

URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2013

The Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, August 27, 2013, was called to order at 7:00PM, in Court Chambers/The Municipal Building, by **Council President Marty Hess**.

All Council Members were present, with the exception of Mr. Al Evans.

City Staff in Attendance – Mayor Bill Bean; Mr. Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration; Mr. Robert Munch; and Staff Attorney/Asst. Municipal Prosecutor Breanne Parcels (in audience)

* Mr. Lee Williams and Mr. Doug Crabill were not present

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Robert Thorpe moved to approve the UCC Regular Session Minutes (August 13, 2013); Mr. Dwight Paul seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Communications

There were no Communications at this Meeting.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control

1. Mr. Thorpe moved to authorize a purchase order to Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), in the amount of \$72,440 for the overhead expenses including legal and financial services for the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade Project (This expense is in addition to the previously approved project costs, is not in the 2013 Budget, and will be charged to the Sewer Fund. Funding will be provided from Sewer Fund reserve.); Mr. Fields seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Kerry Brugger explained:

“I know there’s a lot of questions—‘We just approved all this’—well, this is one of those things that we find periodically that we don’t have a lot of control over, but...Chad shared with us...the Federal Government (first of all) will not allow these costs to be rolled into the loan, and the OWDA is not funded through the State of Ohio budget...so this is a fee that they charge for their handling of the loan process...in all of their administrative costs stretched out over the life of the loan...and this would cover all of the invoicing/administration costs, and any other processing needed over the course of the 20 years. This is a one time fee that will last through the duration of the loan.

I talked to Lee around the financing of this, and it is going to be...it’s not in the Budget...but it is going to come out of the reserve that Chad has built up so far this year...so yeah, about \$130,000 in reserves...so it will be covered out of that reserve fund going forward...so it’s a one time fee that can’t be rolled into the loan...if it could’ve been, it would’ve been...but it wasn’t one of those options that was available to us.

It’s kind of like (on the local level) it’s like closing a house...you have closing costs and all those associated fees...this is our big closing cost for closing that loan.”

“How often are we making payments? Our payments are only twice a year—right?” asked Mr. Doug Hoffman.

“This one—I believe this is a two time a year payment—when the loan kicks in we’ll be making a payment, like in January and July—I believe,” replied Mr. Brugger.

“What else are they doing? We’re giving them \$3,500 a year—for what? It’s just a government rule? Is that how it is?” asked Mr. Hoffman.

Mr. Brugger answered, “I can’t speak to how they come up with their cost structure, but all I know is we’ve got an invoice...that we’re kind of required to pay!”

“We had \$130,000 in reserves—now we’ve got fifty left—I’m hoping we didn’t expect to use those reserves,” said Mr. Hoffman.

“Well, the reserves are there for things that come up unexpectedly—it’s one of those things that (unfortunately) we need to dig into that,” Mr. Brugger stated. “It can’t come out of the General Fund, so he has to fund it.”

“Hopefully—nobody else comes out with their hand out,” said Mr. Hoffman.

“Yeah—we don’t necessarily like the answers, but it’s the best we can give,” said Mr. Brugger.

“This is going to cover everything legally (and so on) over the duration of the loan?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“The way we understand it—this is a one time invoice to cover for the duration of the 20 year loan process...” said Mr. Brugger.

Mrs. Amy White asked, “How do the different departments come up with the money that goes into the reserve accounts?”

Mr. Brugger responded, “The enterprise funds which is the water, the sewer (they need to operate off the revenue they generate through their utility bills each month), so that’s their budget so to speak, that they have to operate within...so throughout the course of the year if there’s maybe an account that wasn’t necessarily...didn’t utilize all the money out of a certain account, they have some reserves set up to help offset some of the unexpected costs that come up.”

Mr. Dwight Paul commented, “That’s a lot of money for pushing papers around, but apparently we have to do it...so my question is...we’ve got a \$130,000 reserve...we’re going to have about fifty (as Doug Hoffman said)...have you talked with Lee about a plan to build those reserves back up? How long will it take it?”

“Lee and Chad meet regularly...and Lee meets with Bob (and every other department head) looking at their Budget on a regular basis to understand where they’re at...I do know they’ve met, in trying to make sure they have their costs in line...but we start the budget process for next year...next month, so...they feel comfortable that they can handle this, and be able to get through the year without any...they don’t anticipate anything else...any more surprises (but they’ve had a couple already)...” Mr. Brugger explained.

“Is Lee expecting to have the fund back to one-thirty by the end of next year?” asked Mr. Paul.

“It will be close—he should recover a lot of that through different operational costs that they can work on for the rest of the year,” Mr. Brugger replied.

“Do we think this is it?” asked Mr. Paul. “Do you think this is the last thing that’s going to pop up?”

“If it isn’t—we’ll let you know!” said Mr. Brugger (to some laughter).

2. Mr. Paul moved to authorize the Director of Administration to enter into necessary contracts to facilitate the Q3 JMC, Inc. Brownfield Development initiative in an amount not-to-exceed \$45,000 for economic development (This expense will be charged to Administration professional services (for economic development), and is not in the 2013 Budget – Attachment Provided); Mr. Eugene Fields seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Mr. Brugger explained :

“Hopefully, everybody received and understood the synopsis I provided—the intent with that was not to get into the weeds too deep (try to get into the minutia), but to give you (hopefully) a better understanding of where we’ve been, and where we want to go. Over the last 2 or 3 years...between grants, loans, third party payments...we estimate we’ve spent probably around...anywhere between \$350,000-\$400,000 of money (not necessarily the City money)—funds that have been spent from the State, or private sources to get to this point...with Phase 1, the Phase 2, and the other environmental assessments that have been going on. We’re at a point in this project—to make an attempt at getting Q3 back into productive use—we need to put together a team to kind of take that last lap...you know, it’s a 4 lap race...we’ve run 3 laps...we can see where we want to go, but we don’t know how we’re going to get there without some guidance...so we need to call in the resources that have the expertise, to work in brownfield redevelopment...primarily on the legal side, but we also need some more environmental support to finalize any last minute testing (and do the final reporting)...and work as a liaison between us and any third party that we would have to work with...so our intent at this point is to talk to 3 different legal firms, and a real estate development group...and through our selection process we picked Joseph Reidy (the company that legal/lawyers like to work with—he has an extensive background in brownfield development)...he’s currently working on a project in Middletown, which is almost when you talk to him...you understand where we’re at...it almost lays over exactly what we’re working on right now. He is working also...he finished a job in Kenton...is working on one in Hamilton County, and he’s worked on several big jobs over in the Columbus area. If you’re familiar with (on 315) where Time Warner has their new office...there’s another development there...that used to be a landfill...

What we’d like to do is put together a bucket of money—that we can work (between the legal side and the environmental side)...that have the expertise (and have the horses available to them), that can kind of drive this thing home. As we move along we’ll have reports (progress reports), so you’ll know where we stand. There will be things along the line that we’re going to need approvals—we’re going to need authorizations for agreements, and whatever!

In order to get to take the next step—and establish that tentative to a firm timeline, we need to start that last leg of the process...and that’s what this is for. Say if you look at what we’ve spent...or not what has been spent (not what we’ve spent)...what has been spent...we’re asking for probably less than 10% of what has been spent over the last several years.

On a local level (I don't have the detail), but between police calls, the fire calls...especially when you get into the winter months...trying to keep that building vacant and safe for the community...it's important to drive this thing home, and get it back into productive use...so that's where we're at on this project."

Mr. Doug Hoffman said, "Obviously that's an eyesore out there—it's wasted space—I do believe there is some interest in using the space, so we're not just doing this blindly. Kerry—do you have an idea of a timeline—or how confident that we are that this will even get to fruition?"

Mr. Brugger replied, "I have confidence that we can now see the end...and if I was optimistic (as optimistic as Joe was when he met with us, a couple weeks ago)—he felt we could wrap this thing up in 6 months! I would like to say, 'That would be great'...but I'm in the real world, and sometimes the real world's a little slower...so if we could get it done in the next 8 months (or 10 months)—I think that would be great. He's the one with the expertise—he's got people at the ready to help drive it...and that's what we need. We can't drive this, and follow through it anymore on our own...we need to get everybody together, and get all of the appropriate parties to the table...and start bringing it to a conclusion."

"Are we stuck with the \$175,000 in taxes, or...?" asked Mr. Thorpe.

Mr. Brugger responded:

"That's going to be part of this process, and...if history is any indication...we should be able to get through that issue without us having to handle that...but I can't speak to what might happen...but I would imagine we could work through that. We've had conversations with the County and the Ohio EPA...and Hull & Associates, Joseph Reidy, and all the other parties that have come to the table over the last few years...we believe we've identified all of the people that we need to deal with...now it's a matter of having somebody that has the guidance and the resources to kind of keep us moving, and run the charge..."

Mrs. White asked, "I've heard from several individuals that there might be some equipment still in the building... and if that's the case, is that something that could be sold off to offset some of the expenses?"

Mr. Brugger answered:

"Well—there's challenges with that—(A) if there is any equipment, it isn't ours...so that would have to be identified...and that's one of those little tentacles that would have to be identified as you move through the process...there's nothing we can do/nothing anybody can do with it, except the rightful owner...so until we get through that phase, the equipment then is (you know) it would be part of the disposition/the demolition process. We have had instances where we've had some salvaging going on...where folks are coming in in the midnight hours, and unfortunately, they got caught...I mean, fortunately for us, but not fortunately for them...they don't get much money if they don't get it to the junkyard...and it's hard to do it from the jail! Therein lies the biggest problem...is we've got the people that think they can get in and out...and kind of end up structurally weakening the building any more than it is...we hate to see somebody in there trying to do something illegal anyway (much less have somebody get hurt)...so that's why we want to get this thing moving."

Mr. Paul said, “Okay—so we’re basically hiring what I guess we’d call a ‘Project Manager’ to finish things up...so when you say...you make a comment of ‘Drive it home,’ or ‘Get it done’ and that sort of thing...basically what you’re saying, Kerry, is we want to get things back to a blank slate...that’s basically all you’re talking about...you don’t have any plans as far as what’s going to go in...if the whole building’s going to come down...our whole process is just to get the property to the point that we can entertain ideas, of where to go with it.”

Mr. Brugger stated:

“Right—and we will get to a point where we have everything in place—once those final decisions are made, then we’ll have to look for...okay, are there loans out there...are there grants out there (or whatever), and then once we get...determine the land is reusable, then can turn it over...and we may we have partners in that, that have an interest in the property...this is real premature getting into that. What we need to do is get ourselves to—here’s what we have, here’s what we need to do...”

“Okay—so let’s play ‘Joe’s Fantasyland’ then—so in 6 months from tonight (or whenever he starts)—he’s done (everything’s finished)—what does that mean? That means you’ve got what--permits in place, or demolition’s done (or is beginning), or...you kind of...put a little detail in,” Mr. Paul directed.

Mr. Brugger stated:

“Okay—for instance, there’s \$175,000 plus or minus in back taxes—those will be...taken care of...somehow or another, that’s going to be part of this process. When we get to a point to where we get into the final...pass the baton type thing...the property will be free of all taxes, liens, and encumbrances...that’s part of his project, that’s part of his responsibility (and commitment to us)...is to deliver us a final property that...a decision has to be made at this point now...what do we do with it. Do we invest in it in terms of the City, or do we have partners that are already saying, ‘Yeah, I’m interested, but I’m going to wait over here until I see that it’s ready—and then I’ll step up’...that’s where he has the experience that we don’t have—he knows how the game (I shouldn’t say the game)—he knows how the processes play out around the state...where to get the right players in position, and get letters in place...that say, ‘We have an interest in this property’...if this, if this, if this...so he’ll make sure that we have all the ducks in a row...everything’s lined up...so when the final mail’s in, is finished...then we can start executing at that point. Whether we...you know, we’re talking what ifs/what ifs...we have to own it...but within 6 months after we own it, maybe you’ll have it off the books.

Again, that’s the expertise that he brings to the table that we just don’t have in-house. To go through, and do it on our own—I think we’re just asking for a myriad of problems—and a lot more time!”

Mr. Paul added, “It would seem to me—to get this really moving, I think it would be well worth the investment to get through the paperwork (again—more government interference, or whatever you want to call it) get it done, get it through, and let’s get moving on it! It’s a great location, so I’d love to see that rehabbed in some form or another.”

“...and we did have conversation with the Ohio EPA...we just had a recent one (I think) about 2 weeks ago...we’ve got another one scheduled for this week...we have a draft today (a draft letter of) they call it a ‘comfort letter’ saying that the Ohio EPA will basically absolve the City of Urbana, providing we’re moving forward in trying to get this project...you know...cleaned, and moved forward...” Mr. Brugger said.

Mr. Paul interrupted, “So are they saying they’re done with us?”

“I’m sorry?” Mr. Brugger said.

“Did they say they’re done with us?” asked Mr. Paul.

Mr. Brugger replied, “They’re giving us a comfort letter saying that they are not going to pursue anything on their end, as long as we’re continuing to make progress...”

“Okay..so...” Mr. Paul began.

“Now if we say we’re finished, then they’ll have to take a different path and go after whomever they need to go after,” said Mr. Brugger. “We feel comfortable that we have the right players at the table...but we just have to kind of put our arms around it, and let somebody work it that has that legal understanding and experience.”

“Thank you,” Mr. Paul said.

“So—in essence—this could be like down at The Paper Mill,” said Mr. Fields.

“There are some similarities,” Mr. Brugger responded. “We put a couple hundred thousand dollars with that kind of up front, and we owned it...we still own it, and we’re trying to get it transferred this Fall...it’s been a little longer than we anticipated, but it’s been...not for lack of trying, it’s just things that happened that aren’t expected...so...that one will; be coming to closure here this Fall...unless something changes, we’re in the final steps of that.”

“I read this bio where it says he’s going to be responsible for trying to get some grants and...” said Mr. Fields.

“Yeah--he’ll be looking for the funding sources,” said Mr. Brugger.

“The \$45,000 is going to be well spent,” stated Mr. Fields.

“This is going to kind of get us into position to say, ‘Let’s go!’” Mr. Brugger added.

“It sounds like a good deal,” said Mr. Fields.

Council President Hess (to Mr. Brugger) asked, “You said one thing that struck me—the EPA said they won’t hold us responsible, if we continue doing this—how can they hold you responsible if we don’t do it?”

Mr. Brugger replied, “No, they’re saying they’re not going to pursue further action as long as we’re making progress...what I mean by that is, if we’re working on a project (we’re working on a progress timeline to get this thing fixed), they’re not going to go pursue (through legal terms) another party that might cause the thing to be delayed longer...they’re going to be...they’re going to stay on the sidelines with us...they’re going to be upfront...but they’re going to kind of let us work the process, and not put us in a position of liability (as long as we’re making these efforts to get this thing going).”

“Okay—put us in a position of liability—how?” asked Council President Hess.

Mr. Brugger answered:

“We’re not going to have any liability as long as we’re...we don’t take possession of it prematurely, right? I don’t think anybody wants to go take ownership of a property until it’s free and clear...so that’s where we’re going to go with this...with the legal and environmental assessment...is we want to get a free and clear title...free of all liens...all encumbrances, and at that point we know what we have. So I think I know where you’re going, and I don’t know that I can speak to it to the level that you’re asking! If there’s a...excuse my wording...I don’t want to say ‘cynical,’ You know I...I sense that, yes there’s always a doubt that...what if something goes wrong, but so far everybody we’ve worked with in this project has been very straightforward, and upfront with us. The Ohio EPA has been excellent to work with...they’ve been helpful in making sure that...answering our questions in giving us the guidance. We are not going to put ourselves in a position where we’re going to own...you know, Three Mile Island...I don’t think...if that’s what you’re getting at.”

“It is (basically), and then I (sorry guys I’ve begun, and I can’t stop)—at what point will you have a value of this property?” asked Council President Hess. Mr. Brugger said, “As soon as we finish this process—that’s going to be part of this process, to go through all the valuation...look at what parts of the property have to be cleaned/excavated/remediated/demolished...whatever...until we get that done, that will be one of the final stages once we get ourselves to ground zero (if you will)...what is the property worth, and...”

“...and the EPA will pay for all this clean up?” asked Council President Hess.

Mr. Brugger replied:

“We will have funding in place to take care of that...now again, I’m going to be honest with you...I’m not going to come say...to come back and say, ‘Well—forty-five wasn’t enough’...but...from what I know right now, this is what we’re asking for. I’m not going to try to mislead you and say, ‘I’m never going to come back again’...because I didn’t do that very good on the Waste Water Treatment Plant...but you know, I want to keep you upfront...I want to keep you honest. I want to share as much information as I can with you when it’s appropriate...and when I can. What I can’t do is—I don’t want to surmise, and ‘what if’...and then have that go on record as, ‘Well, you said...’

We’re going to put the best package together that we can. There’s nobody in this room—unless somebody can speak up that isn’t here—that nobody wants to put anybody in a position where there’s a penalty box. If we can’t put this thing together (moving forward) in the right way, we don’t want to move forward...but (by the same token), to sit on our hands and say, ‘We’re not going to do anything, because we just don’t trust somebody,’ I don’t know that that’s the right thing to do either.”

“I have a ton more, but I’m going to stop there—that’s okay,” said Council President Hess.

“So—if we’re going to have Joe handle all of this paperwork thing—so we’re going to give \$45,000 (hopefully that’s all we do)...are there other things besides this that we’re doing (now) to push this forward?” asked Mr. Paul.

“Yes—absolutely,” answered Mr. Brugger. “We’re continuing to book and work with the entities that we can. We’ve met with the Board of Revisions with the

County twice—we're going to meet with them again next week to understand the properties and what liabilities they have on their books...so we need to work on our local end, and with the local firms that are involved in the clean up (that have some liability, or some ownership of it)—we've had some conversations with them...we've worked with Hull & Associates...so there's other working on the sidelines at different factions...but now it's time to put everybody at the same table, and let's start working through the...I do want to clarify one thing, we're asking for \$45,000...(you know) I'm saying, 'That's a bucket.' There's 2 places we're going to spend that money, legal and environmental...and Hull & Associates, they did the Phase 2 assessment last Fall (they finished that up). We want to keep them onboard to help drive the final cost when it comes to the acquisition, the demolition, the remediation—they'll do the final development of that plan—that's going to be their part of it. Until we know—yes, we have this money—then we've got to sit down, and start hammering out the details of the contract. That's where we think we're going to be okay—I just didn't want to come and say, '\$29,000 for this,' then pretty soon, "I spent thirty, 'and you said it was going to be twenty...' Just give me a bucket, and let me dive out of that as we need it! We think the lion's portion of it is going to be on the legal side of it, just because of the work that's going to be out there to do."

3. Mr. Paul moved to authorize a purchase order to White's Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge in the amount of \$21,490 for the purchase of a 2013 Jeep Patriot Sport to be used by the Court (This was the lower of 4 quotes received. This will be charged to Court Improvement Capital, a fund that is deemed appropriated – Attachment Provided); Mr. Fields seconded. Motion carried by Council, with vote of opposition voiced only by Mr. Paul.

Discussion –

Mr. Brugger explained :

"A couple of weeks ago the Judge asked Lee and I to meet with her to go over a vehicle that needed some repair—they have a 2005 Chevy Astrovan that is in need of some significant front end work, which was estimated at \$1,400 and some odd dollars. She says—we agreed—that it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to spend around \$1,500 on an 8 year old vehicle that is having issues anyway! What she asked was did she have money in her funding to get another vehicle. Lee confirmed that she had the money in her reserves...so she had the money in the appropriations, and so she asked one of the...Clerk, or employees of the Court, to go out and solicit quotes on a smaller style all wheel drive/4 wheel drive. She went to White's and they had a Liberty and a Dodge Journey...went to Trenor's, and Kehl's."

Mr. Brugger indicated the quotes were presented to him, and noted that the request for purchase was the Liberty.

Mr. Fields asked whether the trade in value was \$1,500.

"The trade in was like \$800 or something," Mr. Brugger answered.

Mr. Paul asked, "What is she going to use a Liberty for?"

Mr. Brugger said:

"Because there are times when she needs to send the Bailiff to go to deliver papers—she needs to be able to get, anywhere she wants to get—that's why she

doesn't need a lot of room. She doesn't transport prisoners! The original intent (the fact that the van was purchased) was they were going to...the Court would be handling the transfer of prisoners, and that doesn't happen...so they're using an Astrovan to go after/bring people into Court, serve papers, and drive wherever they need to go...drive to do the Court business. The way she explained it is—they don't transport prisoners—that's handled either through the Police or the Sheriff (or some law agency). All she needs is somebody to go anywhere in the County...in any field...wherever they need to be...to get to the person they need to hand papers to!"

Mr. Paul asked, "Is this the only vehicle that the Court has?"

"There's another vehicle in the Probation Department—I think it's an '07/'08 (don't quote on that) Ford Escape—that one they're trying to nurse through—it's got some body issues," said Mr. Brugger. "They're trying to work on that. They'll get into that next year."

"So—are we talking about pulling the entire price out of reserves?" asked Mr. Paul.

"Less any trade in," replied Mr. Brugger. "\$800. or \$1,500, depending on who you talk to."

"Basically not much," said Mr. Paul. "So—do you know offhand what her reserves are?"

Mr. Brugger answered, "I don't have an exact number—I'm going to say, it's got to be in the vicinity of \$200,000. Lee said he was going to use 10% of her reserves."

"Wow! She's had two hundred grand in reserves!" said Mr. Paul.

"I can't speak for the Judge," said Mr. Brugger.

Council President Hess (to Mr. Paul) asked, "Have you been to see her?"

"I have not—I will go talk to her," Mr. Paul replied.

"You should," stressed Council President Hess.

"I'm shocked that she would need two hundred grand," stated Mr. Paul. "You all looked surprised that I'm shocked to hear this!"

"Ohhh—it's not—nothing is surprising anymore," said Mr. Brugger, to some laughter.

"That's fine—thank you," said Mr. Paul.

Mr. Hoffman said, "I'm fine with the expenditure I guess, because it's something that's—there's funds there to be used...but you said the van they have now is 8 years old? How old is the van?"

"The van is 2005—the Astrovan," said Mr. Brugger.

"So it's 8 years old..." said Mr. Hoffman, estimating annual cost of the van maintenance, etc. "How much expenses have they had on this van? You said '\$1,500'—is there other things that they see coming, or...?"

"I can't speak for the Judge—I encourage you to ask her," said Mr. Brugger.

"No—I'm fine with it—I'm sure it would be more convenient, but it may still be cheaper to repair it," Mr. Hoffman speculated.

4. (*This Board of Control item was presented just prior to the Meeting, and is an AMENDED version of a previously presented/accepted Board of Control item.) Mr. Paul moved AMEND the Board of Control, item passed on 08-13-2013 for

Professional services for the Robert Rothschild Farm Sewer Main Extension on U.S. Route 36 East to read as follows:

The Board of Control recommends Council authorize the Director of Administration to enter into a contract or contracts for professional services for the Robert Rothschild Farm Sewer Main Extension on U.S. Route 36 East. Professional services for this project are defined as engineering services (force main design) and environmental review services. These services will be procured through qualification based selection.

Furthermore, The Board of Control recommends Council authorize an amount up to \$33,000 which will be inclusive of the contracts for professional services approved above, and any additional construction costs that may be incurred above the \$160,000 in construction funds that were committed to this project by Resolution No. 2386.

Mr. Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Brugger stated, “The first point I want to try to make is—this is the exact amount that we did at the last meeting.”

He explained that at the last Meeting, the Administration came to Council requesting to spend that amount ‘up to \$33,000 for professional services—yah-dah, yah-dah, yah-dah.’

“I got an email this afternoon that says, ‘Well, even though the amount totals work...’ the way they broke it out, we don’t have enough in there...\$33,000 wasn’t stipulated to cover any other construction services/cost that needed to be covered,” Mr. Brugger said. “Since we didn’t have the word ‘construction services,’ they needed new language that authorizes us to use this pot of money that we had authorized—last meeting.”

He continued, “To keep this on a timeline (which is starting to get tighter and tighter)—we chose (rather than wait until the next meeting) to walk it in tonight. The money doesn’t change, we’re just asking for the additional language in there that it refers to ‘construction’ funds.”

“Just one word gets an extra reading,” Council President Hess commented.

“So you want to spend \$193,000?” asked Mr. Fields.

Mr. Brugger made reference to bidding as ‘coming in well under, or we may have to go out and rebid—so right now we’re working on things that don’t exist, but we’re just trying to make sure all the buckets are labeled correctly...and once that happens, then we can start the process...and hope then, we have all the buckets adequately filled.’

Mr. Thorpe asked, “Does this wind it all up then?”

“Until the next time we...come back...we hope this is the last!” said Mr. Brugger.

“Again, this is still...we haven’t even gone to bid...we’re still doing the final design.”

Citizen Comments

Mr. Jamie Shaffner, 225 Jefferson Ave.; Mr. Dan Arnold (Heartland of Urbana Administrator), 741 E. Water St.; and Mr. Craig Bennett (Local VFW Commander), 38 N. Ste. Rt. 560; each addressed Council regarding announcement of the upcoming 12th

Annual Patriot's Day (and First Responders' Hog Roast) scheduled for Wed., Sept. 11, 2013 beginning at 8:00AM and continuing throughout the day until 2:00PM.
(*Please see Council Files for FULL schedules/descriptions of events, participants, and sponsors) Also mentioned was a 7:00PM ceremony to lay a wreath in honor of the fallen at Freedom Grove Park, Urbana, by the Boy Scouts of America.

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. 2400 –

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

(* Administrative Request for Suspension of the Rules, and Passage)

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

Roll call vote to approve suspension: Mr. Paul, yes; Mrs. Smith, yes; Mrs. White, yes;

Mr. Thorpe, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Fields, yes (6-0)

Mr. Hoffman moved to place RESOLUTION NO. 2400 on the business floor for discussion and passage; Mr. Thorpe seconded.

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

Discussion –

Mr. Paul asked, "Is anything at all changing?"

Mr. Brugger said, "The worksheet we got back—the only difference is... Lee sends over a lump sum number for the General Fund, and a lump sum number for Police and Fire... Karen (Bailey) breaks it apart, and it has three lines in the General Fund, Fire separate, and Police separate... and when it's all said and done, she converts everything to millages, and the final result is about a \$1,900 swing one way or the other. That's the number we're moving forward with."

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Fields - Discussed the upcoming Underground Railroad activity, and noted the VFW will be there as well as the Honor Guard (Labor Day Weekend)

Mr. Paul - Moved to excuse Councilman Al Evans from this Meeting; Mr. Thorpe seconded. All were in favor of excusing Mr. Evans, with the exception of Mr. Fields.

Expressed appreciation to the 'Champaign County Citizens for Canines' for their work on the Dog Park @ Melvin Miller Park; Said he has taken his dog there several times, and 'had an absolute ball!'

Announced the 'Wounded Warriors' 5K Run' on 8-31-13 (8:AM)

Announced Scouts' Popcorn Sales to begin'; Encouraged support

Mentioned 'The Champion Tree' recently taken down

Mrs. Smith - Said, "The handicapped signs that's around town—who puts them up? The businesses, or do the City put them up?"

"The City puts those up," Mr. Brugger said.

“Right there at the Post Office—there is a handicapped sign in front, and I’ve got several calls on that...so when you look at the sign that says, ‘5 Minute Parking,’ and there’s an arrow drawn to the back towards the west side...and then it’s got a handicapped sign underneath of it...is that whole area there for handicapped, or...?” asked Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Brugger replied, “I’ll have to check, but I thought the handicapped sign said, ‘Handicapped Parking in Rear.’”

“There is no handicapped sign, or parking place in there,” Mrs. Smith said.

“I’ll check that out,” Mr. Brugger said.

Mrs. Smith mentioned downtown businesses with merchandise out on the sidewalks, and asked whether something could be said to these businesses regarding increasing sidewalk space (for wheelchairs, etc.)

Mr. Brugger said, “We continue to battle that issue—I know Brad had many conversations with a lot of the owners—the Ordinance allows for material to be within 3 ft. of the building...some take advantage of that. We will revisit that.”

Mrs. Smith sought specifics on speeds/speed signs on Dellinger Rd. (68 to Dellinger/ E. Lawn onto Dellinger)

Mr. Brugger said he would check the areas, and noted ‘if we all go back to Drivers’ Ed training, every street in the city is 25mph, unless it’s posted differently’

Mrs. Smith asked about E. Lawn to 68, and Mr. Fields noted, ‘That’s Salem Township’

Regarding speed signs in that area, Mr. Brugger said, “The Township would be the one to ask that question.”

Mrs. Smith asked what can be done about ‘engine brakes,’ and asked if signs are posted at every entrance to the city for trucks

“Duly noted,” Mr. Brugger said regarding her suggestion to post at all entrances to the city

An audience member corrected, “You mean jake brakes, not engine brakes.”

Council President Hess said, “You can legislate that—if you’d like! That’s what you do is ‘legislate and appropriate.’”

“How do I do that?” Mrs. Smith asked.

“Talk to the Law Director,” Council President Hess said.

Mrs. Smith said, “On Dellinger east as you’re going to turn right on Julia—there is no sign that says that’s Julia St. If you were looking for Julia St. going that way—you wouldn’t know where it’s at.”

“Got it,” said Mr. Brugger.

- Mr. Thorpe
- Mentioned the \$23,000 given to the Museum by the 401st Bomber Group, and said, “I think the people need to know that that Museum does not have any tax money...there’s no tax money in the Shiffer Museum...they ought to thank that Group and The Shiffer Family, for what that Museum does for this city...thank you!”

- Mayor Bill Bean added, "...and then that money went to the donation to refurbish the B-17 at a...that the Museum is doing out there...and all that money was collected and donated by the 401st Bomber Group."
- Mr. Hoffman - Talked about the tree that 'was growing out of this building (the chimney of the City Building)—somebody took care of it—I appreciate that!'
- Mr. Robert Munch –
Nothing at this time
- Attorney Breanne Parcels –
Nothing at this time
- Mr. Brugger - Also announced the Dedication Ceremony by the Historical Society of The Underground Railroad (Sat. 11:AM @ Melvin Miller Park)
Noted construction is ready to begin Sept. 3 at the WWTP; Signage is being erected, and details are being ironed about control of the site
Sept. 9 was announced as the official groundbreaking (WWTP);
Details are being finalized for the early afternoon activity
- Mayor Bean - Congratulated Mr. Fields for 'being elevated to the Thirty-Three Degree Mason'
Noted the City received the 'Standard & Poor's Rating,' and it has gone from an A- to an A+
He said, "That's going to help with interest rates and trying to get loans...so anyway, that's just a good shot in our arm getting that to an A+!"
Also mentioned The Dog Park noting that the 'dogs are socializing, and I've noticed more humans socializing out there!'
Noted the success of the MERFI Fly-In that took place in Urbana the previous weekend

Council President Hess asked the Clerk whether she had any items to mention. The Clerk reminded Council that a decision should be made regarding a change in the Council Meeting Schedule for the Nov. & Dec. holidays. She said Council had previously received an email from the Administration with a suggested schedule. Council President Hess asked Council to be prepared to address this at the next Meeting.

Council President Hess –

Noted 'a dear old friend—Miss L—is having a birthday,' and gave her cellphone number as #215-4442
"She'd love to hear from you—if you can get a chance, call her!" he said. "#215-4442."
Announced that school has started, and urged everyone to exercise caution around school zones; Asked everyone to be patient with the transportation changes that have taken place

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thorpe moved to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at approximately 8:10PM; Mr. Fields seconded. All were in favor of adjournment.

