

URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.

APPROVED

\*Corrected  
Version

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President Hess called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Crabill began explaining how the proposed \$5.00 Permissive Motor Vehicle Tax for vehicles registered within the City. He stated that \$7.50 of the registration fee would be coming to the City, additionally, the total fee of \$25.00 collected for the registration fee, \$17.50 would come to the City per vehicle registered. He also advised the gas tax would be effective July 1, 2019 with approximately \$250,000.00 to the City. He said there are 11,439 registered vehicles in the City so it would produce an additional revenue of \$57,195.00. He also stated the traffic signal system for the City is now over twenty years old and there are some issues surfacing with the same. Mr. Paul stated that it would take 28 or 29 years to get the City paved and \$5.00 isn't that much. Mayor Bean stated that he recently spent two days at the Ohio Mayor's Conference and he stated the current Mayors were happy with this idea.

President Hess called the first Public Hearing closed at 6:11 p.m.

President Hess gave the floor over to Ms. Boettcher to speak about the next Public Hearing. She began by saying that per Chapter 705.17 of the Ohio Revised Code, the City is required to adopt an annual tax ordinance. She further stated that the estimate for the 2020 budget is in the amount of \$7,039,000.00 for the revenue, \$6,930,796.00 for the expenditures, leaving a balance of \$108,204.00. She also explained that the General Fund will continue to subsidize the Cemetery, but will not subsidize the Airport, as the City has done in the past. She also stated that the Permissive Motor Vehicle Tax spoke of previously was not reflected in the budget that was provided.

President Hess called the second Public Hearing closed at 6:16 P.m.

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URBANA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019

President Hess called the City of Urbana Regular Session Meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. City staff attending: Mayor Bill Bean, Director of Administration Kerry Brugger, Director of Finance Chris Boettcher, Director of Law Mark Feinstein, and Community Development Manager Doug Crabill.

**PRESIDENT CALLED ROLL:** Mr. Fields, present; Mr. Hoffman, present; Mr. Paul, present; Mr. Scott, present; Mr. Thackery, present; Mr. McKee, present; and Mr. Piper, present.

**MINUTES** of the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2019 were presented for approval. Mr. Paul moved for the approval of said minutes and Mr. Thackery seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none.

Motion passed 7-0.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Charter Review Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2019.
2. Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019.
3. Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2019.

Mr. Thackery moved to accept all of the communications. Mr. Paul seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none.

Motion passed 7-0.

## **CEP**

Mrs. Bailey advised they had the ground breaking ceremony for the Cobblestone that afternoon. She also provided a handout to Council regarding the Greater Ohio Policy Center. The handout provided the mission of the Center and the skills they provide. She advised they were wanting data and they started discussing this idea a couple of months ago and it was thought to be a good idea by all involved. She also advised there was \$40,000.00 in funds available and this would be the scope they would be working on. This was to move growth, preserve farm land, etc. She also stated in Champaign County, the average home sold for \$147,000. She also advised North Lewisburg had the newest housing development in the County. Further she said the Greater Ohio Policy Center would be looking into demographic analysis, having interviews with the developers, looking into affordable housing, looking to see if rent is upside down and the dynamics of the whole community. She also stated there is a steering committee that will meet twice a year and this is a countywide project.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – BOARD OF CONTROL**

None

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Joe Smith – 207 Lafayette Ave., Urbana, questioned Council about the grass clipping ordinance. He stated that he has some investment properties and wanted to know whose responsibility it was with regard to the clippings, the tenant or the renter.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

### **First Reading –**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 4507-19**

An Ordinance to enact a transient lodging tax within the corporation limits of the City of Urbana and to repeal Urbana City Council Resolution No. 2045. (Sponsored by Councilman Patrick Thackery)

Mr. Crabill said the City has had a 3% lodging tax and the Champaign County Auditor is to collect this. He also stated the County has a 3% lodging tax as well. He further said this Ordinance would repeal Resolution 2045 and enact the Ordinance instead. He also advised the revenue would be split 50/50 with the visitor's bureau. He further advised this would be broadening the definitions of the lodging tax and if you stay less than thirty days, there would be a 5% administrative fee that would be collected. He also advised of some exemptions, the same being should your stay be longer than thirty days, it is considered rent, no fee would be assessed in addition to state employees would be exempt. Further, should an establishment not collect the 5% administrative fee, it would be considered a misdemeanor of the first degree, up to \$1,000.00 fine and/or six months in jail. Additionally, the fees to be paid from the establishment to the County Auditor must be in a timely manner or the establishment could be made to prepay.

Mr. Paul asked what the City would be estimating in revenue. Mr. Crabill stated approximately \$15,000.00 a year countywide, but collection has been spotty. Mr. Thackery advised that a lot of places are not paying these taxes and the County Auditor is really "not showing teeth" on collection of the same. He also stated that his only concern was that it would be a lot of work for the Finance Department. Ms. Boettcher said that it would take a little time to get it off the ground.

President Hess declared this Ordinance to have its first reading.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2559-19**

A Resolution enacted by the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, to authorize the Director of Administration to make application to the Ohio Department of Transportation under the Municipal Bridge Program for the replacement of the West Court Street Bridge, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Crabill stated that he would like to have a sponsor for this Resolution, and Mr. Piper volunteered. He stated there was a hole that has developed on W. Court St. and Mr. Bumbalough has determined there is a bridge under the North High and North Russell section on W. Court. Mr. Crabill further stated that it needed to be repaired for that it is approximately one hundred years old. He also stated that the application is due by August 15, 2019 and ODOT would pay 95% of the cost and the City would be responsible for the remaining 5%. He also stated that the construction would begin in the summer or fall of 2022.

Mr. Hoffman moved to put this Resolution on the floor for discussion and possible passage. Mr. Fields seconded.

Mr. Paul moved to table this Resolution. There was no second.

President Hess called for a roll call for passage: Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Paul, no; Mr. Scott, yes; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mr. McKee, yes; Mr. Piper, yes; and Mr. Fields, yes.  
Resolution passes 6-1.

**Second Reading –**

**Ordinance No. 4429-19**

An Ordinance adopting the tax budget of the City of Urbana, Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020; submitting the same to the County Auditor.

Mrs. Boettcher stated per 705.17 in the Ohio Revised Code, it is required to show probable revenues for the City from every source. She added the estimate for the revenue for the General Fund is in the amount of \$7,039,000.00, with estimated expenses of \$6,930,796.00, leaving \$108,204.00 in the black. She added that the bulk revolves mostly around the General Fund. She also stated there would be a Public Hearing at the next Regular Council Meeting.

President Hess declared this Ordinance to have its second reading.

**Ordinance No. 4506-19**

An Ordinance authorizing and directing the enactment of a new five dollar (\$5.00) Permissive Motor Vehicle Tax according to the terms and conditions of Section 4504.173 of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Crabill advised the State passed a tax on gas of \$0.10 per gallon which would provide \$250,000.00 for the City to use for roads and bridge, etc. He said that road work is not getting any cheaper. He also advised that there is approximately 11,439 registered vehicles in the City which would bring in approximately \$57,195.00 for roads, bridges, etc. He also stated the funds would be directed to the Street Fund. He said there were Street Maintenance Projects for this year, amounting \$405,000.00. In 2018, the City had street paving and maintenance totaling \$250,000.00. In 2010, street paving and maintenance was done totaling \$53,000.00. He also stated if the City were to be consistent and spend \$250,000.00 per year for Street Maintenance Projects, it would take twenty four years to complete the \$6,000,000.00 street construction/maintenance study done by Midwest Pavement Analysis Design, LLC, completed in 2017. He further stated that should Council decide to pass this Ordinance, the tax would be collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and then transferred to the City Street Fund monthly.

President Hess declared this Ordinance to have its second reading.

**Third Reading –**

**Ordinance No. 4505-19**

An Ordinance to modify Section 521.08(d)(1) of the Urbana Codified Ordinances to include lawn clippings in the definition of “Litter,” and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Paul said that he has drove around town and has noticed a lot of grass clipping in the streets. He further went on to say that this issue was a little more than a “looks” issue. He also said that he doesn’t expect the police department to drive around looking for this violation, he was just in hopes that the community would have this on their conscience and not blow their clippings in the street for the safety issue and save on the Stormwater system. He also asked Law Director Feinstein who the responsible party would be, the property owner or the person who actually blew the grass in the street. Mr. Feinstein responded that it would be the person who actually blew the grass in the street. Mr. Thackery stated he felt that it was actually litter. Mr. Piper said that he felt that once people find out that it is on the books, the problem would go away.

*President Hess called for a roll call for passage: Mr. Paul, yes; Mr. Scott, no; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mr. McKee, no; Mr. Piper, yes; Mr. Fields, no; Mr. Hoffman, no.  
Ordinance failed 4-3. ald 8-6-19*

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/WORK SESSION**

Mr. Hoffman stated that a lot of issue that Council was trying to legislate is basically common courtesy and he felt it very disturbing that Council even has to discuss the same.

Mr. Paul asked if the street sweeper would be going out soon and he also mentioned that with the new street sign going up, in the third ward, he thought that Kenton St. and E. Court St. were turned around. He also spoke on the topic of moving the Council meeting upstairs so the equipment could be utilized. Mr. Paul moved to have the Council Regular Session Meetings for the month of July upstairs in the Police/Fire Training Room. Mr. Thackery seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Thackery advised that beginning next month there would be "Coffee with Council" beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month, at the fire department. This would be an opportunity for the community to come in and speak with Council about any issues they may have. Mr. Feinstein added there would be no more than three Council members at the event.

Mr. McKee mentioned that he would encourage a Work Session at the end of the month to discuss communication.

Mr. Piper stated he was very disappointed with his fellow Council members with reference to their vote on the grass clippings issue.

Mr. Crabill spoke of the roundabout. He said the project was moving forward and that they were working on this phase a little longer for the reason of get more prepared for the rest of the phases, which should begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. He also stated they were looking into changing the ordinance wording in Chapter 913 to not allow the property owner to hire a private contractor for curb/gutter repair and he was looking for a Council member to sponsor this update.

Mr. Brugger thanked the residents for their efforts in getting the work done with reference to the curb and gutter work. He also said that it will look fantastic when it is complete. He also advised that Mr. Hall asked him to mention to Council they were looking for a back hoe for public works, for the current one was purchased used, and it is showing some issues.

Mayor Bean stated that he was very proud to serve on the Board of Ohio Mayor's Association, and they had a recent seminar on Home Rule and the Administrator of Obetz is very knowledgeable on Home Rule and he recommended inviting him to a Work Session to discuss the Home Rule issue. He also stated that it also was discussed at the seminar that the State had allowed business to file directly with them and it seems the State is not doing a very good job of turnaround when it came to the taxes. It was also discussed to amend the constitution to not allow the State to have authority to come in and take the municipal funding as well.

Ms. Boettcher stated that Mr. Hall was looking into a purchase of a front wheel loader, not a back hoe.

Mr. Fields asked about the Compost Motion still being on the table. Mr. Paul motioned to take the Compost Ordinance off the table. Mr. Thackery seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none. Mr. Paul motioned to repeal the Compost Ordinance Chapter 933, Section 933.05, which charges the citizens \$1.00 per month. Mr. Thackery seconded. President Hess called for a roll call for passage: Mr. Scott, no; Mr. Thackery, yes; Mr. McKee, yes; Mr. Piper, yes; Mr. Fields, no; Mr. Hoffman, yes; and Mr. Paul, yes.

Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Fields moved to adjourn and Mr. Thackery seconded. Voice vote on approval: all ayes, nays, none.

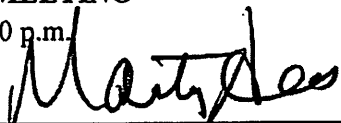
Motion passed 7-0.

**ADJOURN AT 7:49 p.m.**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

July 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

  
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Council Clerk

  
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Council President