
DATE: Monday, September 23, 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 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

^CM PRESENT AFTER ROLL

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Elizabeth Hannan, Tim Cowan, Michelle Brooks, John Zeman, Seok Hyun Cho

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Grace Wilken, Ward 6*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Marlin removed Resolutions No. 2024-09-064R through 2024-09-068R from the agenda.

4. Presentations and Public Input

None.

5. Staff Report

Mayor Marlin reported that the Department of Community and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has notified the City of Urbana that the HOPE Village project has been selected to receive an Urban Shelter Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award of \$1,200,000. Thanked everyone who participated in the various events in the City of Urbana last week including The African-American Arts and Culture Festival, Pride Fest, Pygmalion, Welcome Week, and many others.

6. Unfinished Business

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

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director/CFO with Michelle Brooks, Labor & Employee Relations Manager available for questions. The Resolution seeks to approve standardized employment agreement templates for the City Administrator, Department Heads, and other appointed employees. Elizabeth Hannan stated staff implemented the directed changes requested from City Council during the previous discussion and those changes will be reflected within the packet for the City Council meeting if the item is moved out of Committee of the Whole.

~~Motion to approve to the regular agenda with no recommendation by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.~~

Recess for 5 minutes called by Chair Wilken at 8:12p.m.

Committee of the Whole returned from recess at 8:17p.m.

- i. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of removal of retroactive severance accumulation for all employees.
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
- ii. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of removing the proposed residency incentive of \$10,000.
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
- iii. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of reducing severance to 16 weeks maximum instead of 20 weeks.
AYE: 5
NAY: 1
- iv. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of having the contract apply to all full-time and permanent appointees.
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
- v. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of only allowing Mayoral discretion in the negotiation of the contracts with the insertable language sections as presented in the contracts.
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
- vi. Straw poll by Chair Wilken: In support of providing more specificity on the duties of a position during transition.
AYE: 6
NAY: 0

vii. Straw poll by CM Wu: Gauging City Council consensus on the Resolution.

AYE: 2

NAY: 4

Motion to withdraw the motion to approve to the regular agenda with no recommendation by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Motion to keep in Committee of the Whole by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

7. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-09-063R:** A Resolution for Improvement under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Lincoln Avenue, Wascher Drive to Killarney Street, Road Diet Demonstration) – PW

Presented by John Zeman, City Engineer with Tim Cowan, Public Works Director available for questions. The Resolution seeks to appropriate State Motor Fuel Tax (State MFT) funds, in the amount of \$220,000, for a temporary road diet demonstration associated with the Lincoln Avenue (Wascher to Killarney) project. John Zeman stated this resolution for improvement was not presented along with the batch of similar resolutions in May 2024 due to the development of the project splitting it into different pieces. Shared visuals of the two proposed road diet demonstration configurations that would reduce the number of lanes from four to three. Stated the road diet demonstration would restripe the existing pavement to test the effectiveness of the new configuration over a temporary, limited term, possibly three months. Stated the purpose is to see the impacts of the new configuration on traffic and safety in the area, with hopes to improve it. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda with recommendation for approval by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-09-030:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 22, Sections 22-31 and 22-34 (Local Motor Fuel Tax) – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, Director of HR & Finance/CFO and Tim Cowan, Public Works Director. The Ordinance approves increases in the City's local motor fuel tax to fund transportation improvements, and provides specific direction to staff on the details of the increase. Elizabeth Hannan stated the current ordinance is a draft which requires Council direction on the tax rate increases. Reiterated that the revenue generated is not enough for road condition improvements, but it can slow the decay of the roads. Stated a chart detailing the rate options can be found within the packet. Stated the tax is anticipated to have a higher impact on lower income individuals and households due to it targeting consumers, stated the highest impact option available would cost households an additional \$4.12 a month. Stated it is not anticipated that the motor fuel tax increases would cause consumers to purchase their fuel elsewhere, but the strategy could be re-evaluated later on if this did happen. Stated the cost of administration is low because the work to collect a motor

fuel tax is already being done and would mostly involve notifying businesses of the changes. Suggested City Council consider the new rate increase options provided and share their feedback. Tim Cowan advocated for an adjustment as the tools to better view the needs of maintaining public infrastructure are now more available. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda with revenue option 8 (7.5 cents / 10 cents/ 12.5 cents/ CPI), as amended, by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- i. Motion to amend the CPI based increases to CPI or 5% with preference given to the lower amount by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-09-031:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #1 - Omnibus) – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, Director of HR & Finance/CFO with Tim Cowan, Public Works Director available for questions. The Ordinance amends the FY2025 Annual Budget to include additional funding for ladder truck repairs and multiple rebudgets for capital improvement projects. Elizabeth Hannan stated the amendment includes additional funds from the General Fund to account for storm cleanup for the wind storm that occurred on July 16th, 2024 in the amount of \$11,920 and additional funding for repairs from the Equipment Services Fund, offset by a transfer from the General Fund, to the City's ladder truck in the amount of \$54,198. Stated the rebudgeting for capital improvement projects involved rolling forward unencumbered funds from the previous year, allowing for the funds to be spent in this fiscal year. Stated additional grant funds of \$77,000 were received for street lighting improvements. Stated \$15,000 in additional funding from the Central TIF will be allocated to landscaping at the Boneyard Creek due to the original amount being insufficient. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda with recommendation for approval by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- d. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-09-064R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention in a Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Hunsinger Enterprises, Inc., 604 West Elm Street) – Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during Additions to the Agenda.

- e. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-09-065R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention in a Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Deaneurt Urbana LLC, One North/Linc, 1601 North Lincoln Avenue) — Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during Additions to the Agenda.

- f. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-09-066R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention in a Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Pare H LLC, One South/Onyx, 1349 North Lincoln Avenue) — Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during Additions to the Agenda.

- g. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-09-067R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention in a Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Urbana Pare H LLC, One South/Onyx, 1321 North Lincoln Avenue) — Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during Additions to the Agenda.

- h. ~~**Resolution No. 2024-09-068R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention in a Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeal Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Urbana Pare H LLC, One South/Onyx, 1317 North Lincoln Avenue) — Exec~~

Removed from the agenda by Mayor Marlin during Additions to the Agenda.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Quisenberry thanked the public for attending and engaging with the recent Comprehensive Plan presentations, particularly the one held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for residents of Wards 6 and 7.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wilken adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 10/7/24**

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Adam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 6:35 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input for meeting 2024-09-23

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

City council,

I'd like to request that someone helps explain what's going on with Ordinance No. 2024-09-031 to all of the non-accountants in Urbana.

By reading the packet, I can't tell if the city failed to budget for equipment repairs, where the money is coming from, whether there's an option to forego part or all of the proposed changes as has been done with things like much of the needed road and storm water maintenance, or what impact delaying the repairs would have.

It looks like maybe the decision under consideration is simply to transfer money from the general fund into these specific expenses, but I am not completely confident that I am interpreting the information in the packet correctly.

Finally, if there's a way that the "background information" section of the memo can be worded in a way that avoids the types of questions above, I'd love to improve the process. For example, the memo says "additional funding for ladder truck repair" without explaining where this additional funding would come from. This would help those of us who are not as competent at interpreting the information in exhibit A.

Improving this process would help Urbana residents be able to more effectively follow in the process, avoid confusion and potentially avoid misplaced anger/frustration.

I look forward to hearing the discussion when I tune in to tonight's meeting.

Thank you,
Adam Nichols