
DATE: Monday, November 10, 2025
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, November 10, 2025, at 8:12p.m.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Christopher Evans, CM Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Matt Roeschley, Elizabeth Hannan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Grace Wilken, Ward 6*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Wilken called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 8:12 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Ben Joselyn expressed shock to the Urbana Police Department's (UPD) presentation on their handling of the No Kings protest which included having SWAT on standby and an additional expenditure of \$15,000 on personnel. Asked how much the SWAT readiness cost for the No Kings rally, where they were stationed, and if Council believes having a SWAT team on standby was appropriate for the event. Further asked if Council believes the residents of Urbana are in favor of having a SWAT team on standby for the protest. Asked if a sniper team was on site for the protest as well. Asked why Michael Cervantes, Interim Deputy Chief of Police, presented a shortened citation from the Illinois State Statutes as the complete citation does not allow for the deployment of a drone for "reasonable suspicion of harm".

5. Staff Report

None.

6. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-11-090R:** A Resolution Estimating the Tax Levy (Fiscal Year 2025-2026) – HR/F

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO. The Resolution establishes an estimated property tax levy of \$12,053,950 for 2025. Elizabeth Hannan shared an introduction to the process behind determining property tax amounts and exemptions available for property owners. Emphasized each taxing district, such as Cunningham Township, the School District, and the Park District, levies their own taxes. Stated the total tax rate is calculated by Champaign County by adding the tax rates for all the taxing districts applicable for an individual property. Noted for properties in the City of Urbana, the portion paid to the City is around 13.1% of the total bill. Stated the assessments used to calculate the tax levy are not finalized when taxes are levied. Stated an additional Ordinance will be put forward to limit the rate to \$1.3499 when the final levy is approved, matching the current tax rate through adjusting the “Corporate” levy.

Shared a chart displaying the percentages of tax rates across taxing districts in 2024. Displayed a chart detailing major revenue sources for the General Fund. Noted the portion of the property tax that stays as revenue for City Services in the General Fund comprises around 5% of the annual revenue and the portion of the property fund that moves through the General Fund to go toward Police and Fire Pensions is around 9%. Shared a chart displaying the assessed value of properties within Urbana noting steady growth in recent years. Shared a chart displaying taxes paid to the City at the rate of \$1.3499 (\$100,000 = \$369; \$150,000 = \$594; \$200,000 = \$819; \$250,000 = \$1,044). Stated the taxes levied by Urbana go toward paying Police Pensions, Firefighter Pensions, Library Operations, and City Services through the “Corporate” levy.

Stated police and fire pensions are required by Illinois State statutes and the current policy, established in 2018, is to reach 100% pension funding around 2037. Stated the portion of the tax levy toward police and fire pensions increased by \$440,000 to \$4,453,905, marking an 11% increase from the 2024 tax levy. Shared the portion of the levy going toward The Urbana Free Library (TUFL) is \$4,950,117 and stated they rely heavily on property tax revenue. Stated the levy is based off of the approved budget for TUFL to support their operations. Stated the new levy sees an increase of 13.3% from the 2024 tax levy and noted TUFL’s operational costs increase while its other sources of revenue typically remain stagnant. Stated debt was issued in 2025 for the construction of two fire stations and the repayment of the development incentive for Hotel Royer. Noted the debt does not impact the tax levy because the bonds will be fully abated by Ordinance.

Spoke on the next steps for the tax levy approval process beginning with this estimated levy being approved the next week followed by a Public Hearing for the final tax levy on Monday, December 1 before it is moved to City Council on December 8. Stated the items presented alongside the final tax levy Ordinance will include the abatement of the “Corporate” levy to reach the tax rate of \$1.3499 as well as the abatements for the bonds. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

7. Council Input and Communications

None.

8. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wilken adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 12/8/25**