

Urbana City Council
Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

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

City Staff attending: Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Director of Finance Chris Boettcher, Chief Ortlieb (UFD).

President Called Roll: Mr. Fields, present; Mr. Hoffman, absent; Mr. Paul, present; Mr. Scott, present; Mr. Thackery, present; Mrs. Collier, present.

Minutes

Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2021.

Not provided yet by Substitute Clerk, Mr. Paul

Communications

Mr. Thackery moved to put said communications on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mr. Fields seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none.

1. Champaign Economic Partnership CEP 3rd quarter newsletter (see attached)

Motion passed 5-0

Board of Control

None provided

Citizen Comments

None

Ordinances and Resolutions

First Reading:

Ordinance 4391-21:

An ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Urbana, Ohio and the City of Urbana Services Divisions Public Employees of Ohio Teamsters, Local Union No. 284, and declaring an emergency. (Requires three readings)

Mr. Brugger states that only certain sections of the existing agreement were opened for negotiations. Two negotiations sessions were held between the city and the union where 6 articles were discussed. Changes are listed in the provided documentation. Changes in article 17 affecting salaries at levels 20-24 increase to keep those positions competitive in the marketplace. Compensation increases were added for additional trainings completed, provided they apply to their jobs. Article 18 added Juneteenth as an official city paid holiday and removed the floating birthday holiday. Article 23 altered work hours based on seasonal variations, for example later sunrise during Fall and tying work hours to sun hours. Result will be a more practical schedule. Compensation hours were increased from 120 to 160 and the agreement provided a more structured compensation time program. Article 24 increased the opt-out payment program for employees to not take city health insurance to \$5000. Article 27 defined this agreement as a three year term expiring November 26, 2024.

Mr. Thackery thanked Administration for their efforts and he appreciated the executive summary pointing to articles that were changed.

Mrs. Collier asked for a definition of what the opt-out payment was. Mr. Brugger responded that it is a payment to employees who opt-out of city health insurance.

Mr. Paul inquired about what the prior compensation time bank level was. Mrs. Boettcher responded that the former level was 120 hours.

Mr. Scott moved to place this item on the floor for passage. Mr. Thackery seconded.

President Hess called for a roll call on passage: Mr. Paul, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes.

Ordinance passed 5-0

Resolution No. 2433-21

A resolution to appropriate money for the several projects and purposes which the City of Urbana, Ohio must provide for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2022. (Requires three readings)

Mrs. Boettcher described the process as the annual appropriation budget processes providing operating, improvements and debt service for city of Urbana. General Fund appropriations total \$7,322,510 with total city expenditures to total \$19,879,010 which includes all funds and accounts. Unappropriated funds for 2022 totals \$1,040. The Airport fund budget is negative but the amount will be made up by government & capital share funds for projects. The Cemetery Fund is still subsidized by the General Fund to the amount of \$80,000 for 2022. Police and Fire (fund 275) will show a shortfall of \$65,300 – this is the 4/10 fund. Neighborhood Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk fund is to receive \$700,000 to do the

very large \$680,000 project in 2022 near Washington Avenue. Recycling is money in, money out with a zero balance at the end of the year.

Council offered no questions.

Mr. Hess declared that Resolution 2433-21 had a first reading.

Second Reading:

None

Third Reading:

None

Committee Reports

None

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Paul introduced Justin Weller and Judy Richardson (Director of Operations) from the Urbana Youth Center. They provided an update on the status of the center which has just completed a \$280,000 where most funds came from the Ohio Mental Health & Addiction funding. They currently service about 500 students from grades 6-12. The state is pleased with their progress and they are hoping to help fund future expansion and the center received state approval for such. This is a \$1,500,000 project. This will double the size of the center and provide further services like an indoor gym, dormitory program (beds, laundry, showers), volunteer training. Current programming includes homework and study assistance, help with GED programs, providing meals, snacks, personal hygiene program, entertainment and "hang out" spaces. The center feeds about 80 students nightly and it is open every Tuesday and Thursdays. They are holding a Community Leader Open House on December 9. Their annual revenue requirement currently is about \$300,000 just to keep current services funded. Each \$1 returns \$3 to the community.

Mr. Thackery thanked Justin and Judy for their energy and the center.

Mr. Scott said that he liked the idea and it sounds great.

Mr. Fields mentioned that his grandson spends many hours at the center and really enjoys it there.

Mr. Paul asked about how many part-time adults work there. Mrs. Richardson responded that there are about 15 who provide various tasks from cleaning, cooking and being student companions.

Mr. Fields inquired as to when the leaf pickup program will end. Mr. Brugger responded that the program will run through early December as it looks like most of the leaves fell in the last week or so.

Mr. Thackery provided a breakdown of the Salary Commission recommendations to council and requested to have this item put on the agenda for the Dec 7th meeting for consideration. He mentioned that council should handle each item recommended separately.

Mrs. Collier said she got calls about the creek that feeds the pond at the park. A resident said that her dog drank from the creek and nearly died. She asked Mr. Brugger if the water is test and Mr. Brugger responded that he wasn't sure but would check on it. Mrs. Collier also commented on the Habitat house with the fence made of pallets and what can be done with that. Mr. Brugger commented that the fence was built prior to the most recent version of the ordinance affecting fencing but that there are other properties in the same situation. It will require some study and thought on how to proceed.

Chief Ortlieb mentioned that 1 of the 2 probationary firefighters has resigned. He is going to the Civil Service board to get another candidate. He also mentioned that the Youth Center is currently working towards a proper occupancy certificate and they are working with the building department. This could affect the fire code and possible violations.

Mr. Brugger mentioned that the leaf pickup program continues. Cemetery memorial trees and plants will be delivered tomorrow (November 17) and they should be in by Thanksgiving.

Mayor Bean mentioned that the Christmas Horse Parade is on for this year on Black Friday (November 26th) and the event will include the lighting of the city Christmas tree. Also, on December 5th at 3pm the Man on the Monument celebration will occur.

Mr. Hess said he was asked by a resident if bow hunting was legal in the city. The answer, "Ahh, no." He mentioned that he currently has 6 candidates for the Clerk of Council position. Collection of applications will end on November 19th. We also have an office for the clerk now that the Legal department has finished their move. Mr. Hess mentioned concern over the fact that the Fourth Ward Council seat will remain open until 2024. Mr. Bean stressed that the seat will be filled in the May regular election as stated by the city charter.

Mr. Thackery asked that Mr. Paul pick and arrange payment for a digital voice recorder for council and committee meetings. Mr. Paul agreed.

Mr. Field motioned to adjourn at 7:05pm and Mr. Thackery seconded. All ayes, nays none.

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.