

URBANA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026



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 Administration Spencer Mitchell, Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Finance Matt Wellbaum, Fire Chief Dean Ortlieb, Interim Police Chief Josh Jacobs, and City Engineer Tyler Bumbalough

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

Minutes

Mr. Scott moved to put the minutes of January 20, 2026 on the floor for discussion and possible approval. Ms. Jumper seconded.

Council did not have any comments/questions.

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

Communications: None

Administrative Reports – Board of Control:

1. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize a purchase order to True Inspection Services, LLC in the amount of \$7,027.00 for additional inspection services on the CHP-Urbana Bike Trail Project (PID 115978). The original PO was approved by Board of Control on 4/16/2025 and Council on 4/22/2025 in the amount of \$83,372.12 which was funded through various Grant Sources for \$68,621.10 with a Local Share of \$14,751.02. Due to some extended wait time on electrical items, the inspection period has been lengthened and the additional Local Share amount of \$7,027.00 is needed. This would bring the inspection cost of the project \$90,399.12 (See BOC Attachment #1)

VOTE: 3-0

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

Mr. Bumbalough stated this is the Bike Trail project that was going on during the fall months. He stated the project ran over because of certain wait times. He added that in order to complete out the project, the inspection costs would be an additional \$7,027.

Mr. Thackery asked why the bid wasn't put out for the job as a whole. He added that if materials weren't there, they weren't necessarily inspecting anything. Mr. Bumbalough stated they were still inspecting, just everything wasn't being done together like a normal project.

Roll call on approval: Mr. Scott, no; Mr. Davis, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Ms. Truelove, no; Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; and Ms. Jumper, no.

BOC #1 passes 4-3.

2. The Board of Control recommends Council authorize changing health insurance providers from Anthem to United Health Care which would decrease premiums by 16.7% with a savings of \$322,055. The Health Care Committee recommended keeping our current carrier, Anthem which presented the City a 5% decrease with a savings of \$96,215. After lengthy discussion, Board of Control felt that the additional savings of \$225,840 was in the best interest of the City. The total amount of Health Insurance expense is estimated at \$1,602,216. There was also a 3% increase in our Dental Insurance (Delta Dental), which will be an approximate increase of \$2,300 for the year. (See BOC Attachment #2) **VOTE: 3-0**

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

Mr. Wellbaum stated the City met with the health insurance broker on January 23rd and gave the City its options. If the City would have stayed with Anthem, it would have resulted in a 5% decrease while switching to United Health Care would result in a 16.7% decrease. He stated the Board of Control went against the health insurance committee recommendations.

Mr. Wellbaum then went over all the specific changes in the amounts between this plan and the previous plan. He also stated Urbana has the most robust insurance options of all the Cities he has worked for.

Mrs. Collier stated she believes everyone's health costs have gone up, so to get a reduction is awesome.

Mrs. Bean asked how unusual is a reduction. Mr. Wellbaum stated he has never seen it.

Mrs. Bean also asked how long the City had been with Anthem. Mr. Wellbaum stated he believes the City had switched in 2022.

Roll call on approval: Mr. Davis, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Ms. Truelove, yes; Mrs. Collier, yes; Mrs. Bean, yes; Ms. Jumper, yes; and Mr. Scott, no.

BOC #2 passes 7-0.

Citizen Comments:

Erin Patton (944 S. Main St.)

Ms. Patton owns a business on south main. She stated that she has reached out many times looking for a larger place. She has found out that some of the land was recently sold to a developer, as she stumbled upon this by accident. Ms. Patton stated she came here to find out what was really going on with the purchases, as the developer is known for putting up data centers. She considers herself a holistic mother and her concern is what are the City is really concerned about. She is upset that there has been no progress for her small incremental requests for change and she is looking at alternative sites to move to. She added that if this thing happens, she doesn't want to be around the numerous health risks.

Jacob Clark (412 E. Church St.)

Mr. Clark would like to work with the City to bring a wildlife management pilot program. He has seen countless wildlife and deer crossing. He would like to spearhead a one-year program, where no firearms would be used, only archery. He believes this could also control water fowl. He stated the program would only use City-vetted locations, and the meat could be donated to a local food bank. He added that cities that have introduced this program have seen a 21% decrease in collisions. He closed by saying this was a nuisance issue.

Brad Winner (670 E. Ward St.)

Mr. Winner stated that anybody who wants to talk, he would be willing to speak after the meeting. He said he was not opposed to a data center, he just did not have information to be for or against. He asked for a moratorium to decide if the City wanted one. Mr. Winner stated he resigned from the CEP board in August, as he saw multiple behaviors that he feels was unethical. He stated that the Director of CEP never mentioned a data center to the County Commissioners. He added that two commissioners are trying to not sell the land. Mr. Winner stated the developer is Highland, who is currently not doing anything behind Walmart. He added the same developers are doing housing and data centers in Van Wert. He understands that a date center would still have to go before Planning Commission. He closed by saying that all it takes is to make a motion, a second and take a vote. He added that Council can do that tonight.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Reading: None

Second Reading: None

First Reading:

Resolution 2655-26: A resolution confirming the re-appointments of Neil D. Evans and R. Paul Waldsmith to the City of Urbana's Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council. (One reading required)

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

Mr. Mitchell stated this was the re-appointment of two individuals to the Housing Council, and they meet once a year.

Council did not have any comments/questions.

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

Resolution passes 7-0.

Department Liaison Reports:

Mrs. Collier stated the Safety Meeting would be held on March 19th and the time would be changed to 1 pm.

Miscellaneous Business:

Ms. Truelove stated she has been listening to concerns. She stated that everyone who brings up a data center has nothing good to say about it. She thinks the City needs to do something to make the community think it's not hiding anything.

Mr. Thackery stated the City did a great job with snow removal.

Mrs. Collier asked if Mr. Feinstein could talk about the data center. She stated that while it still would have to come to Council for the CRA, it would not necessarily mean it would be approved. Mr. Feinstein stated a moratorium would be a legislative action. He added that he could have it ready for the next meeting. Mrs. Collier expressed concerned about the City facing potential litigation. Mr. Feinstein stated that he would look into it.

Mr. Thackery stated it was important to know these things before Council voted yes or no.

Mr. Scott asked if the City would have to put an end time on a moratorium. Mr. Feinstein confirmed there would need one as a moratorium requires a sunset.

Ms. Jumper stated she believes a moratorium allows Council to decide as opposed to just the Planning Commission.

Ms. Jumper echoed the sentiment regarding snow removal. She also mentioned home owners and business owners who made sure the community could access the walkways.

Mr. Davis stated that Pointe North is currently closed because of the snow and ice. He stated that while people can't ice fish, they can walk the nature trails.

Mayor Bean stated he was at the elementary school this morning visiting good citizens. He also thanked School Resource Officer Ervin, who does an excellent job with the kids out there.

Chief Ortlieb thanked Ms. Jumper for mentioning the fire department. He added that if citizens see any hydrants that need dug out, the Fire Division will dig those out if there is a fire.

Interim Chief Jacobs thanked the comments about Officer Ervin. He added the City will see a new face, as the newest hire hits the road this week, Jackson Bennett.

President Paul stated he has heard great things about Officer Ervin. All the kids respect him.

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

ADJOURNED AT 6:41 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

February 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



Council Clerk



Council President