

**URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**



**APPROVED**

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

**City Staff attending:** Director of Law Mark Feinstein, Director of Finance Matt Wellbaum, Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Superintendent of Public Works Chad Hall, City Engineer Tyler Bumbalough, Grime Airport Manager Drake Huffman, Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb, and Police Chief Matt Lingrell

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

Mr. Thackery moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22(G)(3) for conferencing with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject of pending or imminent court action Ms. Jumper seconded.

Roll call to enter Executive Session: Mr. Scott, yes; Mr. Davis, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; and Ms. Jumper, yes.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:01 pm.

Ms. Jumper moved to return to normal session at 6:18 pm. Mr. Thackery seconded.

Roll call to enter Executive Session: Mr. Davis, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Ms. Jumper, yes; and Mr. Scott, yes.

Council returned to normal session at 6:18 pm.

Mr. Brugger introduced incoming Director of Administration Spencer Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell introduced himself as a lifelong resident of Champaign County. He stated he was excited to be here and knew he had large shoes to fill.

**Minutes**

Mr. Thackery moved to put the minutes of August 19, 2025 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Ms. Jumper seconded.

No comments/questions from Council regarding the minutes.

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

**Communications:**

1. Safety Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2025 (See Attached)
2. State Auditor Fraud Training Information (E-mailed August 21, 2025)

Mr. Thackery moved to take the Safety Minutes off the consent agenda. He stated he didn't realize the equipment was that old.

Mr. Brugger stated it has been an ongoing discussion. He added the next item up is the 1997 quint, which costs \$2 million with a four-year delivery. Mr. Brugger stated that at some point the City will be coming back to Council with the discussion on how it gets current with some equipment. Chief Ortlieb stated the City has done a good job with the frontline and medic, which constitutes 90% of their runs. He added that the ladder is from the previous century and four more vehicles are over 20 years old, with another at 16 years old. He stated that recently it took over six months to get a ladder truck transmission because the part was six generations back.

**Administrative Reports – Board of Control:**

1. The Board of Control recommends Council increase blanket purchase order 2025-00288 to EJ Prescott Inc. in the amount of \$50,000.00 for various parts and inventory items for the Water Department. The blanket purchase order was originally approved for \$30,000.00 by Board of Control on January 8, 2025. The blanket purchase order was increased by an additional \$30,000.00 by Board of Control on July 30, 2025 and approved by Council on August 5, 2025. There are additional repairs that are necessary resulting in the need for more funding. This addition would take the total value of this purchase order to \$100,000, charged to the Water Fund. For comparisons sake, the Water Fund expended roughly \$93,000 to this vendor in 2024 so this increase should cover the remainder of 2025. **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Hall stated that three valves needed replaced within a week of the last increase, which covered the amount. He informed Council that insertion valves are usually the most expensive, around \$10,000 apiece. He explained that with insertion valves, the City does not have to cut off water supply to residents. He added that the increase also covers fittings and pipings.

Mr. Scott asked that since the City spent \$93,000 last year, why wasn't that amount in the original budget. Mr. Hall stated the Water Department rolled the dice, as it did not want to tie up that specific money from the get go.

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

Board of Control Item #1 approved 6-0

2. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase order to Link Construction Group in the amount of \$183,500.00 to complete the demolition of the training tower and necessary restoration/stabilization of the remaining "tower footprint". This will be charged to the Fire Capital fund and is in the 2025 budget for \$150,000. The remainder of the costs will be re-appropriated from other line items within the budget that will not be completed in this year's activities. **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Brugger stated the City has talked about this item for a while, as the tower has not been used for its intended purpose for years. He added that it was determined to be extremely expensive to fix, which makes repair infeasible. Mr. Brugger stated tearing down would be phase one, which gets the area back to a stable condition. He added that phase two would be figuring out what to do with the patio/stairs. Mr. Brugger stated that the tear down would take a two-to-three week period to tear it down.

Mr. Thackery asked about the exit out of the police division. Mr. Brugger stated that right now there are aluminum stairs that both divisions use. He added that they would stay for now until the City gets into phase two.

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

Board of Control Item #2 approved 6-0

3. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase order to Jess Howard Electric Company in the amount of \$100,608.00 for the construction of the new beacon and tower at Grimes Field Airport. Council authorized the Director of Administration to execute this FAA AIG FY2025 grant in the amount of \$154,988.00 via Resolution 2717-25. Since the passage of the Resolution, City staff has been made aware that ODOT will be providing the 5% match for this grant meaning that the City will not need to use any local dollars for the project. **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Brugger stated that the City previously authorized the agreement with FAA and now needs Council approved to spend. He added that the City has been notified that all funds will be paid, meaning no local expenditure.

Mr. Thackery stated he always likes things that say do not need local money.

Mr. Scott asked if the project will need to trench a new conduit. Mr. Huffman stated it will not, as the project is next to the wall, only five feet away.

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

Board of Control Item #3 approved 6-0

4. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase from Best Equipment Co. in the amount of \$651,653.91 for a Vac-Con Combination Sewer Cleaner Freightliner 114SD. This purchase is a three-year lease to own with annual payments of \$212,217.97. This expense will be charged to Sewer Fund. This purchase was originally planned for the 2026-2028 budgets, but due to new EPA emission guidelines, if we wait

until 2026 to initiate the purchase, there would be additional charges of approximately \$25-\$35K. There are enough funds in reserve in the Sewer fund to initiate the purchase in 2025 rather than 2026 as well as making the two additional lease payments in 2026 and 2027. **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Hall stated this issue came up quicker than anticipated, as the Sewer fund had it budget for the next three years. He added that recently the City was made aware that there were new emissions coming through on the chassis. The City decided to be more aggressive. He added that the other caveat is that it still might not be paying until 2026 anyway due to the delivery date. Mr. Hall stated that if the budget requires, the City can skim back on capital projects. He explained there was room to play with within the budget. Mr. Hall informed Council the current truck does not have a mileage issue, but rather an engine hour issue.

Mr. Thackery asked for clarification that with the new EPA emissions, if there was any chance that they would need to be retrofitted. Mr. Hall answered no, that the emissions stated with model year 2026, and prior years will not need to be retrofitted. Mr. Davis asked about the old truck. Mr. Hall responded that it would probably be put it on Govdeals.

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

Board of Control Item #4 approved 6-0

5. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase order to Security Fence Group in the amount of \$61,025.53 for repairs and replacement of the traffic signal light pole and signal controller at the corner of Oakland and Miami St. There was a traffic accident on July 29, 2025 in which a semitruck operated by Lazer Spot, Inc hit and damaged the traffic signal pole and signal controller. We submitted the claim to our insurance carrier and they are working with the responsible party's insurance who will reimburse the City for the repairs/replacements **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Hall stated there would be a waiting period of four to five months for the replacement pole to come in. He added a temporary pole has been installed that will be monitored.

Ms. Truelove commented on how many times this happens at this intersection. Mr. Bumbalough stated that with the replacement project scheduled for 2028, the City can look into changing the signals.

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

Board of Control Item #5 approved 6-0

**Citizen Comments:** None

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Third Reading:** None

**Second Reading:** None

**First Reading:**

**Ordinance 4628-25:** An ordinance to establish the “City of Urbana Opioid Settlement Relief Grant Program”, and declaring an emergency. (Three readings required, public hearing required)

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

Mr. Feinstein stated that with all settlement money coming in, there is a specific mandate how the City can use it. He clarified that it can be allocated with fire and police specifically or distributed if an organization can prove that it will be used for a specific use. This allows the City to have a grant program for community partners. He added that it has to be a level playing field with the same requirements. Mr. Feinstein stated the City is hoping to get the program up and running by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wellbaum stated there is currently a little over \$100,000 in the fund, with the City’s goal being to keep a 25% reserve. He added that the Purdue Pharma settlement is really going to boost the fund balance. He added that the City reserves the right to deny funding if police or fire funding use comes up.

Mr. Thackery stated it sounds like a great program.

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

**Ordinance 4629-25:** An ordinance levying special assessments for the purpose of constructing or repairing sidewalks, curbs, and/or gutters along at least portions of N. Main Street, Abbey Lane, S. Walnut Street, W. Water Street, Hovey Street, Eichelberger Drive, Miami Street, N. High Street, Washington Avenue, E. Water Street, and N. Jefferson Avenue, and declaring an emergency. (One reading required)

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

Mr. Bumbalough stated this is the yearly ordinance for levying assessments. He informed Council the program is now finished. The City has previously billed the owners, and this ordinance levies assessments for those that didn’t pay. He added the Auditor’s deadline is the second Monday in September.

Mr. Thackery asked how the City was doing in regards to carrying the money. Mr. Wellbaum stated there is enough in that fund to break even to pay the contractors. He added the City received funds from the real estate assessments from previous projects.

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

Ordinance passes 6-0.

**Ordinance 4630-25:** An ordinance levying special assessment for the purpose of constructing or repairing curbs, gutters, driveway approaches, and appurtenances thereto on a section of North Main Street between Washington Avenue/Gwynne Street and Dellinger Road, and declaring an emergency. (One reading required)

Mrs. Collier moved to put this ordinance on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Mr. Bumbalough stated this ordinance is similar, only specifically regarding the North Main Street wholesale program. He added this was the last state route in town.

Mr. Scott asked for the need for this second ordinance as North Main Street was mentioned in the first one.

Mr. Bumbalough stated the piecemeal program tracks through Ohio Revised Code Section 729, while the wholesale program tracks through Section 727. He added it was a different flow chart that ends with the same step.

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

Ordinance passes 6-0.

**Resolution 2430-25:** A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. (One reading required)

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

Mr. Wellbaum stated that this is an annual housekeeping item. He explained that it contained the expected portion the City will receive of collected real estate taxes. He added that the amounts are very similar to last year, with a slight increase of \$1,300.

Council did not have any comments/questions.

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

Resolution passes 6-0.

**Resolution 2718-25:** An emergency Resolution to authorize participation in the Secondary Manufacturers settlements, pursuant to the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding, 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.

Mr. Feinstein stated this should look pretty familiar. He explained there has now a settlement with eight secondary manufacturers, who take the drugs and relabel them as generic, and sell them as their own.

Council did not have any comments/questions.

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

Resolution passes 6-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:** None

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Thackery stated the ribbon cutting for the Willman lofts is September 12<sup>th</sup> and 10 am.

Ms. Jumper stated the ribbon cutting for the new oncology/cancer center at Mercy Health will be held this Thursday at 3:00 pm

Mr. Bumbalough informed Council that the City is currently striping South Edgewood. He also stated the bike trail crossing project is ongoing. He informed Council area at Laurel Oak Street will be attended to this week.

Mr. Bumbalough also added the paving program for the City will occur around the end of September, with the ODOT paving taking place this week or next week for patches.

Mr. Hall stated the compost facility will be closed on September 13<sup>th</sup> for driveway seal coating. He added that the sewer guys are working in the Bon Air area and the street crew will be working on asphalt next week.

Chief Ortlieb thanked Council for its support regarding the tower and equipment. He also indicated the Fire Department worked with Orbis to obtain a preaction sprinkler system to help with containment.

Mr. Brugger thanked Council for its support with the FAA grant. He also stated the ODOT Aviation grant for the runway taxi lane grant has been approved. He stated this is a \$720,000 project, with the grant currently scheduled to cover about \$683,000 of it. He added that since the program did not get as many applicants, it may be awarding even more.

Mr. Brugger stated that salt bids came back at about \$72 a ton, which is slightly higher than last year but down from a few years ago. Finally, he stated the City is done with the fire apron project out front, and the fire department is looking forward to washing the trucks.

Council Clerk Steffan reminded Council to finish the State Auditor’s fraud training if they had not already done so.

Ms. Jumper moved to adjourn. Ms. Truelove seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays none.

**ADJOURNED AT 7:10 p.m.**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**  
September 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.



  
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Council Clerk

  
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Council President