
DATE: Monday, March 16, 2026
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, March 16, 2026, at 7:01 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Verdell Jones III, CM Chaundra Bishop*, CM Grace Wilken*, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Matt Roeschley, Scott Tess, Larry Boone, Justin Swinford, Olivia Jovine

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Christopher Evans, Ward 2*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Evans called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 02-23-2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Jessica Yasin stated Black residents in Urbana are 19% of the resident population but are reportedly involved in 78% of Use of Force incidents per the 2024 Use of Force Report (UFR24) by the Urbana Police Department (UPD). Questioned Urbana's commitment to racial equity and requested a plan for improving policing through fiscally conscious spending as many Urbana residents are in poverty and need tangible support. Shared she has invited current residents of her former community of the City of Norfolk— in the State of Virginia— who are either Black, alumnus of Norfolk State University, or people who have protested for the release of Norfolk's use of force data to watch this meeting and review the UFR24. Stated the community members of Norfolk were upset with the disproportionate use of force

across race found within the UFR24. Questioned how Urbana has a larger proportion of Use of Force incidents against Black people than in Norfolk, which has a higher proportion of Black residents. **Stephen MacGuire** expressed the culture and leadership within the UPD contributes to the disproportionate use of force found in the UFR24. Stated the evidence presented for Michael Cervantes' improvement since his involvement in the arrest of Aleyah Lewis during his appointment to the Interim Deputy Chief of Police position was insufficient and speaks to the state of the UPD's culture. Additionally questioned why the majority of the revenue generated by the 1% Grocery Tax is funding the UPD instead of other community measures. Demanded increases to UPD funding contain reasoning for how it will improve the City's disproportionate use of force. **Stuart Levy** cautioned against viewing the crime data and disparities in use of force solely as a result of economic conditions. Referred to a previous investigation into traffic stop data in Urbana where the racial disparities in traffic stops were higher during the day and lower at night, finding that Black people were stopped more during the day when police officers could see the driver. Stated a community meeting in the City of Champaign in 2009 after the killing of Kiwane Carrington by the Champaign Police Department discussed the topic of systemic biases toward criminalizing gatherings of Black youth, and lessons from that meeting should inform deeper investigations into crime beyond acknowledging economic conditions and producing crime rate disparity maps. **Gabriel Dunn** spoke from personal experience that there is a lack of resources available for homeless people who are employed, adhering to the law, and not suffering from addiction. Spoke on the need for an equitable approach to ending homelessness that does not prioritize any person based on a level of worthiness. Shared a mid-barrier shelter in the area has denied services to him as he was determined to not be at high enough risk. Expressed that there are many homeless people who are employed and need continued assistance after employment is attained. **Luke Lee** stated that as the UPD continues to request more funding, the number of residents attending City Council in protest will continue to grow. Noted members of the public typically do not oppose increases to the Urbana Fire Department's budget and are in support of funding items such as the Alternative Response program, support for basic needs, and services for survivors of violence. Stated the community's basic needs must first be met to allow for healing to occur within the community. **Camille Cobb** spoke in support of the original version of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding oversight and transparency of surveillance technologies. Stated, on behalf of the Center for Just Infrastructures (JI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), the goal of the organization is to advance research, education, and community engagement to create equity in everyday infrastructures. Shared JI supports the approval of the original version of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, will continue to provide input on the Ordinance, and can be contacted as a resource to contribute their expertise to the conversation on the Ordinance. **Derek Briles** echoed criticisms toward the UPD's UFR24 and expressed the issues stem from the City's methods of determining the services provided and the amounts of funding that those services receive. Stated the UPD uniquely receives large increases to their budget larger than increases to the City's revenue and any other department fund. Voiced appreciation for the highest level of grant funding released this year by Urbana. Highlighted the large expenses of the UPD do not result in any material reduction to levels of crime. Stated the goal of policing should be to reduce the need for being in contact with the police, to not require widespread surveillance, and to reduce uses of force. Encouraged Urbana to take risks on funding alternative sources of public safety and continue funding community services to alleviate the burden of managing public safety that UPD officers face.

Written Public Input in opposition of Ordinance No. 2026-03-007 and in support of establishing a procedure for traffic concerns was received from the following individual and was read by Chair Evans: Charles Warmbrunn.

5. Staff Report

a. Surveillance Ordinance

Presented by Matt Roeschley, City Attorney. Shared three documents with Council regarding

an outline of answers to Council's questions, a draft of the Surveillance Ordinance with proposed revisions to review, and a proposal for a new section on the handling of improperly collected data.

Spoke on the proposed addition to Section 2 which adds procedures for Council to reconsider decisions on technologies.

Detailed the proposed revision to Section 5 that clarifies third-party nondisclosure agreements are in conflict with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the City will not approve those agreements. Highlighted an additional clarifying revision under Section 5 which states the City will not share or sell its surveillance data with non-governmental entities.

Outlined the proposed revisions to Section 8 regarding the involvement of the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on their advisory authority over surveillance technologies.

Elaborated on the proposed change to definition 10, under "Examples of Surveillance Technology" on Attachment A, to account for individuals who voluntarily share private camera remote access with the Urbana Police Department. Stated restricting the use of voluntarily shared, individual private camera remote access for investigative purposes may be in conflict with the Chief of Police's operational jurisdiction under Illinois State Law and City Code.

Shared the proposal to change a definition under "Examples of Surveillance Technology" on Attachment A regarding the use of aerial drones to cover uses by or on behalf of the City within City limits was adjusted to not be in conflict with State and Federal regulations. Stated aerial drones cannot be restricted from Urbana airspace due to the Illinois Aeronautics Act. Spoke on the proposed definition to exclude Sensitive Surveillance Technology Information (SSTI) from Annual Reports that could risk City infrastructure or operations. Acknowledged the need for further discussion on how the definition is applied and used in practice.

Stated he will return to Council in a future meeting to report on the new section, covering the handling of improperly collected data, to provide more time for questions and discussion.

6. Old Business

- 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 Holmes Street to Florida Avenue) – PW

Presented by Justin Swinford, Assistant City Engineer. The Ordinance amends the Local Traffic Code to prohibit on-street parking on both sides of Vine Street from Holmes Street to Florida Avenue. Justin Swinford stated he is mainly present to answer questions from Council. Noted the Public Works Department intends to hold a discussion with Council on the topics of Traffic Commission and addressing traffic concerns. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda, using the original Ordinance with the addition of prohibited parking on both sides of Vine Street from Pell Circle to Holmes Street, by CM Wilken, CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

7. New Business

- a. **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. Scott Tess stated this Ordinance builds upon the previous Council Ordinances and lease with Total to authorize an easement for access to the site. Noted the lease authorizes Total to build, operate, and decommission the solar array on the closed landfill in Urbana. Stated additional amendments to the lease are included in the memorandum shared in the packet. Stated another correction will be made to correct the leased acre amount from 15.5 to 16 that will be reflected in the next City Council meeting's packet. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. **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

Presented by Olivia Jovine, Community Development Services Director with Anne Lukeman and Chris Lukeman, owners of CU Adventures In Time and Space. 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. Olivia Jovine stated the original Redevelopment Agreement was approved by Council in 2025, and the amendment seeks to extend the completion date and removes the second performance requirement based on the number of rounds of minigolf played. Shared the new opening will feature a smaller minigolf course with a fully operational bar. Noted City staff have toured the building in advance of the planned soft opening of the business.

Chris Lukeman thanked Urbana for their support and shared updates on internal staff training conducted in advance of the soft opening event. Reported feedback received from the community has been positive. Anne Lukeman invited Council Members to schedule guided tours of the building.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- c. **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

Presented by Mayor Williams. 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. Mayor Williams shared the restaurant is in Sunnycrest Mall and they hope to offer beer and wine as part of their menu.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken shared the Ward 6 Listening Session will be held this Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Center and invited residents to share their thoughts with the City. Expressed she hoped to be able to attend in person for CM Jones's first meeting and welcomed him to Council. *CM Wu* additionally welcomed CM Jones and offered to share her experiences from 10 years of service on Council as a resource for him. Voiced appreciation for Gabriel in sharing his experience of homelessness in the community. Noted the traffic study referred to during Public Input was published in 2015 and can be found archived on Illinois Public Media. *CM Jones* thanked Council for the welcoming and understanding environment as he fasts in observance of Ramadan. Voiced appreciation for the members of the public who shared their input and encouraged people who are homeless to continue to share their experiences with Council and the City. *Chair Evans* welcomed back CM Bishop and welcomed onboard CM Jones. Hoped for CM Jones to have left his Indiana Hoosier pride behind and traded it for pride in the Urbana Tigers. *CM Quisenberry* welcomed CM Jones and shared the City of Urbana has a good amount of community engagement and praised the community's willingness to help improve Urbana. *Mayor Williams* thanked City staff for their exemplary work across many projects and for their support.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 4/27/26**

PUBLIC IMPUT-Committee of the Whole Meeting 3/16/2026 Please read.

From charles warmbrunn [REDACTED]
Date Fri 3/13/2026 6:34 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>
Cc charles warmbrunn [REDACTED]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Regarding Ordinance No. 2026-03-007:

- 1) Please read my email of 2/21/2026
 - 2) Please read materials provided at 3/9/2026 Committee of the Whole meeting
 - 3) Please visit the Vine St. site.
- Please reject ordinance 2026-03-007!!

When you have your discussion group on Traffic Commission and requesting safety improvements you need to establish a procedure that allows an Alderperson to submit Requests to the Traffic Commission (TC) since it's an Advisory Board to the Committee of the Whole (COW).

If an Alderperson has a concern/issue they would bring it to the COW. COW votes on sending it to the TC for data and research. The TC would study the matter and send back an opinion/results to the COW in a timely manner.

By voting as the COW you eliminate individual Alderperson interaction with Staff during this process. There wouldn't be any animosity between Alderpersons as each individual request would first funnel through COW.

Thanks,
Charles Warmbrunn
[REDACTED]