

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

President Paul called the City of Urbana Regular Session Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

City Staff attending: Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Director of Finance Chris Boettcher, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, and Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb

President Called Roll: Ms. Jumper, present; Mr. Scott, present; Ms. Truelove, present; Mr. Thackery, present; Mrs. Collier, present; and Mrs. Bean, present.

Annual Organizational Items

President Pro Tempore: Mr. Thackery made a motion for Mrs. Bean to serve as President Pro Tempore for the 2024 Council year. Mrs. Collier seconded.

Roll call on President Pro Tempore vote: Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes.

Mrs. Bean elected President Pro Tempore for 2024.

Council Clerk: Mr. Scott made a motion for Roger Steffan to continue serving as Council Clerk for the 2024 Council year. Mr. Thackery seconded.

Roll call on Council Clerk: Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; Ms. Jumper, yes; and Mr. Scott, yes.

Roger Steffan approved as Council Clerk for 2024.

Department Liaison Discussion:

President Paul asked Council if they would still like Department Liaisons or if there was another way Council would like to handle the issue.

Mr. Thackery asked if liaisons are needed. President Paul suggested same may be, but perhaps Council would like less departments.

Mr. Thackery asked about the purpose of liaisons. President Paul stated the original intent was to exchange information between Council and the City, but added that this does not necessarily happen very often. He added that if Council is sponsoring legislation, they should be aware of what the legislation is about.

Mrs. Bean stated she likes being the Planning Liaison. She stated her department always gives a heads up, and she feels more informed. She added that she doesn't necessarily report because Zoning and Compliance Officer Preston Carter usually reports.

Mr. Thackery stated he likes working with Community Development Manager Doug Crabill. He added he feels he should get on a regular schedule as he doesn't like his name associated with legislation that he hasn't seen.

Ms. Truelove stated she enjoys being associated with City Law Director Mark Feinstein and Council Clerk Roger Steffan in his role as Assistant Prosecutor. She stated she hasn't had regularly scheduled meeting.

President Paul asked if quarterly meetings were enough. Ms. Truelove answered quarterly meetings and as needed.

Mr. Scott stated he has the same problem as Mr. Thackery. He has meetings with City Engineer Tyler Bumbalough as necessary. He also added that if the City wants his name on legislation, they should give a heads up.

Ms. Jumper stated the Cemetery Board writes minutes that Council already sees in Communications. She suggested maybe Council could eliminate non-necessary liaisons. Ms. Jumper likes to stay in the loop for other groups as well.

President Paul then asked which departments need a liaison.

Mrs. Collier would like to keep the Safety Committee. She suggested the liaisons could do quarterly meetings unless a special event requires more frequency, like the eclipse.

President Paul added that it should be up to Council members how often to meet with their departments.

Mr. Thackery stated he does not wish to slow administration down, but he needs to know what's going on in the City.

President Paul then asked Council if they wished to table this issue until the next meeting. Council responded that they were ok with the division of the current liaisons and would organize how often to meet with their individual departments.

President Paul stated the Ohio Ethics Commission 2023 reports are due in the next couple weeks. He added that hopefully Council will see is a speeding up of things. He added that based on the way the Council rules are written, three reading ordinances can be declared to have had its first reading via the distribution of the packets. He added that Council also does not need to approve communications, as it can be done via a consent agenda. He added that the presumption of communications is that they have been read. Finally, he stated if a Council member wants to talk about a specific communication, he or she can make a motion with no second required to take it off the consent agenda and talk about it.

Mr. Feinstein stated these changes are not necessarily modifying the rules, solely utilizing the rules that are already in place.

President Paul added that he would like to add a small section to the agenda for President's comments. This would require Council's approval via legislation.

President Paul also added that he would like discussion to be more open as opposed to calling down the row. He hopes to get more ideas and more discussion.

President Paul also added that he would like all votes to be conducted by roll call. Finally, President Paul added that work sessions should be conducted on the same nights as Council meetings after the conclusion of business. He stated it does not seem worth it to come for a separate meeting. Notice would still require to be given, so the work session would have to be scheduled at least the meeting before.

Ms. Truelove stated that she has been in favor of giving the President of Council a more active role. President Paul stated that historically the role has been more as a facilitator, but adding a President's comments section would give him an opportunity to participate. Mr. Feinstein added that this would be something that would be need to happen legislatively.

Minutes

Mr. Thackery moved to put the minutes of December 19, 2023 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mr. Scott seconded.

Council Clerk Steffan explained a copy/paste misprint regarding vote abstentions that had already been corrected.

No further comments/questions from Council.

Voice vote on approval of the minutes: all ayes; nays, none.

Communications:

- 1. 2024 Local Government Officials Conference (E-mailed December 26, 2023)
- 2. Excellence in Financial Reporting award from Ohio Auditor of State (See Attached)

Mr. Thackery moved to approve the communications via consent agenda. Mrs. Bean seconded.

Voice vote approval of consent agenda: all ayes; nays none.

Mrs. Bean removed the Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the consent agenda briefly to say that the award was awesome and it happens pretty much every year. She offered congratulations to Ms. Boettcher and the Finance Department.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control:

- 1. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize the blanket purchase order list for 2024 (see attached). All blanket purchase order amounts are in the 2024 budget. **VOTE: 3-0.**

Mr. Thackery moved to put this request on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mrs. Collier seconded.

Ms. Boettcher stated this was pretty straight forward. She added that the same vendors were approved last year at this time.

No comments/questions from Council.

Voice vote on approval; all ayes, nays none.

Citizen Comments: None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading:

Ordinance 4388-24: An ordinance authorizing the Indigent Defense Agreement with the Champaign County Commissioners to allow the City and County to receive partial reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender Commission for the indigent expenses in the Champaign County Municipal Court. (Three readings required)

Mrs. Bean moved to put this ordinance on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Mr. Scott seconded.

Mr. Feinstein stated this was a housekeeping ordinance to allow the agreement with the County Commissioners to provide attorneys to indigent defendants for jailable offenses.

No comments/questions from Council.

Roll call on passage: Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; and Ms. Truelove, yes.

Ordinance passes, 6-0.

Second Reading: None

First Reading: None

Department Liaison Reports: None

Miscellaneous Business:

Chief Ortlieb stated there would be a Safety Committee meeting next week. He added that on Thursday morning, that Southwest district will have a meeting regarding the eclipse, and he is looking forward to bringing back information to the Safety Committee.

Ms. Boettcher stated that notice to residents about the change to RITA went in the mail with the utility bills this month. She added that RITA will be doing a mass mailing as well and everything is still on track to go live on February 1st.

Mr. Brugger stated that the new airport manager, Drake Huffman, is starting on January 16th. He is moving back to the area from Pittsburgh, where he had been working with the Allegheny regional airport.

Mayor Bean thanked Ms. Boettcher for all her hard work, stating it makes the City look good.

President Paul spoke as to the scheduled Executive Session. Mr. Thackery moved to enter into Executive Session. Mrs. Bean seconded.

Roll call on entering Executive Session: Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; and Mr. Thackery, yes.

Passed by vote of 6-0. Adjourned to Executive Session at 7:08 pm.

Mr. Thackery moved to reconvene the regular session. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Roll call on reconvening: Mrs. Bean, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; and Mrs. Collier, yes.

Passed by vote of 6-0. Regular meeting reconvened at 6:47 pm.

Mr. Thackery moved to adjourn. Ms. Jumper seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays none. Motion passes 6-0.

ADJOURNED AT 6:47 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

January 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.





Council Clerk



Council President