

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**



President Pro Tempore Thackery called the City of Urbana Work Session to order at 6:00 pm.

City Staff attending: Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb, Police Chief Matt Lingrell

City Council: President Hess, absent; Ms. Jumper, present; Mr. Scott, present; Mr. Paul, present; Mr. Thackery, present; Mrs. Collier, present; and Mrs. Bean, absent.

H.B. 172 – Potential Opt-Out of consumer grade fireworks legislation

Mr. Feinstein started the discussion by passing out a list of other municipalities in Ohio that were opting out of House Bill 172.

Chief Ortlieb stated Urbana does not currently allow consumer grade fireworks defined by Section 1.4(G). He indicated nothing would change from the status quo by opting out of the legislation. In making his determination as to the route Urbana should take, he was considering a number of factors: Whether there would be a significant increase of fire or EMS issues; The impact the legislation would have; Whether there are rules for enforcement; and, Whether the City could actually enforce it.

Mr. Feinstein clarified that consumer grade fireworks would only be legal on the fourteen days listed in the statute. Even on those days, the fireworks would only be allowed during permissible hours.

Chief Ortlieb stated that theoretically the City could also require permits if Council wanted to go that route.

Mr. Brugger clarified the procedure the City has in regards to special event requests.

Chief Lingrell stated UPD has eased up over time. Typically officers simply issue warnings, unless there are injuries. Over the last few years, UPD has averaged about a dozen calls each Fourth of July. There are calls even about the fireworks at the airport. Chief stated he did not have an opinion, just wants the City to tell UPD what to do. He stated Council can always revisit the decision in the future.

Mr. Paul indicated the easy decision seems to be to opt out of the ordinance. He asked Chief Ortlieb where specifically he stood.

Chief Ortlieb stated he could not find any data supporting the decision to opt out. He did not want to do anything if the City would be unable to enforce it.

Mr. Scott suggested potentially opting out and then reviewing data from those municipalities who followed H.B. 172.

Mr. Thackery questioned why H.B. 172 was passed in the first place. Mayor Bean indicated the feedback he received was it was by legislators who were being term-limited out, who passed this very quickly.

Potential Issues regarding the City’s deer population

Mr. Paul stated the City ordinance involving deer references a Deer Control Program that does not exist. Creating a deer control program, even one that simply states the City does not have a deer control program, could potentially close a loop. He was unsure if it was necessary.

Mr. Scott suggested Mr. Feinstein could potentially create an ordinance to erase the deer control program in the future.

City parking issues and enforcement

Ms. Jumper stated she has an issue with tenant parking in the downtown area. Cars potentially stay all day and do not move. Cars also have expired registration. She suggested potentially designated areas for unloading. She believes enforcement may be the issue.

Mr. Brugger stated the City currently has 510 parking spots within a two block radius of the square. In 2012, the City had a parking enforcement officer. Even Mayor Bean received a ticket. Unfortunately, he was not creating enough revenue to warrant his part time pay. He stated the police have to prioritize their time and cannot always get to parking issues.

Mr. Brugger also recently met with the City of Troy to discuss similarities with their parking enforcement issues. This helped the City make the determination to move from one hour to three hour parking zones.

He discussed possible options:

- Chalking tires – Would require the City notifying cars of their intent
- Eliminating night-time parking, making it easier to clear out cars each night.
- Building a parking garage (Springfield’s new garage cost over \$6.5 million)
- Wi-Fi meter maid – contracting out the enforcement issue

He stated the City will not spend money to buy private land to develop into public parking.

Mr. Paul stated it seemed to be more of an issue with people being considerate rather than enforcement.

WORK SESSION COMPLETED AT 7:27 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

June 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.





Council Clerk



Council President