

URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Council President Marty Hess called the Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, to order at 7:00PM in Court Chambers / The Municipal Building.

Attendance – All Council Members were present with the exception of Mr. Eugene Fields.

City Staff – Mayor Bill Bean; Mr. Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration; Mr. Lee Williams, Finance Director; Police Chief Matt Lingrell

(Mr. Doug Crabill was absent)

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Brief Presentation

Ms. Stacey Logwood, FCFC Director and Drug Free Youth Coalition Project Coordinator (Champaign County Family & Children First Council – FCFC), and Ms. Abby Cohn, addressed Council regarding the work of the Drug Free Youth Coalition. Ms. Logwood began with presentation of a plaque to Police Chief Matt Lingrell and Police Division to express appreciation for their dedication to the cause.

Ms. Logwood noted her excitement in calling Chief Lingrell a part of the Coalition (a group of about 20 strong), and recognized the difficult job law enforcement has in this area. She honored the Urbana Police Division for their efforts in reducing underage drinking.

“We appreciate everything that you’re doing—you have helped the Coalition grow—we appreciate your efforts at the Department, and in moving forward with continued cooperation,” Ms. Logwood said (to Chief Lingrell).

“Thank you—I appreciate that very much—thanks,” Chief Lingrell replied, to applause from those present.

Ms. Logwood elaborated on the funding aspects of the Coalition, and the aspect of underage drinking parties. She said the Coalition is comprised of law enforcement, treatment professionals, parents, and citizens of the community.

“We recognize that it takes all of those sectors pulling together to do the work of prevention,” she said, also discussing briefly the role of law enforcement (4 different jurisdictions) in the equation. “We are very excited to have Mr. Lingrell’s leadership (and some guidance) to that process...and we look forward, as we continue conversations with law enforcement of potential policy and procedure adoption on how to disperse drinking parties in the community...and we’re excited to see our first reduction indicator.”

Ms. Logwood noted compliance checks are being conducted across the county with the cooperation of the Champaign County Sheriff’s Dept., and the Urbana Police Dept. She noted in 2010, about 1 in 4 alcohol vendors were non-compliant (in selling alcohol to underage minors.) In 2011, the number was reduced from 25% to 20%. The focus this year will be on the alcohol vendor community, to encourage them to be ‘good stewards of business in the community, and to make sure that alcohol is kept out of the hands of area young people.’ Ms. Logwood mentioned the fallout from alcohol use with family, school, and future employment issues. She said the focus is to ‘build assets in kids,’ to prevent at-risk-taking behaviors and to build a healthy community.

Chief Lingrell described Ms. Logwood and Ms. Cohn as ‘movers and shakers’ in regard to getting things accomplished in the community.

Chief Lingrell stated, “Three ways that we’re having alcohol underage problems in the city: it’s provided by vendors, it’s provided by parents (sometimes unknowingly, if they have alcohol in their house), and then young adults (they will provide it).”

The compliance checks were briefly described by Chief Lingrell, and he also provided a ‘sample of what an underage party can do to the Police Division.’ He talked about an underage party of 51, which required extra personnel to be called in.

“It can become a nightmare trying to process 51 people through...” he said.

Council President Hess expressed appreciation to Ms. Logwood and Ms. Cohn for their efforts (and for coming to the Meeting), and to Chief Lingrell/the Urbana Police Division for the work they are doing.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Larry Lokai moved to approve the UCC Regular Session Minutes (Oct. 23, 2012);

Mr. Robert Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Communications

Mr. Thorpe moved to place the Winter Outreach Letter/Energy Assistance Fact Sheet email to Council (November 7, 2012), from Columbia Gas of Ohio, on file; Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Mr. Dwight Paul requested that this information be posted on the City website to allow availability to the public. Mr. Kerry Brugger confirmed the information will be posted.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control

Mr. Thorpe moved to authorize a purchase order to Reliant Mechanical, Inc. for the amount of \$9,220 for the replacement of rooftop unit #5 at the Municipal Building for both heating and air conditioning (This will be charged to the Capital Improvement Fund, and is in the 2012 Budget); Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Brugger explained:

“This unit is on this section of the building—it’s one of the units that was put on in 1996, and it’s over (what 16 years old now)—so what happened is the heat exchanger failed, and they’ve been able to patch it to keep it running...but it’s one of those things that’s going to fail. The heat exchanger alone is about \$4,500...we just didn’t feel it was prudent to spend half the price of a new unit just to keep holding it running.”

Mr. Lokai thanked Mr. Brugger for providing information in advance to Council.

Council President Hess asked, “Will that be put in shortly? Pretty quick?”

“Yeah, they’re going to be working on that here—we’ll get the p.o. out this week, and get movin’” answered Mr. Brugger.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizens who came forward at this Meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Third Reading –

There were no Third Readings.

Second Reading –

There were no Second Readings.

First Reading –

RESOLUTION NO. 2376 –

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR THE SEVERAL OBJECTS AND PURPOSES WHICH THE CITY OF URBANA, OHIO MUST PROVIDE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013

(*Read and declared to have had a First Reading)

Discussion –

Mr. Doug Hoffman said, “Just a comment on my meeting with Lee—I thought he presented the information very clearly...I appreciate his time.”

Mr. Thorpe agreed with Mr. Hoffman’s remark.

Mr. Lokai said, “Pretty much on the same line...with Lee...everything’s laid out...it’s good to have us involved in the process, and understand it...and also the fact that, it looks like this year...the 1st time in 4 years we’re going to have (maybe) a balanced budget, so...thanks for putting that together, all the information.”

“I just want to thank Lee for taking the time to meet with me—my schedule’s a lot different than the rest of you—but he did meet with me, and explain it to me, and I want to thank you,” said Mrs. Virginia Smith. “...and I’m glad that he’s getting what he’s getting this year too!”

“Also—thank you, Lee—thank you, Matt—for sitting down to go over the comments...” said Mr. Paul.

Mr. Al Evans added, “I’d just like to thank the Administration for letting us be part of the process—it makes it a lot easier to look at the other schedules when you’ve been through a couple of them...and you kind of know how things flow...so...I appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the process.”

Council President Hess encouraged Council to go through the Budget, and ask questions of the department heads, Mr. Williams, and/or other Council Members. He announced that there will be 3 readings on this Resolution.

Mr. Williams noted passage should take place at the UCC Meeting of December 4.

Miscellaneous Business

Council President Hess said he sent an email to Council retracting/correcting part of the wording of the last meeting.

He stated:

“A resident of the 4th Ward asked if we’re going to have any more discussions on the water problem that we okayed the purchase order to have somebody come in, and investigate all that...and a few of the residents weren’t sure they had all the questions asked yet, so instead of a Work Session we’ll be having a Public Hearing...the 2 meetings I said were Work Sessions, they’re not Work Sessions...they’re Public Hearings...and they are for the people in the northwest (basically the 4th Ward)...so they’re information for them, to ask questions...information for us to ask questions...”

Mr. Brugger said, “I spoke with Mack McCauley with the Floyd Browne Group today confirming his availability next Tuesday, so we’ll be here...he’s planning on being here next Tuesday at 7 o’clock...I’ll be getting with Lee, and we’ll get this in the Urbana paper/the Springfield paper...to make sure that the residents know it. After our last Meeting, I met with Mr. Myers—we had a real good conversation around the concerns, and the questions that are out there...and we will have them in here...we’ll invite anybody in to come in and meet...they do want to get that input, and we’ll have that next Tuesday at 7 o’clock.”

Council President Hess emphasized that the Public Hearing will ensure that ‘everything is done right, and everybody gets their questions answered, (so that this thing can be wrapped up and taken care of).’

Mr. Evans - Nothing at this time

Mr. Paul - Noted working at the polls, and said he was encouraged to see the great numbers of people who came out to vote

Mrs. Smith - Nothing at this time

Mr. Lokai - Discussed the progress of the leaf pickup; Asked people not to park in the leaf piles

Discussed the reorganization of the December Council Meetings;
Noted a conflict with the December 4 Meeting (with the McCauley Parade)

Mr. Lokai moved to delete the December 4 Meeting, and move the Regular Sessions to December 11 and 18; Mrs. Smith seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mrs. Smith, no; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, no; Mr. Hoffman, no; Mr. Evans, no; Mr. Paul, no (5-no to 1 yes)

* The Meetings will remain as scheduled: December 4 – UCC Regular Session;
December 11 – Public Hearing; December 18 – Regular Session

Discussion –

Mr. Evans sought clarification of Mr. Lokai’s motion.

Council President Hess restated, and Mr. Paul, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Thorpe had no remarks. Mr. Hoffman sought greater clarification.

Mr. Brugger restated the Public Hearing on November 20, with the anticipation of a final report on December 11. There was some talk regarding where the Public Hearing would fall on December 11, if there was a change with the Regular Sessions...and some discussion about the anticipated length of time for the Public Hearings.

Mr. Brugger indicated he has not seen the final report, and projected (at least) a half hour for that (or whatever is necessary to do a good job going over it).

Mr. Lokai asked if the final report could be available in the Council Office in advance, to allow time to review.

Mr. Brugger replied, “As soon as I have a copy, I can get it to you—I just don’t know if I’ll have one—we’re trying to make sure we keep a distance from what they’re doing, so we’re not...we don’t want to be in the middle of what they’re working on so...they’re taking the data, they’ve got it, haven’t seen it since they’ve walked out the door with it...so...we’ll work through it! It’s not a problem.”

“I just think a half hour is plenty of time for something like that,” said Mr. Lokai.

Mr. Evans asked whether citizens would be present at the December 11th meeting.

Mr. Brugger explained that Nov. 20th is the Public Hearing (with citizen interaction), and on December 11th a final document is expected (with interaction from Council, and citizens who wish to hear about the document).

Mr. Evans proposed staying with the originally planned schedule. He felt that combining a Public Hearing with a Regular Session would short change citizens, and their input about the water issue.

Mr. Hoffman asked the Administration about their preferences.

Mr. Brugger stated that his preference is to allow enough time to cover the topic adequately, and indicated the Public Hearing could be moved to January.

“In my opinion—we’re going to end up with a long night, if we schedule it with another meeting,” said Mr. Brugger.

“Well, we’ve put it off too long, and we don’t need to inconvenience those folks any more than they’ve already been inconvenienced,” stated Mr. Evans. “Due to the fact that we need to address this issue with the citizens in the 4th Ward...we need to take the time, and show them the respect that they deserve in hearing everything that they have to say! I would urge Council to stay with the original plan...and get this over with!”

“That’s what the 20th is for, right? For the citizens to make comments?” asked Mr. Lokai. Council President Hess explained the purpose of each Public Hearing, and said, “They deserve to be heard after all the trouble they’ve gone through...I personally feel that if you want to come—fine—if you don’t want to come, that’s okay too...but this is for those people that have put up with a lot of problems in the last 4, 5 (or longer) years. I think...give them the time they deserve is what we should do!”

Mr. Evans called for a vote.

Mrs. Smith sought clarification again regarding the purpose of the vote.

Council President Hess redefined the meeting dates.

Mr. Thorpe - Nothing at this time; Asked if the Meeting could be adjourned at this point (Denied by Council President Hess)

Mr. Hoffman - (to Mr. Brugger) asked about the ‘machine reach’ for the leaf pick up
Mr. Brugger advised residents should get leaves to the curb (and not into the gutter)

Mr. Evans moved to excuse Mr. Eugene Fields from this Meeting; Mr. Paul seconded.

All were in favor of excusing Mr. Fields.

Police Chief Lingrell –

Nothing at this time

Mr. Williams - Nothing at this time

Mr. Brugger - Said Phoenix Dr. was completed last week, and noted ‘a few touch ups on some berm gravel; signs have been ordered to post that road ‘No Parking’
Expressed thanks to the Four Seasons Garden Club for volunteering to help maintain the circle (Man-on-the-Monument)
Noted the end of Nov. as the ‘wrap up’ for leaf pick up
Discussed Christmas decorations (pulled out of storage, but noted the condition of the decorations is poor); Decorations will be up before Thanksgiving

Mayor Bill Bean - Announced the addition of a ‘Hot Head Burritos’ new business for Urbana (to move into the old BP Gas Station/Scioto St.)

The business is expected to employ 25

Mayor Bean expressed appreciation to Ms. Marcia Bailey for her role in initially contacting the company; Noted meeting with the Owner; Said the opening is anticipated in about 60 days

Noted Ms. Bailey is working well with manufacturers, and is ‘contacting businesses all the time’

Announced the unemployment as of Sept. 2012 is down to 7% (it was 8.7% one year ago); Thanked manufacturers and other businesses for ‘employing our citizens’

Council President Hess –

Asked about The Compost Facility - “Still open?”

“It’s still open—it will be running through November (weather permitting)—it will be identified in the paper when we’re going to have to be closed down,” said Mr. Brugger.

Noted a business owner on Phoenix Dr. is very grateful for the work there

Asked Mr. Brugger if the electric has been fixed on the poles

Mr. Brugger indicated there are still some areas that need attention

Mrs. Smith - Noted a dump truck on Rte. 68 full of wood; Said it is ‘an eyesore’
Mr. Evans recited the location, and said there has been a sign, ‘Firewood for Sale’

“It’s been there every day for about a week now,” said Mr. Evans.

Mr. Brugger made note of the situation

Adjournment

Mr. Thorpe moved to adjourn the UCC Regular Session at 7:41PM; Mr. Lokai seconded. All were in favor of adjournment.

Council Clerk

Council President