

APPROVED

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023**

President Hess called the City of Urbana Regular Session Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

City Staff attending: Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Director of Finance Chris Boettcher, Police Chief Matt Lingrell, and Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb

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

Wreaths Across America:

Pat Detwiler and Kim Snyder spoke about the program happening on December 16, 2023 at Noon in Oak Dale Cemetery. They passed out order forms to sponsor wreaths.

Ms. Snyder stated Oak Dale is the largest cemetery in county and also has the largest proportion of veterans (1,758 veterans at least). She informed Council that the public should notify Buzzy Moore if a veteran tombstone needs marked.

Oak Dale has veterans from the Revolutionary War to current day conflicts.

This is currently year six for the program in Urbana. The ladies stated it provides an access point for community involvement. This program takes a lot of work and uses a lot of volunteers.

Mr. Paul stated it is a great program and asked if the event itself is about half hour. Ms. Snyder stated the timing depends on if a firing squad is present. If it is, the presentation takes 18 ½ minutes. She added that the program has enough people to lay wreaths. Instead, the issue is with sponsorship. Last year, they were 500 short. The year before they were accidentally sent a double order.

Ms. Jumper asked if the information is already on the website to be shared. Ms. Snyder stated they are checking into doing a Facebook page for the chapter. She added that she would connect contact information.

Last year, 2,700 cemeteries participated globally.

Minutes

Ms. Truelove moved to put the minutes of October 3, 2023 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mr. Paul seconded.

No comments/corrections from Council.

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

Communications:

1. Re-Imagine North Main Street Open House (See Attached)

Mr. Thackery moved to place the communication on the floor for discussion and possible acceptance. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Mr. Brugger stated the project was in full swing with the survey recently closing down. The open house will be October 30th, 6-8 pm. It is a public event to look at different stations regarding the project.

Mr. Paul stated that residents are happy that North Main Street was finally getting attention.

Voice vote on acceptance of communications: All ayes, nays none.

Administrative Reports – Board of Control: None

Citizen Comments:

Rick Cordle (1001 S. Main St.)

Mr. Cordle previously spoke to Council. He is concerned nothing is going to happen regarding traffic at the intersection of South Main Street and Broadway. He is frustrated with Urbana City schools with the bus dropping students off on the other side of the street and is fearful for an accident.

He is also concerned Broadway is blocked during the school release hours. He invited Council to sit on his porch during these hours and smell the exhaust. Finally, he is also concerned with snow plows getting through. He notes traffic already has to drive into his yard by a foot or two. He believes it would be better suited as a one-way street.

Brice Creager (17 Monument Square)

Mr. Creager stated he believed parking was becoming an issue in the downtown square. He would like to see some type of enforcement. He stated that there does not necessarily need to be more spots, only enforcement.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading:

Ordinance 4597-23: An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a pre-annexation agreement with the landowner of approximately 36.021 +/- acres of land located on Ohio State Route 29 near Dugan Road, Parcel Nos. K41-11-11-11-00-025-00 and K41-11-11-11-00-023-00, which is contiguous with the boundaries of the City. (Three readings required)

Mr. Thackery moved to put this ordinance on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Mr. Paul seconded.

Mr. Brugger stated that after two readings, this ordinance was pretty well explained. He added that this doesn't guarantee anything happens anytime soon, but sets the property up for potential development.

No comments/questions from Council.

Roll call on passage: Mr. Scott, yes; Mr. Paul, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes.

Ordinance passes 6-0.

Second Reading: None

First Reading:

Resolution 2646-23: A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Victims of Crime Act (“VOCA”) Grant as administered by the Ohio Attorney General, and declaring an emergency. (One reading required)

Mr. Paul moved to put this resolution on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Mr. Thackery seconded.

Council Clerk Steffan spoke on behalf of this resolution in his role as Assistant Prosecutor. He stated that under Marsy’s law, victims of crimes have the right to take an active role in the legal process. The Ohio Attorney General has set up a grant program to provide funding for advocates throughout the State of Ohio. The City of Urbana has a part-time victim advocate whose salary is paid by this grant. Mr. Steffan added that the grant amount the City receives has remained the same for the past few years.

Mr. Paul asked Ms. Boettcher about the local match by the City. Ms. Boettcher stated the City is required to cover twenty percent of the costs, and added the City is reimbursed from the Attorney General’s office through monthly reports.

Roll call on passage: Mr. Paul, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Ms. Jumper, yes; and Mr. Scott, yes.

Resolution passes 6-0.

Resolution 2675-23: A resolution authorizing the Director of Administration to execute an agreement with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to participate in the Regional Council of Governments for the purpose of administration and collection of municipal income tax in the City of Urbana, Ohio, and declaring an emergency. (One reading required)

Mr. Thackery moved to put this resolution on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Ms. Boettcher thanked everyone for stopping in to talk about the change. RITA was formed in 1971 to collect taxes for cities. Currently 40 Ohio cities participate. With RITA, Urbana citizens will be able to file income tax services online, something not currently provided. Citizens can still do paper forms as well. RITA collects and retains a two percent fee, which is approximately \$150,000. Currently the salary for an income tax clerk plus postage and supplies is about \$104,000.

Mr. Paul stated he is a big believer of finding specialties. He thinks the City will probably collect a bit more than previously could as well. He asked if there were other areas of Finance that are affected by joining RITA. Ms. Boettcher stated there would be a reduction of software costs due to not using the software. She added RITA can actively find people not paying, something the

City does not have access to those types of resources. She added the City is not as proactive as it needs to be.

Mr. Scott asked when this would be up and running for the City. Ms. Boettcher stated if approved tonight, it would be up and running February 1st.

Ms. Jumper offered thanks for reaching out to each Council member and explaining it.

Mrs. Collier believes it is very user friendly.

Mr. Thackery thanked Ms. Boettcher as well.

Mr. Paul asked how long the agreement would be. Ms. Boettcher stated the City would have to give a six month notice to leave RITA.

Roll call on passage: Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Ms. Jumper, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; and Mr. Paul, yes.

Resolution passes 6-0.

Department Liaison Reports:

Ms. Truelove stated she recently had a conversation with Mr. Feinstein regarding the President's role in the charter. She would like to research it a lot more than she has.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Thackery stated he recently partook in the citizens police academy. He stated it was an awesome program and recommend everyone take it. He sleeps better at night knowing the quality of officers and management of chiefs. He also congratulated the 150th anniversary of UFD and appreciates both of the City's chiefs.

Ms. Truelove stated she would like to cancel the work session. Mr. Thackery seconded. President Hess called for a voice vote. Cancellation approved, 5-1. (Mr. Paul voted nay)

Ms. Jumper thanked the Mayor for the invite to the breast friends forever gala. She also appreciates both chiefs.

Ms. Boettcher thanked Council for approving resolution to join RITA.

Mr. Brugger stated leaf collection started this week. He believes it will ramp up over the next week or so. He added the Compost facility is still open regular hours. He stated the FAA contract got caught up in snail mail and it should be here for the next meeting.

He also urged everyone to check out the renovated pickleball court. Ms. Truelove asked when the compost facility will close. Mr. Brugger answered sometime in December.

Chief Ortlieb thanked everyone for supporting UFD and urged everyone to keep sending potential recruits their way. Applications due next Tuesday.

Chief Lingrell stated there has been theft of signs at the City park and urged everyone to keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

Council Clerk Steffan stated next meeting will have a replacement pages ordinance from Walter Drane. He added it will be larger than usual, so anyone that would like a more-detailed explanation of changes should come into the Council office to take a look instead of adding two hundred pages to the next agenda packet.

Mayor Bean stated it was a great time at the 150th Anniversary of the UFD. He appreciates everything Chief did to put the event together. He also thanked Ms. Jumper, Ms. Truelove, and Mr. Scott for joining at the breast cancer dinner. He added it was a wonderful evening.

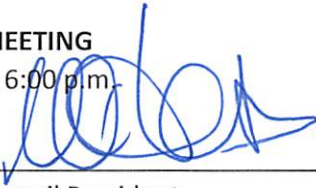
Ms. Jumper moved to adjourn. Ms. Truelove seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays none. Motion passes 6-0.

ADJOURNED AT 6:44 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING
November 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.



Council Clerk



Council President