
DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis Clark, City Clerk; CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty*, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

*Denotes present via phone

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darcy Sandefur, Elizabeth Hannan, Darius White, Stephany McMahon, Rich Surles, Michelle Brooks,

OTHERS PRESENT: Terry Berkbigler, Confluence Design Firm;

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called this meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

CM Wilken moved to add a discussion item after item K on drafting a letter in support of constitutional rights in the Champaign County jail. Seconded by CM Evans.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Urbana Downtown Public Realm Study

Presented by Stephany McMahon the Economic Development Supervisor. McMahon introduced the consulting firm Confluence, who were selected to present their design and recommendations for downtown Urbana. McMahon shared background information on the process. Terry Berkbigler from Confluence Design Firm presented a PowerPoint on the process and the resulting recommendations. Recommendations included both short term and less expensive adjustments as well as possible long term and more expensive options. Some of these options would require partnerships with private property owners. Questions and discussion ensued.

b. Addressing Food Insecurity – CM Wilken and Bishop, UIUC Environmental Leadership Program

Stefan Iliav and Claire Sullivan, Students from Professor Green’s class presented on the issue of food insecurity and food desserts. The students then presented suggestions for how to mitigate the negative impacts on the community. Questions and discussion ensued.

c. Public Input

Carl Webber expressed concerns about the Downtown Public Realm study and its impact on the Lincoln Square Mall. *Jim Webster* owner of the Lincoln Square Mall expressed concerns about the Downtown Public Realm Study proposals that involve changes to the Lincoln Square Mall. *Joe Webster* spoke in support of Jim Webster and Lincoln Square Mall, expressed frustration at the Downtown Public Realm Study recommendations involving the mall. *Joe Zalaback* expressed concerns about the proposal to remove the roof of Lincoln Square Mall to continue the street. *Kyle Payne* provided critical feedback on the proposal to significantly remodel Lincoln Square Mall. *Andrew Gromlich* expressed concerns about the feasibility of converting Lincoln Square Mall into an outdoor shopping center. *Derrick Bryles* looks forward to seeing more done in to revitalize downtown and expressed concerns about the FOP contract and statements made surrounding the negotiating process. *Julie Watkins* expressed she doesn’t like the idea of converting Lincoln Square into an outdoor mall, expressed concerns about the FOP contract. *Susan Apple* advocated for the historic preservation of Lincoln Square Mall. *Phyllis Williams* expressed concerns about the farmer’s market attendees not being who will take advantage of downtown businesses. *Sarah Nixon* expressed the need for family friendly seating at the Market and expressed concerns about the FOP contract. *Carolynn Baxly* expressed concerns about the Urbana Downtown Public Realm Study. *Eik Sachs* shared that he thinks there are many good ideas still included in the Downtown Public Realm Study proposals, excluding the Lincoln Square Mall recommendations. Shared the importance of increasing the resident’s downtown. *Eldress Melinda Carr* shared a quote from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., expressed concerns about the FOP contract and negotiating process. Encouraged the appointment of representatives from Ward 3 to the CPRB. *Nicholas Dale* spoke in opposition to the FOP contract *Mayor Marlin read in remarks from CM Wu and written input from Justin Mansfield, Luke Lee, and Matt Soyland. Mayor Marlin acknowledged a letter from the ACLU and also a message from Brian Adams that were submitted to be included in the record. CM Hursey read input from Allan Max Axelrod and Alex Taylor.*

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken acknowledged the community response to the Downtown Public Realm study presentation and reassured the public. *CM Hursey* spoke about the union process for negotiating a contract. Addressed comments from the public.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

9. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5)

A. Consent Agenda

None.

B. Regular Agenda

1. Resolution No. 2022-12-091R: A Resolution Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #70 (Term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026) - HRF

Presented by CM Bishop. Motion to approve by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Hursey.

Discussion ensued.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Hursey, Kolisetty, Quisenberry, Mayor Marlin (tie breaking)

NAY: Evans, Bishop, Wilken

10. Reports of Special Committees

None.

11. Reports of Officers

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Mayoral Appointments

Urbana Free Library Board (Term ending June 30, 2024) - Erica Bellina Urbana Public Television Board (Term ending June 30, 2026) - John Gutzmer

Presented by Mayor Marlin. Marlin read a brief bio of each applicant.

Motion to approve appointments by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

14. Discussion

Constitutional Rights of the Jailed in Champaign County Jail – CM Wilken

CM Wilken read a draft letter in support of basic human and constitutional rights of those within the Champaign County jail and asked the Council members to consider signing on or writing their own letters of support. Questions and discussion ensued. Council was amenable to drafting and signing their own individual letters.

15. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

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

Minutes approved: 04-10-2023

Sandefur, Darcy

From: ! Wu, Maryalice
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 8:29 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: City council meeting.

Hi All,

I am out of town right now and will not be at the city council meeting on Monday evening. Given the discussion last week, I am hoping someone can give my statement to be included into the record on Monday.

Statement:

I voted to send the F.O.P. contract to Council. I understand the concerns that have been raised about the contract and wish to share the rationale for my vote last Monday.

Many have commented that the proposed contract does not specifically reference fireable offenses. While true, the offenses commenters have listed - witness tampering and excessive use of force, for example — are already covered by state, federal law, or city policies. Nothing in the F.O.P. contract prevents the City from firing people for these offenses. Furthermore, the City can update its policies far faster than a contract can be changed. These updates are made by City management.

Others have commented on a purported contradiction between the use of force policy and the ten shared principles. To the best of my knowledge, the contract, policies, and resolution are in agreement.

It is abundantly clear that the CPRB needs to be re-thought. It is ineffective in its current form. The community needs a say in shaping the future of the review board, and changes will take time and careful consideration. The public safety review includes steps to help the city update this ordinance. Only after we have followed a thoughtful process with community input should we change the CPRB, and only after we change the CPRB should we update the side letter. It does not make sense to update the side letter now.

Thank you,

Maryalice
Sent from my iPhone

Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), any written communication to or from City of Urbana employees, officials or board and commission members regarding City of Urbana business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Luke Lee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:41 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 3/13/23

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during the council meeting.

I urge all council members to vote against the Fraternal Order of Police contract for 2023-2026. It is unacceptable to give UPD nearly \$1 million dollars in raises, particularly after the City has already allocated \$1.34 million in bonuses.

More importantly, this contract also fails to address critical issues including the use of excessive force, witness coercion, de-escalation, civilian oversight, and over policing.

Council must vote "no" on this contract and pressure UPD to return to the bargaining table to remove the restrictions on the Civilian Police Review Board and add the basic disciplinary measures necessary to hold police accountable for misconduct.

If the council is truly happy with such a lackluster contract, it is very troubling.

As a concerned member of the Champaign-Urbana community, I ask that you vote "no" on resolution 2022-12-091R.

All power to the people,

Luke Lee

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Justin Mansfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:51 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 3/13/2023

***** Email From An External Source *****
Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud during the council meeting.

I urge all council members to vote against the Fraternal Order of Police contract for 2023-2026. It is unacceptable to give UPD nearly \$1 million dollars in raises, particularly after the City has already allocated \$1.34 million in bonuses.

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If council is truly happy with such a lackluster contract, it is very troubling.

As a concerned member of the Urbana community, I insist that you vote "no" on resolution 2022-12-091R.

All power to the people,

Justin Mansfield

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Matt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:28 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 3/13/23

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

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I urge all council members to vote against the Fraternal Order of Police contract for 2023-2026.

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As a concerned member of the Urbana community, I insist that you vote "no" on resolution 2022-12-091R.

All power to the people,
Matt Soyland