

URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

Council President Marty Hess called the Urbana City Council Regular Session Meeting of Tuesday, September 11, 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. Chad Hall; Fire Chief Mark Keller; Police Chief Matt Lingrell (Absent: Mr. Doug Crabill and Mr. Lee Williams)

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Proclamation

Mayor Bill Bean read a Proclamation previously presented earlier in the week at Hearth and Home, recognizing “Assisted Living Week,” September 10-17.

Approval of Minutes

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

Communications

There were no Communications at this Meeting.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control

1.

Mr. Al Evans moved to authorize the Director of Administration to enter into a contract in the amount of \$29,500 with Burgess & Niple, Inc. to prepare an environmental document for submission to ODOT District 7 for the West Market St. Bridge Replacement Project (The environmental document is required for the City to receive construction funding from ODOT for this project. The City conducted an RFQ and an RFP process, and this firm was the top scoring firm selected through this process. This item is in the 2012 Budget for \$30,000., and will be funded by Capital Improvement funds.); Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Kerry Brugger explained:

“If you recall—during the Saturday Work Session we had a couple months ago, this is a project...the Market St. Bridge just west of the old library (on the other side of south Walnut—kind of that intersection), has been inspected I think in ‘08/’09 for stability and integrity...and it was found to be deficient, so there’s been progress since then trying to identify what needs to be done.

That bridge was built around 1913+/- a few years. It’s originally a jack arch stump bridge, and over the years it’s been modified...concrete abutments put in place, and things like that. At the time it was inspected (back a few years ago) they reduced the load limit to (I think it’s like) 3.5 tons...so the capacity isn’t there to handle delivery trucks larger than your UPS truck.

Part of the plan...there’s a plan in place for construction in 2015 to replace that bridge...but part of that plan is (under the ODOT program) is to conduct all the due diligence...environmental studies, archaeological impacts...working with ODNR/historical preservation groups and a sundry of other entities...just to make sure there is no...not going to be any negative impact as the project unfolds...so the intent

here is we've gone through a selection process whereby we interviewed (or sent out) I think about 10 or 12 RFPs from companies that we felt were capable of handling this project...narrowed it down to a group of I think 5, and then we went through the process to select Burgess & Niple...and have met with them a couple of times over the last 3 weeks, and came in with the summary that you see in front of you in your packet. This study has to be completed...it's going to take about 10 months...up to 10 months to complete that process, and be ready to make sure we have final paper work in place for ODOT...for I think January 14th...January 2014 submittal. The project is being funded by an ODOT Small Cities Grant, 80/20...the study that we're here tonight for is going to be 100% funded by some local...then we'll get the 80/20 out of the project when we go get it full funded."

Mr. Evans pointed out that that area 'gets a lot of traffic from the Post Office.'

"It's a fair amount—and it's also (unfortunately) a short cut for a lot of people trying to bypass...going downtown," Mr. Brugger said.

"Now—was the bridge an issue when we had the flood?" asked Mr. Evans.

Mr. Brugger replied, "I believe that's where it was kind of discovered that there was a (if I remember)...reports back that there was debris and build up underneath that structure. I believe J&J Schlaegel went in and cleaned that bridge out...and that's what they found that...maybe better get on that, and check it. The inspection was done shortly thereafter, and found that it needs to...there's some settling and shifting going on with the structure, and it's been identified that it needs to be replaced."

"It's in the budget—Al went over what I wanted to cover—let's move on," said Mr.

Lokai.

Mr. Thorpe agreed.

Council President Hess asked, "What all will they study on this—for the next 10 months? Is there a list that they had to go by?"

Mr. Brugger answered, "There's an environmental study that has to be conducted."

"...and ODOT came up with that?" asked Council President Hess.

"Right—and they're also working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office—there's a whole (like 9 pages) of background integrity, structural, environmental impact that has to be conducted for ODOT to move this forward," stated Mr. Brugger.

Council President Hess asked, "...and that's after the bridge has already been declared unsafe for more than three and a half tons?"

"Okay--let me make sure I understood your question," said Mr. Brugger.

"All that has to be done after an engineer came in and said, 'That bridge is unsafe for anything more than three and a half tons...'" said Council President Hess.

"That was identified as a structural deficiency—now (in order to move forward with the project), all the environmental/peripheral studies have to be completed to satisfy (or eliminate) any potential surprises..." said Mr. Brugger.

"...and if they find anything, then the bridge won't be replaced? Can that happen?" asked Council President Hess.

"Anything's possible, Mr. Hess," replied Mr. Brugger.

"These questions all came up, so I thought I'd ask," said Council President Hess.

2.

Mr. Lokai moved to authorize a purchase order to Fire Safety Services in the amount of \$8,340. for 12 MSA air cylinders for self-contained breathing apparatus (This will be charged to Fire-Capital Improvement Fund, and is in the 2012 Budget); Mr. Dwight Paul seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Fire Chief Mark Keller addressed Council:

“These are air cylinders (carbon fiber air cylinders)—that we wear on our backs to go inside of house fires, or a fire that we might have some respiratory issues with...so, originally the price was \$1,100. per bottle...and we were able to piggyback onto a large order to bring the cost down to around \$800. per cylinder. We were able to save \$300. per cylinder.”

Mr. Thorpe asked, “Are they selling these all new?”

“They will be all new,” replied Chief Keller.

“...and are they re-serviceable?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“They will be—for 15 years,” Chief Keller said. “They have a life span of 15 years—that’s why we have to replace these, because they’re at their 15 year limit.”

“...and how many of these do you have?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“Right now, we have 39,” Chief Keller said, explaining further.

“You’re replacing how many?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“Twelve,” said Chief Keller.

“You’ve got 39—how often are you going to have to replace the other 27?” asked Mr. Thorpe. “Will it be done in steps?”

“It will be in steps,” answered Chief Keller. “We have 4 air packs already made up in each engine—4 spare cylinders in each engine, so when we come back out we can have a fresh cylinder to put on.”

“Thank you, sir,” said Mr. Thorpe.

“It’s in the budget—I do appreciate you looking out and finding a way to piggyback—I appreciate the savings,” stated Mr. Doug Hoffman.

Mr. Evans said, “The idea of the program is you have a number of them staggered by life...so that over, what...how many years?”

Chief Keller replied, “Every 15 years we...”

“You’re always going to have some going out, some coming in,” said Mr. Evans.

“Right,” Chief Keller confirmed. “I think it comes out to about...maybe every 3 years...we have to replace about 10 or 12.”

3.

Mr. Hoffman moved to authorize a purchase order to Treasurer, State of Ohio, in the amount of \$15,100. for permits to install (These permits are needed, and must be submitted, for OEPA to review and approve the new WWTP upgrade/expansion design. This amount is the maximum amount that OEPA can charge for PTIs due to the estimated construction cost. This will be charged to the Wastewater Dept., and is not in the 2012 Budget); Mr. Paul seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Chad Hall stated:

“First of all—this is not in the 2012 Budget—we kind of anticipated the PTIs to be presented along with the design prints to EPA in early ’13...so this was an item that we

originally was going to take care of in '13, versus now '12...so we're a little bit ahead of schedule...than we anticipated.

As it states here—the maximum amount's \$15,100.—to give a comparison...when we built the septage facility...a half million dollar project, that PTI would've been \$3,200. There's a factor that they base through the estimated construction cost, to generate a (some) dollar amount through PTIs. These permits to install (they've changed them)—we've not got (I think) 11 of these different permits to fill out by process...it used to be you would just fill out 1 and move forward, but now they have to have 1 for each process in fine detail.

I believe that \$15,100. number was the same back in '08, when we did the microwave septage...which we did not reach that amount...that's been a pretty much set amount for the last few years. I did do the calculations at the engineer's estimated cost...if you did it...if you went off to their factor without the actual amount...it would be \$78,000. for the PTIs."

Mr. Hoffman asked, "For \$15,000—what are they doing? Are they doing anything?"

Mr. Hall replied, "Yeah—they'll take the 90% design, and it takes them roughly 3-5 months to sit down and go fully through the design...come back and forth with the requested changes...ultimately, when all is said and done...it's...now we have their blessing to move forward. The few small ones that I've been through haven't been too bad, but this one here...I'm expecting at least 4 months."

"Good luck," Mr. Hoffman said.

"Could this be a reoccurrence thing, or...?" asked Mr. Thorpe.

"You mean on the cost of the permits? No--it's a one time..." said Mr. Hall.

Mr. Paul asked, "So you have a general idea of what you want the project to look like?"

"Right," Mr. Hall said.

"We saw some basic plans when we had our weekend retreat—so you have that, and then you have to get permits through the State—but we haven't gotten to the point of actually getting architects involved, and everything else?" asked Mr. Paul.

"Yes—yes, we have—that was part of my Miscellaneous Business tonight," stated Mr. Hall. "Half of the 90% was delivered last Tuesday—the balance of the 90% will be delivered this Thursday—so we're at the real final stages of design. We're down to...light switches now!"

"But the \$15,100.—is not going to be something that we're charged every year—these permits were initiated, because we're going to upgrade our treatment plant...and you want the money now, rather than 2013," Mr. Evans sought to clarify.

"Yeah—so we can go ahead and submit the plans to move forward," Mr. Hall responded.

"Right—gotcha," Mr. Evans said.

"To piggyback on Mr. Hoffman's...um...we have an architect that works with the State all the time, and has to have a set of plans that's perfect...and yet, we have to pay \$15,000. to make sure they're perfect...I guess," said Council President Hess.

"Also—just remember this is not a fee to the architect—this is a fee to the Treasurer of the State, so...just on a larger scale it's like a permit for somebody to get from the City to put in a fence, or whatever," said Mr. Brugger.

Mr. Hall briefly described the process, but added, "We know it's a long process just to make sure everybody's happy with the design."

“Regardless of how we feel about the EPA or ODOT—if we don’t satisfy this permit process, we’re not going to upgrade our sewer treatment plant,” said Mr. Evans.

“No—we can’t even submit the design,” Mr. Hall added. “That’s the key to get in the door—the check.”

Mr. Thorpe referred to this as ‘a set up to get permits, to get permits.’

4.

Mr. Paul moved to authorize a purchase order to CDW Government in the amount of \$3,600. for the purchase of electronic equipment for the Training Room in the Municipal Building (This will be charged to Non-Departmental-Capital Improvement Fund, and is not in the 2012 Budget); Mr. Thorpe seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Discussion –

Mr. Brugger stated:

“Upstairs in the Training Room (where we had our Saturday session)—if you recall at that meeting we had a portable projector showing pictures and stuff on the wall, and what we’re looking to do...we put together an internal team of Police/Fire Personnel and some of the Central Staff, to look at how we can convert that room...so everything isn’t so portable to have to be set up every time there’s a new function.

We have the Planning Commission Meetings, the BZA Meetings, Design & Review Board...there are various functions in there, plus Fire and Police...and other training...so the Police and Fire Departments are working together with their groups to develop a layout whereby they can mount a permanent ceiling mounted projector...install a white board that’s going to be dual purpose between...you can show (use it for a screen), or you can use it for marking...but the idea is to make that room functional where anybody who comes in to use it can hook in a laptop into an outlet on the wall, and fire up...and start a meeting fairly quickly without a lot of hunting/looking...for...where’s this cord? where’s that projector?...who had it last?

So the idea here was to make it a little bit more user friendly, and make it a little more versatile. I commend the group—they’ve worked very hard from original estimates around \$7,000. working for trying to buy some of the cabling separate from a package...identifying what cabling they could use that’s already in place (or in house), to reuse it...so they’ve done a real nice job of putting this together from what I consider on a fairly economical basis...and then utilizing the CDW Government contract (if you will) to buy some of the equipment to eliminate that extra cost.”

Mr. Brugger indicated he talked with Mr. Lee Williams at length before moving through the process, and before Mr. Williams went on vacation. He mentioned that Mr. Williams expressed a degree of comfort in keeping within this price range, and no concerns.

Mr. Brugger commended Chiefs Keller and Lingrell together with their groups, and expressed appreciation for those who took the time to paint.

Mr. Paul asked, “Is part of the \$3,600.—does that come with any support for any of the equipment?...or is that just putting it out the door, no support?”

“I believe (Matt can help me), but I believe that’s equipment out the door...and then whatever the standard manufacturer warranty is with that...there isn’t really any software (or anything) that goes with this...it’s pretty much...just projection equipment...transmission equipment...” said Mr. Brugger.

“So—who’s doing the install? Are you guys...?” asked Mr. Paul.

“We’re going to do a lot of it on our own—within house, the guys in house,” Mr. Brugger replied.

“Okay—you’re comfortable with that?” asked Mr. Paul.

“Yes,” said Mr. Brugger.

“Don’t drop it,” Mr. Paul said, to laughter. “So—another question comes to mind—okay, so...if we’re going to pay \$3,600. to upgrade this room (I think it’s great—a great idea)...is there any way to make the room available to other organizations? For a fee, or something? Let them come in, and use the room when they want? Maybe at the end of the day—we end up putting a little bit back into the treasury—have you guys given that any thought?”

Mr. Brugger said, “We would love to do that. We’ve talked about it, but haven’t put anything in the paper yet...we’d be interested to talk, to see if there’s some interest there...I’m sure we could work something out.”

Mr. Paul stressed that there is always need for meeting places, and that Administration should give consideration to the idea.

Mr. Lokai asked, “What does CDW stand for?”

“CDW is just the name of the distributor,” said Mr. Brugger.

“I would say, not being in the budget—it wouldn’t normally be something I would be very interested in...but I think with the need to improve the look, and try to step up with professionalism in the eyes of the people that work in the City, as well as those that come into town...I think it’s money well spent,” stated Mr. Hoffman.

“Agreed,” said Council President Hess.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizens who came forward at this Meeting.

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. 2374 –

A 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

(*Read and declared a First Reading)

Discussion -

Mr. Brugger noted this Resolution as a formality that is coming back to Council for authorization. Council President Hess announced that the Finance Director will be back for the next meeting to address any questions regarding this Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2375 –

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO TRANSFER A CITY OF URBANA PROPERTY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, INC.

(*Read and declared a First Reading)

Discussion –

Mr. Brugger explained:

“This is a Resolution for...we were approached a month or so ago, by Jim Ballard with the Champaign County Habitat for Humanity...requesting that the property at 247 W. Twain Ave.(went through Sheriff’s Sale a couple times—no takers—came back—was offered to the County, offered to the City Schools, offered to the City...) The City was the only one interested in taking that property—I believe it was May of 2011 (or thereabouts) when that property was officially transferred.

So we’ve been sitting on it, looking for an opportunity to develop it...sell it...what have you. It is not repairable. Gene Gaver and Brad have gone through it...and deemed that that property cannot be salvaged the way it is now...so the Habitat group has asked if we could give them that property. They will...they’ve made arrangements to have the property demolished, and then construct an about 1,150 sq. ft., 2 bedroom home on the property. As part of that—they understand they’ve got to make sure it’s surveyed, follow with all the proper paper work, follow with the proper permits and ordinances at the time of the construction.

The only thing (right now) that’s a caveat is...there are back taxes due. The number is still being finalized. We have a court order that determined that if we kept the property the City would not be liable for any old past taxes (or any future taxes)...but if we ever sold the property (or otherwise disposed of the property), then back taxes and liabilities are expected to be paid.

We are looking at...to see if we can get an appeal to that, but in the process the Resolution reads that...that would be our worst case scenario...we’re going to look continue to look to see if can get those backed out...but we’d like to move forward with the process, so this Resolution basically allows us to move forward in the worst case scenario whereby we would forgive...we would end up paying the back taxes, and let Habitat take the property...for developing.

If we can get the appeal—then obviously we wouldn’t have to pay the taxes...”

Mr. Hoffman said, “I think it’s a good idea, because it would be getting rid of an old house to make a new one...but the thing is, I got that email you sent out...I was looking at it...it sounds like they did a house out there on E. Reynolds (not too long ago). I went to the County Auditor’s website, and I couldn’t see where there was a tax record yet of the new property...so I don’t know what kind of taxes we could expect to get on the new property.”

“Well, that’s the thing—we won’t get any of it, it will go to the County...I met with Karen Bailey last week...went out to talk to Kermit Russell...to try to better understand this process...and (unfortunately) we’re kind of stuck where we’re at...unless we can get a successful appeal to...not...to have those back taxes waived,” stated Mr. Brugger.

“I didn’t understand, Mr. Brugger,—to not have the taxes waived?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“No—we’re...trying to get the taxes waived so...worst case scenario (the way the Resolution is set up), we would be liable for back taxes if the appeal is not successful,” Mr. Brugger replied.

Mr. Thorpe asked Mr. Brugger for an estimate (figure).

“\$8,600.” answered Mr. Brugger. “Plus or minus a few.”

Mr. Brugger indicated the date of transfer (in August 2011), would reveal the final calculation.

“...and if they build a house there...it goes on the tax record?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“It goes on this County tax record,” Mr. Brugger replied.

“...and we still won’t get any of that!” Mr. Thorpe said.

“You don’t get any today,” added Mr. Brugger.

Mr. Lokai stated, “The way this is presented—this is a win/win for Habitat for Humanity, but a lose/lose for the City (if we don’t get the appeal)! I personally think (after listening to the various possibilities) that...don’t do anything on it until we find out what the appeal’s going to be...because we’re going to lose, if we don’t win the appeal. Habitat for Humanity is going to win, because they don’t have to pay the taxes...we do! So if we sit on this until we get the appeal rendered...I think that would be a wise choice as opposed to rushing it through now...”

Mr. Lokai emphasized that the City would take a risk if this Resolution passes, and the appeal is not granted.

“I don’t think the taxpayers want that!” he stated. “I would say hold off until we find out what the appeal would be...do we know how long the appeal’s going to take? Is there a timeline?”

“The last court order was August of ’11—so what’s another 13 months, right?” Mr.

Brugger replied.

“Well, I just hate to see us give it to somebody—you know—trade it, or transfer it...and then we get stuck with the bill!” Mr. Lokai said. “I don’t know if 13 months is that important...maybe we can just wait and see...or trigger the political maneuvering (whatever it’s going to take to get it done)...”

Mrs. Virginia Smith asked, “The other homes that are sitting around that are going to be demolished (or just sitting empty)—now do they have back taxes on them too?”

Mr. Brugger answered, “Some of them do, some of them don’t.”

“So—we could be in this situation again when it comes to another...?” asked Mrs. Smith.

“Well—the only difference is--we own this property,” replied Mr. Brugger. “With the others, we don’t own.”

Mr. Paul asked, “So right now, Kerry, we’re looking at about \$8,600. for the back taxes...so when Habitat comes in and there’s a property like that, are they the ones responsible for tearing down and disposal?”

Mr. Brugger responded, “They’ll be the ones responsible for tear down and disposal.”

“Okay—so our only piece as far as exposure is (as you were talking about, Larry), it’s just the tax piece...that’s basically all we’re going to have on the line...assuming the appeal doesn’t go through,” said Mr. Paul.

“Right—we have...(in my research) we also were cited by our Code Enforcement/Zoning Dept. in May...we were given a violation...we either have to demolish it, or repair the property...so we’re a little bit behind the 8 ball in meeting our liability there,” stated Mr. Brugger.

“So if we wait another 13 months, we’re going to get dinged again by our own...?” asked Mr. Paul.

“Oh no—it may go quicker than that, but I know we’ve had it since May of ’11...then went through the court process, got an appeal order in August of ’11...and now it’s September of ’12...so I’m not going to try to guess when it will come through,” said Mr. Brugger.

“How long have we owned this?” asked Mr. Evans.

“Since May of 2011,” said Mr. Brugger.

“We haven’t paid any taxes on it?” asked Mr. Evans.

Mr. Brugger again explained the situation of ‘no back taxes/no future taxes’ as long as the City owns the property.

“Once we transfer it—that’s when everything kicks in,” he said.

“If we sit on it, we won’t have to pay additional taxes,” said Mr. Evans.

“Well, if we sit on it...we probably need to demolish it...we’re going to have some cost (whatever it takes in cost) to demolish that,” said Mr. Brugger.

“Because...we’re going to continue to get citations from Building Regs, or our own Zoning Dept.?” said Mr. Evans, chuckling.

“I would imagine...it’s a pretty tough group up there,” Mr. Brugger replied (to audience laughter).

“Building Regs, or our Zoning Dept.?” asked Mr. Evans.

“It would be our Zoning Dept.,” answered Mr. Brugger. “Again—we’re obligated—right now we should be tearing it down...even if we need to sit on it. Somewhere down the line (when that property is transferred)...you know...the dust will settle somewhere...so...”

“So whether we do it with Habitat, or some other person...in order to get rid of this property...I can’t see anybody taking on a back tax liability, so we’re going to have to pay it eventually (if we want to dispose of the property),” said Mr. Evans.

“If I was a bettin’ man, I would agree,” Mr. Brugger said.

“The way budgets are...our budget...their budget...everybody’s budget...I can’t see them forgiving any taxes...and that’s the reality!” stated Mr. Evans. “You now—I would have to say—if they were going to forgive, they would’ve told us that already.”

Mr. Hoffman asked, “Do we mow that property now?”

“Yes,” said Mr. Brugger.

“So that would go away,” Mr. Hoffman said. “Is there any concern with legal liability? Somebody getting hurt? Kids breaking in the structure? I mean—is that a concern?”

“It’s always a concern,” answered Mr. Brugger, also briefly describing the current condition (inclusive of wildlife living in the structure).

Mr. Hoffman said, “If we’ve got to eat the bill...it’s now, or later...we might as well do it now!”

“If we hang onto it, and hang onto it—do we have additional taxes?” asked Mr. Thorpe.

“Not to my understanding, but I don’t want to be the legal expert on that,” replied Mr. Brugger.

“There’s probably a reason why the County and the City Schools didn’t take it,” Mr. Lokai remarked.

“There’s a family that’s waiting to get this—now if they don’t get that piece of land, will they have any place to live?” asked Mrs. Smith.

“I believe they’re living some place now, but I don’t know what the conditions are...if they’re...how they’re...” Mr. Brugger said.

Mrs. Smith noted that it may cost the City in the long run, but ‘it will be for the best.’

Mr. Evans said, “Habitat for Humanity is a good program—I mean, we’ve seen some of their work—and they do quality work...but...have we learned our lesson about taking property again that...we’re not going to go down this road again, are we?”

Mr. Brugger answered, “One would like to think we probably wouldn’t be doing this.”

“Okay,” said Mr. Evans. “That being said, let’s move...”

“We can’t move—this is a First Reading,” stated Council President Hess.

Mr. Brugger indicated he did not request passage at this meeting.

“What would it cost to tear it down? Do you have an estimate?” asked Council President Hess.

“We don’t have an estimate—we know with some of the previous...it ranged from \$6,000. to \$7,000. up to \$10,000. to \$12,000...so probably an estimate is \$8,000., \$7,000., \$9,000....somewhere in that vicinity,” answered Mr. Brugger.

“So we could end loader and a couple dump trucks over there...and let them level it, and fill the hole in,” Council President Hess said.

“You could,” said Mr. Brugger.

“...and that would get rid of that part of it...is that a possibility?” asked Council President Hess.

“If we have the proper place to take the landfill debris,” said Mr. Brugger.

“Will that get the Zoning people off our back?” asked Council President Hess. “I was just throwing out a question, you know.”

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Thorpe moved to excuse Mr. Eugene Fields from this meeting; Mr. Lokai seconded. All were in favor of excusing Mr. Fields from this meeting.

Mr. Hoffman - Said, “Keep those that died in 9/11—you know—keep them in our thoughts and prayers...I think it’s been 11 years now...it seems like yesterday...I know we all probably remember exactly what we were doing at that moment...just...never forget.”

Mr. Evans - Discussed a citizen on Twain Ave. who was questioning the installation of high powered lines on Twain
Mr. Brugger noted that DP&L is relocating power poles
Mr. Evans said the citizen just wanted to know if there was a new manufacturing facility going in

Mr. Paul - Asked about the status of the land swap with the YMCA
Mr. Brugger responded, “Platting is complete—we are actually going to meet Thursday afternoon to finalize all the signatures, and move that forward. Probably within the next 3 weeks or so, we’ll have that wrapped up.”
Mentioned the painted curbing ‘looks good’
Asked if bridge overpass graffiti could be painted over
Noted the recent paving ‘looks fantastic’
Discussed the schedule of Council Meetings

Mr. Paul moved to maintain the current schedule of (2) Regular Session Council Meetings per month (with Work Sessions to be conducted only on an AS NEEDED basis per request of the Administration, and/or by a majority of Council), and to be conducted as a separate meeting following a Regular Session, or as a separate Tuesday meeting on either the first or third Tuesday of the month; Mr. Lokai seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion –

Mr. Evans commented that he opposed doing this when first voted upon this Summer, but he has since realized that Council is not obligated to a third meeting. He stressed that Council and the Administration are working together, and Council is being informed of matters by the Administration/Departments. Mr. Evans said that the extra ‘free’ Tuesday

Council had this Summer has allowed for other things, but that he is prepared to attend when a Work Session is deemed necessary.

Mr. Paul and Mrs. Smith agreed with Mr. Evans, and pointed to the need to remain flexible.

Mr. Lokai applauded efficient meetings, with information being received well in advance. He said the motion for (2) Regular Sessions puts Urbana in line with cities of less than 15,000.

Mr. Thorpe said he ‘reluctantly agreed,’ and added that if Administration needs a Work Session, it should be scheduled.

Mr. Hoffman said, “I stood by that in the beginning—if you guys, Kerry/Bill need a Work Session...set it up!”

Council President Hess reminded Mrs. Smith that she had requested a Work Session regarding Building Regs.

Mr. Evans said a Work Session should not be limited to the second Tuesday, but could be after a Regular Session or the First Tuesday.

Mr. Lokai said a Council request for a Work Session should be by a majority (of 7).

Mr. Paul asked if the Council Meeting sign could be changed.

Mrs. Smith - Nothing at this time

Mr. Lokai - Nothing at this time

Police Chief Matt Lingrell –

Presented information to Council regarding a new outreach program, “Are You OK?” geared toward the elderly and homebound citizens in the community. The free program will be managed by Police Division, and will run through Police Division’s Records computer. Daily telephone checks will be conducted on those citizens who subscribe to utilize the program. The system can handle up to 125 calls per hour, and can make multiple calls at pre-selected times chosen by the subscriber. It was noted that the program will run M-F, 7:30AM-3:30PM. The program will cause an alert after a phone checkup has either not been answered on 3 consecutive attempts (or rings ‘busy’), which will then result in an officer being sent to the subscriber’s home to check on their status.

The program is planned for activation in October. Interested residents are encouraged to stop by Police Division to pick up a pamphlet/application for completion (or download the pamphlet from the Police section of the City of Urbana’s website).

Chief Lingrell said that eventually the program will allow for assistance to residents who have confusion about when to take their medication(s), as well

Police Chief Mark Keller –

Expressed appreciation to those organizations who invited Police & Fire for meals, in recognition of 9/11

Announced tornado sirens will be turned off, effective January 1, 2013; Residents were encouraged to utilize Code Red telephone alerts by going to the Champaign County Emergency Management Agency website : champaignema.org, or calling 484-1642

Residents can receive alerts for tornados, storms, floods; Calls can be received via cell phones or land line

Mr. Chad Hall - Told Council that the Sewer Camera Trailer returned, and ‘final touches will be put on it this week’

He announced plans to have a small demo on E. Market St. soon, and Council will be invited--as well as any interested residents

Mr. Brugger - Said, "In our quest for not having a Work Session on the 3rd Tuesday, I will revert back to my earlier comment...that we have a Work Session (if at all possible) on Tuesday, the 18th, at the Cemetery. We're looking forward to an opportunity to get Council to meet in the main house there...I think it's 319 Patrick. I imagine it will be at least an hour—maybe a little longer...weather permitting, we'll go out and take a quick walk through some of the sections. With budget time coming up I think it's important that we kind of stay in touch with some of the areas that require some budget attention...but don't necessarily get the attention it needs...but we have some information that we'd like to...we're finalizing, that we'd like to prepare for that meeting so...if at all possible...next Tuesday, 7:00, at the Cemetery main house. I'll have an agenda put together here, and get it out this week."

Discussed Oak Trees at the Cemetery/Park that are dying/ Ash & other trees are also beginning to show age; Noted 1 tree at the Cemetery that the City is not able to physically handle (not the State champion)

Mr. Evans (representing The Shade Tree Commission) agreed that the tree described needs to come down ASAP

Mr. Hoffman asked whether the tree has monetary value

Mr. Evans said it 'would be good for firewood, and not much else'

Mr. Brugger indicated the tree will come down in the next few weeks

Mayor Bill Bean - Expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in the 9/11 Memorial Service at Freedom Grove; Complimented the service Announced the Chili Cook Off (September 29); Noted the winner of the contest can receive \$1,000.

Register at: www.chilicookoffofurbana.com

Mr. Paul announced registration for the Hoopla Parade at: urbanahooplaparade@gmail.com

Council President Hess –

Discussed sidewalks put in on W. Light St., and noted 2 gentlemen who said there are no sidewalks in front of their house (3rd block)

Mr. Brugger said, "We'll look at that."

Mr. Evans noted, "It's not a skipped section, because of a driveway. There's just no sidewalk on that portion...I don't know why they omitted that! I had thought initially that they had tore the sidewalk up, and were going to replace it."

Mr. Hoffman briefly discussed 'Safe Routes to Schools' regs

Announced the Finance Director will be returning, and said he will be in touch with Council Members regarding the upcoming budget Reminded Council of the Work Session on Sept. 18th at 7:00PM Asked whether all the traffic light trip mechanisms have been installed

"It's my understanding—everything's been repaired, and they're

doing the final striping...and little odds and ends right now,” said Mr. Brugger.

“How is our Water Survey coming on the west side?” asked Council President Hess.

Mr. Brugger replied, “We met with Floyd Browne, and we...Chad and I sat with them this morning, and went through where they’re at this point...and we set a timeline to bring back the final product. We’ll be meeting at least 2 more times in the next 2-3 weeks finalizing the data they’ve got...there are a few things they still need to get forwarded to them...so you’ll have more of an update at the next meeting, but we are moving forward. We do see light at the end of the tunnel.”

Council President Hess (to Mr. Brugger) asked about parking on The Bike Path on the northern extension

“Along that—Railroad St.—that is City property, so...we don’t have anything designated at this point in terms of parking,” replied Mr. Brugger. “I think it’s one of those things—we’re going to have to evolve into that, because it wasn’t anticipated that that would be a parking area. I think the intent was they’d start at The Depot, and they’d ride down...ride off...ride somewhere else in the city...but apparently, people are starting at Railroad, and going somewhere else...so...I don’t have an answer for that yet.”

Council President Hess asked Mrs. Smith (and Council) whether there is interest in having a Work Session ‘sometime in the future about Building Codes.’

Mrs. Smith indicated she is still interested in pursuing the topic; Council President Hess instructed her to ‘convince at least 3 other Council Members to have a meeting.’

Adjournment

Mr. Thorpe moved to adjourn the UCC Regular Session at approximately 8:13PM; Mr. Lokai seconded. All were in favor of adjournment.

Council Clerk

Council President