

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023**

APPROVED

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, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, Police Chief Matt Lingrell, and Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb

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

Minutes

Mr. Thackery moved to put the minutes of October 17, 2023 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Mr. Scott seconded.

Mr. Paul asked what section 210-State Highway was in the appropriations. Ms. Boettcher stated they were the permissive tax and fuel tax, which goes in and then transfers to the street fund.

Mr. Paul then asked about the mandatory drug and probation office appropriations were. Ms. Boettcher stated they were from the Court and were funded through probation fees and money from the County.

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

Communications:

1. 2024 Urbana City Council Meeting Schedule (See Attached)
2. Letter from Columbia Gas of Ohio dated November 21, 2023 (See Attached)

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

Mr. Thackery indicated that he found it interest that the grand total would be \$28 million, but it only be an increase of \$1.38 per household. He said it was a lot of households.

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

Administrative Reports – Board of Control: None

Citizen Comments: None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading: None

Second Reading:

Resolution 2433-23: A resolution to appropriate money for the several objects and purposes which the City of Urbana, Ohio must provide for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. (Three readings required)

Mrs. Bean moved to put this resolution on the floor for discussion. Mr. Thackery seconded.

Ms. Boettcher stated that this resolution is the annual appropriation for the budget, operating capital improvement, and debt services. This resolution goes hand-in-hand with the tax budget passed earlier this year. Ms. Boettcher indicated there would be an unappropriated balance of about \$40,000.

Mr. Thackery asked if the meetings with Council members would be in regards to the whole budget or just Council's budget itself. Ms. Boettcher answered that last year the meetings entailed a whole budget review.

President Pro Tempore Paul declared this resolution to have had its second reading.

First Reading:

Ordinance 4600-23: An ordinance to amend Chapter 171, Municipal Income Tax, to conform with the amendments to Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code and adopting the Regional Income Tax Agency Rules and Regulations. (Three readings required, Suspension of rules requested to allow passage on second reading, Public Hearing required)

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

Ms. Boettcher stated this ordinance is to amend the Income Tax chapter in the Urbana Codified Ordinances. RITA reviewed our ordinances and determined we needed to make some amendments. After review with Mr. Feinstein, they determined the best option is to adopt the RITA model ordinance as our Exhibit A, which becomes our new Chapter 171. She added that Section 2 discussed exhibit B, which adopts RITA rules and regulations.

Mr. Feinstein added that the first page of Exhibit A will read "effective January 1, 2024" instead of 2016, as it reflects when the changes will go into effect.

Mr. Paul asked if the City was losing any language they had we wanted to keep. Ms. Boettcher stated the City had some language about tax exemptions but RITA has a section that can be included in the model language.

Ms. Truelove indicated she appreciates all of the explanation.

President Pro Tempore Paul declared this ordinance to have had its first reading.

Ordinance 4388-24: An ordinance authorizing the Indigent Defense Agreement with the Champaign County Commissioners to allow the City and County to receive partial reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender Commission for the indigent expenses in the Champaign County Municipal Court. (Three readings required)

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

Mr. Feinstein stated this was a housekeeping ordinance that occurs every year. Any indigent individual facing jail is constitutionally afforded the right to council. The Ohio Public Defender Commission handles this issue with contracts with each county. On any violation of state law, the matter goes through the County. On any violation of our city ordinance, if the OPDC does not reimburse 100%, the County is allowed to ask the City for its share of public defender expenses. This ordinance also gives the City right to ask for reimbursement from OPDC for what we have to pay to the County.

Mr. Paul asked if there was any issue with the passage of this ordinance being in 2024. Mr. Feinstein stated no, as this is how it has been passed previously.

President Pro Tempore Paul declared this ordinance to have had its first reading.

Department Liaison Reports: None

Miscellaneous Business:

Ms. Truelove mentioned she previously brought up keeping the general public informed with water bill inserts. She stated she understood it involved more money than what some people may be comfortable spending. She added that it may be something to do quarterly. Mr. Paul stated Council can cover this issue at the next work session.

Mr. Thackery indicated the City is still moving forward with the North Main Street study.

Mr. Scott stated he has seen pictures of the old Frisch's. He stated it looks sharp. He wishes them luck and hopes they have good food.

Mr. Paul stated the Third ward seat will be open January 1st when he assumes the role of President. The election to fill the vacancy will be held in March with petitions by due by December 20th.

Also, Mr. Paul stated he will be reaching out to council members about process changes. He advised Council to be ready for organizational meeting on January 2nd and to be ready for nominations for President Pro Tempore. He also stated he was contemplating changing up the roles of liaisons

Ms. Boettcher stated the City's transition to RITA was moving forward with the second data upload occurring recently. The City is still on track to go live February 1st.

Chief Ortlieb stated the new firefighter from the old list started on Monday. He mentioned they are still working through the new list with interviews to occur on the 11th.

Mr. Brugger stated leaf pick-up should be in the final week and the compost facility closing at the end of business on Saturday. He also mentioned the end of year wrap up was going on. The City may do some sewer work on S. High street during the winter but doesn't foresee any major road work during that time.

Mr. Feinstein indicated he was available to Council if anyone had any questions about Issue 2 passing. He added that law directors around Ohio are considering putting moratoriums on the

opening of dispensaries. Mr. Paul asked if Council decided to not allow a dispensary, would it take three readings. Mr. Feinstein stated it takes three readings to change existing legislation but issuing a moratorium could be done by a one-reading resolution. Mr. Feinstein also stated that most law directors are re-circulating their drug free work policies. Mr. Scott asked if there were to be a dispensary in Urbana, would it be taxed like every other business. Mr. Feinstein answered that 10% of receipts come to the municipalities straight off the top. Finally, Mr. Paul inquired if there had been any talk about waiving past penalties. Mr. Feinstein stated there had not been any talk, but added when the laws about hemp passed a few years ago, it effectively allowed marijuana in through the back door as proper testing between hemp and marijuana had not been available at that time.

Mayor Bean mentioned of swearing-in ceremony for re-elected Council members would occur on Thursday, December 14th at 12:45 pm by Judge Weithman at the Municipal Court.

Council Clerk Steffan stated that new name plates have been ordered and would be here by the new year.

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

ADJOURNED AT 6:33 p.m.

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



Council Clerk



Council President