
DATE: Monday, September 9, 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, September 9, 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 Chaundra Bishop*, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Jaya Kolisetty

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Femi Fletcher, Will Kolschowsky, Matthew Roeschley, Michelle Brooks, Carol Mitten, John Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *James Quisenberry, Ward 7*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 08-26-2024 City Council Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Written Public Input was received from Rohn Koester regarding the Urbana Police Department's recent mishandling of a reported child abduction attempt and read by CM Wu.

5. Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Regarding Personnel

Motion to enter closed session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Entered closed session at 7:05p.m.

Motion to return to open session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Evans.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Returned to open session at 8:07p.m.

6. Staff Report

Mayor Marlin announced City Council was briefed on the timeline and events regarding the mishandling of the report of the attempted abduction and the inappropriate social media post. Stated the Urbana Police Department will provide a public report at the next week's City Council meeting. Shared the going away party for Celeste Moutos, Executive Director of The Urbana Free Library will be on September 12th from 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. at The Urbana Free Library.

7. New Business

a. **Resolution No. 2024-08-058R:** A Resolution Approving Standardized Employment Agreement Templates for City Appointees – HRF/Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator and Michelle Brooks, Labor & Employee Relations Manager. The Resolution seeks to approve standardized employment agreement templates for the City Administrator, Department Heads, and other appointed employees. Carol Mitten stated the templates will set the maximum parameters the City may offer when negotiating employment agreements with City Staff. Stated if the employment agreements do not exceed the parameters of the template, they will not require approval from City Council. Stated feedback from City Councilmembers gathered through 2x2's has been incorporated into the template. Stated the appointment process can be a barrier to recruiting and retaining senior level staff, citing internal uncertainties around reappointments with a new mayor. Stated the templates do not provide extra job security, but provide a sense of stability during transitional periods. Michelle Brooks stated many of the terms are similar between the City Administrator and Department Head level to the Other Appointed Employee level, but vary in provided benefit amounts and severance provided. Stated the template could provide clarity to incoming appointees regarding the appointment process in addition to being a method of providing a job description. Stated the template outlines pay ranges, noting that all maximum amounts listed in the templates will not be exceeded. Stated the templates also include a section regarding general business expenses, allowances, and stipends to cover cellphone expenses, transportation costs, and licensure costs. Noted certain positions such as those who are first responders require an automobile to respond to calls outside of regular business hours. Noted the templates contain a provision for outside employment where the work cannot interfere with the job's duties and cannot create any conflicts of interest. Spoke on Sections 12 and 13 regarding separation and severance, stating the scenarios in which they could occur and how the amount of severance received is based on length of service. Stated Section 14 for the City Administrator and Department Head template covers employee

initiated voluntary resignation to assist in the filling of the role. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to keep in Committee of the Whole by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken. Questions and discussion ensued.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-09-060R:** A Resolution Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 31, Local 1331 – HRF

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator and Michelle Brooks, Labor & Employee Relations Manager. The Resolution authorizes the Mayor to execute a new collective bargaining agreement with the City's employees who are members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 31, Local 1331 (AFSCME) for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Michelle Brooks approximated a \$957,809 increase (11%) in cost compared to the current 3-year contract that is primarily attributed to wage increases. Stated the wage increases are 3.75% in year 1, 3.75% in year 2, and 4.00% in year 3. Stated Public Works Employees who are assigned to stand-by duties receive \$400 a week for the first year in the contract, \$450 a week for the second year, and \$500 in the third year and stated that two Public Works Employees are on stand-by duties on any given week. Stated supplemental pay for the first 8 hours of call out, after hours, and 12-hour emergency shifts was slightly raised. Shared a provision was added to provide an additional bi-lingual pay for Police Service Representatives who are able to assist in the translation and interpretation of Spanish. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Evans. Discussion ensued.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- c. Resolution No. 2024-09-061R:** A Resolution Authorizing an Interfund Loan from the Retained Risk Fund to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund – HRF/PW

Presented by John Zeman, City Engineer and Carol Mitten, City Administrator. The Resolution approves an interfund loan of up to \$2,000,000 between the City's Retained Risk and Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds to allow for the payment of invoices while staff is working with IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to resolve restrictions placed on these State MFT funds by IDOT. Carol Mitten stated the short-term interfund loan will allow for the City to pay bills that would have been paid from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, but the fund is currently restricted by IDOT while the issue regarding the Windsor Road lawsuit against Stark Construction is being resolved. John Zeman stated IDOT has observed that portions of Windsor Road were not constructed properly and the federal funding they had provided for the construction should be returned to the federal government. Stated IDOT has requested that the City return a sum of over \$500,000. Stated the City is currently appealing that request with IDOT and the FHWA in the hopes of quickly closing the construction project to allow for MFT funds to be unfrozen. Stated the interfund load will be used toward paying for ongoing work rather than having to cease the

work due to an inability to use MFT funds. Carol Mitten stated Tim Cowan, Public Works Director had sent a summary to City Council to provide background on the ongoing lawsuit. Stated the purpose of the appeal is to retain the full award from the lawsuit. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- d. Ordinance No. 2024-09-062:** An Ordinance Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class R&T-1 Designation for Cochran & Heller INC d/b/a Black Dog Smoke & Ale House, 201 North Broadway Avenue, Urbana, Ill. – Exec

Presented by Mayor Marlin. The Ordinance increases the number of Class R&T-1 liquor licenses in the City of Urbana. Mayor Marlin shared background on Black Dog Smoke & Ale House and welcomed their return to the City of Urbana. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken. Discussion ensued.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans announced on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00p.m. there will be an information session for Imagine Urbana at 25 O' Clock Brewing Company at 208 West Griggs Street open to the public. Shared on Tuesday, September 17th at 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. there will be the first Alternative Response Task Force meeting open to the public for listening. **CM Wu** shared that the Imagine Urbana information sessions are wholly open to the public and stated there will be information sessions on the 12th, 13th, 18th, and the 19th. Stated the information session in Ward 1 will be on September 18th from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. at The Urbana Free Library at 210 West Green Street. **CM Wilken** shared a summary of what was discussed during the Closed Session regarding the mishandled potential abduction by the Urbana Police Department, thanking Mayor Marlin for announcing that an update will be provided for the public next week. Stated the discussion included conducting additional trainings, updating policies, and implementing practices to prevent similar incidents. Shared she will be attending the Imagine Urbana information session on Thursday, September 19th from 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at 2200 Philo Road. Encouraged the public to attend any meetings they are able to.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Quisenberry adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 9/30/24

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Rohn Koester <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 5:10 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT -- September 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this email message into the record.

September 9, 2024

To the Mayor and City Council:

On August 19, 2024, Chief Boone addressed the Committee of the Whole about the Urbana Police Department's failure to investigate a report of an attempted abduction of a child by a Seymour man for the purpose of sex. The Chief said he was "very disappointed" in how the police first addressed the allegation, and he characterized an insulting social media post by the police as "inaccurate, unprofessional and inappropriate."

As we now know, the alleged perpetrator, who waived his Miranda rights to admit guilt and describe his intention to rape the child, had already been convicted of two crimes involving the attempted victimization of children. He was one of those people who was on a public registry, and the police had no trouble locating and arresting him.

At the August 19 meeting, Chief Boone gave every assurance that his investigation would be thorough and timely, and yet some three weeks later, we still don't have word about what went wrong, who was involved, whether this has happened before, and what will prevent it from happening again. As a long-time resident of Urbana and an advocate for victims of violence, I don't feel confident about where this is going.

Based on my experiences with other instances of professional misconduct, I know there is a tendency to contain problems like this – to say this was an honest mistake or to assign blame to a single individual who doesn't have much authority. Without jumping to conclusions about the investigation, I'm worried the result will feel more like damage control than a conscientious response.

What we already know is that (1) the standard police procedure failed – the citizen complaint was not properly addressed, (2) the error-checking method by the police also failed – someone within the UPD claimed a phone call about the incident was never made, and (3) the police response through social media also failed – blame was projected onto the victim's family and their allies.

At the August 19 meeting, Chief Boone reiterated that his investigation will be thorough, that he hides nothing. I implore you all to demand answers and accountability, and to give assurance to the community that this cascade of mistakes won't happen again. Our safety and wellbeing depend on your vigilance.

Respectfully,
Rohn Koester

[REDACTED]
Urbana