

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

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

**City Staff attending:** Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Director of Director of Finance Chris Boettcher, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, Community Development Manager Doug Crabill, Public Works Superintendent Chad Hall, Police Chief Matt Lingrell and Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb

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

**Chief Lingrell – Formal Recognition & Presentation regarding the 2011 Homicide of Mr. Louis Taylor**

Chief Lingrell spoke to the multi-year investigation to eventually bring justice to the 2011 homicide of Louis Taylor. He spoke as to despair that would set in at times for not being able to progress at a faster pace, but also to the resolve of those involved to be able to reach the conclusion.

Chief Lingrell awarded framed proclamations to the Urbana Police Division officers that were instrumental to the investigation: Retired Sgt. John Purinton, Retired Ofc. Brian Cordial, Retired Ofc. Steve Molton (not present), Retired Sgt. Ed Burkhammer, and Sgt. Shawn Schmidt.

Chief Lingrell awarded plaques to the members of the Ohio Attorney General’s office whose investigation and prosecution helped bring Mr. Taylor justice: Anthony Pierson, Chris Kinsler, and Joel King.

Finally, Chief Lingrell thanked his main investigators and key presenters of the evidence at trial, Retired Lt. Seth King and Lt. Josh Jacobs, with plaques and inductions into the American Police Hall of Fame.

**Minutes**

Mr. Thackery moved to put the minutes of January 16, 2024 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Ms. Jumper seconded.

No comments/questions from Council.

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

**Communications:**

1. Communication from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control dated January 22, 2024, regarding the change of corporate stock permit application for Clarks Market, Inc., 865 S. Main St. (See Attached)
2. Ohio Municipal League Newly Elected Council Training Seminar (See Attached)
3. Oak Dale Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2023 (See Attached)

4. Safety Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024 (See Attached)
5. Champaign County Chamber of Commerce of Commerce and Visitors Bureau 2023 Annual Report (See Attached)
6. City of Urbana 2023 Annual Review (See Attached)

Council did not have any requests for removal of communications off the consent agenda for discussion.

**Administrative Reports – Board of Control:**

1. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase order to Peterson Construction Company in the amount of \$63,400.00 for labor to remove and replace the upper and lower bearing on two of the screw pumps located at the Water Reclamation Facility. This expense will be charged to the Sewer Fund and is in the 2024 budget. **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Hall stated this was for the labor to replace the bearings. He stated the pumps are the big order pumps you see when you enter the facility. Mr. Hall added they were installed in 2015, and with typical wear, need to be replaced every eight to ten years. The parts are expected to arrive in twelve to sixteen weeks.

Mr. Scott asked for clarification regarding the number of bearings. Mr. Scott stated they run one at a time as a lead pump and a second as a lag pump that can kick in if the first can't keep up.

Mr. Thackery asked if the pumps were still operating currently. Mr. Hall stated one is down and the second very limited.

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

2. The Board of Control and Health Insurance Committee recommends Council authorize the purchase of Anthem group health insurance and related life, vision (EyeMed), and dental (Delta Dental) insurances for \$1,975,536.82. The insurance expense is in the 2024 budget at \$1,935,669.00 (see attached). **VOTE: 3-0**

Mr. Scott moved to put this request on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Ms. Boettcher stated this the annual renewal for employee insurance. She informed Council the Insurance Committee met a couple of weeks ago. She added that this was only a 1% increase, which is a great number. There are no major changes to the plan.

No comments/questions from Council.

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

**Citizen Comments:**

Taylor Armstrong (626 Loudon St): Mr. Armstrong read a letter on behalf of citizens, primarily in the Second Ward. The letter focuses on a reduction of the in-town deer population. The citizens are requesting bow hunting permits to cull the deer population. He added that the focus should be on maintaining, not eliminating the population. The letter will be included as a communication on the February 20<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Third Reading:** None

**Second Reading:** None

**First Reading:**

**Resolution 2686-24:** A resolution to authorize the Director of Administration of the City of Urbana to accept additional federal grant funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation under the Transportation Alternatives Program for the South High Street Improvements (ODOT PID #112019), including authorization to execute any required grant agreement amendment on behalf of the City of Urbana; and to authorize the Director of Finance to make the necessary local match commitments and line item budget adjustments as required to incorporate this additional grant funding into said project, and declaring an emergency. (One reading required)

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

Mr. Crabill stated the planning for the South High Street project dated all the way back to 2019. He informed Council that at that original time, the Transportation Alternatives grant from ODOT was capped at \$750,000. Since that time, the cost of the project over the past four years has grown by over \$2 million. Recently, our district's ODOT representative suggested to City Engineer Tyler Bumbalough that there may be additional grant money not being used and to request additional funding. Mr. Crabill stated upon doing so, ODOT approved an additional \$1.9 million dollars to be used on eligible project items.

No comments/questions from Council.

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

Resolution passes, 4-0, one abstention.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

Mrs. Collier stated that the Safety meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the upcoming eclipse.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Thackery stated he attended the DORA meeting yesterday. He would defer to Mr. Crabill but stated the meeting went over the annual report and status.

Mr. Scott stated he knew Mr. Taylor and was tickled to death by the conviction outcome.

Ms. Truelove stated she wished to discuss public transportation. She stated that things do happen after four o'clock, on weekends, and on holidays. President Paul stated that may be a good topic for a future work session.

Mr. Hall urged the City to use the pothole form online. He also added that the City is looking at late February/March to come back for the completion of Boyce Street.

Mr. Crabill stated the DORA meeting was this morning. He informed Council the subcommittee for funds is being formed.

He also added the High Street Project held a meeting last Friday and is still looking at Thanksgiving for completion.

Finally, he stated he participates in public transit planning with quarterly meetings. He informed Ms. Truelove she can attend as well.

Mr. Thackery added he wanted to tell everyone how proud he is of the police and fire divisions. He also stated putting annual report takes a lot of effort and he greatly appreciates it.

Chief Ortlieb stated the Fire Division now has its latest new hire, who will start on February 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated this brings UFD back to full man power.

He added Safety committee will have a solar eclipse update. He stated we are starting to come together as a county.

Finally, he stated grant riding is coming along for the ladder truck which must be submitted by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Feinstein stated the legislation for Council Rules will be coming soon. He was going to add the president's comments section, but after discussion with President Paul, Mr. Paul has decided to remove that section due to the role of President should be as a facilitator. Mr. Feinstein added that still other legislation is coming due to housekeeping issues.

Ms. Boettcher informed Council the final upload of income tax has been uploaded to RITA. She stated that Finance has received a few messages a day from citizens but are typically easy to answer. She is anticipating first distributions to be March 1<sup>st</sup>, and then twice a month thereafter.

Mr. Brugger stated he can't say enough about UPD.

He also added that it was a great effort to put together the annual review.

Council Clerk Steffan stated he will be completing on-line Sunshine Law training this week. While he is Council's delegate, he strongly encouraged all Council members to complete the training on their own each term.


President Paul informed Council to please look at the OML training and urged everyone to go if they have the time.

Ms. Jumper moved to adjourn. Ms. Truelove seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays none. Motion passes 5-0.

**ADJOURNED AT 7:01 p.m.**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**  
February 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



  
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Council Clerk

  
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Council President