CITY OF URBANA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **Monday, September 28, 2026**
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, September 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk;, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Verdell Jones III, CM Stephanie Cockrell, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Evan Alvarez, Darius White, Matthew Roeschley, Larry Boone, Seok Hyun Cho, Michael Cervantes, Steven Doggett

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 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Christopher Hansen spoke on overthrown citations previously received for grass length on his property from Jason Arrasmith, Code Enforcement Inspector. Stated he recently received another citation regarding the noise of an air-conditioning window-unit that was initiated by his neighbor, Eric Sacks, a former Ward 2 City Council Member. Shared that personal noise measurements conducted did not find the volume to be in violation of City Code. Stated, upon a review of his personal security camera footage, he found that no City employee personally measured the noise of the air-conditioning unit. Recommended the City to not harass him further. Shared a friend of his recently received a citation for conducting porch renovations on a historic property. Shared his account of how his neighbor, Eric Sacks, caused flooding issues on his property, subsequently prompting a repair by Urbana Public Works; independently demolished the City repair work; raised a nine-foot fence without a permit; and installed spotlights that point toward his property.

Written Public Input regarding a request to change City Code to prohibit the Mayor from being a voting member of the Committee of the Whole was received from the following individual and read by Mayor Williams: Esther Patt.

5. Council Input and Communications

None.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. <u>Committee of the Whole</u> *(Council Member Verdell Jones III, Ward 4)*

<u>1. Consent Agenda</u>

a. Resolution No. 2026-09-050R: A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Administration of a Basic Operations/Advanced Firefighter Academy Between the City of Urbana, the City of Champaign, and Cornbelt Fire Protection District – FD

The Resolution approves an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Urbana, the City of Champaign, and Cornbelt Fire Protection District for the administration of a joint Basic Operations/Advanced Firefighter Academy, formalizing the responsibilities of each agency and the reimbursement structure for personnel costs associated with Academy instruction.

b. Resolution No. 2026-09-051R: A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2023-02-013R A Resolution Adopting the City of Urbana American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Concept Plan Project List (#2) – Exec

The Resolution reallocates $45,000 in ARPA subrecipient grant funds from Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center (UNCC)'s UNCC Boost project to the Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC)'s YouthBuild project.

c. Resolution No. 2026-09-052R: A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Economic Development Agreement (Champaign County Economic Development Corporation FY27) – CD

The Resolution approves an Economic Development Agreement with the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) that includes a proposed contribution of $33,644 for FY27 from the City of Urbana.

d. Resolution No. 2026-09-053R: A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Community Partnership Agreement (Experience CU, FY27) – CD

The Resolution approves a Community Partnership Agreement with ECU that includes a proposed contribution of $30,000 for FY27 from the City of Urbana.

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

a. **Ordinance No. 2026-09-023:** An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit (Renovation of Multiple-Family Apartment Building in the Southeast Urbana Overlay District at 1302 and 1304 Silver Street / Plan Case No. 2530-SU-26) – CD

The Ordinance approves a Special Use Permit for the renovation of multi-family apartment buildings located at 1302 and 1304 Silver Street, within the Southeast Urbana Overlay District.

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.

b. **Ordinance No. 2026-09-024:** An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit (Renovation of Multiple-Family Apartment Building in the Southeast Urbana Overlay District at 1401 Silver Street / Plan Case No. 2531-SU-26) – CD

Evan Alvarez, Principal Planner was present for questions. The Ordinance approves a Special Use Permit for the renovation of the multi-family apartment building located at 1401 Silver Street, within the Southeast Urbana Overlay District. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.

c. **Ordinance No. 2026-09-025:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #1 – Omnibus) – Fin

The Ordinance amends the FY27 Annual Budget to fund an emergency road salt purchase, fund an upgrade to the Council Chambers audio system, fund a traffic signal cabinet repair, and adopt various administrative reallocations.

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry, Williams
NAY: None.

d. **Ordinance No. 2026-09-026:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Article III – Officers, Chapter 2 – Administration, Section 42 – Appointment – HR

Darius White, City Administrator was present for questions. The Ordinance revises Section 2-42 of the City Code to reflect the current list of the City's appointed officers and adds language to provide flexibility for changes in titles, job descriptions, and the creation or elimination of positions that would be appropriately classified as an appointed position. Questions and discussion followed.

~~Motion to approve by CM Jones, seconded by CM Hursey.~~

i. CM Quisenberry offered a friendly amendment to defer the item to the next City Council meeting.

CM Jones and CM Hursey accepted the friendly amendment.

Motion to defer to the next City Council meeting by CM Jones, seconded by CM Hursey.

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

None.

10. <u>Mayoral Appointments</u>

a. *Deputy Chief of Police*

– Michael Cervantes (term ending June 30, 2027)

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: Evans

11. Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) – Review of Closed Session Minutes

Motion to enter closed session by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Jones.

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.
Entered closed session at 7:50 p.m.

11. Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) – Review of Closed Session Minutes (Continued)

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

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Quisenberry
NAY: None.
Returned to open session at 8:42 p.m.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho
Deputy City Clerk
This meeting was video recorded and is viewable on-demand HERE. **Minutes approved: 10/19/26**

Outlook

PUBLIC INPUT: September 28, 2026

From Esther Patt [redacted]
Date Fri 9/25/2026 7:17 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.gov>

2 attachments (727 KB)
Ordinance_2019-08-051_memo.pdf; Ordinance_2019-08-051_signed.pdf;

***** Email From An External Source *****
Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this message for the record during public input.

Tonight you are discussing a change to Article II of City Code. There is another change you need to make to city code that I ask you to place on your next agenda.

Four months ago, on May 21, 2026, you received a message from former City Council Member Bill Brown, former City Clerk Charlie Smyth, former Mayor Diane Marlin and me saying we discovered a change had been made to Article II, Section 28 of Urbana city code without the city council's knowledge or consent. Here's how it happened.

Ordinance 2019-08-051 (attached) was passed on Sep 3, 2019. It added a sentence to city code Section 2-28 regarding Committee of the Whole stating: "The mayor is a nonvoting member of the committee and is not counted for the purpose of determining a quorum."

The Ordinance was proposed by City Clerk Charlie Smyth to state clearly in the code the practice that had been ongoing since Committee of the Whole was created in 1997. Under Urbana's Mayor-Aldermanic form of government there is a distinct separation of the executive and legislative functions – and the Mayor had never voted at COW meetings, nor at any meetings of other standing committees for decades before then.

Three months after passage of Ordinance 2019-08-051, when the city council voted to amend Section 28 to switch the schedule of committee meetings dates, the memo prepared by the city administrator did not include the new language approved 3 months earlier. No one noticed at the time, and the mistake was not noticed until last May when the Mayor cast a tie-breaking vote at a committee meeting.

No law should ever be changed without an affirmative vote by the city council. Please do not delay any longer in correcting this error. Mistakes happen; but the integrity of government depends on officials acknowledging and correcting their mistakes.

Thank you,
Esther Patt,
Urbana resident

Charles A. Smyth
City Clerk

City of Urbana
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217)384-2366
FAX (217)384-2301
casmyth@urbanaillinois.us

August 22, 2019

TO: City Council & Mayor
RE: Minor Changes to City Code governing Council meetings

Council Members and Mayor Marlin:

To better reflect actual practice, the City Clerk's office is recommending several small changes in City Code, Chapter 2 per the enclosed strikethrough Ordinance 2019-08-051.

For section 2-4 Public Meetings, it is suggested that we drop the requirement for an individual to state his or her address. We have not been asking for anything other than name for some time, in accordance with a 2014 binding opinion, the Public Access Counselor of the Illinois Attorney General's Office ruled that a public body cannot require a person to disclose his or her address in order to speak at a public meeting.

For Section 2-27 Rules for deliberation, we have added a category to the agenda template that reflects the practice of having invited presentations early in our meetings. We also provide for the consent agenda under Standing Committee reports.

Finally, for Section 2-28, we suggest removing the ambiguity that has been created over time from use of the generic term City Council in our code which can be interpreted in some situations to include the mayor. We propose language stating that "The mayor is a nonvoting member of the committee and is not counted for the purpose of determining a quorum". Over time, standing committees of the past (composed only of Aldermen/women/persons) have been reduced to the current single Committee of the Whole. The mayor has separate executive and veto authority and under state statute votes at Council Meetings when directed by use of the term Corporate Authorities as listed in Appendix 8 of City Council Rules and Procedures.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email or call me.

-Charlie

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-08-051

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING URBANA CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, SECTIONS 2-4, 2-27, AND 2-28

(Administration)

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana ("City") is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council heretofore has enacted Urbana City Code Section 2-4 to establish rules for public participation at public meetings held by official bodies of the City; Section 2-27 to adopt rules for the deliberations of the City Council; and Section 2-28 to establish the City Council's Committee of the Whole; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, after due consideration, finds that amending such sections as herein provided is in the best interests of the City and is desirable for the welfare of the City's government and affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Urbana City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article I, "In General," Section 2-4, "Public meetings," is hereby amended with the strikethrough text indicating deletions as follows:

Sec. 2-4. - Public meetings.

(a) Any person who seeks to address the members of a commission, committee, or other official body of the city at any public meeting will be permitted to speak on any matter listed on the agenda or on any other matter of public concern, subject to the following provisions:

(1) The presiding officer shall designate a time during the meeting at which the public may address the members. The presiding officer may require persons wishing to speak during any portion of a meeting to sign in before the start of the meeting and to provide their names, addresses, and topics to be discussed.

(2) Prior to speaking, each person must be recognized by the presiding officer and must state his or her name ~~and address~~ for the record.

(3) Subject to subsection (a)(4), public comment is limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person and to no more than two (2) hours per meeting, unless extended by consent of a majority vote of the members present. The presiding officer or his or her designee shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the time allotted has expired.

(4) If the presiding officer recognizes that more than twenty (20) persons desire to speak, he or she may limit each speaker to comments of no more than three (3) minutes. Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the members on the same subject matter, the presiding officer may ask that a spokesperson be chosen from the group. If additional matters are to be presented by other persons in the group, the presiding officer may limit the number of such persons and may limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.

(5) Persons invited by the presiding officer to address the members are subject to such time limitations as the majority of the members present may prescribe.

(6) Separate rules, as required by law or as otherwise provided in this Code, will govern the conduct of quasi-judicial hearings.

(b) The city clerk shall post the provisions of subsection (a) on the city's website.

Section 2. Urbana City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article II, "Elected Officials," Division 2, "City Council," Section 2-27, "Rules for deliberations," is hereby amended with the underlined text indicating new language and the strikethrough text indicating deletions as follows:

Sec. 2-27. - Rules for deliberations.

The following rules for the government of the deliberations of the city council are hereby adopted:

(1) The city council shall determine its own rules of proceeding, which rules must be adopted and approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the council, and no such rule may be repealed, annulled, amended, abridged, modified or suspended except by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the council. On all points of order not otherwise specifically provided for in such rules of proceeding, "Robert's Rules of Order," as may from time-to-time be revised, is adopted and made the law governing the deliberations of the city council.

(2) The order of business of all regular meetings of the city council shall be as follows:

a. Approval of minutes of the proceedings of regular and special meetings.

b. Additions to agenda.

c. Presentations.

~~c.~~d. Public input.

~~d.~~e. Unfinished business.

f. Reports of standing committees.
1. Consent agenda
2. Regular agenda

~~e.~~g. Reports of special committees.

~~f.~~h. Reports of officers.

~~g.~~i. New business.

~~h.~~j. Adjournment

(3) Whenever it shall become necessary for a number smaller than a majority of the city council to compel the attendance of absentee members in order to constitute a quorum to do business, a fine of two hundred dollars ($200.00) may be imposed upon any such absentee member for failure to so attend.

(4) At any meeting of the city council, upon the making of and second to a motion (whether phrased as a "motion to defer" or otherwise), the effect of which would be to postpone consideration of any agenda item to the next regular meeting of the council, which such agenda item is then before the city council for the first time by motion made and seconded, any such agenda item shall be automatically deferred for final action thereon to the next regular meeting of the city council, unless upon the making of and second to a subsequent motion, three-fourths (¾) of those aldermen/alderwomen present vote to consider such deferred item at a special meeting to be called and held before the date of the next regular meeting.

Section 3. Urbana City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article II, "Elected Officials," Division 2, "City Council," Section 2-28, "Committee," is hereby amended with the underlined text indicating new language as follows:

Sec. 2-28. - Committee.

To afford the opportunity to more thoroughly examine matters under consideration, the city council shall meet regularly on the second and fourth Monday of each month as a committee of the whole. The mayor is a nonvoting member of the committee and is not counted for the purpose of determining a quorum. The chair and vice-chair of the committee shall be selected by the council as established by council rules.

Section 4. Those sections, paragraphs, and provisions of the Urbana City Code that are not expressly amended or repealed by this Ordinance are hereby re-enacted, and it is expressly declared to be the intention of this Ordinance not to repeal or amend any portions of the Urbana City Code other than those expressly set forth as amended or repealed in this Ordinance. The invalidity of any section or provision of this Ordinance hereby passed and approved shall not invalidate other sections or provisions thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall not be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or a liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; nor shall any right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Ordinance.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote, the "ayes" and "nays" being called, of a majority of the members of the Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, at a meeting of said Council.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this date day of Month, Year.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

_____

Charles A. Smyth, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this date day of Month, Year.

_____

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-08-051

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WHEREAS, the City Council, after due consideration, finds that amending such sections as herein provided is in the best interests of the City and is desirable for the welfare of the City's government and affairs.

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   1. Consent agenda.
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j. Adjournment

(3) Whenever it shall become necessary for a number smaller than a majority of the city council to compel the attendance of absentee members in order to constitute a quorum to do business, a fine of two hundred dollars ($200.00) may be imposed upon any such absentee member for failure to so attend.

(4) At any meeting of the city council, upon the making of and second to a motion (whether phrased as a "motion to defer" or otherwise), the effect of which would be to postpone consideration of any agenda item to the next regular meeting of the council, which such agenda item is then before the city council for the first time by motion made and seconded, any such agenda item shall be automatically deferred for final action thereon to the next regular meeting of the city council, unless upon the making of and second to a subsequent motion, three-fourths (¾) of those aldermen/alderwomen present vote to consider such deferred item at a special meeting to be called and held before the date of the next regular meeting.

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Section 4. Those sections, paragraphs, and provisions of the Urbana City Code that are not expressly amended or repealed by this Ordinance are hereby re-enacted, and it is expressly declared to be the intention of this Ordinance not to repeal or amend any portions of the Urbana City Code other than those expressly set forth as amended or repealed in this Ordinance. The invalidity of any

section or provision of this Ordinance hereby passed and approved shall not invalidate other sections or provisions thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall not be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or a liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; nor shall any right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Ordinance.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote, the "ayes" and "nays" being called, of a majority of the members of the Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, at a meeting of said Council.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 3rd day of September, 2019.

AYES: Brown, Hazen, Hursey, Jakobsson, Miller, Wu

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

Charles A. Smyth, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 4th day of September, 2019.

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor