COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Monday, July 24, 2023

TIME: 7:00 pm

PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, July 24, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk; CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey*, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Grace Wilken, CM Chaundra Bishop *Denotes present after roll

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu, CM James Quisenberry

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner, Elizabeth Hannan, Alyana Robinson, Kimberly Smith, Darrius White, Stepheny McMahon, Kevin Garcia, Breaden Belcher, Tim Cowan, Scott Tess

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Cartwright, Executive Director CU at Home;

Chair: Jaya Kolisetty, Ward 4

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Kolisetty called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

05-01-2023 Public Hearing and 05-01-2023 Meeting Minutes Motion to approve by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Evans.

Voice vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

Marlin shared that the Use of Force report will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

4. Public Input and Presentations

a. Public Input

Rich Castle expressed a desire for more information to be provided to the residents before the homeless shelter is approved. **Rashad Basheer** spoke in support of the Hope Village development. **Commissioner Turnbill** spoke in support of the Hope Village development. **Jennifer Puttman** provided reassurance about the Hope Village development and encouraged the Council to approve it. **Allan Max Axelrod** spoke about a disconnect in the communication between residents and project partners on the Hope Village development. **Jonah** expressed concerns about the pending men's homeless shelter in the neighborhood.

Association in opposition to the Hope Village development and also voiced her own concerns and opposition to the Hope Village development. Kayla Johnson the director of Hospice Hearts expressed concerns about safety of their volunteers being in proximity to the proposed men's shelter. Anna asked that the neighborhood surrounding the men's shelter be consulted further about this proposal. Jackelyn Curry shared a correction to the plan commission meeting minutes. *David Perron* a volunteer with hospice hearts shared his concerns about the proximity of the men's shelter to the animal shelter. Serenity expressed that gun violence needs to be addressed. *Lisa Gigots* spoke in support of the Hope Village development and provided clarity about the intended purpose of the project. CM Evans read a letter of support for Hope Village and the proposed Men's Shelter from Danielle Chynoweth. CM Evans read a letter written by Bridget Pieke the owner of Close Knit yarn shop, in opposition to the Men's Shelter. CM Evans read a letter asking the Council to take more time before deciding on the Men's Shelter by Julie Latt. CM Hursey read a letter from Rev. Dr. Ricky E Parks in support of the Hope Village development. CM Evans read a letter on behalf of Charlette P expressing concerns about the proximity of the proposed men's shelter to the existing animal rescue. CM Wilken read a letter on behalf of Claudia Lenhoff in support of the Hope Village development. CM Wilken read on behalf of Wanda E Ward in support of the Hope Village development. CM Evans read a letter on behalf of Katie Reetz expressing concerns and opposing the proposed men's shelter. CM Evans read a letter on behalf of Nikki Gentry expressing concerns about the proposed men's shelter. Sarah Nixon spoke in support of the men's shelter proposal and addressed some of the sentiments expressed by other speakers. Mayor Marlin read a letter on behalf of Mohamad the owner of the World Market and Strawberry Fields Café in support of the Hotel Royer agreement. Mayor Marlin read a letter on behalf of Darren Riggs in support of the Hotel Royer agreement. Darlene Bailey expressed concerns about the infrastructure in the neighborhood surrounding the Hope Village development.

Elderess Melinda Carr read a letter from the president of the Carver Park Neighborhood

b. Proclamation in Memory of Kristian "KP" Philpotts

Mayor Marlin read a joint proclamation with the cities of Champaign, Urbana, Bloomington, Charleston, and Normal in memory of Kristian "KP" Philpotts in recognition of his 30th birthday.

c. Presentation: Public Realm Summer Activation

Presented by Steph McMahon the economic development director. McMahon shared staff efforts towards better utilization of downtown spaces such as a downtown stage for performances, increasing the benches downtown, increasing the number of the Curbanas, custom built picnic tables, durable outdoor games, new light post banners, and an asphalt mural. Questions and discussion ensued.

d. Presentation: Use of Force Report - PD

Moved to future meeting, see additions to the agenda.

5. Staff Report

Mayor Marlin reminded the public about the oath of office for the newly hired Police Chief next Monday.

6. New Business

a. Ordinance No. 2023-07-021: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #9 - Omnibus) - HRF

Presented by Alyana Robinson the financial analyst and Elizabeth Hannan the Human Resources and Finance Director. Item revises the annual budget for FY 2023 to reflect previously encumbered funds based on incorrect estimates including the City facilities remodel and the ILEAS project. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Hursey. Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

 Resolution No. 2023-07-074R: A Resolution Authorizing City Intervention in Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeals Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Hampton Inn, PTAB Docket #2022-02633) - Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten the City Administrator. Items authorize the City to appeal the assessed value of properties that exceed a difference of \$100,000.

Motion to combine items B-D in an omnibus by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Bishop. Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

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

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

c. Resolution No. 2023-07-075R: A Resolution Authorizing City Intervention in Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeals Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Hunsinger Enterprises, PTAB Docket #2022-02834) - Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten the City Administrator. Items authorize the City to appeal the assessed value of properties that exceed a difference of \$100,000. Approved in omnibus.

d. Resolution No. 2023-07-076R: A Resolution Authorizing City Intervention in Pending Property Tax Assessment Appeals Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (Willowbrook, PTAB Docket #2022-02875) - Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten the City Administrator. Items authorize the City to appeal the assessed value of properties that exceed a difference of \$100,000. Approved in omnibus.

e. Resolution No. 2023-07-077R: A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement (C-U at Home, LLC – Men's Non-Congregate Mid-Barrier Shelter HOME ARP FY 2021/2022) - CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher the interim grants manager. Item authorizes a grant agreement between the City and CU at Home to utilize HOME ARP funds to purchase the property to be utilized as a transitional mid-barrier shelter to house 8 clients. Questions and discussion ensued. Melissa Cartwright the executive director of CU at Home assisted in responding to questions.

Motion to keep in Committee of the Whole for further discussion by CM Evans and seconded by CM Wilken.

Vote by roll call: **AYE:** Evans

NAY: Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

Motion failed.

Motion to approve and send to the regular agenda by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

f. Ordinance No. 2023-07-022: An Ordinance Amending a Redevelopment Agreement with Icon Hospitality, LLC – CD

Presented by Steph McMahon the economic development coordinator with support from the Hotel Royer leadership team. Due to the unforeseen issues with supply chain disruptions the team is requesting an extension to ensure the project is fully completed in line with the agreement. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to send to the regular agenda by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Hursey. Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Wilken

NAY: Bishop

g. Ordinance No. 2023-07-023: An Ordinance Approving a Preliminary Planned Unit Development (Hope Village - Plan Case 2476-PUD-23) – CD

Presented by Kevin Garcia the planner. Item authorizes the preliminary planned residential unit development of Hope Village in collaboration with the University of Illinois, Carle Health, and Champaign County Healthcare Consumers. Plan commission voted to send unanimously to Council with conditions. Garcia shared the location map and site plan. Garcia shared a tentative timeline. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to send to the regular agenda by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Evans.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: Hursey

*CM Hursey left the meeting.

7. Discussion

a. Single-Use Bag Tax

Presented by Tim Cowan the Public Works Director and Scott Tess the Sustainability and Resiliency Officer. Mitten provided an overview of the staff projects that in the pursuit of implementing a single-use bag tax the city would have to put less time towards other programs. Tess shared information about the current efforts towards climate action and expressed that there is not currently additional staff time to put towards new projects without sacrificing other projects. Questions and discussion ensued. Council directed staff to provide information about what needs to be done in order to accommodate this for a future budget.

8. Council Input and Communications

None.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Bishop adjourned the meeting at 10:56 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable on-demand HERE. Minutes approved: 11-06-2023



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

July 21, 2023

Dear Urbana City Council Members:

Please read this letter into the record for public input at the Urbana City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, July 24, at 7:00 PM since I am unable to attend the meeting in person.

As the Executive Associate Chancellor for Public Engagement at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, I am pleased to enthusiastically support the Hope Village small homes community and coordinated care for medically fragile, chronically homeless individuals in the Champaign-Urbana area. Hope Village is a joint effort between Champaign County Health Care Consumers, Carle Foundation, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign aiming to provide housing solutions and intensive case management for the "hard to house" homeless population. The Hope Village effort has received notable approval and support from campus leadership, including Chancellor Robert Jones.

As part of our land-grant mission, the University of Illinois is proud to engage in education with community impact. Hope Village infrastructure and operational plans align with our educational efforts across campus, including the Grainger College of Engineering, School of Architecture in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Social Work, Carle Illinois College of Medicine, and the Siebel Center for Design. Through the Hope Village partnership, the University of Illinois will support active translational research for improved health outcomes and community sustainability. Building on the world-class research on our campus, our faculty will support Hope Village through innovative site planning and layout, trauma-informed housing solutions, and infrastructure design for sustainability. Hope Village presents many opportunities for Illinois research-in-action to make a positive difference in the community.

Finally, the Hope Village partnership enables authentic student engagement in the Champaign-Urbana community. We are training the leaders of tomorrow, yet our students are already leaders in campus efforts that design and build innovative housing, improve local sustainability, and build community. Through Illinois efforts with community-engaged scholars, our students can actively engage in the innovative and transformative approach of Hope Village.

The University of Illinois is pleased to fully support the Hope Village effort.

Sincerely,

Wanda E. Ward, Ph.D.

Manda March

Executive Associate Chancellor for Public Engagement

From: Charlotte Prieu

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:57 PM

To: !City Council

Subject: Public input - July 24 All-men shelter on 410 W Springfield

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the Urbana City Council,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plan to open an all-men shelter at 410 W Springfield avenue. I deeply believe in the importance of providing support and assistance to those in need. However, we must carefully consider the potential impact such a facility might have on the safety and well-being of our community members. I am sending this email as the former tenant of the neighboring house at 102 N McCullough st, the same house where I also was a volunteer for Hospice Hearts Animal Rescue.

Let me begin by emphasizing that I fully support efforts to address homelessness and provide a safe haven for individuals facing difficult circumstances. Urbana-Champaign is in dire need to get more resources for this issue. However, the proximity of the all-men shelter to an animal rescue for which most volunteers are women brings up certain safety concerns that we cannot ignore.

The volunteers at the animal rescue dedicate their time and efforts to providing care and shelter for vulnerable animals, and it is essential that they feel safe and secure in their environment. Opening an all-men shelter nearby may introduce unknown elements and dynamics that could potentially compromise the safety of the volunteers and potential future tenants at the house.

Safety is paramount in any community, and the presence of an all-men shelter in the neighborhood must be thoroughly considered. I believe it is crucial to engage in open dialogue and collaborative discussions with relevant stakeholders, including residents, local law enforcement, and community organizations, to address these concerns and develop appropriate solutions.

Before moving forward with the establishment of the all-men shelter, I urge you to conduct a comprehensive safety assessment, considering the potential risks and implementing measures to ensure the security of the surrounding areas.

Moreover, I encourage the organizers of the all-men shelter to engage in community outreach to address the concerns and doubts of local residents. Openly communicating the shelter's goals, management, safety protocols, and commitment to being a responsible and contributing member of the community can help build understanding and support.

In conclusion, I kindly request that the relevant authorities take these concerns seriously and thoroughly assess the potential impact of the all-men shelter on our neighborhood and the volunteers at the animal rescue. By working together and addressing these concerns proactively, we can foster a safe and supportive community for everyone involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing about the steps taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Prieu

From: Nikki > Monday, July 24, 2023 2:48 PM

To: !City Council

Subject: Public Input Committee of the Whole Meeting 7/24/2023

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of Urbana City Council,

I hope this email finds you in good spirits and health. My name is Nikki Gentry and I reside on the 500 block of W. Stoughton. St. I am writing to you today with utmost respect and compassion to express my concerns about the proposal to open the new men's mid-barrier shelter at 410 W. Springfield Avenue.

Let me begin by saying that I understand the importance of addressing homelessness and providing support to those in need in our community. I firmly believe that we, as a compassionate society should strive to create solutions that cater to the well-being and dignity of all of our fellow citizens. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires holistic and thoughtful approaches, and I sincerely commend the city of Urbana's efforts to find ways to assist those in vulnerable situations.

However, as a directly affected resident, I urge you to consider the potential impacts of the proposed homeless shelter in our neighborhood. While I wholeheartedly support the idea of offering aid to the homeless, I believe it is equally crucial to ensure transparency and engage in meaningful dialogue with the residents who will be directly impacted by this decision.

Before moving forward with the approval of the project, I kindly ask that you hold off on making a decision until residents like myself have had the opportunity to voice our concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding the proposal. A community thrives when all members actively participate in shaping its future, and I feel it is essential for us to be heard and considered in matters that significantly affect our living environment.

Some of the concerns I have include:

- 1. Safety and Security: I understand that shelters are operated with the best intentions, it is essential to have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure the safety of both shelter residents and the surrounding community.
- 2. Services and Support: I would appreciate more information on the support and resources that will be provided to the individuals in the shelter to help them reintegrate into society and access stable housing in the long term.
- 3. Transparency and Communication: I ask for a commitment to open communication channels between the city council and residents to address ongoing concerns and feedback as the project develops.

By allowing Urbana residents to participate in the decision-making process, we can collaborate to find a solution that benefits both the homeless population and the existing neighborhood community. I kindly request that you consider this compassionate appeal to hold off on approving the homeless shelter proposal until we, the residents, have had the opportunity to engage with the city council and provide our insights and questions.

Thank you for your time and understanding. I look forward to your response and the possibility of working together to ensure the best possible outcome for everyone involved.

Sincerely, Nikki Gentry

From: Brigitte Pieke

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:22 PM **To:** !City Council; Brigitte Pieke

Subject: Men's Homeless Shelter / Resolution No. 2023-07-077R: to be discussed today July 24, 2023

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi,

I am the owner of "Klose Knit", a yarn shop on 311 W. Springfield Ave. in Urbana. I heard from Anna Gutsch, that the city is discussing the Men's Homeless Shelter on 410 W. Springfield Ave. I am not in favor of this plan, because they will make the situation in this corner of the Springfield Ave more difficult. There are a lot of people with children

in the neighborhood: there is the Philipps Center from the Park District, which has a number of children in their

programs.

I understand that you need a place for those men. But it would **not** be nice to have them in the house on 410 W. Springfield in Urbana.

Thank you. Brigitte Pieke

side

Brigitte Pieke Klose Knit, Urbana

From: Claudia Lennhoff

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:28 PM

To: !City Council; !City Clerk

Subject: Please read these comments into the record tonight

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

*** Please read these comments into the record tonight.***

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonight's meeting in person, but I wanted to share some information with you regarding the Hope Village project, which is on your agenda tonight for approval of the Preliminary Planned Unit Development.

I have provided Kevin Garcia with a document that details our outreach efforts to the adjacent neighborhoods regarding Hope Village.

In summary of those efforts, we have held two neighborhood meetings. One meeting was at Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, which is north of Bradley Avenue and adjacent to the location of Hope Village.

The other meeting was at New Free Will Baptist Church, which is near Douglass Park, and south of Bradley Avenue.

CCHCC staff spent over 40 hours in these neighborhoods doing lit drops, engaging residents, and inviting residents to these meetings.

Most residents we encountered were very supportive. Their main concern was whether any homes or building will be torn down in order to build Hope Village. We informed them than none will be torn down, and that Hope Village will be located in the field north of their neighborhoods.

The document I provided to Kevin Garcia also addresses the various concerns that came up at the meetings at the churches, as well as some that were expressed at the Plan Commission meeting.

Ironically, one of the concerns of a few neighborhood residents was about whether the neighborhood would be "overrun" by new people. I say "ironically", because the property were Hope Village will be located is zoned in such a way that a developer could purchase that property and build very large apartment buildings that would greatly impact the neighborhood in many deleterious ways, including significant increases in traffic and noise - yet, they would not be required to seek approval for a Planned Unit Development.

We are seeking to build 30 small permanent homes on foundations, unattached to one another, as well as a community center. But, because the homes will be unattached, we must seek PUD approval.

We are very excited about moving forward with Hope Village. Right now, there are many community members who are homeless and medically-fragile and who are in desperate need of permanent supportive housing, which Hope Village will provide. This project was created in response to a serious gap in our homeless housing system, which affects the most vulnerable homeless individuals.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director Champaign County Health Care Consumers

Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director
Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC)
enampaign county Health Care consumers (correct)
Mah, http://www.hoolth.coroonsumors.org
Web: http://www.healthcareconsumers.org

Sincerely,

From: Katie Garrett Reetz <

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:06 PM

To: !City Council

Subject: PUBLIC INPUT/JULY 24th 2023

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Katie Reetz and I own a commercial and rental property at small business at that location. I would like to voice my concern for adding a mid-barrier mens shelter in our area and neighborhood. I think it is very important to have public input before voting on this matter. We have 25 women working in our business a few blocks from this proposed location and the safety in the area is already a concern. Please hear from the community on this. Thank you

Katie Reetz

Owner of Timothy John Salon and Spa

From: Mark Tomory

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:17 PM

To: !City Council

Subject: Public Comment July 24

*** Email From An External Source ***

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Dear Sirs and Madames of the Council,

Please do not locate a low-capacity homeless shelter near downtown. It would be a terrible location both for the residents to be housed and for the others who frequent this popular area.

I have two reasons for saying this:

- 1. A house in even a moderately expensive area just does not make sense. As sited, the capital would buy space enough to house only eight residents, and it would house them close to restaurants where they can't afford to eat and stores where they can't afford to shop. There are parts of Urbana where a similar capital would buy twice the capacity and put the residents within walking distance of discount stores and potential employment.
- 2. People, especially women, who live, work, dine, and shop downtown and in the nearby neighborhoods will not feel safe after dark with a men's shelter nearby. I know several women who work in the area who have said that they would no longer be willing to be there after dark if the shelter were to open. They are kindhearted people who genuinely support measures to help the unhoused; however, they are at the same time themselves members of a vulnerable demographic who deserve to feel safe, and it is the Council's responsibility to provide that sense of safety. The same applies to customers and diners of the shops and establishments in and near downtown, not to mention the employees and owners.

Please reconsider the city's ill-advised plan.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Mark Tomory Ward 4, Urbana

From: Kateryna Silvestro

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 12:24 AM

To: !City Council

Subject: Public Comment July 24

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I could not make it in time to participate in the meeting on July 24th so I decided to voice my opinion in writing.

A part of the meeting was expected to be devoted to a discussion of a possibility of purchase of a property on 410 W Springfield Ave. for use as a men's shelter .

All things considered, it does not look like a good idea to me and I would oppose this project.

First and foremost, as much as I like an idea to help those in need, it looks counterproductive to pay a premium price for a downtown property when similar size property farther away, on a bus line, will cost less. To support my argument I looked up what's available on the market and found this house which looks like a much better deal for the purpose: https://www.remax.com/il/champaign/home-details/1308-w-clark-st-champaign-il-61821/1326125898540149871/M00000243/11767579 It has 6 bedrooms and 3 baths and the cost is way lower which would leave some funds for the repairs if necessary. Here's another property which has eight bedrooms and three baths, and the price is very reasonable: https://www.remax.com/il/urbana/home-details/709-w-california-ave-urbana-il-61801/1350567293720662661/M00000243/11825660 Those are just the examples; there are other options that will work better for the purpose.

Second listing above brings me to my second point - the idea of housing eight unrelated men, who are going through some significant life changes, in five rooms. To add to it, the number of bathrooms looks inadequate for the number of planned inhabitants. It sounds like a problem in the making.

Maybe, a few smaller properties will be an answer? They will be cheaper and will end up housing more people in need. I did look up some smaller houses (3-5 bedrooms) and there are options around \$100k or less but they'll end up having more space for the price - a win-win.

Please, reconsider this idea; it does not look good any way I look at it.

Sincerely,

Kateryna Silvestro

(Ward 4, Urbana)