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**DATE:** Monday, February 12, 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, February 12, 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 Chandra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**\*CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Andrea Ruedi, Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner, Demond Dade, Elizabeth Hannan, Kimberly Smith, Tim Cowan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carly McCrory-McKay, Champaign County Economic Development Corporation; Jack Penning, Volaire Aviation Consulting; Tim Bannon, Willard Airport

### 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. 11-27-2023 City Council Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

### 3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

### 4. Presentations and Public Input

#### a. Presentation: Minimum Revenue Guarantee for Leisure Air Service - Jack Penning and Carly McCrory-McKay

Presented by Tim Bannon, Executive Director for Willard Airport; Carly McCrory-McKay, the Executive Director of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation; and Jack Penning, a Managing Partner at Volaire Aviation Consulting. Provided a brief summary on the current state of air services and the readiness of Willard Airport for further enhancements. Recounted recent efforts to attract low-cost leisure services from major airlines. Shared recently developed programs to incentivize marketing, start-up costs, and provide fee-waivers for a

period of 2 years. Shared news regarding the Ion Grove café opening at the airport which has signed a 5-year contract. Shared focus areas for future development at Willard airport: business retention and attraction; tourism attraction; and talent attraction. Spoke on current ask for a community minimum revenue guarantee to attract and retain leisure services, and requested support from community to match the \$500,000 pledge made by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Stated previous success in securing larger jets to fly out of Willard comes from a previous partnership between UIUC and Flightstar that worked to expand aircraft hangers to properly house the jets required to have a variety of seating options available. Cited strong local economy for success compared to airports in the City of Bloomington and Normal and the City of Springfield who have lost airline services from major carriers. Shared success of the City of Springfield implementing a minimum revenue guarantee in securing airline services to Orlando and Tampa in Florida. Stated the service from Allegiant that the Central Illinois Regional Airport, in the City of Bloomington, offers low-cost leisure airlines to St. Petersburg and Orlando in Florida to great success. Shared data regarding the shortage of pilots required to meet the same level of demand that was present in 2019 leading to losses of airline service in regional airports. Emphasized urgency of swift action to prevent the further loss of regional airport service and to mitigate the continued shortage of pilots. Stated that since the pandemic, 131 airports have lost at least one airline. Reiterated purpose and goals of a minimum revenue guarantee for Willard Airport. Explained the process of the minimum revenue guarantee, going over the future steps required and specified that if revenue fell below the target, UIUC would be invoiced first; however, if revenue remained above the target, the guarantors would not be charged and eventually have the remainder of the funds returned to them as the flights would become self-sustaining. Shared statistics on local ridership, economic impact of Willard Airport, and potential for future tax revenue growth if new routes were secured. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to extend presentation by 5 minutes by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Wu.

## b. Public Input

**Ron Kester** spoke in support of a ceasefire resolution being put on the agenda for City Council. Shared Palestinian death tolls. Pointed out United States' contradicting viewpoints on a ceasefire by having spoken in favor of a ceasefire, but also voting against the ceasefire proposed by the United Nations. Stated that supporting peace is not inconsequential and requested that those who opposed a ceasefire resolution state a number of dead Palestinians they will require before being willing to accept an end to the violence. **Amy O'Dell** spoke in support of Israel's right to exist, denounced Hamas, and opposed the wording of the ceasefire resolution brought forward on 01-08-2024. Expressed sadness for deaths, displacement, and loss faced by Palestinians. Shared support for a ceasefire, but not one that condemns Israel as a colonial-settler state, oppressors, and an apartheid state. Urged City Council to support Jewish people by bringing the Jewish community and Palestinian community together to draft a ceasefire resolution without problematic language. Stated that the ceasefire resolution from 01-08-2024 expresses that Jewish people do not matter and justifies the actions taken by Hamas. **Inbal Elazar** expressed concern regarding the City Council considering a ceasefire resolution, stating that it will only serve to retraumatize and inflame tensions toward the Jewish community. Stated that City Council should instead promote unity within the local community by focusing on issues pertaining to local matters. Shared concern for the safety of her 3 children due to anti-Israel sentiments. Requested City Council stand with the community by saying "no" to hate and opposing divisive resolutions. Requested the City of Urbana to hold events promoting unity and hold safe, balanced discussions regarding Palestine and Israel. **Dovid Tlechtel** shared experience of staying by the Gaza border and speaking with Israeli army soldiers. Stated the ceasefire resolution presented by Ben Joselyn on 01-08-2024 has divided the local community rather than uniting it. Expressed that the resolution is clearly about attacking Israel and Jewish

people. Voiced worries and fear felt by the Jewish community on campus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign due to the Hamas attack on 10-07-2023. Urged City Council to call for an end to antisemitism. **Benjamin Cosmin** spoke in opposition to the ceasefire resolution proposed by Ben Joselyn on 01-08-2024. Stated the purpose of debate during public input regarding the matter of a ceasefire was to determine whether a lasting peace without Hamas was desired or a fragile peace with Hamas was desired. Spoke in support of the ceasefire resolution proposed by the European Union that specifically calls for the dismantling of Hamas. Stated the ceasefire presented by Ben Joselyn does not decry Hamas and show solidarity for the hostages taken from Israel. **Timur Oikhberg** spoke in opposition of the ceasefire resolution presented by Ben Joselyn on 01-08-2024, saying that it was overly critical of Israel's actions without being critical of Hamas. Rebuked statements that Israel is committing war crimes and engaging in collective punishment by stating that the deaths of Palestinians are just collateral damage which is, regrettably, normal in a war. Stated that the proposed ceasefire resolution is dividing local communities. Urged City Council to reject the proposed ceasefire resolution. **Diane Gatau** stated that after history of protesting in support of civil rights and protesting against the war in Vietnam, she became a Zionist after seeing Israel threatened by neighboring Arab countries. Placed trust in President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken in their approach to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Urged City Council to leave the matter in the federal government's hands instead of passing the proposed resolution. **Ben Joselyn** shared excitement for people speaking out in support of a ceasefire resolution that was not the resolution presented on 01-08-2024. Stated lopsided nature of conflict between Israel and Palestine due to Palestinians surviving off of grass and animal feed while Israeli citizens protest the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Expressed that the ceasefire resolution proposed only sought to reflect that situation in its language. Denounced the United States providing Israel with weaponry and armaments through military aid. **Caite Kruiswyk** stated that Israel has begun bombing the City of Rafah despite telling Palestinians in Gaza to evacuate to Rafah for safe shelter. Refuted statements regarding Israel not being an apartheid state citing various human rights organizations and their two legal systems that persecute Palestinians separately from Israelis while providing more severe sentencing. Stated Palestinians are unable to move freely throughout their own territory due to Israeli military checkpoints and invasive questioning practices that bar movement for any reason. Shared that Palestinians have to apply for permits, often denied without good reason, to enter Israel and that Palestinians are often detained and tortured by Israel for no reason. Stated that Palestinians have been subjected to a long history of violence from Israel. Shared story of the killing of Hind Rajab, where a five-year-old Palestinian girl was killed by the Israeli military after being fired upon by an Israeli tank in a vehicle with 6 of her relatives inside and after Israeli forces had intentionally attacked the Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulance trying to rescue Hind. Questioned why Israel deliberately targets and kills medical workers operating in Palestine. **Itai Sagath** spoke in opposition to the ceasefire resolution presented by Ben Joselyn on 01-08-2024 by sharing feelings of division in response to the resolution and disagreements with language used. Thanked CM Quisenberry for his consideration of wording from ceasefire resolutions proposed by other organizations. Explicitly stated that although a diversity of opinion may exist within the Jewish community regarding support for the ceasefire resolution presented on 01-08-2024, he still opposes it, stating that the resolution comes across as anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish. **Stuart Levy** spoke in support of a resolution calling for a ceasefire. Expressed heartened feelings regarding the public's participation in City Council meetings rather than not speaking up on injustices. Stated this matter of foreign policy is relevant to City Council due to the consequences of the United States deciding that Israel is allowed to oppress Palestinians. Expressed that peace does not come from one side of a conflict telling the other side to fully disarm and surrender. **Josh** spoke in response to an article written by CM Evans that was published in the News Gazette regarding the building of 2 new fire stations for the Urbana Fire Department. Stated that the reason he mentioned the article is to demonstrate what a local issue was and that a ceasefire resolution is not a local issue and a waste of time. Voiced that a

ceasefire resolution will have no impact on the world. Praised the Urbana Fire Department for assisting with an electrical fire that was at his residence on 10-08-2023. **Yuliy Baryshnikov** stated that the ceasefire resolution presented on 01-08-2024 does not call for peace, but instead condemns Israel for the various crimes it has committed and calls for the United States to end its support for Israel. Directly asked if CM Evans could share his stance on the proposed resolution (CM Evans and Mayor Marlin clarified that public input is not a time for dialogue). Questioned why Israel was being condemned instead of the Gazan government.

***Written Input was received from the following individuals and read by Mayor Marlin: Sophia Sampson and Ruth Kantorovitz. Public Input was received from the following individual that supported a ceasefire resolution, but was not read: Emily Fallaw. Public Input was received from the following individual that opposed a ceasefire resolution, but was not read: Josh.***

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** commented regarding public input tonight, thanking the public for its engagement and emphasized the purpose of City Council being to serve the people of the City of Urbana. Thanked the public for their patience on the lack of comments provided by City Council regarding the ceasefire resolution as it comes from careful internal deliberations being conducted, not a lack of concern. Shared personal inexperience with the conflict between Palestine and Israel. Clarified that City Council has not officially considered or proposed a ceasefire resolution, but has only listened to a well-intentioned presentation from the public. Agreed with grievances on the excessive polarizing nature of the topic. Voiced that comments and attacks on the actions of the City Council are misdirected as nothing has come from City Council themselves regarding a ceasefire resolution. Expressed support for the public to come to a more agreeable resolution themselves, without the input of the City Council as public input is not meant for a collaborative discussion. Shared other formats and support of discussion that could be explored for finding a resolution that reflects the shared value of peace in its language. Emphasized that a resolution that can be supported by a broad group of people should come forth from community-led action. **CM Quisenberry** stated that his personal intent in the involvement of discussions regarding a ceasefire has become clearer to him due to the weeks of public input. Shared that he had engaged in conversation with Ben Joselyn and a leader of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation, and that he continues to believe that there is a middle ground to be found between the groups of those who support and oppose the resolution presented by Ben Joselyn. Stated that City Council does not have a space for a facilitated forum discussing the potential for a ceasefire resolution, but the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign could be a good resource and place to support these discussions. **Mayor Marlin** drew attention to the new publications from the Office of Human Rights and Equity that focus on educating members of the public who are renting housing and members of the public who are property owners of rental units regarding tenant rights, housing discrimination, and contact information.

## 6. Unfinished Business

None.

## 7. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 8. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Christopher Evans, Ward 2*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-02-002R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (to accept a Justice Agreement Grant) - PD
- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-006:** An Ordinance Vacating an Alley (North/South Alley between 704 and 706 East High Street) - PW
- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-007:** An Ordinance Vacating an Alley (North/South Alley in the Block Bounded by North Webber Street, Railroad (to the North), North Lynn Street, and the East/West Alley North of East Main Street) - PW
- d. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-008:** An Ordinance Vacating an Alley (North/South Alley West of 606 East Green Street) - PW

Presented by CM Evans.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-02-004:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #6 - Omnibus) - HRF

Presented by CM Evans and questions were answered by Tim Cowan, Public Works Director. Ordinance sought to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Budget by a \$5.17 million increase in the construction and design budget for two new fire stations in addition to other adjustments. Questions and discussion ensued.

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

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Marlin

**NAY:** Evans

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-02-003R:** A Resolution Approving a Right-of-way License Agreement with Experience Champaign-Urbana (African American Heritage Trail Interpretive Sign Adjacent to 1205 North Goodwin Avenue) - PW

Resolution would authorize the Mayor to execute a license agreement, allowing Experience Champaign-Urbana to construct, maintain, operate, and repair an above-ground interpretive sign within the public right-of-way (N. Goodwin Avenue) adjacent to 1205 N. Goodwin Avenue that would commemorate the African American Heritage Trail in the Dr. Ellis neighborhood. Mayor Marlin addressed questions raised by CM Hursey by confirming that the sign is in the public right-of-way and dedicated to the Dr. Ellis subdivision in 1962. Shared that Tim Cowan confirmed that the owner of 1205 North Goodwin indicated that they had no concerns regarding the location of the sign. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 9. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 10. Reports of Officers

None.

## 11. Discussion

- a. **Illinois Street Request for Proposals**

Presented by City Administrator, Carol Mitten regarding the city owned lots on Illinois Street between Broadway and Vine. Emphasized previous guidance coming from City Council which requested a focus on residential use to enhance the tax base as the properties fall under TIF. Questions and discussion ensued.

## 12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 04-01-2024**

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sophia Sampson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 12:48 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 02.12.24 Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during public input.

My name is Sophia Sampson. I am a local community member, and I support a ceasefire. From October 7th until January 30th, 116 days, at least 26,751 Palestinians have been killed, including over 10,000 children. Israeli officials have time and time again clarified their intent for Gaza: genocide, destruction, and ethnic cleansing.

When the larger bodies of government fail to represent the will of the people, the people have every right to call on their local governments to recognize the needs of the majority. We call on you now. We want and need a ceasefire. The City of Urbana might not have control over the war, but the council has complete control over whether they recognize the voices of the people they've been elected to represent.



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Ruth Kantorovitz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 11:28 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT; City Council Regular Meeting February 12, 2024; Topic: modified ceasefire resolution

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

It is now clear that the naive and misinformed ceasefire resolution proposed to the council on January 8, 2024 needs to be revised.

The underground world of terror in Gaza and the oppression of the civilian population above by Hamas has since been largely exposed.

The incredible structures underground used hospitals, schools, mosques, and UN buildings above to supply them with electricity, running water and other services. This multi-billion dollar underground world was built with the purpose, as declared in the Hamas' charter, - to destroy the state of Israel, kill the Jews, and never to negotiate peace with Israel.

More truths about Hamas' oppressive regime have emerged from Gaza. For example, Hamas leaders have taken for themselves billions of dollars from the aid money for Gaza and Hamas militants are stealing humanitarian aid, beating the civilians in the process.

I propose that the new revised resolution should:

- 1) Request Egypt to immediately open its border with Gaza to let in Palestinian refugees.
- 2) Call for the immediate release of all hostages in Gaza.
- 3) Call for the complete and unconditional surrender of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.
- 4) Condemn Hamas for the October 7 massacre and for refusing to accept peaceful paths to a better future for Gaza's long-suffering population.

Sincerely

Miriam Kantorovitz  
Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Emily Fallaw <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 6:40 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* SPAM \*\*\*] PUBLIC INPUT 02.05.24 Meeting

**Importance:** Low

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Emily Fallaw, I am a local community member, and I support a ceasefire along with more than two-thirds of Americans. We cannot afford silence, we must do everything within our capacity to end this rampage and it starts with a ceasefire.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Josh W-S <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 7:26 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input Read Aloud 2/12

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear city council,

My name is Josh and I am a resident of Urbana. I strongly oppose any move by the city council to consider a ceasefire resolution, especially the one presented by Ben Jocelyn, a man who, in direct contradiction to his claiming to care about the lives of Israeli and other hostages was filmed in the middle of tearing down posters of Israeli hostages last fall and denouncing them as “propaganda.”

This is not a local issue no matter what anybody claims. The city council has no mandate to comment on international events or the foreign policy of the United States, but rather is obligated to focus on the local community. Any move forward on this issue should be considered a dereliction of the council’s duty and mission, which is stated on the city council’s website as “establishes laws for citizen welfare, determines policies that govern providing municipal services and approves certain Mayoral appointments.”

This issue has completely inflamed the local population thanks to the actions of Councilors Evans and Wilkens who allowed Mr. Jocelyn to make his reprehensible presentation at city council in early January. The Jewish community has been under increasing attack in the United States as hate crime data clearly shows for the last several years. Not to mention that a Jewish man named Paul Kessler was killed at a pro Palestine protest in Los Angeles in November of 2023. When our city councilors choose to stoke the flames of ethnic, national, and religious tensions that have existed for decades, centuries, and arguably millennia, it should come as no surprise when people take these passions too far.

Whether the councilors knew it or not, they have opened a Pandora’s box that will prevent the city council from doing its job for the foreseeable future for the simple reason that people on both sides of this issue are going to continue to flood Monday night meetings with 2 hours of arguments, taking precious city time and resources away from combatting actual local issues.

Going further, I should hate to see the city council give way to a vocal minority of constituents and pass some sort of resolution simply to get them off your backs. Rather, you should stand strong and do your due diligence and recognize that such a resolution simply is not your responsibility to put forward. I urge you not to consider any sort of resolution, and at the very least, stand up for the Jewish community and completely reject the resolution written by Mr. Jocelyn and tacitly endorsed by councilors Evans and Wilkens.

Thank you,  
Josh