

CITY OF URBANA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Monday, June 14, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: *Held virtually due to Governor's and Mayoral Emergency Orders

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, June 14, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: City Council Members (CM) Chris Evans, Grace Wilken, Chaundra Bishop, Shirese Hursey, Jaya Kolisetty, James Quisenberry, Maryalice Wu

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jason Liggett, Carol Mitten, Darcy Sandefur, Liz Borman, Dave Wesner, Chuck Lauss, Demond Dade, Elizabeth Hannan, Mrcus Ricci, Lorrie Pearson, Shannon Beranek, Tim Cowan, Steve Doggett, Bryant Seraphin, Kevin Garcia, Kat Trotter, Will Kolschowski

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Rev. Dr. Evelyn B. Underwood, Eddie Pratt Jr., Tracy Chong, Allan Max Axelrod, Banca Nelson, Julie Watkins, Beau Barber, Sarah Nixon, Brandi McCoy

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

With a quorum virtually present, Mayor Marlin called the virtual meeting of the city council to order at 7:16 PM

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

CM Hursey moved to approve the minute of the May 24, 2021 meeting, CM Kolisetty seconded. The minutes were approved as corrected by roll call vote as follows:

Voting Aye: Bishop, Quisenberry, Kolisetty, Wilken, Evans, Wu, Hursey

The following correction shall be made, CM Wilken's name does not have an "s" at the end.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Marlin asked that the Mayoral appointments be removed from the agenda for tonight and are moved to the June 28th meeting in order to allow for further information provided to council regarding staff reappointments.

D. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC INPUT

1. City Workforce Diversity

Elizabeth Hannan presented on the statistics regarding city staff demographics. She shared graphics that summarized the composition of city staff by gender, race, age, and residency. Moving forward the city will work to increase diversity over the next few years with the new Director of Diversity.

Questions and discussion ensued.

2. Public Input

Evelyn B Underwood wishes to receive agendas in the future. Wants to see more of the City Staff hired from the residents of Urbana. *Eddie Pratt Jr* was unable to participate in public comment via zoom and was encouraged to email his public comment to the council. *Tracy Chong* expressed concerns about the reappointment of Police Chief Seraphin and encouraged the council to review previous public input objecting to this reappointment. *Allan Max Axelrod* spoke in support of the importance of educational programs for low income families and the need to end veteran homelessness. *Bianca Neban* spoke in support of the SWFT program and how investing in education helps the community. *Brandi McCoy* spoke in support of the SWFT program. *Julie Watkins* expressed concerns about a lack of response to the public input at the CPRB. Expressed hopes that the Township Property acquisition tensions can be resolved. *Beau Barber* wanted to echo support for the SWFT program and discussed how programs like SWFT have helped people he knows. *Sarah Nixon* expressed concerns about the reappointments for police staff and objected to them.

E. COUNCIL INPUT AND COMMUNICATIONS

CM Kolisetty wanted to clarify that previous conversations have been about appointments but that council only had access to the list of appointments as of Thursday of last week. Praised the city of Urbana for its uniqueness and looks forward to having conversations about these appointments with additional information. *CM Hursey* brought and spoke in support of the previous public comments about implementing additional street lights and cameras in neighborhoods to reduce violence. *CM Quisenberry* thanked public for public comment and discussed how great the Silverwood neighborhood celebration had been. Supports the continued review of higher level staff reappointments but has concerns about lower level staff appointments. *CM Wilken* thanked the public for their input and the mayor for recognizing the council's need for additional time to review staff appointments. Asked about moving some appointments to civil service and for additional information regarding the appointment process. *CM Bishop* appreciated the work force diversity presentation and echoed the public comment about the importance of a culture shift when working towards increasing diversity. *CM Evans* echoed other council members' requests for additional information regarding staff reappointments and provided specificities. *CM Wu* wants to encourage the council to be open to many solutions to community violence.

Mayor Marlin clarified that council previously received a draft version of the list of potential appointments in May and that based off of feedback from that.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Of The Whole (*Council Member Shirese Hursey*)

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Ordinance No. 2021-06-019:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (Europa House, 802 West Oregon Street / Plan Case No. 2420-M-21) – CD
 CM Hursey motioned for approval and CM Wu seconded. Approval by roll call vote as follows:
 AYE: Quisenberry, Bishop, Wu, Kolisetty, Wilken, Evans, Hursey
 NAY: None

2. REGULAR AGENDA

H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

I. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

None

J. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Ordinance No. 2021-06-020:** An Ordinance Approving a Major Variance (Garage at 213 West Illinois Street / ZBA Case No. 2021-MAJ-02) – CD
Kat Trotter from CD presented with the applicant. Questions from council ensued.
 Motion from CM Hursey to approve. Seconded by Kolisetty.
 Further discussion ensued.
 AYE: Kolisetty, Hursey, Evans, Quisenberry, Bishop
 Nay: Wu, Wilken
- 2. Ordinance No. 2021-06-021:** An Ordinance Approving a Sign Variance at Lincoln Square – allow electronic sign to change every 60 seconds – CD
 Marcus Ricci presented with support of the owner James Webster
 CM Quisenberry motioned to approve. CM Bishop seconded.
 AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry
 NAY: None
- 3. Ordinance No. 2021-06-022:** An Ordinance Ratifying Emergency Order No. 21-01 Re-issuance of Emergency Order No. 20-05 Alcoholic Liquor – Cocktails “To Go” – Mayor
 Mayor Marlin presented. Questions from council and discussion ensued.
 Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Hursey.

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

NAY: None

4. Mayoral Staff Appointments FY22, Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Moved to June 28th 2021 council meeting agenda.

5. Board and Commission Appointments

Motion by CM Wilken to approve, seconded by CM Hursey.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Amendment to motion to exclude HRC board appointment by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Hursey

Board and Commission reappointments (minus HRC, Pete Resnick) vote by roll call:

Aye: Wu, Kolisetty, Evans, Quisenberry, Wilken, Bishop

Pete Resnick, HRC reappointment motioned by W and seconded by Hursey.

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

NAY: None

Abstain due to conflict of interest: Kolisetty

6. DISCUSSION

a. Budget and CIP follow-up

Admin Mitten lead discussion on budget and CIP with department heads available for questions. CM Wu asked specific questions regarding salary lines in legal and public works. CM Bishop asked specific questions about cars listed in the budget. CM Wilken asked about the police training budget line. CM Wu asked about other services for contractual services. CM Kolisetty asked about the specific budgetary issues regarding racism and police reform.

At 10:25 PM CM Wu Motioned to extend to 11:00 PM, CM Wilken seconded.

Voting Aye: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry. Voting Nay: None.

With no further business to come before this body, Mayor Marlin declared this virtual meeting adjourned at 10:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Sandefur
Darcy Sandefur

Approved: 06/28/2021

UNAPPROVED

Recording Secretary

This meeting was broadcast and recorded [HERE](#).