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**DATE:** Monday, March 23, 2026  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 23, 2026, 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 Verdell Jones III, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Chaundra Bishop

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bourema Ouedraogo, Vince Gustafson, Justin Swinford, Darius White, Scott Tess, Lashaunda Cunningham, Carmen Franks, Larry Boone, Steven Doggett, Tal Prendergast, Kelly Ryono, Antwan Funches, Blake Kuhns, Matthew McKinney, Jacob Hutchcraft

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathy Garrison, Assistant Director of HOPE at DREAAM

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00p.m.

## 2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

### a. 03-02-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

## 4. Presentations and Public Input

### a. Fire Department Promotions

Steven Doggett, Deputy Fire Chief presented the promotions of Kelly Ryono, Blake Kuhns, and Jacob Hutchcraft.

Doggett introduced Jacob Hutchcraft for promotion to the position of Captain and spoke on his achievements and leadership positions held within the Urbana Fire Department (UFD) and the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI). Jacob Hutchcraft was pinned by his wife, Megan Hutchcraft, after being sworn in by Mayor Williams.

Doggett introduced Blake Kuhns for promotion to the position of Captain and shared his

accomplishments and leadership positions held within the UFD; the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local #1147; and IFSI. Blake Kuhns was pinned by his wife, Jaime Kuhns, after being sworn in by Mayor Williams.

Doggett introduced Kelly Ryono for promotion to the position of Fire Fighter after completing probation through months of training and spoke on her previous experiences as a student athlete at the University of Illinois, the ambition displayed in her personal research into firefighting, and her continuing professional development at the UFD. Kelly Ryono was pinned by her sister, Megan Ryono, after being sworn in by Mayor Williams.

**b. Public Input**

None.

**5. Council Input and Communications**

None.

**6. Reports of Standing Committees**

None.

**7. Committee of the Whole** (*Council Member Christopher Evans, Ward 2*)

**1. Consent Agenda**

None.

**2. Regular Agenda**

- a. Ordinance No. 2026-03-007:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at All Times on Certain Streets (Vine Street from Pell Circle to Florida Avenue) – PW

Justin Swinford, Assistant City Engineer was present for questions. The Ordinance amends the Local Traffic Code to prohibit on-street parking on both sides of Vine Street from Pell Circle to Florida Avenue.

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

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- b. Ordinance No. 2026-03-009:** An Ordinance Authorizing a Solar Facility Ground Lease and Easement of Urbana Landfill Complex – PW

Presented by Scott Tess, Sustainability and Resilience Officer. The Ordinance authorizes the Mayor to execute a lease and easement, allowing TotalEnergies Distributed Generation USA, LLC (Total) to build a solar energy array at parcel 91-21-09-401-007 and use 91-21-10-151-006 as an easement (on the City's closed landfill).

Motion to approve by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- c. Resolution No. 2026-03-011R:** A Resolution Approving Amendments to a Redevelopment Agreement with MCDJ, LLC (CU Adventures In Time and Space, 302 North Broadway Avenue) – CD

The Resolution approves a first amendment to the redevelopment agreement with MCDJ, LLC for CU Adventures In Time and Space, LLC to extend the project completion date from September 1, 2025 to May 1, 2026 and remove the performance standard of having 31,000 rounds played in a 12-month period.

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

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- d. Resolution No. 2026-03-012R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class R&T-2 Designation for Mexican Restaurant La Veya LLC, D/B/A La Veya Mexican Restaurant, 1805 Philo Road, Urbana, Ill. – Exec

The Resolution increases the number of Class R&T-2 (Restaurant & Tavern – Beer and Wine Only) liquor licenses in the City of Urbana to allow for the issuance of the liquor license to Mexican Restaurant La Veya LLC D/B/A La Veya Mexican Restaurant.

Motion to approve by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** Jones

## 8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 9. Reports of Officers

### a. **Community Engagement and HOPE Program – PD**

The first segment on the Community Engagement and Violence Prevention Office and the Community Engagement Team was presented by Matthew McKinney, Lieutenant; Antwan Funches, Sergeant; and Dr. Lashaunda Cunningham, Community Liaison & Services Supervisor.

The second segment on services provided through HOPE (Healing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education), the Community Violence Intervention program, by DREAAM (Driven to Reach Excellence & Academic Achievements for Males) was presented by Kathy Garrison, Assistant Director of HOPE.

Matthew McKinney began with emphasizing the Community Engagement Team and the Violence Prevention Office will not be used for enforcement and will focus on connecting people to resources. Noted Community Engagement Officers will have different uniforms and vehicles. Stated the Community Engagement Program seeks to maintain a community partnership network and address root causes of recurring concerns through connecting individuals to appropriate services and resources.

Shared an organizational chart detailing where the Community Engagement Team fits into the Urbana Police Department's (UPD) Services Division. Shared a list noting the Community Engagement Team's community partners.

Antwan Funches spoke on his background, studies in Sociology and Criminology, and work history within the UPD and previously at a juvenile detention center. Shared his lived experiences inform his work and allows him to form connections with people that challenge narratives of police officers being unable to be friendly with community members.

Emphasized the goal of the Community Engagement Team is to work alongside local organizations, find a process for selecting ideal officers to the Community Engagement Team, and build trust with the community.

Dr. Lashaunda Cunningham shared her background and connection with Champaign-Urbana and the community Jettie Rhodes Celebration. Stated her role, as an unarmed civilian, within the Community Engagement Team will be to initiate community partnerships and promote collaboration. Stated she plans to build trust with community members and then introduce them to officers of the Community Engagement Team.

Stated her position as a Community Liaison in the Community Engagement Team allows her to connect community members with resources and services available to them through state and local organizations. Spoke on the UPD's successes in collaborating with community organizations to create opportunities for the community to engage with the UPD at events while raising awareness for community resources. Shared their approach is driven by analyses on criminal activity, finding cost effective solutions, and connecting police officers with the people in the community they serve.

Matthew McKinney reiterated the purpose of the Community Engagement Team is to build partnerships across the community and raise awareness for existing services provided by local organizations. Stated the overall goal of the Community Engagement Team is to reduce the involvement of the justice system in resolving social issues behind interactions with policing through collaboration with the community. Questions followed.

Kathy Garrison shared background on HOPE, a program of DREAAM that seeks to reduce gun violence through engaging individuals at high risk, supporting families and victims, and improving community safety. Stated HOPE is funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services' Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA). Detailed the staff structure of HOPE.

Shared individuals are eligible for the HOPE program if they meet any of the following criteria regardless of age:

- Have "Justice System Involvement"
- Received referral from a HOPE Street Outreach Worker
- Have violent felonies
- Are a family member or friend to a victim of gun violence
- Were recently released from incarceration
- Are a victim of or witness to gun violence

Noted a majority of people participating in HOPE programming are between 14 to 24 years old.

Spoke on the Street Outreach Team's use of their lived experience to navigate high-risk areas and build relationships with community members. Stated the team performs many mediations and responds to violent incidents alongside HOPE's Victim Advocate to provide support for the people impacted. Shared they have also distributed food, school supplies, hygiene supplies, and provided mentorship opportunities for youth in their target zones.

Stated the HOPE Victim Advocate responds to incidents at the location after being notified and HOPE is currently working with Carle Hospital to have entry to the Emergency Department to provide support for the families of a victim. Expressed they seek to provide emotional support, safety planning services, and assist in navigating systems for care. Shared HOPE can help in applying for RPSA Flex Funds to cover lost wages, housing costs, medical expenses, and other costs stemming from being a victim of violence.

Shared the Case Manager works to create plans with people at high risk in the program to access services and provide ongoing support to achieve their goals. Stated Case Managers have offered mental health support, educational support, employment assistance, life coaching, mentorship, access to DREAAM programming and support groups, financial literacy advice, and parent education.

Stated HOPE coordinates with the UPD to be notified of shootings in Urbana and responds to all notifications received. Defined Target Zones as areas of high risk identified through crime data received from the UPD. Stated HOPE has intentionally focused its efforts toward the Aspen Court area by Hunter Street and South Lierman Avenue with plans for targeting an area in the north of Urbana.

Displayed data on gun crimes in Aspen Court where 13 incidents occurred from September 2024 to August 2025 and two incidents occurred since HOPE was fully engaged in the area from September 2025 to February 2026. Stated the data illustrates the effectiveness of HOPE's engagement model.

Shared in 2025, HOPE has served 28 people at high risk for gun violence and 12 victims of gun violence. Stated 15 of those 40 people were supported with Participant Support Funds covering work clothing purchases, transportation costs, and education costs related to case management. Noted one person, who was a victim of gun violence in their rental home, was assisted in accessing RPSA Flex Funds to relocate after being evicted due to the incident. Shared that 14 participants, currently, have successfully exited the program after meeting

their case management goals.

Shared in January and February of 2026, nine participants have joined the program; HOPE has responded to 10 violent incidents; and HOPE has received four notifications from the UPD. Noted relationships and trust built within the community have led people to call HOPE directly and request their presence as the conflict is developing.

Expressed HOPE is currently working toward developing partnerships with local organizations to open channels of communication, work together on case management, and more effectively serve the community.

Shared HOPE can be contacted at [HOPE@dreaam.org](mailto:HOPE@dreaam.org) and 217-766-7474. Questions and discussion followed.

## 10. Mayoral Appointments

### a. Staff Appointment

#### i. *Interim City Engineer*

– Justin Swinford (term ending on or before December 23, 2026)

Mayor Williams presented the appointment of Justin Swinford to the position of Interim City Engineer and spoke on his previous service as an Assistant City Engineer since 2024, Civil Engineer II (2015-2019), and Interim City Engineer (2019-2020). Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

### b. Board and Commission Appointment

#### i. *The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees*

– Meena Malik (term ending June 30, 2029)

Mayor Williams presented the appointment of Meena Malik to The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees and shared background on her experience as an educator through homeschooling, through student teaching at Urbana High School, and from her Master of Education from the University of Illinois.

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

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

Recess for 5 minutes was called by Mayor Williams at 8:29 p.m.

With a quorum present, Council returned from recess at 8:36 p.m.

## 11. Discussion

### a. Traffic Commission Procedures – PW

Presented by Vince Gustafson, Public Works Director; Justin Swinford, Interim City Engineer; and Carmen Franks, Assistant City Engineer. Vince Gustafson stated the presentation will cover the intake process for traffic concerns and they hope to address any questions or concerns Council may have.

Justin Swinford stated all traffic requests, regardless of source, are entered into the internal work order management system, OpenGov's EAM (Enterprise Asset Management) software. Noted the program was introduced two years ago, replacing Lucity's EAM software, with positive feedback received on the change. Stated the requests are then screened to determine if an immediate threat to public safety must be addressed before being reviewed by the City's engineers to determine the next steps. Added, after the request is reviewed, it can either be sent to the Traffic Commission, have a work order created to resolve an immediate issue, or it can be determined that no further action is required or possible from the City's engineers. Clarified requesters receive communication as the request progresses or closes.

Vince Gustafson shared the Public Works Department is currently implementing a documentation system to track communications and the decision-making process for work orders.

Carmen Franks stated the presentation covers how the Public Works department seeks to address traffic requests moving forward. Clarified traffic requests include sign requests, safety and speeding concerns, crosswalk concerns, and concerns on visibility. Shared the City uses the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) issued by the Federal Highway Administration, crash reports, sight distances, Illinois Vehicle Code, local ordinances, and the Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) pedestrian crossing enhancement guidelines among other resources and methods to address traffic requests.

Justin Swinford shared the Traffic Commission consists of the City Traffic Engineer, or their designated representative; the Chief of Police, or their designated representative; and a City Council Member. Stated the Traffic Commission is advisory to City Council and proposes Ordinances to Council for action.

Council shared their experiences with addressing traffic concerns alongside their constituents and requested information on how long the process generally takes as well as what may cause lapses in communication. Justin Swinford stated the time it takes to resolve traffic requests is mainly determined by staff capacity and the priority level of a request. Noted they will be working on establishing estimated timelines for general requests. Welcomed residents to directly share concerns through the Traffic Commission's public input.

Council requested further information on whether previous traffic requests are tracked in the new system. Vince Gustafson stated the current tracking system, in place for a year and six months, does not track previously existing traffic requests. Carmen Franks stated requests were previously tracked on spreadsheets they still have access to and noted they may not be able to access certain information previously tracked through Lucity's EAM software.

Council asked if there is an appeal process for dismissed requests. Carmen Franks stated any request can be directly brought to Traffic Commission for consideration. Justin Swinford added the City's decisions on how to resolve traffic requests can differ from a requested method due to established procedures and published guidelines.

Council raised concerns regarding the City's history of addressing requests on speeding, the inability to track traffic incidents that occurred but were unreported, and the lack of consistent communication. Justin Swinford stated the City is limited in its ability to acknowledge anecdotal evidence due to its unreliability without a police report. Shared the City has been developing traffic calming measures to encourage more attentive driving without implementing signage and they will be more communicative of those alternative measures when addressing speeding concerns. Spoke on the varying effectiveness of strategies including road design, speed feedback signs, and speed bumps. Carmen Franks stated a federal grant funding opportunity through the Safe Routes to School Program for implementing speed feedback signs is opening up soon and being considered. Noted a lack of action does not necessarily mean those requests are closed and may still be addressed in the future. Vince Gustafson expressed the regular and long-term maintenance costs are significant parts to consider when acquiring additional speed feedback signs.

Requested Council Members email him for updates on any requests or concerns raised that have not received a timely response. Noted around 2,000 requests have been entered into the new work order system so far.

**b. Surveillance Ordinance – CM's Wilken and Evans**

Presented by CM Wilken. Stated the version included with the packet is version 8.2 which builds onto the revisions from City Attorney Matt Roeschley. Noted City Attorney Roeschley will be speaking on the proposed Section 7 when he returns and requested Council refrain from discussing that section until then.

CM Quisenberry discussed providing a comprehensive overview of previous discussions and actions to provide the context of the Ordinance's development for Council Member Jones.

Council discussed formally amending edits and additions to the Ordinance soon after the presentation from City Attorney Roeschley and the planned upcoming input from the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Council discussed the need to reach a conclusion on the topics of: involvement of the CPRB and HRC, the definition and procedures of "Exigent Circumstances", the definition of "Surveillance Technology", and if the Ordinance should be limited to the police department instead of all departments.

CM Quisenberry voiced his opinion on the extent of the Ordinance's coverage shifted when City staff presented on eligible technologies for review and they seemed undeterred by the proposed process, in addition to the review process seeming straightforward.

CM Wu noted the UPD has previously presented on their potential staffing costs anticipated from the reporting and upkeep procedure in the Ordinance.

Council discussed the merits for both options of having the CPRB involved in the review process or having them uninvolved, and the need for this to be definitively determined by vote.

City Administrator Darius White recommended holding a Strawpoll when all of Council is present to better gauge the consensus. Shared the Chairs of the CPRB and HRC in addition to City Attorney Roeschley will be presenting on the upcoming April 6, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the Ordinance. Expressed a more informed decision can be made afterward. CM Wilken encouraged Council to refrain from holding a Strawpoll until all presentations are concluded.

## 12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:28p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 5/11/26**