



DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 S. Vine St., Urbana, IL 61801 held virtually Zoom

The City Council of Urbana, Illinois, met in special session Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the Urbana City Building virtually via Zoom. All attendees were present virtually.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: None

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Maryalice Wu, Ward 1; Eric Jakobsson, Ward 2; Shirese Hursey, Ward 3; Bill Brown, Ward 4; Dennis Roberts, Ward 5; William Colbrook, Ward 6; Jared Miller, Ward 7; Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Charles A. Smyth, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, James Simon

OTHERS PRESENT: Ricky Baldwin, Jane McClintock, Danielle Chynoweth

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

There being a quorum, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the City Council to order at 6:01pm.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Marlin explained the procedures for public input for the meeting via email, phone, or Zoom.

Mayor Marlin then read a statement on the shooting on April 10, 2020 near Colorado Ave and Cottage Grove where Urbana Police took two individuals into custody. She noted the posting of a partial video of the interaction to social media. She stated that there are numerous videos from squad cars and body worn cameras that provide a full picture of the incident. She, City Administrator Carol Mitten, and Human Relations Officer Vacellia Clark, have reviewed several hours of video and noted questions from the public on the matter that will be answered through the course of the investigation. She has directed Chief Seraphin to conduct an expedited review of the use of force and report to the city council. Mayor Marlin noted 25,000 calls for service to the police department of which 100 to 150 are responding to shots fired. Each use of force is reviewed individually. Mayor Marlin also stated that materials would be released once possible while protecting the integrity of the pending criminal case. She referred to the press release and that a loaded gun ultimately was found but when police arrived on the scene, they learned that a bullet had gone through the window of a nearby apartment that was occupied at the time, but they did not know who was in possession of the weapon. Mayor Marlin reviewed the appeals aspect of Urbana's Civilian Police Review Board and procedures as well as described the interim departmental policy regarding use of PPE and changes that have since gone into effect. All patrol officers are now required to wear full PPE (N95 mask, gloves, and safety glasses) when they are outside their vehicles. She also noted the arrest of a resident for a murder on April 11. She noted that while the pandemic has swept away all semblance of normal routine, all the underlying challenges in our community remain, and indeed, they are made worse by heightened levels of stress and uncertainty. She finished by stating that the Urbana Police Department has long been known for its professionalism, training, and discipline. Department leadership has been pro-active in its reporting and investigation of the incident on April 10 and will be providing more information in the coming weeks.

Clerk Smyth read into the record a statement from Ricky Baldwin, Urbana: Mr. Baldwin stated that he appreciated this opportunity to address the council, at least virtually, in these troubling times. He spoke to the issue of the recent incident involving police treatment of an unarmed

woman and the posted video. He noted three items: Many are familiar with these investigations from the past and are not satisfied with the past; that the scope of such investigations are typically limited narrowly to the question of whether department policy or law was violated but expects more asking about why an apparently unarmed woman was subdued in the fashion as shown in the video; and described his desire that the Police Review Board conduct an investigation noting certain deficits in Board authority that he hopes council will address.

Jane McClintock stated that she was deeply disturbed by the aforementioned video. She also noted being disappointed in the Civilian Police Review Board. In particular she has concerns about the requirements of being an eyewitness. She also expressed her desire given the ongoing pandemic and the dangers of being in jail, that charges be dropped pending the full investigation.

Danielle Chynoweth, Urbana stated that she was one of the crafters of the Civilian Police Review Board ordinance but considers it broken including the lack of investigative and subpoena powers as well as the need to wait for an investigation to be over. She referred to the April 10 video and described what was recorded involving police officers and the woman arrested. She asked several questions: why weren't de-escalation tactics used, why did a police officer leave his post and approach her, why is acceptable to strike someone in the head and knee them to distract them, why wasn't the police officer in question put on administrative leave, and why is an investigation only now being announced.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 2020-04-024:** Reaffirmation of Ordinance No. 2020-03-015 and Reissuance of the Mayor's Authority to Issue Temporary Declaration of Emergency

Mayor Marlin introduced Ordinance 2020-04-024. City Attorney Jim Simon noted a revised version of the ordinance provided council. He provided the rationale for reaffirming the temporary emergency order to address the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Temporary Declaration of Emergency issued Marcy 16, 2020. He noted that state statute put a 30 day limit on emergency orders issued by mayors and though the City of Urbana has home rule authority, a conservative approach is to reauthorize the ordinance and reissue the emergency order for another 30 days.

CM Miller moved to approve Ordinance 2020-04-024, seconded by CM Colbrook. In response to CM Roberts, Mr. Simon clarified the various ways the order would expire. Council members directed the clerk to include a review of this ordinance on the May 18, 2020 Committee of the Whole agenda.

With no further discussion, the motion carried by roll call vote (7-0): Brown – Aye; Colbrook – Aye; Hursey – Aye; Jakobsson – Aye; Miller – Aye; Roberts – Aye; Wu – Aye.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Marlin declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

Charles A. Smyth
City Clerk

Materials and video for this meeting can be found at: <https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/8616>

Minutes approved: April 27, 2020