistics in the City of Urbana are incomplete, displaying a lower number. Stated the findings will later be shared with Council. **CM Kolisetty** expressed the current progress is disappointingly unreflective of community demands. Expressed disappointment in certain Councilmembers' responses to civic engagement from the community. Stated the community deserve to have their voices better heard. **Mayor Marlin** assured the public that a formation of a task force is the next step in exploring alternative response models and developing the choices to present to Council with BerryDunn. Stated the entirety of the community is unable to attend City Council and more productive discussion is held with community members when one-on-one. **CM Hursey** expressed pleasure with having a productive conversation with a community member regarding having differing perspectives on policing. Encouraged the public to directly call her cell phone. Shared constituents have personally spoken regarding many issues with her. **CM Wilken** echoed the disappointment and frustration with the process on community safety. Disagreed with the idea that a community could wholly agree on something. **CM Quisenberry** stated individuals are attempting to solicit energy and solar to residents in bad faith. Requested people remain alert regarding these solicitations and that they are not associated with the City of Urbana. Thanked the staff who assisted in the coordination of the Juneteenth staff celebration. Shared that the Jettie Rhodes Neighborhood Day will be occurring on Saturday 06-22-2024 at King Park from 12:00PM to 4:00PM.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable on-demand [HERE for 6/17](#) and [HERE for 6/18](#).

Minutes approved: 7/15/24