
DATE: Monday, June 02, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, June 02, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken*, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Matt Roeschley, Elizabeth Hannan, Seok Hyun Cho, Breaden Belcher, Larry Boone, Don Ho, Tim Cowan

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:02p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. 05-27-2025 Special City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Mayoral Proclamation – National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Mayor Williams proclaimed Friday, June 6th, 2025 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encouraged residents to wear orange on that day in honor of Hadiya Pendleton and in recognition of all victims and survivors of gun violence. Presented the proclamation to representatives from Moms Demand Action.

b. Public Input

Esther Patt stated there is no requirement to update the Comprehensive Plan within the Illinois State Statutes and the Urbana City Code. Noted the Comprehensive Plan can be approved in separate geographical parts. Stated the request to conduct a housing study before the approval of the Comprehensive Plan can be met by having the Mayor direct staff to conduct the study, by having Council postpone consideration of the Comprehensive Plan until a housing study has been conducted, or by approving the business and industrial segments of the plan before proceeding to conduct a housing study. Urged Council to not alter the current Council Rules allowing a single Councilmember to put items onto the agenda as it diminishes the power of Council and residents. *Joanne Budde* urged Council to change the amount of time a Councilmember can speak on an agenda item from three minutes to five minutes to match current Public Input guidelines for sufficient discussion time on an item. Proposed limiting Public Input speaking length to three minutes for non-agenda items while retaining the five-minute length for items on the agenda. Spoke in support of the current Council Rule allowing for a Councilmember to place an item onto an agenda without additional support. Asked for further clarification and consideration regarding voting procedures. Requested further public outreach information and data be published for Imagine Urbana. Expressed concern on how Imagine Urbana may impact her neighborhood. Stated she also could not find any statutes requiring the Comprehensive Plan be completed in a certain timeframe, calling for more time to be spent gathering public feedback and considering the goals that were left unaccomplished from the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. *Adani Sanchez* spoke in support of the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan as it imagines a welcoming future with varied housing, public transit, and connected communities. Emphasized the importance of a well-connected city where anyone can travel through the city without a car. Stated duplexes and triplexes give residents who cannot afford home loans more affordable options for housing. Voiced support for infill development as it aligns with the City's environmental goals.

5. Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) – Collective Bargaining Negotiations; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) – Pending Litigation

Motion to enter closed session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Entered closed session at 7:18p.m.

Motion to return to open session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Returned to open session at 8:39p.m.

6. Council Input and Communications

CM Wu thanked everyone who had attended the Imagine Urbana Open House on the previous Wednesday.

7. Reports of Officers

a. FY26 Budget Presentation

Presented by Mayor Williams; Don Ho, Senior Management Analyst / Budget Coordinator; and Elizabeth Hannan, Interim City Administrator / Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO. Mayor Williams stated the budget reflects the priorities of the community and City despite the challenges imposed by the Federal administration for continuing to stand for immigrant rights, diversity, and inclusion. Noted the budget focuses on ensuring a welcoming community, public safety, supporting the local economy, and fulfilling City Council goals. Elizabeth Hannan shared the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign continues to bring financial stability to the community, the Illinois economy continues to show signs of growth, inflation rates are lower than the previous year, the unemployment rate is 3.3%, around 2,500 residents were gained from the Special Census, the housing price index increased by nearly 7.8% in the last year making housing less affordable, and the 1% State Grocery Tax will be ending this year.

Mayor Williams stated the FY26 Budget includes funding for an additional three patrol officers at a recurring, annual cost of \$367,000 with \$207,000 in one-time costs. Further added a Sergeant position is added to the Community Engagement Team with \$157,000 in recurring costs for three years. Stated \$86,000 is additionally budgeted for firefighter trainings and \$220,000 in one-time costs are allocated for uniforms and personal-protective equipment for firefighters as well. Noted further equipment costs for the Fire Department may be found later during the fiscal year.

Shared \$3,100,000 has been reserved over four years to support CDBG and HOME programming and staffing in case of a total loss of Federal funding. Stated an additional \$1,500,000, including a \$500,000 transfer from the General Reserve Fund (after property tax disputes are settled), will be set aside to address other unmet housing and homelessness needs within the community.

Stated the unmet infrastructure needs will continue to struggle even with the increases in Local MFT expenditures. Shared \$925,000 has been allocated for funding of Equity and Quality of Life (EQoL) projects. Mentioned as of December 31st, 2024, 60% of the budgeted amount for public infrastructure projects have been spent or encumbered.

Shared \$800,000 is being budgeted to support the beginning of Heart Strong Grocery to improve food access, in addition to the contribution of land, demolition of the existing structure, environmental remediation of the site, and waiving of construction-related fees. Announced the budget includes \$25,000 for a reparations study in collaboration with the Champaign County Reparations Coalition. Stated the City is reviewing proposals for redevelopment on lots located on Illinois Street, and the City is currently planning for the demolition of the former School District Administration building. Shared the City received multiple responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding public festivals for downtown.

Highlighted an Arborist / LRC Supervisor is proposed with a recurring annual expenditure of \$131,000; an HR Generalist is proposed with a recurring annual expenditure of \$131,000 with a one-time first-year cost of \$9,300; and a quarter-time Law Clerk and a half-time Administrative Assistant in the Legal Division at a combined annual cost of \$52,000. Presented the reduction of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the Parking Fund to the General Fund by \$100,000 on a recurring basis and an additional \$400,000 as a one-time reduction.

Stated the City proposes to continue the existing 1% Grocery Tax in order to maintain essential services. Stated SNAP purchases are exempt from the tax and most households are expected to pay between \$30 to \$85 annually so the City can generate approximately \$1,000,000 in annual revenue.

Don Ho presented a chart displaying revenues across all funds for the City from FY23 to FY26 (excluding fund transfers to avoid double counting). Stated the total revenues for FY26 is projected to be \$78,400,000, marking a decrease of \$5,700,000 from FY25. Stated the main reason for the decline is the absence of one-time revenue sources from various grants.

Shared a chart illustrating the percentage distribution for property taxes in Urbana. Stated the City of Urbana receives approximately 13% of a property tax bill with 3% going toward general services and operations. Noted the largest share of the property taxes for the City go toward The Urbana Free Library (5%), then followed by the police and fire department pensions (5%). Noted the school district receives 54% of a property tax bill with the remainder being split between various taxing districts.

Shared a pie chart displaying the percentage of expenditures across all funds for every City department. Noted the Public Works Department has the largest share of expenditures at 42.2% as it includes expenditures for capital improvements, leading to the share to vary year-to-year. Stated the next largest shares were for the Community Development Department at 19.1%, followed by the Police Department at about 16%, then followed by the Fire Department at 10.9%. Detailed 4.5% of expenditures attributing to General Services which includes items such as the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF) and the Retained Risk Fund.

Displayed a bar graph detailing expenditures by classification from FY23 to FY26 across all funds. Stated FY25 has a larger amount of expenditures for capital projects due to the timing of encumbering funds and the construction of the fire stations. Stated the services expenditures are larger in FY25 and FY26 due to grant funding from sources such as ARPA, spending down awards from prior years, and some of the expenditures in services support planning for capital projects. Stated the total expenditures for FY26 is \$93,300,000 with 41% of those attributing to personnel costs.

Elizabeth Hannan displayed a pie chart illustrating the estimated \$49,700,000 of General Fund revenues by their various sources. Touched on the portion of revenue generated from retail sales taxes from the State Sales Tax (16% of the revenue), Home Rule Sales Tax (14%), and State Use Tax (2%) attributing to about 32% of the total General Fund revenue. Stated the next largest portion is sourced from the State Income Tax at 15%, then followed by Property Tax at 14%. Noted the contributions from the Property Tax includes funds processed through the General Fund but are not meant for City services. Added the General Fund revenue grew by approximately \$465,000 from FY25 due to the Mayor's recommendation to continue the 1% Grocery Tax. Stated the year-to-year increase is comparatively 7%.

Shared a bar graph illustrating expenditures by class from FY23 to FY26 for the General Fund. Stated the General Fund expenditures for FY26 total to about \$55,100,000 with about 66% going toward personnel costs. Stated there are a significant amount of one-time transfers such as the \$4,500,000 for capital improvements, as discussed in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Displayed a bar graph comparing recurring revenues and expenses in the General Fund from FY24 to FY26. Stated recurring expenditures are at about \$47,800,000 (97.7% of recurring revenue) with recurring revenue at about \$48,900,000. Stated the recurring expenditures are within the financial policy limit to maintain stability when revenue may fluctuate.

Presented a bar graph displaying the General Fund balance from FY23 to FY26 with the unreserved and reserved portions being displayed in addition to the policy target for a minimum General Fund balance. Stated the unassigned balance for FY26 is projected to be \$12,230,000 (25.6% of recurring expenditure) with \$5,500,000 in reserved funds. Elaborated that the reserved funds are comprised of \$3,100,000 to support CDBG and HOME projects over four years; \$1,400,000 in reserve to support other Urbana programs managed outside of the City incase they lose their Federal funding; and \$873,000 is reserved to fund the second and third years of the Community Engagement Team Pilot program.

Expressed financial uncertainty due to actions from the Federal administration and their targeting of Sanctuary Cities. Stated the grocery tax provides greater flexibility for future expenditures due to it being a local revenue source. Outlined the budget review process for the future with presentations and discussions to come throughout the June meetings. Questions and discussion followed.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

9. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Grace Wilken, Ward 6)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2025-05-016:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at All Times on Certain Streets (Harding Drive at Steer Place, 1202 East Harding Drive) – PW

The Ordinance prohibits on-street parking on the north side of the street for Harding Drive at Steer Place, 1202 East Harding Drive.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-05-028R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) – PW

The Resolution authorizes an intergovernmental agreement for participation in the IPWMAN.

The Consent Agenda was presented by CM Kolisetty, as requested by CM Wilken due to her attending remotely.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-05-034R:** A Resolution Approving the Capital Improvement Plan (Fiscal Years 2026-2030) – PW

Presented by Tim Cowan, Public Works Director. The Resolution approves the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2026-2030, which outlines planned projects for the next five fiscal years for larger-scale, annual, outsourced operations/maintenance needs and capital improvements for City infrastructure assets. Tim Cowan reported no further updates and was present for questions.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-05-029R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Florida Avenue, Wright Street to Hillcrest Street) – PW

The Resolution approves the appropriation of \$300,000 in State Motor Fuel Tax (State MFT) funds for the Florida Avenue (Wright Street to Hillcrest Street) Rehabilitation project.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Hursey.

Motion amended to combine Resolutions No. 2025-05-029R, 2025-05-030R, 2025-05-031R, 2025-05-032R, 2025-05-033R into an omnibus by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Motion to approve the omnibus by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- c. **Resolution No. 2025-05-030R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Florida Avenue Shared-Use Path) – PW

The Resolution approves the appropriation of \$860,000 in State MFT funds for the Florida Avenue Shared-Use Path project. *Approved in omnibus, see item b.*

- d. **Resolution No. 2025-05-031R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Bakers Lane Shared-Use Path) – PW

The Resolution approves the appropriation of \$1,380,000 in State MFT funds for the Bakers Lane Shared-Use Path project. *Approved in omnibus, see item b.*

- e. **Resolution No. 2025-05-032R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Vine Street and Illinois Street Improvements) – PW

The Resolution approves the appropriation of \$440,000 in State MFT funds for the Colorado Avenue Resurfacing project. *Approved in omnibus, see item b.*

- f. **Resolution No. 2025-05-033R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Vine Street and Illinois Street Improvements) – PW

The Resolution approves the appropriation of \$1,010,000 in State MFT funds for the Vine Street and Illinois Street Improvements project. *Approved in omnibus, see item b.*

- g. **Resolution No. 2025-05-035R:** A Resolution Authorizing an Interfund Loan from the General Operating Fund to the Central Tax Increment Financing District Fund – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, Interim City Administrator / Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO. The Resolution approves an interfund loan of \$5,200,000 from the City's General Operating Fund to the Central TIF Fund to allow for payment of the redevelopment incentive for Hotel Royer. The loan will be repaid when bonds are issued for the incentive in early 2026. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

PRESENT: Wilken

- h. **Ordinance No. 2025-05-017:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #9 – Presence Settlement, Hotel Royer Incentive) – HRF

The Ordinance amends the FY2025 Annual Budget to authorize a \$1,498,382 increase for a settlement payment to Presence related to a 2015 property tax case, and a \$5,200,000 reimbursement to Hotel Royer for a redevelopment incentive.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

10. Reports of Special Committees

None.

11. Discussion

- a. **Council Rules and Meeting Procedures – CM's Wilken and Quisenberry**

Clerk Sandefur stated the item is present at this meeting as per Council direction in the previous Committee of the Whole meeting on May 27. Stated the points of discussion raised in the previous meeting were added to the memorandum included in the packet as a list where Council can gauge consensus through strawpolls.

CM Quisenberry stated he had not intended for the discussion item to return so soon and that he has no further additions to the discussion at this time. Stated the discussion should be reconsidered in the future after the approval of the budget. Clerk Sandefur raised the concern for potential lengthy meetings in the future due to budget presentations and discussions. CM Kolisetty agreed the discussion should be resumed once the budget matters have been concluded. CM Wilken agreed with delaying further discussion until after the budget is resolved. Voiced support for raising the Council Input length to five minutes and disagreed with providing the Mayor unlimited time for speaking during Council Input. Further raised concern for adding greater requirements to place items onto the agenda that may also conflict with guidelines set by the Open Meetings Act.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:30p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 7/7/25