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**DATE:** Monday, August 26, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, August 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

**\*CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Shirese Hursey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Seok Hyun Cho, Brearden Belcher, Will Kolschowsky, Bridget Broihahn, Tim Cowan, Celeste Moutos, Rachel Fuller, Carol Mitten, Andrea Ruedi, Demond Dade, Clint Weidert, Austin Upton, Calvin Kerns, Bourema Ouedraogo

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jazmine Hernandez, Deputy Supervisor at the City of Champaign Township; Daniel Urban, President of the Board of Trustees for The Urbana Free Library

## 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. 08-19-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Marlin stated the Library Card Sign-Up Month Proclamation will be added to the agenda to follow after the Annual TUFL Report.

## 4. Presentations and Public Input

### a. Fire Department Promotions

Demond Dade, Fire Chief presented the promotions of Engineer Calvin Kerns and Engineer Austin Upton. Spoke on the 5 years of experience Calvin Kerns has in the Urbana Fire Department and his 10 years of total time as an employee of the City of Urbana as he was originally an employee under the Public Works Department. Shared his qualifications as an

Advanced EMT as well as a Technical Rescue Team member and trainer. Calvin Kerns was pinned by his brother, Chandler Kerns and sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

Introduced Austin Upton and spoke on his 5 years of experience as a Fire Fighter for the Urbana Fire Department. Shared his experience as a Paramedic, an Instructor for the FTO Program, an EMS Service Officer, and his assistance in conducting training across the entire fire department. Austin Upton was pinned by his wife, Amanda and sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

**b. Administration of Deputy City Clerk Oath**

Presented by City Clerk Sandefur. Stated Deputy City Clerk, Seok Hyun Cho has been an employee at the City of Urbana for 6 months, exiting the probationary period. Seok Hyun Cho was sworn in by City Clerk Sandefur.

**c. Annual TUFL Report**

Presented by Celeste Moutos, Executive Director of The Urbana Free Library; Daniel Urban, President of the Board of Trustees for The Urbana Free Library; and Rachel Fuller, Associate Director at The Urbana Free Library. Celeste Moutos provided background on the requirement for providing an Annual Report pursuant to the Local Library Act. Thanked City Council and City Staff for their support for The Urbana Free Library. Shared the Library Board passed the Building Program in FY24 which will guide future expansions and renovation to the library building. Stated further work is being conducted to address the deferred maintenance and renovate library spaces.

Daniel Urban provided updates on ARPA funding, sharing that a Bilingual Program Specialist was able to be hired with those funds to improve services to the community and greatly assist in event coordination. Shared feedback from a resident stating that providing activities and programs in Spanish have made their family feel part of the community. Shared the successes of the Sensory Station/Estaciones Sensoriales program and the Stuffed Animal Sleepover/Pijamada de Peluches program. Spoke on the success of the world's first Public Quantum Network program done in conjunction with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Shared the successes of the 16th Fairy Tale Ball, noting that it had record attendance of over 1,800 people.

Rachel Fuller provided updates on community initiatives, sharing that over 600 people attended the 150th Anniversary of The Urbana Free Library and that a patron wrote how they met their best friend through story time at the library. Stated the 150th Anniversary was funded by The Urbana Free Library Foundation and the programs will continue to be available until June 2025. Stated The Urbana Free Library is sponsoring a reading challenge and a superuser challenge to encourage use of the library. Spoke on the support that the volunteer organizations, The Friends of The Urbana Free Library and The Urbana Free Library Foundation, provide to the library.

Celeste Moutos provided an update on the currently checked out items from The Urbana Free Library. Stated that 28,992 items worth \$613,071 are marked as checked out on 08-25-24 with 2,800 of those items being electronic content. Spoke on the various ways people engage with the library both physically and virtually. Shared that The Urbana Free Library Board has appointed Rachel Fuller as the Interim Executive Director.

**d. Mayoral Proclamation – Library Card Sign Up Month**

Mayor Marlin, accompanied by Celeste Moutos, Executive Director of The Urbana Free

Library; Daniel Urban, President of the Board of Trustees for The Urbana Free Library; and Rachel Fuller, Associate Director at The Urbana Free Library; proclaimed September 2024 as Library Card Sign Up Month.

**e. Strides Shelter Report – City of Champaign Township**

Presented by Jazmine Hernandez, Deputy Supervisor at the City of Champaign Township. Provided the address (70 E Washington St, Champaign IL 61820) and phone number (217-403-6150) to Strides Shelter. Provided information on the services, with no eligibility requirements, the shelter provides as well as its capacity. Elaborated on the intake process at Strides Shelter and the additional services provided by select community partners. Stated residents who are assigned to a permanent bed are assigned a case manager within 15 days and all guests are permitted a single 30-gallon container for their storage of personal items.

Provided gender, race, and age demographic information on the 258 unique individuals served with shelter services between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024. Noted that those who received shelter services were those who had claimed a bed in the shelter. Stated 17 of the 258 individuals served were veterans and shared information on barriers and challenges faced by those who had received shelter services.

Spoke on the additional services provided at the drop-in Day Center from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. as well as the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program which was launched this year. Elaborated on the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program, stating it provides housing navigation services, case management, housing deposit assistance, rental assistance, and utility assistance.

Touched on the potential impacts from the proposed tax levy increase being voted on in November. Stated the increase is projected to provide an annual revenue of about \$4,000,000, increasing from \$933,000 in 2023. Stated \$3,400,000 of the annual revenue would be allocated toward funding Strides operations allowing for increases in staffing, a permanent Rapid Rehousing program, a permanent Street Outreach program, a computer lab for guest use with IT support, increased funds for guest supplies, and a housewarming stipend.

Shared the contact information for Charlene Murray, Director of Community Relations at Strides Shelter ([Charlene.Murray@champaignil.gov](mailto:Charlene.Murray@champaignil.gov)) for donations, tours, and community events. Stated those who are interested in volunteering at Strides Shelter can contact Carla Zarnsy, Director of Programming at Strides Shelter ([Carla.Zarnsy@champaignil.gov](mailto:Carla.Zarnsy@champaignil.gov)). Stated people who are interested in providing feedback or internships can contact her at [Jazmine.Hernandez@champaignil.gov](mailto:Jazmine.Hernandez@champaignil.gov). Questions and discussion followed.

**f. Public Input**

***Phil Fiscella*** shared the number of properties he owns in the vicinity of Strides Shelter. Stated his optimism for the revitalization of downtown Champaign has declined due to lawless and antisocial behavior. Encouraged City Council to drive past Strides Shelter to observe the area and contact the first responders who have responded to calls for service at the shelter. Questioned the effectiveness of the shelter when calls for service are frequently made during night hours. Stated those in the area around Strides Shelter are made unsafe by its presence and the people it serves, citing various anecdotes. Stated these conditions cause people to move away from the area, leading to vacancy.

***CM Evans read anonymous Written Public Input from 4 individuals regarding the UPD's recent unprofessional conduct in regards to the near-abduction of a child in Urbana.***

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** echoed the sentiments of the written public input regarding the UPD's mishandling of the attempted abduction reporting. Voiced appreciation for Chief Boone's apology last week, stating that it must now be followed up with disciplinary action, additional training, and policy changes. Stated an update is expected for both City Council and Urbana residents, noting that silence on the matter indicates a lack of action taken. Shared that the Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Educational Services (RACES) have a 24/7 hotline for sexual violence and stalking at 217-384-4444. **CM Kolisetty** reiterated that as the investigations progress, there will be portions of information that cannot be shared publicly in the updates to be provided. Emphasized that the City of Urbana is dealing with the investigation seriously to ensure that this situation can never happen again.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Jaya Kolisetty, Ward 4*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

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

The resolution seeks to authorize the Urbana HOME Consortium to commit up to \$1,043,000 in prior year City of Champaign HOME funds for the construction of a four-story building comprised of 60 one- and two-bedroom apartments in the City of Champaign with 6 of the units being supported through HOME funds.

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

The resolution seeks to approve and authorize a developer agreement between the City of Urbana, on behalf of the Urbana HOME Consortium, and Bristol Place Seniors, LP which contains the terms and conditions used for the development of the project.

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

The ordinance seeks to remove the load restriction of 12 tons from the bridge that carries Washington Street over the Sunny Estates Ditch due to the recent successful construction of a replacement bridge in December 2023.

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

The resolution seeks to amend the intergovernmental agreement for the PSRMS to enable the Champaign County Circuit Clerk's participation in the system's management.

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

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

**NAY:** None.

## **2. Regular Agenda**

None.

## **8. Reports of Special Committees**

None.

## **9. Reports of Officers**

Mayor Marlin stated the City of Urbana and the Urbana Police Department is conducting its investigation into the response to the attempted abduction seriously and Chief Boone has shared with her that the investigation is anticipated to be complete by the end of the week. Stated further information will be able to be shared during the next Council meeting on Tuesday, 09-03-2024. Announced the first two meetings of the Alternate Response Task Force have been scheduled for in-person meetings at the Urbana City Council Chambers for 09-17-2024 from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. and 10-14-2024 from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. to be conducted by BerryDunn consultants. Shared that the meetings will be livestreamed and recorded, as requested by City Council. Stated reminders will be sent out closer to the dates of the meetings. CM Kolisetty asked if the participating Councilmembers have been finalized. Mayor Marlin stated CM Wu will be representing City Council on the task force.

## **10. Discussion**

### **a. Local Motor Fuel Tax Market Rate Adjustment**

Presented by Tim Cowan, Public Works Director. Provided an overview of the presentation, stating it will provide a comparative analysis, a need for the rate adjustment, the proposed rate adjustment, and a schedule. Shared the comparative analysis which viewed Local Motor Fuel Taxes (LMFT), condition of roadways, when the data collection started, and the last year the LMFT rate was adjusted across the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the Village of Savoy, the City of Decatur, the City of Bloomington, the City of Normal, and the City of Danville. Stated Champaign County LMFTs are comparatively lower than other observed municipalities. Stated the City of Urbana has the worst roads out of the municipalities observed, indicated by the 54 pavement condition index (PCI) rating in 2023. Stated all of the stakeholders spoken with have reported a constant state of decline in their roadways due to insufficient funding. Shared other municipalities are interested in alternate sources of funding, but have not yet acted on them.

Provided a comparison of the LMFT with the Illinois State Motor Fuel Tax (SMFT), displaying that the SMFT was static at \$0.19 but has doubled in 2019 to \$0.38 to address transportation

funding shortfalls. Stated the Illinois SMFT is now indexed to inflation using the Consumer Price Index - Urban (CPI-U) to stay relevant and attempt to keep up with construction costs.

Cited an excerpt from the 2022 American Society of Civil Engineers who had rated Illinois roads at a D+ to illustrate the need for a LMFT rate adjustment. Displayed a graph showing the amounts of funding received through SMFT, Intergovernmental Revenue, Transportation Renewal Fund, and the Rebuild Illinois Fund (RIF). Stated the last 5 years have seen a spike in funding, but an estimated 25% decrease in funding is projected due to RIF ending in 2024 and the reduction in population logged in the 2020 Census. Stated the need also comes from the nearly doubling of the construction costs since 2015, citing the National Highway Construction Cost Index. Stated Urbana's PCI is anticipated to decline to 47 from 54 in a decade without any increases in funding.

Stated staff recommends an LMFT market-rate adjustment to address the constant state of decline of the roadway network. Stated the declining revenue from the SMFT make an LMFT adjustment time sensitive. Stated the purpose is to not halt the network's decline, but to realistically mitigate it. Noted that the adjustment aligns with the 2024-2025 Mayor/Council Strategic Goals and alternate revenue sources will demand consideration in the future.

Presented a minimum adjustment to \$0.10/gallon (based on construction costs doubling since the last adjustment in 2015) and a maximum adjustment to \$0.12/gallon (based on Danville's LMFT rates for gas and diesel in 2024) with a consideration for an incorporation of automatic annual adjustments based on inflation (based on the SMFT's recent adoption of an annual inflationary adjustment based on CPI-U). Presented four alternative options to the recommendation and their estimated revenue increases. Provided the Staff Recommendation to move forward with the option of increasing the LMFT to \$0.12/gallon with annual adjustments based on inflation to provide an addition of \$1,080,000 per year. Stated this option allows for equal or greater improvements than could be purchased in 2015, is comparable to rates of observed similar municipalities, mitigates the decline of roadway network conditions, and accounts for around 5% of the \$21,700,000 infrastructure funding gap discussed in the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan.

Stated the impact on drivers of an additional \$41.23 a year per driver was calculated by dividing the average miles a driver in Illinois drives by the average miles per gallon a driver has in Illinois, then multiplying that by the \$0.07 increase in LMFT [(12,193 miles/driver/year ÷ 20.7 Average MPG = 589 gal/drivers/yr) × \$0.07/gallon addition = \$41.23/year/driver or \$3.44/month/driver].

Stated the revenue was evaluated to be 3/5 for Fairness due to it being regressive as it requires a larger share of income for low-income individuals, but it allows for non-residents to be able to contribute to the revenue. Stated the Impacts on Behavior was rated at 3/5 due to the potential for impacts on behavior from the rate increase, but other municipalities in the area are most likely going to pursue similar increases due to infrastructure needs. Stated the Cost of Administration was rated at 5/5 because the infrastructure for collecting the tax already exists and is already being used.

Shared the schedule, stating that they intend to bring the LMFT Ordinance for review and consideration at Committee of the Whole on 09-16-2024 after responding to Council questions and feedback to inform the proposed Ordinance. Stated the LMFT Ordinance would move to the 09-23-2024 City Council if approved at the Committee of the Whole. Stated once the Ordinance is reviewed and approved at City Council the changes would be implemented on 01-01-2025.

Council asked for further clarification on the CPI-U and it's impact on the LMFT. Tim Cowen provided background on the CPI-U and what informs it. Elizabeth Hannan, Finance and HR Director/CFO stated it is a federal statistic from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Tim Cowen stated that the increases would be percentage based, incremental adjustments.

Council asked what the discussion has been surrounding electric vehicles and their impact on the decrease in gas sold despite maintaining the number of vehicles using roads. Tim Cowen stated it has been an ongoing discussion on the difficulties for municipalities to counteract the use of roads from electric vehicles. Stated the State of Illinois has tried to address it through an Advanced Registration cost for electric vehicles to pay into the Transportation Renewal Fund. Expressed further options to equalize the taxes for use of roads must be explored on the state and federal level. Stated it is more difficult to implement on the local level, but funding contingent on population numbers will be continue to be collected from the State.

Tim Cowen stated the presentation shared tonight will be available to the public online through the City of Urbana's website.

Council provided direction to investigate the potential revenue from an implementation of a diesel tax and to provide further information on how the rate adjustment would be implemented incrementally.

## **11. Mayoral Appointments**

### **a. Mayoral Reappointments to Boards and Commissions**

#### ***Arts & Culture Commission***

– Hannah Darcy (term ending June 30, 2027)

#### ***The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees***

– Julia Pollack (term ending June 30, 2025)

Mayor Marlin provided introductions to both candidates and read the qualifications and statements of interest for the applicants.

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## **12. Adjournment**

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 8:31p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 9/9/24**