
DATE: Monday, June 09, 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 09, 2025, at 7:03 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: Dr. Jeffrey Trask, Founder of the Champaign-Urbana Reparations Coalition

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:03p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Champaign-Urbana Reparations Coalition – CM’s Evans and Wilken

Presented by Dr. Jeffrey Trask, Founder of the Champaign-Urbana Reparations Coalition (CURC) with an introduction provided by CM Evans. Jeffrey Trask thanked those who attended the town hall on reparations, held by the CURC, on the previous Thursday. Stated the CURC are comprised of volunteers promoting reparations efforts through forming a commission to develop ways in which harms, discrimination, and lost opportunities faced by the African American community can be addressed through reparations. Spoke on the economic growth from the beginning of the United States fueled by slave labor in the cotton trade from 1619 to 1865.

Stated the CURC focuses on advancing education on reparations, acknowledgement of specific harms, and reparations for harms. Noted reparations have been conducted in the past for a variety of groups of people, including former slave owners. Provided an example of how the City of Evanston identified specific harms in redlining practices toward African American people where reparations were able to address. Stated reparations is about more than the money as it also involves implementing policies, practices, and raising awareness on the necessity for

justice. Spoke on how Champaign County Clerk, Aaron Ammons is addressing racially restrictive covenants across Champaign County that prevent the leasing or sale of property to "...persons not of the Caucasian race". Shared a map displaying racial diversity and concentrations throughout the City of Urbana and the City of Champaign where the legacy of redlining continues.

Requested a commission to be formed to study the history of harms to African American people in Champaign County; assign a representative from the Urbana City Council to serve on the commission; and budget \$25,000 to contribute toward the funding of the commission.

Motion to extend the presentation time by 10 minutes by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

Stated the funds will be used to conduct research and community outreach to gather input. Shared the town hall was facilitated by the Healing Illinois Grant and expressed hope for the commission to continue those events. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Public Input

Rick Breitenfeldt raised concern regarding the announcement of the closing of the OSF facilities in Urbana despite recently receiving magnet accreditation. Stated the Carle hospital facilities are a great community asset, but there should be a variety of options available to the community to provide opportunities for faster treatment times. Urged Council to contact the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) to delay or prevent the closure of OSF as the current plan to close is too quick and harmful to the community. **Stuart Levy** read a [statement from UC Jews for Ceasefire \(UCJFC\)](#) voicing support for Palestine and stating antizionism must not be conflated with antisemitism as it has been increasingly weaponized. Read the definition of antisemitism as the discrimination, prejudice, hostility, or violence against Jews as Jews or Jewish institutions as Jewish. **Lilah Leopold** continued to read the [statement from UCJFC regarding antisemitism](#). Expressed the statement is recently more significant as the federal administration continues to put forward actions in the name of combating antisemitism when it actually creates more harm across the nation. Shared gratitude for the presentation from CURC and for the continued service of the Council. **Derek Briles** voiced appreciation for the statement from UCJFC and the presentation from CURC. Stated the statement on antisemitism, presentation on reparations, and the statement on the closure of the OSF facilities/Health Alliance are connected as they indicate the decline of the country and is a call to action for everyone to be more proactive against worsening conditions. Expressed an expectation for Council and Mayor Williams to exercise their power for good in the community through funding the CURC, approving Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding police surveillance, protecting the right to free speech, and voicing their support for the protestors that were wrongfully arrested in the previous April. Shared criticism for the actions of the State's Attorney. Raised concern regarding the high poverty rates in Urbana and the wealth disparity between Black residents compared to White residents in addition to the disproportionately large rate of bookings of Black residents into the County jail system. Stated the conditions for residents of East Urbana must be improved. **Jessica Yasim** expressed excitement for the election of Mayor Williams and gratitude for CM Wilken for sharing her support for a ceasefire resolution to be brought forward in the Champaign City Council. Voiced support for funding the proposal from CURC and for a ceasefire in Palestine. Noted the audience chairs in the Urbana City Council chambers are significantly more comfortable than the audience chairs in the Champaign City Council chambers.

Written Public Input in support of the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan was received from the following individual and read by Mayor Williams: Anna Hough.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken voiced appreciation for the CURC presentation and noted the \$25,000 in funding is already included in the upcoming budget. Expressed anticipation for the upcoming budget deliberations as it will reflect the City's priorities and goals. Stated support for a letter to the Illinois HFSRB and requested the Mayor and City Staff to submit a letter. Thanked the UCJFC for their continued work and voiced support for those exercising their rights to free speech, stating she is open to further discussions on taking more concrete steps for providing support. Agreed further investments into the community must be made. Shared support for human rights both locally and globally. **CM Kolisetty** echoed CM Wilken's sentiments. Stated that due to the single dispensary, the tax revenue from the marijuana tax cannot be disclosed but the income provides revenue to implement measures for social justice into the budget. **CM Wu** shared several Juneteenth events will be occurring next week and can be found online on the [City website here](#). Recalled the revenue from the marijuana tax was conservatively estimated to be around \$200,000 from initial discussions. **CM Quisenberry** stated programs are difficult to complete without the partnership of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) due to their influence in the region. Mentioned the new chancellor, Dr. Charles Isbell has been recently named and recommended including UIUC in their discussions for projects. **Mayor Williams** voiced appreciation for everyone's input tonight and additionally requested Council to email Kate Levy with any anticipated vacation time for the upcoming months.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (Council Member James Quisenberry, Ward 7)

1. Consent Agenda

None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-06-036R:** A Resolution Approving the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 and Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 – CD

Presented by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution approves the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 and Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 which guide the utilization of resources from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support critical affordable housing and community and economic development activities for low-income households throughout the City of Urbana and Champaign County. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. Resolution No. 2025-06-037R:** A Resolution Approving the Housing Program Manual for Program Years 2025-2029 – CD

The Resolution approves the City’s Housing Rehabilitation Operational Guidelines for Program Years 2025-2029.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. Resolution No. 2025-06-038R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement by and among the Champaign County Treasurer, the City of Urbana, and Other Local Taxing Bodies Affected by the Presence Property Tax Exemption Case 15-L-75 – Exec

Presented by Matt Roeschley, City Attorney. The Resolution authorizes the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Champaign County Treasurer and other local taxing bodies affected by the Presence property tax exemption case to facilitate payment of the total settlement amount to Presence and to agree to address a dispute among the taxing bodies concerning apportionment of the settlement amount following settlement with Presence. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- d. Ordinance No. 2025-06-018:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Certain Real Estate (PIN Nos. 25-15-29-400-023 and 25-15-29-400-024, Located in the Champaign County, Illinois, to Prairie Ag Concepts DBA Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery) – Exec

The Ordinance authorizes the Mayor to enter into a property lease agreement with Prairie Ag Concepts, Inc., a for-profit Illinois corporation DBA Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery, LLC for the agricultural use of unused City-owned properties east of the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Olympian Drive.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

- a. TUFL Budget – Rachel Fuller**

Presented by Rachel Fuller, Interim Director of The Urbana Free Library. Stated the FY26

budget presented for The Urbana Free Library (TUFL) is supported by the board of TUFL. Provided background information on the sources of revenue, noting property taxes are the primary source of revenue at 87%. Stated TUFL has requested and received a 4% increase in funding from the Champaign County and the Champaign County Circuit Clerk, totaling to \$37,980 in funding. Stated the expenses for TUFL meet State Standards with salaries accounting to 52% of the budget with an additional 15% accounting for benefits, totaling to 67%. Shared all TUFL staff will receive a cost-of-living increase of 3.25% with qualified staff receiving a step increase. Stated 8% to 12% of the budget is spent on materials for patrons and further elaborated on how TUFL meets that standard.

Shared significant additions to the budget for FY26, beginning with upgrades and projects regarding IT services and facilities improvements. Stated the remodeling of the first floor is being conducted in collaboration with Engberg Anderson Architects and is anticipated to be mostly complete by the end of the current calendar year. Stated further renovations will be considered after the completion of the first-floor remodeling. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Fire Training, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment – Chief Dade, Deputy Chief Prendergast, and Deputy Chief Doggett

Presented by Demond Dade, Fire Chief; Steven Doggett, Deputy Fire Chief; and Tal Prendergast, Deputy Fire Chief. Demond Dade thanked Tarek Azim for his assistance in preparing the budget. Steven Doggett stated the FY26 budget request for the Fire Department is \$355,000 with the funds being invested into uniforms & personal protective equipment (PPE), supplemental training, and upgrades to station alerting hardware. Spoke on the uniforms and PPE being requested, noting the department is contractually obligated to provide the equipment. Displayed an illustration estimating the value of equipment regularly used by firefighters on emergency calls. Stated equipment is a significant cost to the department with rental equipment used for new hires, purchasing the equipment and dress uniform after candidates get through the initial year of service. Requested a one-time expenditure of \$220,000 to accommodate new hires in the department and establish a more sustainable equipment renewal cycle as it was previously hampered by COVID.

Requested a one-time expenditure of \$86,000 to fund supplemental training required by the collective bargaining agreement, ongoing compliance trainings required by the State Fire Marshall's Office, and promotion eligibility trainings for the new firefighter hires and current firefighters. Emphasized the positive impact in public safety the trainings and continued investment into firefighters will create.

Requested a one-time expenditure of \$49,000 into replacing the alerting hardware for Fire Station 4. Detailed the current difficulties with the current, outdated, and failing alerting system. Stated firefighters are having difficulties in comprehending the METCAD dispatch announcements and delays are being experienced due to outdated technology. Stated the new hardware will allow for improved response times, faster dispatching, and better cross-agency coordination.

Stated the requests are not solely to meet collective bargaining agreement requirements as they will enhance public safety through holistically improving aspects of the Fire Department. Questions and discussion followed.

c. General Fund Reserves – Don Ho and Breaden Belcher

Presented by Don Ho, Senior Financial Analyst / Budget Coordinator and Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager with an introduction from Elizabeth Hannan, Interim City Administrator / Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO. Don Ho stated the General Fund reserves are unspent funds that are carried over from previous years and they reflect the City's financial health while also providing flexibility in the budget. Stated reserves are critical as they act as financial cushions during economic downturns, ensure essential services continue, support cash flow before major revenues, boost credit worthiness, and allow for flexible responses to urgent needs. Stated the current City Fund Balance Policy is to maintain a reserve of at least 25% of recurring General Fund expenses, with an allowance to drop below 20% for emergencies, and requires a plan to restore to 25% in three to five years if below that threshold. Stated the 25% line was established to account for revenue cycles, accommodate for Inter-Fund transfers to support core services, account for the backlog of capital projects, and to provide stability due to current financial uncertainties.

Shared a chart displaying the FY26 Fund Balance of an estimated \$17,700,000 with \$12,200,000 as Unassigned Fund Balance and \$5,500,000 as Assigned Fund Balance. Stated the current recurring expenditures in the General Fund are estimated to be \$47,800,000 and the 25% reserve target is around \$11,900,000. Stated the current Unassigned Fund Balance is at 25.6% with about \$300,000 over the minimum requirement. Stated the Assigned Fund Balance supports the second & third years of the Community Engagement Team Pilot Program with \$873,000; CDBG/HOME programs with \$3,100,000 in the case of federal funding being reduced; and \$1,500,000 to support other external Urbana programs in the case of federal funding being reduced.

Breaden Belcher stated the federal funding from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) greatly benefit low-income residents in Urbana through supporting affordable housing development, rental & utility assistance, shelter services, public facility improvements in low-income neighborhoods, and with economic development support. Stated those programs are currently at risk of being reduced in the next four years and the reserves are to ensure the programs can continue. Stated the staff of the Grants Division are paid through federal grants to support the implementation of the grant programs. Noted the Grants Division can operate with the current three full-time employees (FTEs) with \$1,600,000 going toward salaries and benefits with \$1,500,000 going toward programs over four years; or can be reduced to two FTEs with \$1,200,000 toward salaries and benefits with \$1,900,000 toward programs over four years.

Stated the \$1,500,000 toward other programs in Urbana will be distributed between the Cunningham Township, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), and the Champaign County Housing Authority (CCHA) as they also rely on State and federal funding. Stated the currently proposed federal budget eliminates the HOME and CDBG programs and would provide no funding toward those programs in FY27. Stated the Cunningham Township operates their Rental Assistance program through a combination of \$340,000 in State and federal funding, CCRPC operates LIHEAP utilizing \$3,095,140 in State and federal funding, and the CCHA operates their Housing Voucher program through \$5,551,000 in federal funding. Stated LIHEAP currently serves around 5,000 low-income households for utility shutoff prevention and arrears. Stated the Housing Voucher program annually serves around 700 households in Urbana with the risk of significantly decreasing due to potential eligibility changes being considered by the HUD, causing many households to immediately become homeless.

Don Ho stated the with the strategically assigned reserves, the City continues to maintain

compliance with its fund balance policy while supporting the community. Stated budget amendments are required and will be presented to Council before the using assigned reserve funds. Questions and discussion followed.

10. Mayoral Appointments

a. *Sustainability Advisory Commission*

– Sarah Womack (term ending June 30, 2028)

b. *The Urbana Free Library Board*

– Deb Newell (term ending June 30, 2026)

Presented together by Mayor Williams with backgrounds being read for both candidates.

Motion to approve the Mayoral Appointments by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:10p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 7/14/25



Support Imagine Urbana

From Anna Hough [REDACTED]
Date Thu 6/5/2025 10:58 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council Members,

Please read this letter into the public record.

I am writing in support of the Comprehensive Plan Imagine Urbana. As a member of (CU)rbanism Club and an Urbana resident, I support a variety of housing options and am excited that Urbana sees a future where residents can choose the housing style that best fits their needs whether it's an apartment or a single family home. Planning for more housing means that Urbana is planning for a vibrant future. Please vote yes to adopt Imagine Urbana! Thank you!

Best,
Anna Hough