
DATE: Monday, May 8, 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, May 8, 2023, at 7 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis Clark, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, 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: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darcy Sandefur, Lily Wilcock, Andrea Ruedi, Scott Tess, Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner, Tim Cowan

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called this meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. *Examine Urbana Energy & the Environment Chapter - Scott Tess*

Presented by Scott Tess. This chapter of Examine Urbana explores the history of Urbana's efforts to be green and pursuit of renewable energy. Tess reviewed the renewable energy programs available, efforts to add tree canopy to cool the City, and future considerations. Questions and discussion ensued.

b. Public Input

Mira Laroya and Thea Surrea, Students in a sustainable engineering class studied the feasibility of implementing a plastic bag tax and prepared a proposal for the City of Urbana. *Diane Orr* spoke in support of the source of income resolution. *Esther Patt* spoke in support of the source of income discrimination. *Sarah Nixon* spoke in support of a plastic bag ban. *CM Bishop read on behalf of Julie Watkins, see attached.*

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Quisenberry shared that the Southeast Urbana Neighborhood association is having their annual meeting on May 24th. *CM Evans* announced the Berry Dunn town hall on May 9th to gain input on public safety.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

9. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Maryalice Wu, Ward 1)

A. Consent Agenda

1. Ordinance No. 2023-05-012: An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Estate (1811 E. Florida Avenue and 1106 N. Wright Street) - PW

CM Wu presented the Consent agenda. Motion to approve the consent agenda by CM Wu and seconded by CM Hursey.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

B. Regular Agenda

1. Ordinance No. 2023-04-008: An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 14, Section 14-7, Regarding the Schedule of Fees - HRF

Presented by CM Wu. Item adopts the new schedule of fees following the draft being available for public inspection for thirty days. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Wu and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

2. Resolution No. 2023-05-033R: Resolution in Support of Fair Housing for All Regardless of Source of Income - Council

Presented by CM Wu. Item ensures that residents will not face discrimination in housing due to source of income. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to amend as read, in the last paragraph “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Urbana prohibits discrimination in housing based on source of income, including a landlord’s refusal to rent to a person solely because a Housing Choice Voucher or other rent subsidy or assistance program will pay a portion of the rent, and including a landlord’s refusal to comply with requirements to accept such payment.” by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Wu.

Vote by roll call:

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

NAY: None

Motion to approve as amended by CM Wu and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

10. Reports of Special Committees

None.

11. Reports of Officers

Mayor Marlin announced the Berry Dunn public safety Town Hall on May 9th at Stone Creek Church, the May 11th Storm Water Asset Management Plan virtual session, and that the City of Urbana has submitted for a cost analysis for a special census to recapture some of the COVID related population differences. The remaining ARPA contracts will be presented at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

12. New Business

None.

13. Discussion

a. Single Use Carryout Bag Fee – SAC Resolution

Presented by Stacy Gloss, chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Gloss shared a short PowerPoint presentation prepared by the SAC that details the Resolution that recommends the Mayor direct City staff to explore and draft a proposal for a carryout bag fee in the City of Urbana. Gloss discussed the negative impacts of plastic bags on the environment and the potential positive impacts for the City if implemented. Questions and discussion ensued. Public Works Director Tim Cowan

shared that due to a lack of resource time that the pursuit of this project would redirect from other existing projects.

14. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur
Recording Secretary

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

Minutes approved: 08-28-2023

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Julie Watkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 12:09 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT, May 8, 2023.

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

Please read this email during public comment May 8.

From: Julie Watkins To: Urbana City Council

Thank you for the Resolution about Source of Income Discrimination.

On the issue of income discrimination in rental housing, I support the idea of fining "no voucher" discrimination in advertisements. If city staff is making choice of "Education not Punishment" council should direct staff to fine landlords that continue to publish discriminating advertisements after notification.

If staff is choosing education over taking action, is that staff deciding the 3 month window doesn't matter? Considering what was said last week, I agree that 3 month window is too short. I agree that hard to meaningfully enforce against income discrimination so a complaint can be resolved without losing the voucher and having to start over.

Since the 3 months is not a local decision, we have to do all we can locally to help achieve more voucher successes. I think it's time to start fining discrimination in advertisements when it's not changed upon "education" or advertisements republished without change.

Thank you for you consideration,

Julie Watkins, Ward 5.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows