

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2013**

The Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, April 23, 2013 was called to order at 7:00PM in Court Chambers/ The Municipal Building by **Council President Marty Hess**.

Attendance: All Council Members were present with the exception of Mr. Dwight Paul. City Staff – Mayor Bill Bean; Mr. Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration; Mr. Lee Williams, Finance Director; Mr. Doug Crabill, Assistant to the Director of Administration; Mr. Chad Hall, Mr. Robert Munch

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor Bill Bean read a Proclamation regarding recognition of “Arbor Day” on April 26, 2013 (See Council File for complete copy). Mayor Bean noted that this Proclamation was read earlier in the week at Urbana University.

Tree City Presentation

Mr. Doug Crabill followed with:

“I will follow that with a recap of 2012 (actually 2013)...every year we’re required to have the Mayor do a Proclamation declaring/recognizing Arbor Day...so on Friday morning we’re going to be planting a tree at South Elementary, and again at North that afternoon, and also on May 7th at East...and last week we planted one at Urbana University...all basically celebrating Arbor Day (that’s one of the requirements of being a Tree City).

I’d like to talk about the Tree City Program real quick...as you may have seen...last week we hosted 15 counties in Central Ohio at the University...they received their Tree City USA Awards. Urbana University got their Tree Campus USA Award for the first time with that same program. That program was to provide us with our award for 2012—basically recognizing the community’s efforts.

There are 4 standards that have to be met in order to be a Tree City each year: one of those is to have a Tree Commission...our Tree Commission for 2012 (and we also have the same group carrying over in 2013) – is Ting Ting Cai (she works at Urbana University- Ward 1), Mr. Al Evans (City Council Rep -Ward 2), Mr. Elmo Layman (Ward 3), Mr. Earl Cottrill (Ward 4), Mr. Ron McFarland (At Large Rep), Mr. Doug Crabill (At Large Rep), and Mr. Colin Stein (Street Superintendent). We also have to maintain a Tree Ordinance...which we’ve had on the books...this (2012) was our 11th year of being a Tree City. We also have to spend \$2. per resident on a tree planting efforts in the city, or a tree program. Last year we spent \$2.57 per capita. Our leaf collection and some of those things are also included in that cost.

One of our highlights of last year was a project at Melvin Miller Park (with the Urbana Lion’s Club) to replace trees that ultimately have been lost by the Emerald Ash Borer. This past Winter, the Park and Street Departments have removed several Ash Trees in the Park...between 30 and 40 were removed. We ended up planting a total of 31...so...with the donations that were received through the Lion’s Club, about \$2,500 was donated and 31 trees were replaced last year...and then of course we had an Arbor Day celebration last year as well.”

Council President Hess said, “We appreciate everything you guys have done—it took a lot of time to get us where we are.”

“Just building upon it each year,” Mr. Crabill replied. “There were communities there that have done it for 38 years, I think was the most... Springfield, Bellefontaine, Westerville, and Columbus I think had the longest in years.”

Brief Presentation

Mr. Charles Thiel, Superintendent of Urbana City Schools, addressed Council:

“Thank you, Mr. Hess—I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you tonight—I was advised by Mr. Paul to talk with the Council and the Administration about the things that are happening in our school system. I appreciate the efforts of both the City Council and the Administration to create a good working relationship with the schools.

It’s obvious that for—both the school system and the City, we have to work together in order to benefit each other—and that good working relationship has been excellent, and we want to continue that.

First of all—I wanted to let you know that we are conducting a community survey at this time on our school district website (a communication survey—a repeat of a survey that we did in 2011).”

Mr. Thiel noted the importance in feedback from parents, and others in the community. He said paper copies of that survey are also available in the central office.

Mr. Thiel pointed to decisions in moving forward following a failed levy in November 2012.

He stated, “Due to that we had to cut a million dollars worth of expenses in the district. We looked at a wide variety of cost centers in order to make those cuts—all things from transportation to field trips...to reducing some supplemental contracts for our staff (who did work beyond the school day)...to making cuts in our athletic programs (there won’t be any freshman athletic teams this next year)...and also we implemented a transportation fee for all of our athletics...and also a transportation fee for our extracurriculars...so we were fortunate enough (through that process) that we didn’t have to reduce or eliminate any teachers, but we do have some teachers that we will not be replacing that retired (or resigned)...and so, through attrition, we’re not replacing 4 teaching positions.”

Mr. Thiel continued, “In the mix of that (million dollar cuts), we’re also going through closing the Local School Building for the district—serving K-12 students. Next year the grade configuration will be kindergarten and 1st grade students at North Elementary, South Elementary will have 2nd and 3rd grade students, and East will be 4th and 5th grade students. Sixth grade students will go to the Junior High—so our Junior High will have 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Local will be used on a limited basis for the school district. We have to house our pre-school students—it’s required by law that we serve children that...from the day they turn age 3 (if they’re suspected of having a disability)...and so we have 13 half day class sessions out at Lawnview that we have to bring in to our school building...so those students will be served at East and at Local...so we still will use that...it won’t be used on a K-12 basis.”

He explained, “We do want to point out that we do have a Renewal Levy on the May ballot (May 7th). Failure of that Levy will result in a \$2.4 mil of additional cuts that will have to be made. We’ve made some decisions (the Board) in regard to some of those cuts—one of them would be taking transportation down to state minimums, elimination of all extracurriculars and all athletic programming...to begin the process of doing

reductions...so just wanted to make sure that people are aware of those actions and activities that have been happening in the school district.”

Mr. Robert Thorpe asked, “Are you planning on eliminating all athletic activities—football, basketball...?”

Mr. Thiel answered, “Yes! If the Levy were to fail on May 7th, we would eliminate all athletic activities for the next school—it would be a situation where we wouldn’t have any athletic...at all, so all Winter/Spring...all athletics would be eliminated in order to do cost reductions. You would have an opportunity in November to pass the Renewal Levy, but obviously—there’s no guarantee (if it doesn’t pass in May)—so we need to get in the process of looking at contraction of our expenditures in the event that we cannot renew that Levy...so that is the first step.”

Mr. Thorpe sought to verify, “This is just the Renewal Levy?”

“This is the Renewal Levy,” Mr. Thiel responded.

“I think we’re having a little problem getting that across—in association with what you’re asking for...for other activities,” said Mr. Thorpe. “You’ve got to make them understand that this is for a renewal!”

Council President Hess stated:

“I appreciate your coming—I realize we can’t have people to vote for anything (or vote against anything) in Council Meetings, but I think it’s important to get the information to the people...because unfortunately...I talk to a lot of people that have no idea what’s going on in the schools (even though they live in the community)...they might get the paper—they don’t see it, they don’t talk to people...and I feel that the people don’t know what’s going on in the schools (just like a lot of times they don’t know what’s going on in the city)...you watch this, and they can find out what’s going on, so I appreciate your coming...and I urge anyone that has any questions about what’s going to happen (or what’s going on in the schools) to contact any of the School Board Members/Administration...I work at the schools (contact me, and I’ll be more than happy to get them any information I can). I think it’s important...everybody knows it’s important...good schools build good towns, and good towns have good schools...so we’ve got to all work together...and I appreciate your coming, and giving the information to people...and I hope you get some questions.”

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Eugene Fields moved to approve the UCC Regular Session Minutes (April 9, 2013);

Mr. Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Communications

Mr. Larry Lokai moved to place the City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes (March 2013 – 107) on file; Mr. Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Mr. Thorpe moved to place the LUC Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (April 11, 2013) on file; Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control

1.

Mr. Al Evans moved to authorize a purchase order to Ohio Valley Integration Services, Inc., in the amount of \$23,939 to fund the installation of digital security cameras with audio capability in the City Building at each entrance/exit, and at selected locations

throughout the building (This expense will be charged to Administration Capital, and is in the 2013 Budget); Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Evans said, “With all the events that we’ve experienced this past week—I think that the value of having video surveillance (in any area) is important...and this being a City Building where we have the Municipal Court...we also have access to the Police Department, and the Fire Department...it’s imperative that we have the best system that we can have to see who’s coming in and out of here (and what they’re doing). I would urge Council, to pass this measure so that we can bring our security system up to date.”

Mr. Lokai piggybacked on Mr. Evans’ comment, and reflected on ‘several recent security incidents in the nation that were of major concern.’

He said, “This is a step forward in trying to alleviate any of these kind of concerns.”

Mr. Lokai said public buildings need to be very concerned about the ‘who, why, and when—what’s going on—and especially with the state of mind of some people.’

Mr. Thorpe asked, “Mr. Brugger—is it for this building only?”

Mr. Kerry Brugger replied, “It’s going to be for this complex (including the original building)—and the addition that was put on back in the 90s. We’ll also have the capability to expand—we’ll have ports available that we can expand to other remote areas...the Water Plant, Waste Water, Airport (wherever), as time allows and as money becomes available...remote in, and be able to have surveillance at other buildings also.”

“...and how about exterior?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“It will be the exterior as well as the interior,” answered Mr. Brugger.

Referring to the Boston events, Mr. Thorpe commented, “The films we’ve seen have been fantastic—get this thing fast!”

Mr. Doug Hoffman echoed what Mr. Evans and Mr. Lokai said, adding, “It’s a good idea, and on top of that—the funds are in the Budget...I think it’s a good deal!”

2.

Mr. Hoffman moved to authorize a purchase order to Wagner Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$7,840 (the lowest of 2 quotes received), to repave a portion of street in the 100 block of S. High St. following the completion of a section of sewer replacement (This expense will be charged to the Sewer Maintenance Division, and is in the 2013 Budget); Mr.

Fields seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Chad Hall addressed Council:

“As you guys are aware—the 100 block of S. High was torn up to replace sewer—the main sewer line. We (as you are also aware) are under contract with J & J Schaegele for concrete. The Engineer and the Administration judged to go back to the blacktop...we did look at the concrete price also...this was the lowest of 2 quotes...they were very, very close. As far as when it’s completed—that would be up to the engineers when we get that done.”

“This is another example of a project that was planned for, and was in the Budget,” said Mr. Evans. “It pays to plan.”

Mr. Hoffman asked, “Just to clarify—this covers the whole gravel section?”

“In the 100 block alone—yes,” replied Mr. Hall.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Warren Stevens, 4545 Woodland Rd. (Urbana), addressed Council as a member of the American Cancer Society Volunteer leadership Council for Champaign County. He stated:

“They have asked me to come and present their latest project/plan to do something about cancer (this dreaded disease)...and what they call it...they call it the CPS3, and it’s a cancer prevention study...it’s the 3rd study that they’ve made, and what they’re trying to do is get volunteers within each community/in Central Ohio...and there are guidelines for the individual to volunteer. The reason why I’m here, and they asked me to come to talk to all of you...and the reason why I’m here is to share this information with you...and I’m going to give your Mayor some brochures. I’ve already given brochures to Mandy Hildebrand (the secretary in the Urbana School District)...the last word I got, they want 100 volunteers...I don’t know whether that’s Champaign County (or all the counties), but so far there’s somewhere around 15 or 16. There are requirements...so I’m going to go ahead and give these (brochures) to your Mayor, and he can put them out...and I was going to put on my Urbana City School Board hat, and thank all of you for supporting the Urbana City Schools...and Charles has already shared with you what we’re facing. It’s going to be a tough next 4 years...”

Ordinances and Resolutions

Third Reading –

There were no Third Readings at this Meeting.

Second Reading –

There were no Second Readings at this Meeting.

First Reading –

RESOLUTION NO. 2391 –

A RESOLUTION ENACTED BY THE CITY OF URBANA, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO, TO AMEND PORTIONS OF RESOLUTION NO. 2380 AND TO AUTHORIZE MAKING FINAL APPLICATION TO THE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

(*Note: Corrections were immediately explained by Mr. Doug Crabill regarding changes in what the Clerk read, to the current reading. The revision was distributed to Council just prior to the meeting)

Mr. Crabill stated:

“We passed Resolution 2380 on January 22nd (2013)—your version you have in your packet says Resolution 2354...so 2354 goes back to early 2012, and it was originally thought that we may have applied for this money, and did not...so...they’re all in the same folder on the server, and I got mixed up on it when I was putting it together...you are amending portions of 2380. Again—you passed that legislation on January 22nd—we applied to ODOT—we had to submit a letter of interest by February 1st...this was for the U.S. 36 improvements, from Berwick to the Walmart property approximately...so we submitted a letter of interest, and in the process of submitting the letter of interest we realized there had been some changes in the program at the State level (which responds to changes that the Federal Government’s made). There used to be a program called, ‘Transportation Enhancement’ (in your Resolution that was passed in January it was called, ‘Transportation Enhancement’)...when we actually got into doing the letter of interest in getting into the materials that had been posted on ODOT’s website, it changed this year...into what they’re calling, ‘The Transportation Alternatives Program.’

Congress passed legislation on July 6th (2012) called, ‘Map 21’—It’s a new Surface Transportation Act—anyway, it changed the program to become ‘Transportation Alternatives’ (instead of ‘Transportation Enhancement’). There’s less of an emphasis on beautification, and more of an interest on multi-mobile transportation (bicycles, pedestrians, transit—those type of things).

We felt the need to come back, and revise this before we submit the final application, so...the biggest change is the name of the program. If you remember—this project had 3 components: it has stormwater, it has resurfacing, and it has the transportation alternative portion...so those are all broken down.

I (actually today)—the other change that was made—I split the urban resurfacing out from the transportation alternative program, so that the numbers would be clearer (in the Resolution)...so the version you have is clear, but if you add the numbers together it will total what you have in your packet...so anyway, there’s those 3 different funding pieces...and then basically us being able to submit an application...and move forward with acquiring funding for this project pending your approval.

The final application deadline is May 1st, so I would request suspension of the rules (and passage tonight). This just kind of cleans up everything we passed in June.”

At this point, Mr. Thorpe moved to suspend the rules on three readings; Mr. Hoffman seconded.

Mr. Crabill added, “The only other thing that this Resolution does (that I think we added) was...we are required to commit, and put local funds up for the match...we have to have that identified...there’s a section in here in addition to some individual sections...Section 4, it basically says—if we receive funding that we will budget in a future year to come up with the local match part...so just a requirement being able to apply. It will commit us to essentially going forward if this project moves forward...”

No questions/comments followed.

Roll call to approve suspension – Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes; Mrs. Smith, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes (6-0)

Mr. Thorpe moved to place RESOLUTION NO. 2391 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Hoffman seconded.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Evans, yes; Mrs. Smith, yes; Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes (6-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2392 –

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE MAKING APPLICATION TO THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lokai moved to place Resolution No. 2392 on the business floor; Mr. Al Evans seconded.

Mr. Crabill explained:

“If you recall—we had a Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant—we actually had a general Public Hearing that kicked off the program year, and we had one for the CHIP Program we applied for...but I mentioned at that initial Public Hearing that the State was planning on making changes to the CDBG funding, and how it’s allocated throughout the state. They moved forward with those changes, and basically the city of Urbana will not receive a direct allocation (like we have in the past)...so...most years we

would get a letter saying we have \$51,000 or we have \$60,000 (or whatever we may have), and we could put that towards a project (or projects).

Basically, what they did is they drew the threshold at a population of 15,000 in the community (and a certain LMI percentage)...and basically (because of the population) we dropped out of the...receiving the automatic allocation...however, communities that have received allocations for the previous 3 fiscal years are eligible to apply to the county program...and we would be eligible no matter what...like St. Paris and Mechanicsburg (they're allowed to apply to the county program, and have been)...but with us (in going from receiving an allocation)—what the State has done is, the city has to apply to the county...and we are basically assured of having 1 project funded from the city for the next 3 fiscal years...so '13, '14, and '15 the county is basically obligated as long as we meet our requirements...to fund the project to the city.

The County received an allocation of \$100,000 (FY13). The plan is—we will apply to the County. I went to the training in Columbus on this (and all these changes) 2 weeks ago...and got all the information...and we have to have something to the County by May 1st of what we intend to apply for. We're working on that now. With this being new, all the other governments (but us in the county got their letter in March)—we got our letter after the training, after we all figured out what was going on...so...officially.

Anyway—we request suspension on this so we can apply to the County Commissioners, to try to secure that 1 project for FY13.

The other thing—in the Resolution, there are 3 (what they're calling) 'competitive set asides'—that the County is also allowed to apply for...these programs also used to be ones that the City could apply for directly...Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, and there's a new one called 'Critical Infrastructure.' Those have up to \$300,000 per program. Basically, the County would have to apply for those on the City's behalf. We are planning on meeting with the County next week—to discuss how we can work together to try to secure some additional funding for the city through these competitive set asides—we're looking mainly at the 'Critical Infrastructure' one. The Resolution gives us permission to apply for that money, if we come up with a project.”

Mr. Lokai moved to suspend the rules on three readings; Mr. Thorpe seconded.

Council President Hess asked Council if there were any questions.

Mr. Lokai said the vote should be taken.

Mr. Hoffman asked whether a question could be asked.

“We should be voting directly,” said Mr. Lokai.

“I have a question I'd like to ask,” said Mr. Hoffman.

“Go ahead, Mr. Hoffman,” Council President Hess.

“We historically—I think we were in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range on this—and it sounds like we're kind of grandfathered in (at least for a few years) to get paid a project...” Mr. Hoffman said.

“Right,” Mr. Crabill confirmed.

“...so when we submit our application to the County, we're going into (obviously) a bigger pool...they have to give us one, so they can choose our least expensive project (and say, 'Here you go')—and they've met their obligation?” asked Mr. Hoffman.

Mr. Crabill replied, “Yeah—there's different scenarios that can play out—one thing is the County does not administer their own program (so they have a consultant do it)...so

basically, in the \$100,000 allocation we're looking at \$80,000 that can go towards projects...so that's one of the things we want to talk to the County about, because we're actually...we can set up an agreement with the County where we can administer their money here, and they still bear the ultimate responsibility. We can save some money on administration, and do more projects...because right now (the one we had before—we didn't take administrative money). We tried to put as much of it as we could into the project.”

“So—we're still up in the air on whether we're going to do better, or worse?” asked Mr. Hoffman.

“Yeah—I mean, yeah,” answered Mr. Crabill. “It's kind of a learning experience, and we're all going to (hopefully) work together—to make it work...”

Roll call to approve suspension – Mrs. Smith, yes; Mr. Lokai (said, “Before I vote, I'd like to say something—we're really supposed to be discussing nothing—we're supposed to be passing whether or not to suspend the rules. It has nothing to do with the original motion whether or not to suspend the rules! Point of order...but...I'm done! I'm not even going to vote. I'm disgusted with the way...procedure is done.”

“So am I,” added Council President Hess.

Roll call continued: Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes (5- yes / 1 did not vote)

Mr. Thorpe moved to place Resolution No. 2392 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Hoffman seconded.

“Any other questions, or comments?” asked Council President Hess.

“Yes, I have one question—I'd like to cut my comments from the original section, and paste them into this section,” Mr. Hoffman said to some audience laughter.

“As soon as you get into the uh—you want to make that motion quick, so we don't get a chance to ask questions—or maybe we should ask questions before we make a motion to suspend, but anyway...Roll Call on the suspension, or passage—please,” said Council President Hess.

Roll call vote to approve: Mr. Lokai, yes; Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes; Mr. Evans, yes; Mrs. Smith, yes (6-0)

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Hoffman - Commented regarding the Police Training Simulators (driving & shooting) that he participated in; Noted the simulators were provided through the State group out of London

Said, “I can tell you--some of the situations they put us in—you know, these guys earn their money! I really appreciate it—I got to see a little more about the training that they (the officers) get. I wanted to thank you all for that opportunity.”

Mr. Fields - Nothing at this time

Mr. Evans - Nothing at this time

Mrs. Virginia Smith –

Asked when ‘Hot Head Burrito’ is opening

“I haven't heard a date yet—no,” said Mr. Brugger.

“They're hiring,” Mr. Crabill interjected.

Mr. Robert Munch said, “Their water is not approved.”

Mr. Lokai - Discussed a visit to East Elementary this week, and mentioned the

‘Pennies for the Path’ program (collection of \$1,800); Congratulated Mrs. Castle’s class for collecting the most money, and Mrs. Jacobs’ class as well; Noted cooperation with the City Schools for this city project

Mentioned “Critical issues coming up here...Council Members running for office...also City Schools...”

Said, “I’ve received a couple of inquiries—I think maybe it’s a new way of streamlining trash collection, and I would hope that anybody that sees this will report it to the City Administration—apparently the large green containers that are in the city now and are supposed to be used for recycling...some people no longer are putting their trash out, they’re just dumping all their trash in for three sixteen a month...they get their trash and recycling all in one half package...so if anybody has seen a violation of that, I would recommend they call the City Administration about the proper procedure...and it can be handled...but there has been some major concerns about that.”

Mr. Thorpe - Passed speaking for the time being

Mr. Crabill - Nothing at this time

Mr. Munch - Nothing at this time

Mr. Hall - Nothing at this time

Mr. Lee Williams –

Nothing at this time

Mr. Brugger - Said, “The LED lighting project downtown has been completed—I think there’s one light that has to be...there’s still a couple of little wiring issues...this will save us some money down the road.”

Noted utility digs (repairs/patching)

Announced the Police Dept. will have ‘Safety Town’ on June 3-7 & June 10-14 ; Applications is on the website

Mentioned tree removals (Powell Ave. & on the Tree Lawn), and the combined coordination for identification of trees to be removed

Mayor Bill Bean – Revisited the recent Tree Awards Ceremony at Urbana University, and expressed appreciation to Mr. Crabill & Urbana University;

Noted it was a great event that highlighted Urbana & the University

Mr. Thorpe - Directed a ‘question on education’ to Mr. Thiel (in the audience), “Do you think association is easier to learn by—rather than just going over the book? In other words—to associate something—to remember it? Is it easier to learn by association?”

Mr. Thiel replied, “Many times it is.”

Mr. Thorpe said, “With that in mind—you don’t know these people (and never heard of them)—my brother-in-law was a Presbyterian minister in So. Charleston for 27 years...his name was Charles William Law (therefore named “Willy”)...and, the association with that...”

Mr. Thorpe went on to tell a story about ‘the farm’, and concluded with, “...and the same things with association in the neighborhoods today...when you people are walking your dogs, and you leave your stuff! If you leave things (here) you take it with you. Cleaning

up after the dogs is not union labor, so please be kind...and take it from your neighbor!
Thank you, Mr. Hess!”

Council President Hess –

Said, “I’d just like to piggyback on the Mayor’s...something’s going on in Urbana all the time...people say ‘There’s nothing to do in Urbana, nothing goes on’...but every weekend something is going on somewhere. Every night--you can look in the paper/look online, and see that something is going on in Urbana—so get out, and enjoy Urbana. It’s a great town!”

Mentioned seeing a picture of the Mayor with a shovel in his hand/
Brief discussion & jokes followed

Adjournment

Mr. Thorpe moved to adjourn the UCC Regular Session Meeting; Mr. Lokai seconded.
All were in favor of adjournment at 7:50PM.

Council Clerk

Council President