

---

**DATE:** Monday, July 8, 2024  
**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, July 8, 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 Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Seok Hyun Cho, Will Kolschowsky, Carol Mitten, Matthew Roeschley, Clint Weidert, Breaden Belcher, Scott Tess

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**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. 06-10-2023 City Council
- b. 06-17-2024 City Council Special Meeting
- c. 06-17-2024 Public Hearing

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

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**4. Presentations and Public Input**

**a. Public Input**

*Audra Owens* read a letter on behalf of Richard Painter that was sent to City Council stating concerns for the neighborhood containing the Hope Village Project. Stated the voices of the residents have not been heard and the project has been moved forward unethically. *Pastor Melinda Carr* stated concerns for traffic and access to Carver Park from residents have not yet been resolved for the Hope Village Project. Requested City Council postpone the decision to approve the Resolution.

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** agreed with CM Hursey's pulling of the Hope Village Grant item to the regular agenda. Thanked Audra Owens for reading the letter from Richard Painter. **CM Hursey** echoed concerns from North End residents and stated the issue is regarding projects such as these being foisted upon minority communities with disingenuous communications from Carle. Spoke in opposition to Resolution No. 2024-07-048R.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Grace Wilken, Ward 6*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

- ~~a. **Resolution No. 2024-07-048R:** Resolution of Support for a State of Illinois Community Development Block – Coronavirus Grant (CDBG-CV) – CD~~

~~The Resolution approves the submission of an application on July 31, 2024, in partnership with Hope Village Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit organization, to DCEO for \$1,200,000 in CDBG-CV funding to aid in the construction of Hope Village.~~

Moved to the Regular Agenda by CM Hursey.

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-07-049R:** A Resolution Approving a Professional Energy Consulting Services Agreement (Good Energy, L.P.) – PW

The Resolution approves a services agreement for professional energy consulting with Good Energy, L.P. for a term equal to the contract term of the municipal electric aggregation supply contract.

- ~~c. **Resolution No. 2024-07-050R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Service Agreement with the Lowest Responsible Bidder for the Supply of Electricity for Residential and Small Commercial Retail Customers – PW~~

~~The Resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Administrator to execute a service agreement for the supply of electricity for residential and small commercial retail customers who do not opt out of such a program, taking place within the applicable time constraints required by the bidder; provided, however, that the energy price to be paid per kilowatt hour pursuant to the agreement is predicted to result in savings for the City's residential and small commercial retail customers over the term of the agreement.~~

Moved to the Regular Agenda by CM Wilken.

- d. **Resolution No. 2024-07-051R:** A Resolution Approving a Right-of-way License Agreement with Experience Champaign-Urbana (an Interpretive Sign adjacent to 120 West Main Street) – PW

The Resolution authorizes 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 (W. Main Street) adjacent to 120 W. Main Street.

- e. **Ordinance No. 2024-07-025:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule H of Section 23-93 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Requiring Stop Signs at a Certain Intersection (Melissa Lane at Marc Trail) – PW

The Ordinance seeks to require northbound traffic on Melissa Lane to stop before entering the intersection at Melissa Lane and Marc Trail to make the signage pattern consistent within the subdivision.

- f. **Ordinance No. 2024-07-026:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule M of Section 23-190 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Tow Away Zones (Gregory Street north of Fairview Avenue) – PW

The Ordinance seeks to prohibit parking and allow for towing vehicles within the cul-de-sac on Gregory Street, located between 475 feet and 500 feet north of the centerline of Fairview Avenue.

- g. **Resolution No. 2024-07-052R:** A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Cost Sharing Agreement for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-Sponsored One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event – PW

The Resolution would approve the execution of an intergovernmental cost sharing agreement for a 2024 household hazardous waste collection event sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The IEPA is partnering with the City of Urbana, City of Champaign, Village of Savoy, and Champaign County to conduct an annual household hazardous waste collection event which the City of Urbana would contribute 18.6% of the total cost, up to a maximum share of \$793.48.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-07-048R:** Resolution of Support for a State of Illinois Community Development Block – Coronavirus Grant (CDBG-CV) – CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution approves the submission of an application on July 31, 2024, in partnership with Hope Village Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit organization, to DCEO for \$1,200,000 in CDBG-CV funding to aid in the construction of Hope Village.

Motion to approve by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Bishop. Questions and discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** Hursey, Quisenberry

**PRESENT:** Wilken

- b. Resolution No. 2024-07-050R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Service Agreement with the Lowest Responsible Bidder for the Supply of Electricity for Residential and Small Commercial Retail Customers – PW

Presented by Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer. The Resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Administrator to execute a service agreement for the supply of electricity for residential and small commercial retail customers who do not opt out of such a program, taking place within the applicable time constraints required by the bidder; provided, however, that the energy price to be paid per kilowatt hour pursuant to the agreement is predicted to result in savings for the City's residential and small commercial retail customers over the term of the agreement.

Motion to approve, with amended language, by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

- i.** Motion to amend the motion to include amendments for adoption of recommended language to establish an order of priority to first prioritize energy price savings, then the purchase of renewable energy credits, and then to collect a City Fee of \$0.001 as part of the per kilowatt hour price by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

## 8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 9. Reports of Officers

None.

## 10. New Business

- a. Resolution No. 2024-07-053R:** A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Savoy for the Temporary Usage of an Aerial Platform Ladder Truck – FD

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator with Clint Weidert, Interim Deputy Fire Chief available for questions. The Resolution seeks to authorize the City to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Savoy for the temporary use of an Aerial Platform Ladder Truck. Carol Mitten stated the Resolution is time-sensitive and that is why it was introduced during City Council rather than Committee of the Whole. Stated the repair to Tower Ladder 261 (TL261) was fully funded through a budget amendment and the Savoy Fire Department has offered the use of their Ladder Truck to substitute TL261 while it is being repaired in Pennsylvania. Stated there is no financial compensation requested for the use of the Ladder Truck, but they expect the Urbana Fire Department to assist in responding to calls for service in exchange for use of the truck. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

**b. Mayoral Appointments**

**i. Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

*Human Relations Commission*

– Gerald (Jerry) D. Frye (term ending June 30, 2027)

Mayor Marlin provided an introduction and read a list of merits and accomplishments of the applicant. Read a statement conveying the applicant's interest in serving on the commission.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

**11. Discussion**

**a. Alternative Response Task Force**

Mayor Marlin provided background on the search for an alternative response model and the upcoming phases of the public safety review from BerryDunn. Stated that the next step is to form an Alternative Response Task Force and many suggestions have been received from the community. Stated the purpose of the task force is to include members of the community with expertise in essential areas of forming an alternative response model. Shared that City Council should have received a draft list of organizations to contact to participate in the task force that included: OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center, Carle Foundation Hospital Emergency Department, Regional Planning Commission - Community Services Division, Champaign County Mental Health Board, Cunningham Township, Rosecrance, Courage Connection, Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center, The Well Experience; Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services (RACES); Champaign County METCAD, Dispute Resolution Institute, FirstFollowers, New American Welcome Center, City of Urbana's Community Development Department, Urbana Fire Department, Urbana Police Department, Urbana City Council, and Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. CM Evans stated the Champaign County Christian Health Center is moving to Sunnycrest and would like to be considered for the task force as they provide free medical services to those in poverty and provide resources to impoverished households. CM Kolisetty stated that she does have a conflict of interest with RACES. Voiced that the current list is a good starting point and that the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center and The Well Experience are incomparable in terms of the services they provide, despite primarily serving youth. Expressed support for both The Well Experience and the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center being invited to participate in the task force. CM Bishop stated the CU Trauma and Resilience Initiative should also be considered to participate in the task force. Asked if there would be a single representative from each organization on the task force. Mayor Marlin confirmed that there would be a single representative and BerryDunn had also sent a suggested meeting schedule. CM Hursey on behalf of Reverend Dr. Evelyn Underwood, requested that the Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana & Vicinity also be considered to participate on the task force. CM Evans shared the community's concerns regarding sufficient African American representation on the task force, stating that they wished to emphasize its importance.

CM Wu stated alternative response goes beyond providing emergency mental health and substance abuse services and the City should consider another form of response for calls for service that are not limited by time and have little to no risk for violence to occur, such as graffiti on a building. Asked how City Council how they would feel regarding having City Staff report to City Council and provide a recommendation on addressing various minor infractions.

Council discussed the ideal size of the task force and ways to narrow the participation without losing essential representation from potential service providers for alternative response. Council discussed the potential for having multiple groups rather than a single group to better represent the differing needs between the diverse communities within Urbana and spoke on the merits of having a single group.

CM Wilken emphasized the importance of addressing mental health crises and avoiding discrepancies in treatment received from emergency responders, rather than responding to calls for service for non-urgent violations. Asked about the next steps and emphasized the importance of having the meetings recorded.

Council discussed the potential for using working groups within the task force to develop and provide wider input. Council discussed the difficulties of developing a task force containing as diverse of perspectives and backgrounds as possible.

Mayor Marlin outlined the next steps of forming the task force and proceeding with the BerryDunn study. Stated that the potential for implementing working groups within the larger task force will be discussed with BerryDunn. Asked if Council would desire a resolution regarding the formation of a task force.

Council consensus was reached on not requiring a resolution before sending invitations to the selected community organizations to participate in the task force.

## **12. Closed Session per ILCS 120/2(c)(21) - To Review Closed Session Minutes**

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

Entered closed session at 8:35p.m.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

Returned to open session at 9:17p.m.

### 13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:17p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 8/5/24**

**Richard W. Painter**  
**654 Wentworth Avenue**  
**Mendota Heights, MN. 55118**  
**(617) 309-9279 (cell)**

July 8, 2024

Re: Hope Village Project / Impact on Residents of North Urbana

To the Urbana City Council:

Although I now live in Minnesota, I am from Urbana and attended Urbana High School with the Class of 1980. I grew up in Yankee Ridge and attended elementary school, middle school and high school with children of families from all parts of Urbana including the neighborhood effected by the planned Hope Village project. I returned to Urbana in 1998 to live on Douglas Avenue on Carle Park and teach as a tenured professor at the University of Illinois College of Law, before I left Urbana in 2005 to work as the chief White House ethics lawyer and then take a professorship at the University Minnesota. I still care deeply about Urbana and the people who live there, including the people of North Urbana I went to school with, many of whom did not have the advantages I had growing up.

I am now a government ethics lawyer. I write to you today about what I perceive to be a grave injustice to the people of North Urbana, many of whom are racial minorities who have been underrepresented in Urbana city, Champaign County and Illinois state government for decades.

The Hope Village project is an admirable idea, although legitimate questions can be raised about the cost to taxpayers and the source of federal and state funds, as well as the role of the University of Illinois. The most serious government ethics problem, however, is the impact on the residents of the surrounding neighborhood whose voices have not been heard. Across America, controversial projects such as Hope Village are placed in predominantly minority neighborhoods, because for state and local politicians such is the path of least resistance. That is quite clearly what has happened here.

I write to ask that the Urbana City Council take the time to give the residents of North Urbana a chance to be heard.

On December 11, 2023 a letter was written to the Attorney General letter about procedural violations including a closed door meeting of the Urbana Plan Commission that apparently did not qualify for any of the exceptions under open meetings law. It is published here: [Urbana Plan Commission Investigated by AG for Unlawful Closed Meeting – Illinois - Check CU](https://checkcu.org/urbana-plan-commission-investigated-by-ag-for-unlawful-closed-meeting-illinois/)  
<https://checkcu.org/urbana-plan-commission-investigated-by-ag-for-unlawful-closed-meeting-illinois/>



A member of the United North end group emailed to the Public Access Officer (in the Attorney General's Office) on January 11, 2024. She received a response letter on January 17, 2024, saying they have not yet determined if there has been a violation.

I understand there was a public hearing a few weeks ago (Urbana Committee of the Whole meeting) and a statement of North end residents for the record that the neighboring residents' concerns have still not been resolved in the development of Hope Village. I understand that today, July 8 there is a meeting to approve the resolution to submit an application for more funding by July 31, 2024.

Approval of this resolution should be postponed. Urbana officials planning the Hope Village project not only have a legal obligation to comply with state open meeting laws, including those described in the letter to the Attorney General, but a moral obligation to represent the interests of all Urbana residents, including the historically discriminated against minority residents in North Urbana. The social problems of Champaign County, and the State of Illinois, including homelessness and drug addiction should not be foisted upon residents of North Urbana simply because residents of wealthier parts of Urbana and Champaign County have the political pull to make sure a project such as this is not built in their neighborhoods.

Please, at a minimum give the residents who will be severely and adversely impacted by this project a chance to be heard.

Respectfully,

Richard W. Painter  
S. Walter Richey Professor of Law  
University of Minnesota Law School (since 2007)

Guy Raymond and Mildred Van Voorhis Jones Professor of Law  
University of Illinois College of Law (1998-2005)