



**URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

President Hess called the Public Meeting to order. This sole topic discussed was to considering reaffirming the ban on discharging, igniting or exploding fireworks in the City of Urbana, as set forth in Chapter 1519 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Urbana.

Mr. Feinstein discussed that currently, the State of Ohio has banned consumer-grade fireworks. Recently passed House Bill 172 will lift the ban on certain days of the year. With Walter Drane's updates, our City ordinances would mirror the new State law. By opting out, the City would keep the ban in place.

There were no comments from the general public.

Ms. Collier asked if not opting out would benefit the City. Chief Ortlieb stated there is currently not any data that would support the notion that there would be more fires or injuries due to fireworks if the law goes into place. He also believed the State Fire Marshall did an excellent job laying out the rules the general public would need to follow. Finally, he was unsure how the City would be able to properly enforce the ban, and therefore would lean towards allow the state law to take effect.

Mr. Paul believes the City may have flexibility long term if it were to decide at a later date to potentially opt out.

Mr. Hess was curious what the percentages were in regards to municipalities opting out. Chief Ortlieb stated that a lot of cities are leaning toward opting out, with Columbus having recently just done so. He doesn't see the date to opt out at this time.

Mr. Hess also asked if Chief Ortlieb believed the ban could be enforced. Chief answered that it could, but it would require a lot more resources than the City currently has.

Mr. Paul stated that if the City did not opt out, there is the potential of merchants selling fireworks to people not eligible due to occupancy issues. Chief Ortlieb stated that these issues were all covered by the State Fire Marshall code.

Mrs. Bean stated that if the City were to opt out, stores potentially wouldn't sell these fireworks because there would not be any opportunity to sell to Urbana residents. Chief Ortlieb stated that Ohioans can currently buy fireworks in Ohio with the notion that they are supposed to take them out of State. Presently, he is only seeing the novelty fireworks in stores.

President Hess called the Public Hearing closed at 6:12 pm.

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022**

President Hess called the City of Urbana Regular Session Meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

**City Staff attending:** Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, Community Development Manager Doug Crabill, and Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb

**President Called Roll:** Ms. Jumper, present; Mr. Scott, present; Mr. Paul, present; Mr. Thackery, present; Mrs. Collier, present; and Mrs. Bean, present.

**Swearing-in of New Council Member**

Mayor Bean swore in Stephanie Truelove as Councilwoman for the Fourth Ward, term expiring December 31, 2023.

**Introduction of New CEP Manager**

Rich Ebert introduced Beth McCain as the new CEP manager.

Ms. McCain stated that Urbana has been her home for the past sixteen years, and it has been a blessing seeing the City continue to grow and strive.

**Minutes**

Mr. Thackery moved to put the minutes of May 17, 2022 and May 24, 2022 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mr. Paul seconded. No corrections were noted. Voice vote on approval: all ayes; nays, none.

Motion passed 7-0

**Communications**

1. Urbana Shade Tree Commission – April 2022 Minutes
2. Communication from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control dated May 20, 2022, regarding the new liquor permit application for Abuela’s Kitchen, 23 Monument Square
3. Electric Aggregation Press Release – May 23, 2022
4. Ohio Aviation Association Press Release – May 24, 2022

Mrs. Bean moved to put the communications on the floor for further discussion and possible passage. Mr. Paul seconded.

Mr. Paul asked specifically what the liquor permit application for Abuela’s Kitchen entailed. Mr. Crabill stated it was a D5L request for beer, wine, and liquor with food.

Mr. Paul also stated he recently had his electric switched. It was easy and half the price.

Mr. Thackery sent his congratulations to Elton as the new President of the Ohio Aviation Association.

Voice vote on approval: all ayes; nays, none.

Motion passed 7-0.

**Administrative Reports – Board of Control:** None

**Citizen Comments:** None

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Third Reading:** None

**Second Reading:**

**Ordinance 4573-22:** An Ordinance to Opt-Out of H.B. 172 and to reaffirm the ban on discharging, igniting or exploding fireworks in the City of Urbana, as set forth in Chapter 1519 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Urbana, and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Scott moved to put this ordinance on the floor for discussion. Mr. Thackery seconded.

No further statements were made from the previous public hearing.

President Hess declared this ordinance to have had its second reading.

**First Reading:**

**Ordinance 4429-22:** An Ordinance adopting the tax budget of the City of Urbana, Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023; Submitting the same to the County Auditor.

Mr. Thackery moved to place this ordinance on the floor for discussion. Mrs. Collier seconded.

Mr. Brugger stated the tax budget is required to be submitted to the County by mid-July. This is an estimate of the 2023 resources to fund the City. The City estimates the revenue will be over \$7.5 million while the expenditures will be over \$7.4 million. The tax budget will be available for public inspection at least ten days prior to being enacted.

Mr. Paul stated that 2021 had a large supplies cost under leisure activities and was wondering what that was. Mr. Brugger stated that he couldn't speak to that, but Ms. Boettcher should return for the next meeting.

President Hess declared this ordinance to have had its first reading.

**Ordinance 4574-22:** An Ordinance amending the exemption periods of Urbana Community Reinvestment Area 1 as established by City Ordinance No. 4348; Repealing Community Investment Area No. 4; and Repealing North Main Street Community Reinvestment Area.

Mr. Paul moved to place this ordinance on the floor for discussion. Mr. Thackery seconded.

Mr. Crabill stated this started as a project to examine the community reinvestment areas. In 2010, the City had a housing study which justified investment area number 1. In 2011, there was an amendment to the investment area Ordinance 4348 to extend the geographic boundaries. These boundaries were determined by census data. This ordinance eliminates the reinvestment areas near

the airport and the manufacturing area on the southwest portion of town. These areas are already covered by the investment area one.

The second part of the ordinance is to increase the abatement periods for new construction and remodeling to fifteen years in order to mirror the revised code. While there are not many vacant areas on the map where new construction is feasible, it could help fill in empty areas.

Mrs. Bean questioned the case by case language in the ordinance. Mr. Crabill clarified that any commercial process has to be considered after negotiations are complete. Residential processes are automatic, not negotiated. Mr. Crabill also clarified that all abatements are the differences of the improvement from the previous base value, not the complete total.

Mrs. Collier questioned whether the abatements in subsections c and d would always be 100%. Mr. Crabill stated that the final percentages would be subject to negotiation. Mrs. Collier then asked if these abatements always go to the school board. Mr. Crabill clarified that if certain thresholds were met, then it would indeed trigger the necessity of going to the school board.

Mr. Thackery asked if the footprint stayed the same. Mr. Crabill answered affirmatively.

President Hess declared this ordinance to have had its first reading.

#### **Department Liaison Reports:**

President Hess had been serving as the temporary liaison to the law department until the fourth ward vacancy could be filled. Now with Ms. Truelove's addition to Council, she will become the new law department liaison.

#### **Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Scott announced that he would need time with Mr. Feinstein to discuss Urbana Codified Ordinance 505.11

Mr. Paul thanked the community in general. He goes to the compost facility frequently and rarely sees trash. He believes it is being used for its intended purposes.

Ms. Truelove had just visited recently and believed people may be starting to abuse the facility. She also stated the facility is starting to check to make sure you are only depositing approved materials.

Mr. Thackery stated the downtown trash receptacles are being abused. They appear to have trash stacked around it, even old furniture. He also asked Mr. Crabill how the DORA was coming along. Mr. Crabill stated he was getting close.

Mrs. Collier asked why the curb holes were so deep on Main Street. Mr. Crabill stated it was standard procedure. The gravel goes down first prior to the curbs being placed in it.

Mrs. Collier also asked if the vacant Frisch's building violated the City's empty building ordinance. Mr. Crabill stated the building had been owned by a third party, from which Frisch's rented it. It went up for sale last June, when an out of area party purchased it. He had never heard a word from the new owner. He has reached out to the broker, who stated it will potentially be put back up for sale.

Mrs. Bean stated she believed the compost facility was open on Sundays, but will be closed on Father's Day. (She later clarified that it was indeed closed on Sundays.)

Chief Ortlieb stated that ten people tested for the new firefighter position. Once they get the results back, they will move onto the physical ability portion. He also stated that Douglas and Legacy Place was having issues with keys and the department was working on that.

Mr. Crabill stated there will be closures starting Monday regarding the water main on Dellinger Road. There were also tentative closures around the Sutphen site regarding connecting to the water main.

Mr. Brugger welcomed Ms. Truelove. He also stated Elton being president of the OAA was quite an accomplishment for Urbana. ODOT is also awarding a grant over \$500,000 to improve the trail crossings. Mr. Crabill added the construction would potentially be in 2025. It would include push button activated crossing devices on Miami Street and the site on North Main would potentially be moved away from the railroad tracks.

Mr. Brugger also added there would be a right-of-way meeting for South High Street on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Storm Sewer project on Nova Drive is underway. Finally, he appreciated all of the sleuthing from Mr. Crabill and Mr. Ebert regarding Frisch's, etc.

Mr. Feinstein welcomed Ms. Truelove and appreciated having a full City Council.

Mayor Bean was glad to have Ms. Truelove here. He also appreciated the Memorial Day service with the remains of Corporal Charles Hiltibran. The Army, National Guard, and Air Force were all involved. The Korean War Veteran's Association was there to explain what happened to Cpl. Hiltibran. Mayor Bean stated the graveside service was a tear jerker.

Council Clerk Steffan provided information on the Virtual Training for the Sunshine law seminar. He also indicated the packet for the next meeting would be coming early due to being out of state.

President Hess thanked Mr. Thackery for leading the work session.

Mr. Brugger added that there would be a full day of activities on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> for the Urbana Black Heritage festival.

Mr. Thackery moved to adjourn. Mr. Scott seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays none. Motion passes 7-0.

**ADJOURNED AT 7:04 p.m.**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

June 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.



  
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President Pro Tempore (Acting Clerk)

  
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Council President