
DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2025
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 Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00p.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 James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Grace Wilken

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Elizabeth Hannan, Breaden Belcher, Larry Boone, Will Kolschowsky, Scott Tess, Carol Mitten, Dave Smysor, Tim Cowan

OTHERS PRESENT: Giovanna DiBenedetto, Silver Hearts; Jeremy Oberman, Silver Hearts; Neil Weislow, Silver Hearts;

Chair: *James Quisenberry, Ward 7*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 12-02-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Quisenberry stated he received requests to move Resolutions No. 2025-01-007R, 2025-01-008R, and 2025-01-011R to the beginning of New Business. Stated Ordinance No. 2025-01-003 was also requested to be moved to follow Resolution No. 2025-01-009R as Resolution No. 2025-01-009R and Ordinance No. 2025-01-002 will be presented together.

Motion to approve as adjusted by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Silver Hearts Update – Giovanna DiBenedetto

Presented by Giovanna DiBenedetto, Co-founder of Silver Hearts; Jeremy Oberman, Co-founder of Silver Hearts; Neil Weislow, Co-founder of Silver Hearts; two children representing Bronze Hearts, a new Silver Hearts program; and Dementro Powell, Director of Community Development & Engagement at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Division of Public Safety. Giovanna DiBenedetto shared a personal account of first responders arriving at a scene of a shooting. Stated the only housing she could find after being homeless was an apartment on the violent and crime-ridden Silver Street. Stated witnessing the response to the shooting pushed her to contact her church group and act, leading to the formation of Silver Hearts. Neil Weislow stated the first action Silver Hearts took was to hold outdoor cook-out dinners with residents near Silver Street and Vauter Street in the Summer and Fall of 2016. Recounted how residents would come and share their food to build bonds within the community. Stated Silver Hearts began holding neighborhood prayer meetings in the Winter of 2016 to pray for peace and an end to the violence in the neighborhood. Shared Silver Hearts hosted their first block party in July 2017 which had good turnout from the neighborhood, leading to the block party being hosted annually outside of the pandemic years. Stated the block parties had many positive interactions within the community and between the community and the Urbana Police Department. Shared photos from previously hosted block parties. Spoke on the beginnings of the annual summer Ice Cream Socials. Neil Weislow and a child representative of Bronze Hearts recounted how a child taught a police officer how to ride a hoverboard. Neil Weislow spoke on the Halloween Costume Drives held during the Fall which received costume donations from the Urbana-Champaign community. Shared how during a Halloween Party they had hosted, the community elected the area's name of Silverwood. Spoke on the monthly Food Distribution program formed during the pandemic which served over 150 families in addition to other collaborative programs formed during the pandemic such as the Meet A Super Hero event that were made possible with the support from other organizations and the City of Urbana. Stated the consistent presence of Silver Hearts helped form neighborhood bonds and have a positive impact on the community. Giovanna DiBenedetto spoke on the charitable contributions from the Silverwood community that were gathered through various events. Giovanna DiBenedetto and a child representative from Bronze Hearts shared a poem from the late Janelle Rogers, Co-founder of Silver Hearts.

CM Wu motioned to add an additional 5 minutes to the presentation time, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

A child representative from Bronze Hearts shared packets to Council which can be found attached to the minutes. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Public Input

Brian Dolinar spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and noted he had previously spoken in support of the Sanctuary City Ordinance. Stated supporters of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 are being framed as being anti-police and opponents of the Ordinance are pro-police despite the Ordinance being a pro-community measure. Noted the use of Cellebrite technology, based in Israel, by the Urbana Police Department (UPD) is a large concern within the community. Stated the City, Council, and public should be aware of the ethical conflicts reported on by Amnesty International regarding Cellebrite's use and clients and consider them in future decisions regarding its use. Stated the UPD has contracted with Cellebrite for the past 10 years and \$9,000 was spent on the software in 2024. Stated the UPD also utilize similar cell phone hacking technology through Magnet Graykey, based in Canada, with \$15,000 spent on that software in 2024. Shared an instance the UPD had used the technology to clear a shooting suspect of suspicion. Noted these technologies provide a vector for a cybersecurity breach across the Urbana community. Expressed the community would prefer to learn of these technologies in advance rather than learning of them after their adoption and use. **Steven MacGuire** expressed concern over the potential for phones being hacked through a vulnerability introduced by the technologies contracted by the UPD. Noted the fascistic President, Donald Trump had a speaker perform the Nazi salute during his inauguration and he himself had paraphrased the fascist leader, Adolf Hitler regarding migrants. Expressed the need for oversight in the utilization of surveillance and data collection technologies as the threat of bad actors taking advantage of the data to compromise an individual is too high. Spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and stated the counterarguments are in bad faith as it realistically would not significantly impede day-to-day police activities. Noted the argument in favor of the use and adoption of surveillance technologies that other communities are also using the technologies is not enough as if it were necessary, the UPD should be able to provide a persuasive argument in support of its adoption to City Council. **Neil Weislow** stated the hacking of cell phones is not new to society, pointing to various leaks from celebrities as examples. Stated after personal review of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, the surveillance technologies have judicial oversight that require a warrant before their use and a local government should not require any further oversight. Requested City Council consider that the Ordinance brings police body cameras into question as a surveillance technology. **Karen Medina** stated the police are misused as they're being utilized to suppress the First Amendment rights of protestors. Stated the UPD are employed by the community as they are funded by the community's taxes and expressed a desire to see a report from police departments evaluating the technologies utilized. Stated the consumer report could prevent wasteful spending, track fraudulent technologies being sold to police departments, and report on the actual effectiveness of the technologies. Spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and Council having oversight on the technologies used by the UPD.

Written Public Input was received from the following individual and read by Chair Quisenberry: CM Wilken. Written Public Input in support of reaffirming the City of Urbana's Sanctuary City status was received from the following individual and read by CM Bishop: Alison Wessels. Written Public Input in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 were received from the following individuals but were not read: Adam Nichols and Angel Johnson.

5. Staff Report

a. State of UPD – PD

Presented by Larry Boone, Chief of Police and Dave Smysor, Deputy Chief of Police. Larry Boone recognized and congratulated Lieutenant Cory Koker for receiving the Franklin M. Kreml Leadership Award alongside graduating from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University. Thanked Silver Hearts for their encouragement and for being the first to present before Council in support of the UPD during his tenure. Spoke on the need to address staffing issues and the changing generational attitudes toward policing. Stated those who remained as police officers after George Floyd was murdered by a police officer embrace reform, but the issue of vacancies remains after the departure of many police officers. Stated the City of Urbana is not struggling with recruitment, but it is in retention of officers as many leave due to understaffing leading to burnout and dissatisfaction.

Dave Smysor provided an overview of current staffing levels at the UPD, noting the UPD has an authorized strength of 63 sworn officers but currently has 55 on the roster including seven officers that cannot currently fill active patrol roles. Stated staffing is further strained due to military duties, state-mandated training, illness, vacation, and in-service training. Spoke on the 24/7/365 operational nature of the UPD and its full-service Criminal Investigations Division (CID). Stated the Patrol Division currently has 22 serviceable officers and 10 sergeants available to respond to around 26,000 calls for service annually. Stated the two 16-hour patrol shift teams alternate and have an ideal staffing of five officers with two sergeants and maintains a minimum of four officers and one sergeant. Noted the 3am to 11am shift specifically has a minimum staffing of three officers and one sergeant. Stated being unable to fill the nine vacancies in Patrol Officers leads to an inability to promote officers to specialty positions such as the Training Sergeant and Community Engagement Officer roles. Stated there are currently 15 officers out of service due to a variety of reasons. Stated the current average experience of a UPD patrol officer is three years and seven months and the seven patrol officers that had left the UPD between July 2024 and November 2024 had an average experience of five years and six months. Stated experienced officers are being lost and replaced with newer officers, leading to a low average experience within patrol. Shared a chart illustrating the department structure within the UPD and noted the disparity between the approved staffing additions for FY25, the requested staffing additions for FY25, and the recommended additions from BerryDunn. Stated the civilian staffing is essential to daily operations, but that aspect is also impacted by vacancies as there are currently three Police Service Representatives, but there needs to be three more hired to meet the ideal capacity of six full time employees in that position. Stated the current staffing allows for the UPD's front desk to be available 16-hours a day and they are currently in the process of conducting background checks on the potential candidates for the position.

Shared a chart detailing departed personnell's reasons for leaving, the year departed, and the number of years spent with UPD since February 2022, after former Chief of Police Bryant Seraphin retired. Noted of the 23 departed personnell, three have retired, seven resigned to leave law enforcement, and 13 resigned to be employed by another law enforcement agency.

Spoke on the nationwide recruiting challenges being experienced by the UPD and displayed data collected by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) regarding recruiting and retention challenges. Stated the UPD has many unqualified applicants and is facing significant competition in hiring qualified candidates. Noted 81% of police agencies in the Midwest reported having similar

issues, making it the highest across regions in the country. Shared a graph displaying rates of pay within Champaign County across the Urbana, Champaign, University of Illinois, Rantoul, and Champaign County Sheriff's Office law enforcement agencies. Stated the UPD offers the least amount of pay in the area for a law enforcement agency beginning at the 5-year mark.

Stated findings from exit interviews illustrate that officers are leaving due to the following reasons: Searching for better compensation and long-term benefits; more career opportunities through specialized units elsewhere; staffing shortages and mandatory overtime leading to low morale; officers feeling unsupported by City Council and upper command; and insufficient tools such as tasers and modern policing technology. Noted exit interviewees shared how they enjoyed the positive relationships among peers and with immediate supervisors but is not enough to stop officers from resigning.

Stated the BerryDunn study reported a 47/115 grading for their technology current used in the field and reflects their desire to improve the policing technology utilized in the department. Shared how the University of Illinois Police Department had shared their drone to use in a recent hit and run car crash as an example of having to lean on other law enforcement agencies to gather information they could not have without technology.

Emphasized the importance of retaining experienced police officers due to the benefits of having experience in the field as well as the significant money and time spent on training those police officers.

Proposed UPD expand its workforce by following the recommendations made by BerryDunn, make UPD's pay scale more competitive, consider additional benefits for UPD officers such as a Retirement Health Savings program, invest in modern technologies such as FLOCK Automated License Plate Readers, and acquire tools to increase departmental efficiency. Questions and discussion followed.

6. Old Business

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-12-042:** An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Policing Surveillance Technology and Databases – CM's Wilken and Kolisetty

Presented by CM Kolisetty. The Ordinance requires and clarifies the process for procurement and use of policing technology and databases that can be used to monitor, track, and identify specific individuals or groups. The Ordinance codifies the public approval process for specific surveillance technologies or databases; it does not dictate the use of any given technology (that would be voted on by Council). CM Kolisetty stated the Ordinance has been updated by CM Wilken and expressed gratitude for City Staff for responding to the Ordinance. Noted the policy explicitly does not seek to include body cameras as part of surveillance technology. Echoed the recommendation from CM Wilken to keep the item in Committee of the Whole to allow for City Staff to further review the Ordinance and allow for the community to continue providing input. Mayor Marlin noted the response from City Staff included a list of physical surveillance technology the UPD has access to and the list of all potential databases that may be covered by the Ordinance.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

7. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-01-007R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Economic Development Agreement (Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, Fiscal Year 2024-2025) – Exec

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst & Assistant to the City Administrator. The Resolution authorizes the execution of an Economic Development Agreement with the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the provision of regional economic development services by the EDC for the benefit of the City and the regional economy. Will Kolschowsky stated the agreement includes an allocation for EDC in the amount of \$33,763. Stated representatives from EDC previously appeared before Council on November 25, 2024, to share the work they have conducted. Stated the City's relationship with the EDC increases the capacity for Urbana businesses to receive outside consulting and services. Stated the approval of the Resolution aligns with Mayor/Council Strategic Goals to improve economic health, supporting local businesses, increasing employment in the area, and recruiting new businesses and industries. Stated the funds for the agreement were already included in the City's FY25 budget, leaving no fiscal impact and the contract is the same as previous contracts with the EDC.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-01-008R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Community Partnership Agreement (Experience Champaign Urbana, Fiscal Year 2024-2025) – Exec

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst & Assistant to the City Administrator. The Resolution authorizes the execution of a Community Partnership Agreement with Experience Champaign Urbana (ECU) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the provision of marketing and community support services by ECU for the benefit of the City's tourism industry. Will Kolschowsky stated ECU has previously presented before Council in October 2024 on the work they have conducted. Stated the agreement supports the City's tourism economy and would support the Mayor/Council goals for economic health, supporting local businesses, and enhancing employment opportunities. Stated \$15,000 would be obligated toward ECU and it has already been budgeted for in the FY25 budget. Stated there are no significant changes in the agreement from previous years.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. **Resolution No. 2025-01-011R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class R&T Designation for Urbana Gardens Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A Maple & Yolk, 810 West Killarney Street, Urbana, Ill. – Exec

Presented by Mayor Marlin. The Resolution increases the number of R&T-1 (Restaurant & Tavern – All Alcohol) liquor licenses in the City of Urbana. Mayor Marlin stated the liquor license is a change in classification from the one the business already has as they are rebranding the restaurant from Urbana Gardens to Maple & Yolk. Stated the change in liquor license allows for the sale of all types of alcohol instead of solely beer and wine, leading to no actual increase in businesses with liquor licenses. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- d. **Ordinance No. 2025-01-001:** An Ordinance Establishing Authority to Execute Municipal Electric Aggregation Agreements – PW

Presented by Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer. The Ordinance amends City Code to provide for the Mayor or City Administrator the authority to execute electricity supply agreements and renewable energy credit agreements. Scott Tess stated the Ordinance in addition to authorizing the Mayor or City Administrator to execute municipal electric aggregation agreements, it updates the Plan of Operation and Governance to update the goals of a municipal electric aggregation agreement and update procedure for executing those agreements due to the change in time available to close on an agreement. Stated the City has previously gone out to bid and failed to authorize the execution of an agreement before it had expired, delaying the search for another agreement for months. Stated the purpose of the Ordinance is to allow for the execution of municipal electric aggregation agreements before they quickly expire. Questions and discussion followed.

Council reached consensus on providing direction to change the language to authorize the “Mayor or their Designee” and clarifying language to state “...if expected savings would **not** be eliminated or significantly reduced...” under point b. of “Supply Specifications”.

Motion to approve, including the discussed changes, to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- e. **Resolution No. 2025-01-010R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Grant Agreement for the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant between the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Urbana – PW

Presented by Justin Swinford, Assistant City Engineer with Tim Cowan, Public Works Director available for questions. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a grant agreement with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, which includes the City of Urbana as a subrecipient for the Lincoln Avenue (Wascher to Killarney) road diet demonstration. Justin

Swinford stated the road diet demonstration is currently project to occur during the Fall season or late Summer this year. Stated the project is progressing as expected with internal developments and plans for gathering public feedback. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- f. **Ordinance No. 2025-01-002:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9 of the Urbana City Code Concerning Food Licenses – HRF

Presented alongside Resolution No. 2025-01-009R by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO. The Ordinance amends City Code regarding exemptions to the license fees for food establishments. Elizabeth Hannan stated food and restaurant licensing will continue to be done by the C-UPHD in partnership with the City of Champaign and the City of Urbana to make the licensing process streamlined by making C-UPHD the single stop for interested parties. Stated the Ordinance clarifies the exceptions for which establishments would not have to pay a fee, such as establishments exempt from sales tax, government agencies, and temporary permits. Stated the IGA lays out the guidelines for the relationship between the City of Urbana and the C-UPHD. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- g. ~~**Ordinance No. 2025-01-003:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #5 – Omnibus) – HRF~~

Moved to follow Resolution No. 2025-01-009R during Additions to the Agenda.

- h. **Resolution No. 2025-01-009R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with Champaign-Urbana Public Health District to Jointly Issue Health Permits and City Food Handling Licenses – HRF

Presented alongside Ordinance No. 2025-01-002 by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO. The Resolution approves the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to update the food handling licensing agreement with the Champaign Urbana Public Health District (C-UPHD).

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- i. **Ordinance No. 2025-01-003:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #5 – Omnibus) – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO. The Ordinance amends the FY2025 Annual Budget to include additional funding for U-Cycle by \$130,000; rebudget \$65,850 in tree donation funds to FY2025 to be utilized for Spring planting; rebudget \$50,000 of an unused \$59,000 in FY2024 funds for Police Sergeant promotional testing to facilitate the completion of the promotional testing process; correct certain interfund transfers to the Information Technology Fund (610) that were not posted in FY2024 with a one-time adjustment of \$295,000 with \$277,500 to be sourced from the General Fund; and adjust the allocation for an interfund transfer from the ARPA Fund (350) to the Local Motor Fuel Tax (LMFT) Fund to \$0.00 from \$115,000 as it was determined to be unnecessary for FY2025. Elizabeth Hannan spoke on the adjustments and rebudgeting included in the Omnibus. Stated the Police Sergeant promotional testing was expected to take place FY2024 but have not occurred yet. Stated 20 individuals are expected to be tested for the promotion. Stated the additional funds for U-Cycle are to allow for an earlier transition a new recycling hauler if there are issues in service during the interim period. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- j. **Resolution No. 2025-01-001R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – Cunningham Children’s Home (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-004R, 2025-01-005R, and 2025-01-006R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant program to the Cunningham Children’s Home for the Washington Street Pollinator Pathway project in the amount of \$10,000. Breaden Belcher stated the six SUN grant agreements are with the following organizations: Cunningham Children’s Home, Cunningham Township, Sola Gratia Farm, STEAM Genius, Urbana Park District, and the Urbana School District #116. Stated there was \$100,000 in grant funding available through the SUN grant program and the objectives of the program were to promote healthy and sustainable community living, foster creativity and collaboration to enhance climate resiliency, and include diverse and multigenerational Urbana residents in creating climate related actions. Stated grant applications were accepted from September 3, 2024, to November 4, 2024, with a total of eight applications received and reviewed by a committee. Stated the committee recommended funding these six of the eight applicants totaling to \$71,700 based on alignment with the objectives, anticipated long-term impact, feasibility, and the proposed number of people served by a project. Stated the two projects that did not receive recommendation were from Champaign County Bikes for a “Cycling Without Age” program and the second was from Eastern Illinois Foodbank for a composting and recycling initiative. Stated further guidance from Council is required for the remaining \$28,300. Thanked Scott Tess, Sustainability and Resilience Officer and Adjunct Professor Warren G. Lavey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for their feedback and guidance on developing the grant program. Clarified the use of grant funding to support staff or instructors during their work on their respective programs. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to combine Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-004R, 2025-01-005R, and 2025-01-006R into an omnibus by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- k. Resolution No. 2025-01-002R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – Cunningham Township (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-004R, 2025-01-005R, and 2025-01-006R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant program to Cunningham Township for the Solidarity Gardens project in the amount of \$18,700. *Approved in omnibus.*

- l. Resolution No. 2025-01-003R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – Sola Gratia Farm (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-004R, 2025-01-005R, and 2025-01-006R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant program to Sola Gratia Farm for the Community Classroom Improvements project in the amount of \$10,000. *Approved in omnibus.*

- m. Resolution No. 2025-01-004R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – STEAM Genius (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-005R, and 2025-01-006R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant program to STEAM Genius for the Street College Course project in the amount of \$13,000. *Approved in omnibus.*

- n. Resolution No. 2025-01-005R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – Urbana Park District (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-004R, and 2025-01-006R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant

program to the Urbana Park District for the FRESH Crew Teen Stewardship Program project in the amount of \$10,000. *Approved in omnibus.*

- o. Resolution No. 2025-01-006R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods Grant Agreement – Urbana School District #116 (FY 2024 – 2025) – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-01-001R, 2025-01-002R, 2025-01-003R, 2025-01-004R, and 2025-01-005R. The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a subrecipient agreement as part of the City’s Sustaining Urbana Neighborhoods (SUN) grant program to the Urbana School District #116 for the Farm to School Program project in the amount of \$10,000. *Approved in omnibus.*

- ~~**p. Resolution No. 2025-01-007R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Economic Development Agreement (Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, Fiscal Year 2024-2025) – Exec~~

Moved to the beginning of New Business during Additions to the Agenda.

- ~~**q. Resolution No. 2025-01-008R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Community Partnership Agreement (Experience Champaign Urbana, Fiscal Year 2024-2025) – Exec~~

Moved to the beginning of New Business during Additions to the Agenda.

- ~~**r. Resolution No. 2025-01-011R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class R&T Designation for Urbana Gardens Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A Maple & Yolk, 810 West Killarney Street, Urbana, Ill. – Exec~~

Moved to the beginning of New Business during Additions to the Agenda.

- s. Resolution No. 2025-01-012R:** A Resolution Authorizing Intervention Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board – Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator. The Resolution authorizes the City’s representative to intervene in appeals before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB). Carol Mitten stated the City is working in coordination with the Urbana School District and the Cunningham Township Assessor’s Office on commercial property appeals where the change in assessed value exceeds \$100,000. Stated PTAB have previously required Council approval for intervention for individual cases and the Resolution seeks to provide a general authorization to appeal before PTAB alongside the Urbana School District and the Cunningham Township Assessor. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

PRESENT: Wu

8. Discussion

a. Alternative Response Task Force RFP Continuing Discussion – Exec

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst & Assistant to the City Administrator. Will Kolschowsky stated the packet includes an updated and redlined version of the RFP which incorporates the changes requested by Council. CM Wu thanked City Staff for their work in including the revisions and providing easily readable copies to track the changes. CM Kolisetty echoed thanks and pointed out a small typo under Section 2.1. Chair Quisenberry asked if there is any further direction or action required from Council. Will Kolschowsky stated Council consensus is currently required. Chair Quisenberry asked for Council to show a thumbs up for approval. Council reached consensus on approving the RFP to move forward.

9. Council Input and Communications

CM Kolisetty emphasized the importance for the City to take a clear stance on affirming their Sanctuary City status and officially restate that in consideration for the fear community members are feeling. *CM Wu* thanked the UPD for posting on Facebook information on how to deal with ICE immigration raids, ICE knocking at the door, and ICE raiding a workplace. *Mayor Marlin* announced H-Mart and Yellow Rabbit had their grand openings last week. Shared there will be a ribbon cutting at Baldarotta's Porketta & Sicilian Sausage for their new location at 208 W. Griggs Street. Shared the confirmation was received today for the \$250,000 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for beginning the Urbana Pilot Fleet Electrification Project courtesy of Senator Paul Faraci's efforts on the City of Urbana's behalf. Shared the City of Urbana was notified last week by the United States Department of Transportation that they have completed 14 steps in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment for the Civic Center site for the new transit center in downtown Urbana. Reminded Council of the invitation to tour Hotel Royer and they can contact Joseph Prior to arrange the tour as major inspections have been completed in the past week. Requested businesses and residents in proximity to the traffic crash to share information and video footage regarding the red Mitsubishi Outlander traveling eastbound before the crash occurred as well as any footage of people running or walking after the crash occurred near Coler and Main Street. Stated the driver is yet to be found and any information would be of great assistance to the investigation. *Chair Quisenberry passed the Chair to CM Wu. CM Quisenberry* spoke in support of the City of Urbana's status as a Sanctuary City and is open to enhancing or reinforcing the Ordinance. Shared his experience touring Hotel Royer, noting their recent extensive testing. Stated Hotel Royer looks wonderful and is seeming to approach completion. Shared the rooms on the North side of the hotel have great views of downtown Urbana. Encouraged residents to familiarize themselves with their Wards and the candidates in the upcoming local election. Shared residents can vote early from January 16th and February 24th on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. with additional weekend times available closer to the Primary Election Day of February 25th where polls will be open from 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. *Chair Wu relinquished the Chair to CM Quisenberry.*

10. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Quisenberry adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 2/24/25**

Rafael Cho

From: Angel Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 7:19 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public impute 1-21-20 please read into the record (Chris or Grace)

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening Mayor Marlin and committee of the whole!

I like to address ordinances no. 2024-12-042 Related to Policing surveillance technology and database. I don't agree more to officers being hired Do to critical issues in my ward 6 that have not being addressed related to cultural sensitivity training!

Sincerely
Pastor Angel Johnson

Rafael Cho

From: Urbana, IL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:12:59 PM
To: Chaundra Bishop <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Reaffirming Urbana's Sanctuary City Status

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Name: Allison Wessels

Email: [REDACTED]

Message: (Please confirm you have received this message by emailing me back) *Please read aloud at City Council* Hi, My name is Allison Wessels, I am an Urbana community member. The purpose of my message today is to ask city council to reaffirm Urbana's Sanctuary City status for immigrants. I understand Urbana is currently considered a Sanctuary City, which I am grateful for. I must ask/urge you all to reaffirm this publicly for all community members to see, especially those who are being directly affected by recent executive orders by new Federal Administration. Reaffirming sanctuary status sends a strong message that Urbana cares deeply about immigrants and other vulnerable/marginalized folks. I can understand reaffirming sanctuary status may be easy to overlook, but for those worried about their safety and security, a small piece of reassurance goes a long way. Urbana has such a rich and diverse community and we must protect it by being there for those that need it. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will join me in caring for our immigrant neighbors, friends, and coworkers that live in our community and need support at this time. Allison Wessels

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.

Rafael Cho

From: Adam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 4:54 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public input for city council meeting 2024-01-21

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud into the public record.

Dear City Council,

Thank you for the conversation about transparency and accountability at the last meeting. I was not able to attend, but I caught the instant replay on YouTube.

I am most interested in hearing more from the people who said they want to have transparency but would not have voted yes for the proposal in its current form.

It seems like uncontroversial technologies, like looking for outstanding warrants, would be trivial for the city council to approve.

In contrast, omitting certain technologies from public disclosure gives the appearance that there is something to hide. Remember, the matter on the table is not what technology can or can't be used. It's just a question of whether the public has a right to know about it and whether we should have a democratic process around how they are governed.

The main question I hope will be explicitly answered tonight as you work toward a compromise is this:

What categories of police technology should be immune from transparency to the public, and accountability to the city council?

Thank you,
Adam Nichols

From: [Grace Wilken](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Council input 1/21/25- please read aloud
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:54:41 PM

DO NOT REPLY ALL

Please read my comments (below) into the record during council input.

I apologize for missing the meeting tonight. Please read my email during council input.

For Ordinance 2024-12-042 on police surveillance technology, I hope that the new definitions address some operational concerns and that the committee, staff, and community continue a productive conversation. I ask that you please consider keeping this ordinance in COW, and I'm happy to answer any questions and continue the discussion when I return.

For 2025-01-001 (electric aggregate), please confirm the wording for renewable energy purchases and a city fee. Should page 2 of the contract, supplier specifications "a" and "b", say "...if expected savings would NOT be eliminated or reduced"? (adding the word "not")

I'm pleased to see the SUN grants for approval tonight. Thank you to council for support of this use of funds, to Braeden and other city staff members, and to the community members who submitted applications for projects. I hope that there is support again tonight to award the grants for these projects. Please note that there is a clause for "environmental impact" which states that grant funds are not to be used for single-use plastic, Styrofoam, etc. My intention with this is not to be burdensome on the awardees, but to set an example of enhanced consumer choices. For example, rather than buying single-use plastic water bottles for volunteers, we can use paper (or re-useable) cups and a water re-fill jug. If there are any issues with this, I encourage the awardees to reach out to Grants Management, or to me directly. I have a water container to donate to the cause and can source compostable paper cups. Thank you again for the support on this grant, and I look forward to seeing the projects

completed.

Thanks again,

Grace Wilken

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Silver Hearts Community Organization

Building Bridges, Not Barriers

Silver Hearts is a dynamic community organization dedicated to fostering unity and understanding among diverse populations. Our mission is to eliminate social and economic barriers that have caused people to simply co-exist and transform them into thriving communities.

Those who work with Silver Hearts are more than just volunteers; they are dedicated champions of inclusion and equity. Each of us take this personally as we see families on all sides torn apart by the divisions in our community. We work tirelessly to ensure that every individual, regardless of their background or economic status, has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. Our commitment is to provide continuous support and advocacy for all community members.

Together, we strive to break down barriers and build bridges, laying the foundation for a unified and thriving community. Silver Hearts believes that by working together with leaders, social services, first responders and other agencies we can make all of Urbana a safe and thriving community to live in.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

All our events and maintenance costs (Storage units etc.) are funded primarily through in-kind donations. We work collaboratively with agencies and community organizations to bring the community together. A big thank you to all our partners current and past, none of this would be possible without you.

Urbana Park District, City of Urbana Police Department, City of Urbana Fire Department, Mayor Diane Marlin, Counselman James Quisenberry, Cunningham Township, CU Trauma, Courage Connections, Champaign and Urbana Rotary, , Dementro (Debo)Powel-C.O.A.S.T, Champaign County Housing Authority, Solia Gratia, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Square Mall, St. Mathews Lutheran Church, Quest Church, Champaign Church of Christ, James Barham, Carol Timms, and all the countless volunteers it takes to make the events possible.

A big thank you to all of our partners throughout the years, none of this would be possible without you.

Urbana Park District, City of Urbana Police Department, City of Urbana Fire Department, Mayor Diane Marlin, Counselman James Quisenberry, Champaign and Urbana Rotary, Dementro Debo)Powel-C.O.A.S.T, Champaign County Housing Authority, Solia Gratia, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Square Mall, St. Mathews Lutheran Church, Quest Church, Champaign Church of Christ, James Barham, Carol Timms, and all the countless volunteers it takes to make the events possible.

SILVER HEARTS EVENTS LIST

SILVERWOOD

BBQ/Sunday Dinners-Weekly

Prayer Meetings/Walks-Monthly (or when needed)

Ice Cream Social-Yearly (Beginning of summer)

Block Party-Yearly (Mid to late July)

Family Photos-Yearly

Costume Drive-Yearly (August-End of September)

Costume Distribution-Yearly (1st or 2nd Saturday of October)

Has been duplicated by 2 other organizations

Participating in National Night Out with C.O.A.S.T-Yearly

Collaborated with U of I Civics Class-One time

Junior League Festival of Trees Sponsorship-Yearly

STEER PLACE-In Collaboration with Urbana Park District

Picnic/BBQs-Yearly

Monthly Socials- (including providing any resources they need)

Wisdom Tree-Yearly- (begins September)

Christmas Party-Yearly

Miscellaneous Events as we see the need

COVID PROJECTS

Heart Hunter Kits (people put these up in their windows for people to "find" on walks)

Mask Distribution

Updated covid information

Monthly newsletter

 Culture of the month

 Recipe from the culture and food provided

Monthly Food Distribution to 150 Families

Halloween Party in a Bag

Meet Your Favorites Superhero

Adopt a Family for Halloween

Thanksgiving Meal

Christmas Presents and Food

Silverwood Community News

News You Can Use

April 22, 2022

Volume 1 Issue 13

GIOVANNA'S CORNER: Notes from the Executive Director

I love talking with my kids, any kids. They have such insight into the world around us. In honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, I decided to talk to my kids. I wanted to hear what they thought about the world around them. The questions were simple and the answers, well they surprised me.

What are some differences between kids and adults?

Both girls – *"Kids are faster at running, they are superfast!"*

Iva – *"Kids do not like the same things as adults--like tomatoes."*

Lilli – *"Kids are smarter"*

I objected her response to which she replied, *"Hey, you don't know multiplication!"*

In my defense I am old!

What are ways adults and kids are the same?

Iva – *"Everyone likes diamonds."*

Lilli – *"I would be dressed up in diamonds, I would have dress sleeves and all covered in diamonds!"*

Iva – *"Like to spend time with family."*

Lilli – *"Play cards, build things."*

Iva – *"Sing to Police music (the 80's rock group)."*

If you could tell adults one thing you think they should know about being a kid, what would it be?

Lilli – *"It's fun."*

Iva – *"Kids help each other."*

Their answers were so simple, so innocent, and so truthful I stopped and asked myself a question. What do children teach adults? They teach us how to listen, how to be giving, how to have fun and how to love.

For all the kids who will never and all the kids who never will get the chance to teach us, this month is for you.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Most kids love uncrustables, but let's face it they are expensive and if your child have allergies, they are not even an option. This is a cheaper way to do them all the

while enjoying some time together. Have fun, get creative and make some memories.

Ingredients:

Peanut butter or equivalent

Favorite jelly, honey, let them choose

Loaf of bread

Cookie cutters

Fork

Zip lock bags

Spread the peanut butter and jelly as if making a sandwich

Use a cookie cutter to cut through the bread (if you don't have a cookie cutter use a glass)

Use a fork to seal the edges

Place in individual bags and place in fridge

Place crusts in a plastic zip lock bag



Community Updates:

Eastern Illinois Food Bank: As you may have read from last month, we received our partnership with the Eastern Illinois Food Bank (EIFB). With this partnership, we may be asking for information from in order for us to continue receiving more food from them cheaper. Our volunteers will be asking information such as ages of people receiving food, demographic info, & phone or email address. Please cooperate with our workers in gathering this information so we can continue to provide our community more food.

Silverwood Community News

News You Can Use

April 22, 2022

Volume 1 Issue 13

Coming up: FUN, FUN, FUN



As things slowly get back to normal, plans are starting for our annual **Ice Cream Social (Sunday, June 5th)** and **Block Party (Saturday, July 30th)**.

These fun events are in the planning stages, and we need YOU! Let us know your ideas and we would love you to get involved! The to get involved reach out to us at silverwood451@gmail.com or 217-418-3313.

Saturday, May 21

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Cherry Alley outside the Urbana Public Library

Adventure and excitement await!

Fairy tale lovers of all ages are invited to enjoy stories, crafts, games, and entertainment. Don your shiny suit of armor or sparkly ball gown, or dress like your favorite fairy tale character, and join us for an event of fantasy and frivolity.

The Fourteenth Annual Fairy Tale Ball is generously sponsored by Fred Schlipf and Diane Hillard.

For more info:

<https://urbanafreelibrary.libnet.info/event/6404924>

SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

E-Mail: silverhearts451@gmail.com

Phone: 217.418.3313

Follow Silver Hearts on Facebook

A SILVERWOOD SUCCESS STORY-JANELLE ROGERS

I met Janelle within a few days of moving to Silver/Vawter. We instantly bonded over the girls, well Lilli mostly (ask Lilli sometime about Aunt Janelle's walks to school). At the time she was living with a roommate across the street from me on Silver St. To say it was not ideal or safe would be an understatement. Like so many people she was an addict as were a lot of my neighbors and her roommate. She wanted so badly to move out and get clean. Eventually she was able to move into an apartment across the parking lot and it worked for a while till the dealers would find her and leave "free" stuff for her and eventually she relapsed. She just wanted the pain to go away.

Over the years Janelle was in and out of recovery, not able to reach out to deal with the pain of her childhood. Thankfully most of the time she would call me for help and then pass out. At one point she overdosed, she opened her door and called me and by the time I got there (I was living on Vawter at the time) she was unconscious. They said she was lucky to be alive given what and how much she took. She doesn't remember any of this.

How is this a success story your wondering? Janelle gravitated and involved herself with this little group having Sunday cookouts, prayer meetings and giving ideas of what we could do to make things better and hanging with her favorite niece. She helped serve ice cream, run games and watched the girls during block parties so I could run the event. She was not shy about canvassing around the neighborhood and she stopped people on Sundays when they were walking by and invited them to sit with us and chat. For the first time in her life, she was seen for the beautiful woman she was. She shared with me one time that she was so grateful because God showed her unconditional love through us something she had never experienced.

Eventually ,about 4 years ago, Janelle was able to move out and cut ties with that part of her life. Sadly the years of drug abuse took their toll on her body and throughout the last 2 years she made peace with her demons. She lived a life full of joy, laughter, giggles and tears. She spoiled the kids in her life (there are many) much to our objections.

Her faith to God grew stronger and she attended church on a regular basis. She prayed with people and shared her journey to help others despite how hard it was to visit those places in her mind. In one of many talks over the years she shared that the work in Silverwood saved her life. It gave her purpose in those dark days of addiction; it gave her self-worth and something to hold onto. That is why Jannelle Rogers is a success story.

Sadley on Thursday, September 19, 2024 we lost her. She passed away without a drug in her system. She made it to the arms of our God! In the days following her death as her friend followed the directions as to who things went to, it came as no surprise that a large briefcase full of devotionals etc. was left for us, wall hangings to remind the girls she is always with them. She left Lilli and Iva a letter with some Aunty advice. I was gifted with her writings, poems of her life's struggles and successes with these she left all of us and generations to come a legacy of how just a few people in one of the worst areas of Urbana can change someone's life.

9-19-23

At some point and time in my life, my moral compass was severely damaged. I wandered this earth trying to fulfill a need in me with anger, hate, unforgiveness, sex, alcohol, and drugs.

Upon giving my heart Lord, slowly little by little, Jesus has ~~put~~ polished me. Unlike the rotten apple I had become, Christ has polished me up so now, I'm the apple of my Father's eye.

All my life people tried to manipulate and control me to get me to behave in what they thought was the appropriate behavior.

Not one of them had it right!

I simply needed to surrender to the One who truly loves me; Jesus. He grew me up and adjusted my moral compass, pointing it to heaven.

Thank you Jesus, for good times, bad times, and all those in between.

2-15/23

Heal trauma

Find freedom

Become whole again.

That emptiness

It can be filled

With such peace

Beyond your imagination.

Walk in a new way.

See life through eyes

As if it were all new.

Colors become more vibrant.

The birds singing

Is no longer annoying,

But bring comfort

Knowing there is a presence

Bigger than all of us

That has been there with us

All along.

And now is shining a light

To a path beyond our scope of understanding.