

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2012**

Council President Marty Hess called the Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, March 13, 2012, to order at 7:06PM following a scheduled Public Hearing.

Attendance: All of Council were present, with the exception of Mrs. Virginia Smith.

City Staff – Mayor Bill Bean (in at 7:10PM); Mr. Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration; Mr. Lee Williams, Finance Director; Mr. Doug Crabill, Assistant to the Director of Administration; Mr. Robert Munch

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Larry Lokai moved to approve the UCC Regular Session Minutes of February 28, 2012; Mr. Robert Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Communications

Mr. Thorpe moved to place the announcement from the Champaign County Public Library regarding upcoming activities planned to mark the 150th Anniversary of the James J. Andrews Raid, on file; Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Council President Hess asked whether the City has anything planned to go with these activities. Mr. Kerry Brugger was unsure; Mayor Bill Bean had not yet arrived at this meeting.

Mr. Thorpe moved to place the Urbana Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes (December 12, 2011), the Urbana Planning Commission Minutes (December 12, 2011), and the communication to Council from Mr. Jack Partridge, President of Columbia Gas of Ohio (March 5, 2012) regarding the company's IRP update, and copy of amended pre-filing notice with the PUCO, on file; Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control

Mr. Eugene Fields moved to authorize a purchase order to Trail-Works, Inc. in the amount of \$9,528 for planning, engineering, and construction supervision and inspection on the Urbana-Bellefontaine Connector Phase I, COTF-099, Bike Trail Project (This consultant was selected by the Simon Kenton Pathfinders for this project, and this expense will be paid by grant funds and SKP funds. This is not in the 2012 Budget); Mr. Al Evans seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Doug Crabill said:

“This is the consultant that's working on the Bike Trail, as it mentions in the write-up. The Pathfinders selected this consultant, and he is overseeing the project. This is all of his work for 2011 on the Bike Trail Project...as you know it's like 80% complete. There's about a 20% amount to finish this Spring before June 30th...so this is just him billing for the work he completed in 2011. The City's a pass-through on this grant, so we're basically administering the grant on behalf of the Pathfinders to make this project happen.”

Mr. Lokai said, “I've talked to Nancy about it quite a bit—things are moving along quite smoothly with Bellefontaine. I think everything is on track...the fact that we have to have a governmental agency as the pass through...it's probably three times as fast going into projects...to move forward, so I urge us to pass this.”

“Hopefully, we'll have it opening this Summer—this section,” Mr. Crabill replied.

Citizen Comments

Two area Boy Scouts were introduced, and noted their requirement to attend a Council Meeting as part of their Boy Scout service.

Council President Hess asked Mr. Bill Kelley (DP&L) whether he had any announcements. Mr. Kelley noted, 'Nothing at this time.'

Ordinances and Resolutions

Third Reading –

RESOLUTION NO. 2356 –

Mr. Crabill reviewed the purpose of this Resolution for Council.

Mr. Evans moved to place Resolution No. 2356 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Lokai seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes (5-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2359 –

Mr. Crabill explained:

“This is the resurfacing of Miami St. from Walnut to Edgewood. ODOT is supposed to put this out for bid at the beginning of April, so we have to supply this Resolution as well as our cash (our share of the cash to the State) by next week...so they can get this project out for bid. There was a question from one of our citizens in the audience, ‘Will the manholes be adjusted?’ They will be. They were on Oakland St. last year, and they will be on this project.”

Mr. Lokai moved to place Resolution No. 2359 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Doug Hoffman seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Evans, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes (5-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2360 –

Mr. Crabill said, “This is preliminary legislation to authorize (or give the City’s approval) for ODOT to pave—roughly in 2017—from State Route 55 south to where Route 68 becomes a 4 lane highway down at Springfield/Urbana Pike...Urbana Rd....so there’s no (at this point) dollar commitment for the City involved in this project...it’s just because it touches on border.”

Mr. Lokai moved to place Resolution No. 2360 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Evans seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes (5-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 4382 –

Mr. Lokai moved to place Ordinance No. 4382 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Evans seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes (5-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 4383 –

Mr. Evans moved to place Ordinance No. 4383 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Lokai seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes (5-0)

Second Reading –

RESOLUTION NO. 2361 –

(* Read and declared a Second Reading)

Discussion –

Mr. Crabill stated:

“I may have misspoke on the earlier one...I think this one’s actually in 2017 (I think the...section of 68 that was earlier, I think it might be sooner). This is Scioto St. from city limit to the split of 29 & 36.”

“On the 29 side?” Council President Hess attempted to verify.

“Yes,” said Mr. Crabill. “This one would involve money with the City—I think about \$46,000 (today’s money).”

Mr. Hoffman said, “I’m all in favor of anything infrastructure related...what percentage of pay would the City have, versus the State?”

Mr. Crabill replied, “The State pays 80, and the City pays 20.”

“So it’s a good deal?” asked Mr. Hoffman.

“Yeah—cities are the only ones that pay for their ODOT paving—villages and townships do not,” said Mr. Crabill.

First Reading –

There were no First Readings at this meeting.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Evans - (To Mr. Brugger) said, “This topic is something that’s near and dear to your heart, being that you’re the former representative of the 3rd Ward—now I understand that when we did the Julia portion with the box culvert...that we weren’t able to pave it at that time, but I do think I remember a commitment from the previous administration that we would revisit that site from time to time...and do some maintenance. Have you been over to that area lately?”

Mr. Brugger answered, “No, I haven’t—but I will follow up with Colin.”

“Would you please—because it’s getting kind of treacherous over there, and...” Mr. Evans began.

“I think that’s the contractor--to maintain,” Mr. Crabill interjected.

“Well we need to get him over there, and (at least) have him put some gravel in there...it’s getting kind of rough...and since we don’t have a representative there yet, someone asked me if I would bring it up,” said Mr. Evans. “I drove through there, and verified that it’s pretty much a mess. I understand—but a little bit of maintenance could go a long way over there—okay?”

“We’ll do it,” Mr. Brugger confirmed.

Council President Hess referred to ‘the big sign that says who it’s paid for by.’

Mr. Lokai - Stated, “I wanted to commend the Council Members that had vision and foresight to change that old law of \$2,500 to \$7,500—because what’s happening now is—our meetings are shorter! We don’t have to mess with those bills under \$7,500., so you Council Members that voted for that—thank you very much—I like short meetings!”
He noted this meeting as the second shortest meeting in 9 years (and said it would probably conclude at 30 minutes).

“We could make it go an hour and thirty,” Council President Hess remarked.

Mr. Thorpe - Moved to excuse Councilwoman Virginia Smith from this Meeting; Mr. Fields seconded. All were in favor of excusing Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Hoffman - Nothing at this time

Mr. Fields - Nothing at this time

Mr. Crabill - Repeated the CDBG Public Hearing Information – application in June for the CDBG Formula Program (about a \$59,000 grant)
He noted potential interest for eligible activities that are out in the community, and said interested parties should contact him with their requests by May 1st
He said a second Public Hearing will be held, as is required
Mr. Crabill announced his number as #652-4305, and said his email address is available on the City website

Mr. Robert Munch –

Said, “In the interest of transparency—the water rate increase is 54 cents a unit (that’s what the increase will be)...if you use 4 units a month, it will be increased \$2.16...10 units a month is \$5.40...100 units would be \$54. All you have to do is take the number of units used, and multiply by 54 cents—that is what the increase will be.”

“Commercial?” asked Mr. Fields.

Mr. Munch replied, “Everybody’s the same.”

Mr. Evans said, “Now I understand it, and I know it’s just simple math... but it might take a little extra to get some people to understand it...a... well, let’s just leave it at that. Everybody doesn’t understand it (that’s evident), and we need to make an effort without being condescending... that they understand it.”

“Okay,” Mr. Munch said.

“I think the one thing that some people don’t understand is that water and sewer are two of the enterprise funds...and we cannot operate in the red,” Mr. Lokai added. “When people look at that rate...we need to look at the average (that’s one thing), but you have to look at where your usage is... and I think that’s where the misconcepts are (when you look at that figure)...but I think that, Bob—you’ve been very good about pointing out those things...”

Mr. Lokai suggested citizens should call Mr. Munch if they have questions. He added that Mr. Munch systematically (step-by-step) provides explanation(s).

“Absolutely,” Mr. Munch said.

“Keep in mind that those are enterprise funds,” Mr. Lokai stated.

Mr. Thorpe said, “We discussed this this afternoon (I think, a little bit) didn’t we, Bob? The base unit is...”

“In the morning, yesterday,” Mr. Munch corrected.

“...or yesterday (whenever it was),” Mr. Thorpe said, also joking about age. “The base unit is 4 units, right? The base bill?”

Mr. Munch defined the setup for both water and sewer, noting the

differences between the two.

“The base water charge is 4, and it always has been 4...the whole thing is we have to have the minimum amount to make our debt!” Mr. Munch said. “We included 4 into the base charge...the minimum base (you can call it what you want)—it’s \$14.40 for water.”

Mr. Hoffman asked, “What is the average number of units per household?”

“The average in the city is 6—that’s residential, it doesn’t include commercial, or industrial,” Mr. Munch answered.

“A little over \$3.00 per house increase?” asked Mr. Hoffman.

“Yes—six times 54 is?” said Mr. Munch.

Mr. Hoffman said percentages can be a little more shocking than dollar amounts, and pointed to the need for raising fees.

“I can guarantee I’m not buying new office furniture,” Mr. Munch added.

Council President Hess outlined area excitement about this topic (good and bad), and said some want to know, ‘Why do I have to pay so much for the water?’ He requested that City employees be patient with customers. Mr. Munch asked that customers call him with questions/problems/concerns at #652-4335.

Mr. Munch also noted recent essays in *The Urbana Citizen*, and *The Springfield News-Sun*, that are helping to clarify the water situation.

He said the essays will also appear online soon.

“Excellent job, Bob,” Mr. Lokai said.

Mr. Williams - Nothing at this time

Council President Hess asked, “Since Larry did bring up the \$7,500 item, how many purchase orders did you have between \$5,000 and \$7,500 last month?”

Mr. Williams said, “Between \$2,500 and \$7,500...”

“Yes--\$2,500 and \$7,500,” Council President Hess said.

“For this particular week—we would have 4 items on here—I think for the month of February, I’d say we had 7, maybe 8,” Mr. Williams said.

“Council—are you aware of what those are?...or do you want to know what all those are?” asked Council President Hess.

“I know how to get a hold of Lee,” Mr. Lokai said.

Mr. Evans asked, “Are they in the budget?”

“They are,” Mr. Williams answered.

“That’s...we approved the Budget, correct?” asked Mr. Evans.

“Yes sir,” said Mr. Williams.

“I trust that you’ll stay within the Budget,” Mr. Evans said.

“Thank you,” replied Mr. Williams.

Mr. Kerry Brugger –

Noted the ‘nice article in the (news)paper this morning’ about The Compost Facility opening early; Noted it opened yesterday, and told everyone they can begin Spring cleaning

Reminded everyone there is no curbside service for Spring cleanup

Said the Route 68 waterline is ‘in full swing,’ adding that there are some traffic hiccups
“We’ll keep on top of that to try to keep the traffic flowing as best we can,” he promised.
Announced as potential Work Session topics: Curbside Recycling and ‘Purchases in the Works’

Mayor Bill Bean –

Apologized for meeting tardiness; Noted he was attending a meeting for the B-25 Doolittle Raiders Committee
Noted the Doolittle Raiders activity as April 13-16, and said, ‘It may go longer’
Mayor Bean said the Reunion is at WPAFB on April 18th, and a Breakfast is planned in Urbana on the 19th to honor the Doolittle Raiders (\$50. per person/ limited seats available)
He provided a few other details, but noted he is hopeful that Mr. Jim White/Mr. Dave Milner can fill in more details shortly

Council President Hess –

Discussed Ordinance Books (the distribution list), and asked Council to be thinking about this as a Work Session topic
Mr. Evans pointed to ‘other avenues’ to access that information
Council President Hess said with Summer coming, Council/Admin should also consider what the wants/needs are to get accomplished
Noted interviews were held this evening prior to the Public Hearing and Regular Session; Said Council will vote on March 27th at the beginning of the meeting for the 3rd Ward Council Rep
Mr. Evans noted that the delay in voting would allow Mrs. Smith to talk with candidates, and allow her to be involved in the process
Council President Hess stated, “I’d like to offer my condolences to the Lippencott Family—Mrs. Lippencott passed away—she’s a dear old friend...my condolences to the family.”

Adjournment

Mr. Thorpe moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:40PM; Mr. Hoffman seconded. All were in favor of adjournment.

Council Clerk

Council President