
DATE: Monday, June 1, 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, June 1, 2026, at 9:46 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
***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Don Ho, Elizabeth Hannan, Tal Prendergast, Steven Doggett, Larry Boone, Olivia Jovine, Evan Alvarez, Vince Gustafson, Seok Hyun Cho, Matt Roeschley, Matthew McKinney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Shirese Hursey, Ward 3*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Hursey called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 9:46 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

None.

5. Staff Report

a. Budget Review – HR/F

Presented by Mayor Williams; Elizabeth Hannan, Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO; and Don Ho, Senior Management Analyst / Budget Coordinator. Mayor Williams read the Message from the Mayor included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget document. Expressed the budget seeks to address community needs and Council goals without putting additional financial pressures onto residents of Urbana. Emphasized the City will remain committed to its values during national and global uncertainties to protect the dignity of the residents of Urbana while building toward a stronger and more equitable future.

a. Budget Review – HR/F (Continued)

Shared Public Safety & Well-Being is supported by the budget through \$1,120,000 allocated toward Community Service Grants, Youth Service Grants, Assistance to Unhoused Neighbors, Relocation Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims, and funds to cover service gaps; a \$100,000 one-time transfer to support Grants Management staffing; \$457,000 allocated toward Alternative Response Task Force implementation with \$307,000 in recurring funds and \$150,000 in one-time funds toward implementation costs, noting additional funding must be sourced from new revenues; \$52,000 in recurring funding toward overnight University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) police services support; \$20,000 in one-time funds for increased animal control fees; \$1,270,000 and \$3,000,000 in one-time funding toward replacing a fire engine and ladder truck; \$146,000 in recurring funds with a \$55,000 in one-time funding toward the first-year vehicle cost for a new Fire Prevention & Education Officer; \$83,000 in one-time funding to support the Fire Department training budget; and \$68,000 in one-time funding for new radios.

Shared Housing is supported through engaging the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) for a housing needs study; setting \$20,000 in one-time funds toward a targeted neighborhood cleanup event; and retaining \$4,600,000 in reserve to protect HOME, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and housing and homelessness-related services from potential reductions in federal funding.

Stated that Infrastructure receives support through the \$15,900,000 in expenditures for FY2027 within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); \$500,000 in one-time funding toward the Public Works Facility renovations; \$45,000 in one-time funds for outfitting the space for the Community Engagement Team; and \$100,000 for additional facility needs.

Shared the budget bolsters the Economic Health of Urbana by continuing work on the development agreement with Heart Strong Grocery, located in Ward 3; issuing Requests for Proposals (RFP) for 205 North Race Street and the Pickerill property on North Cunningham Avenue; developing a proposal for construction on the City owned lots on Illinois Street, south of Lincoln Square Mall; implementing the Philo Road Ahead initiative with a \$100,000 in one-time funding for an area study, \$50,000 in one-time funding for incentives to existing businesses, and \$20,000 in one-time funding for programs and events; upgrading the Arts & Culture Specialist position to an Arts & Culture Coordinator with an increase of approximately \$32,000 in funding for the position; allocating \$30,000 in one-time funds toward installing sculptures at Fire Stations 2 and 3; and staffing vacant economic development positions.

Highlighted the budget includes \$50,000 in recurring funding to The Urbana Free Library (TUFL) to subsidize dependent health care; \$70,000 in one-time funding for necessary TUFL roof replacement; \$20,000 in recurring funding for three years to increase the Finance Customer Service position to 0.5 FTE; dividing Finance from Human Resources and Labor Relations (HR), and moving HR to the Executive Department; and \$107,500 in one-time funding for HR recruiting activities.

Elizabeth Hannan stated the budget includes a total of \$1,400,000 for interfund transfers to address shortfalls through allocating \$400,000 toward the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$400,000 toward the Parking Fund, \$350,000 toward the Recycling Fund, and \$250,000 toward the Equipment Services Fund. Stated the upcoming Asset Management Plan for the Sanitary Sewer Fund will recommend increases in fees to support funding and will analyze interfund charges to ensure staff time is correctly distributed. Shared a Five-Year Plan regarding the Parking Fund and Parking Enforcement is in development, which will recommend revenue from Parking Enforcement to be placed into the Parking Fund instead of the General Fund.

a. Budget Review – HR/F (Continued)

Noted Urbana will need to increase Parking Enforcement fines and fees to maintain and fund their operations. Shared that despite increases to fees, approved by Council in 2024, the Recycling Fund is not generating enough revenue to maintain its operations without transfers from the General Fund. Noted further inspection of recycling services may be required to address its budget shortfalls. Stated the Equipment Services Fund is generally self-sufficient, but the proposed transfer addresses a backlog of unrecovered internal expenses.

Emphasized, no new revenues were created, and expenditure increases were limited. Announced the Illinois State Legislature passed their budget yesterday and it did not include the anticipated reduction of around \$200,000 in income tax revenue for Urbana, providing slight flexibility for the budget. Noted the saved recurring funds could be allocated toward the Alternative Response program.

Stated the University of Illinois Flash Index was at 101.0 for April 2026, a decrease from 102.4 in April 2025, but it continues to indicate a growing economy. Noted long-term inflation was expected to average 2.5% but increased in April to 3.8%. Stated unemployment is currently at 4.6% as of March, an increase of 1% from the previous year.

Don Ho presented updates regarding revenues, expenditures, and the state of operating funds across the budget. Reported \$47,700,000 of revenue are budgeted toward the General Fund and the remaining \$19,600,000 are allocated to other funds. Shared the expenditures by department are distributed as follows: 30.9% to Public Works; 19.2% to Police; 15.1% to Community Development; 13.6% to Fire; 11.2% to General Services; 6.9% to Executive; 2.8% to Finance; 0.3% to City Clerk; and 0.1% to City Council.

Spoke on the expenditures for Fiscal Year 2027 which decreased, to a normalized level, by \$19,700,000 from Fiscal Year 2026 due to the one-time capital projects undertaken in Fiscal Year 2026. Noted there are still open encumbrances from Fiscal Year 2026 that may carry over. Stated Fiscal Year 2027 returns to the baseline for budget years, but spending sees slight increases due to inflation. Emphasized the difference between Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 is due to timing of projects, not due to cuts in funding for operations.

Shared the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2027 is estimated to have a revenue of \$51,500,000, increasing around \$360,000 from Fiscal Year 2026. Displayed a pie chart illustrating the percentages of revenues by source. Noted the City of Urbana receives 13.1% of property tax in Urbana, which funds The Urbana Free Library in the amount of around \$5,000,000; funds pensions for the Police and Fire department in the amount of approximately \$4,500,000 annually; and less than 3% of total property taxes, around \$2,500,000, goes toward funding core City services.

Spoke on the General Fund expenditures for Fiscal Year 2027; noted modest increases are consistently measured from year to year, largely influenced by rising Personnel costs in response to inflationary pressures. Stated Transfers out of the General Fund display how funds are being used to support other funds and operations.

a. Budget Review – HR/F (Continued)

Elizabeth Hannan shared information regarding the City's budget balancing procedures and noted the unreserved Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund balance is 0.13% above the policy to retain an unreserved fund balance of 25% of recurring expenditures. Stated future budgetary concerns include limited flexibility, a need for revenues to support future programs, structural fixes to several funds, and the continued presence of financial uncertainty. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Fire Prevention and Education Officer Budget Presentation – FD

Presented by Tal Prendergast, Deputy Fire Chief and Steven Doggett, Fire Chief. Steven Doggett spoke on the importance of prevention and education for fire safety and community wellbeing. Stated this position is required to recover permit inspection frequency and capacity across both the Fire Department and Community Development Building Safety Division. Stated the position is similar to the current civilian Campus Fire Prevention Officer, and its effectiveness can be readily measured through the completion rates of inspections and fire prevention permits.

Shared a chart displaying the loss of capacity for inspections within the Fire Department over the past 10 years. Stated the requested position would report to the Deputy Fire Chief overseeing the Community Risk Reduction Division.

Tal Prendergast reported the request is a \$146,000 recurring cost with an additional one-time cost of \$55,000. Highlighted the position is estimated to generate \$80,000 in annual revenue from the fire permit and commercial inspection process. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m. by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

6. New Business

a. Resolution No. 2026-06-021R: A Resolution Approving the Capital Improvement Plan (Fiscal Years 2027-2031) – PW

Presented by Vince Gustafson, Public Works Director and Justin Swinford, Interim City Engineer. The Resolution approves the Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031. Vince Gustafson noted the draft Capital Improvement Plan was presented on during the May 4, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting and the draft Capital Improvement Plan can be found on the City website. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. Resolution No. 2026-06-022R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class R&T-2 Designation for Good Judys Espresso & Bagel Bar, LLC d/b/a Good Judys Espresso & Bagel Bar, 2740 Philo Road, Suite D – Exec

Presented by Mayor Williams. The Resolution approves an increase to the number of Class R&T-2 (Restaurant & Taven-Beer and Wine) liquor licenses to approve a license application from Good Judys Espresso and Bagel Bar at 2740 Philo Road, Suite D in Urbana. Mayor Williams stated the liquor license was requested so the business can expand their offerings for special events at the establishment.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Jones

- c. Ordinance No. 2026-06-014:** An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Lease (1717 Philo Road, Suite 16) – PD

Presented by Matthew McKinney, Lieutenant and Larry Boone, Chief of Police. The Ordinance approves and authorizes the execution of a lease at 1717 Philo Road, Suite 16, to enable the Urbana Police Department (UPD) to have a presence in the Philo Road area. Larry Boone shared the UPD identified this building as an ideal location to house the Community Engagement Team and provided an overview of the presentation.

Matthew McKinney displayed the layout of the space, stating the location at Sunnycrest Plaza is 2700 square foot of multi-use space to allow for office use, meetings, officer wellness spaces, storage space, and outdoor events using the exterior parking space. Shared the lease is set as a three-year agreement with two optional two-year renewals at a base rent of \$2,500 per month. Stated the lease agreement is similar to the leases the City has previously approved and the space can be altered to meet the needs of the UPD. Stated the location is ideal because it supports the Philo Road Ahead Initiative, covers a need for increased presence determined through crime data, and is within budget for the Community Engagement Team program.

Stated the building will hold offices for the Community Engagement Sergeant, Community Engagement Officer, Crisis Co-Response Clinician, Behavioral Health Detective, Clergy Patrol, and Community Engagement Liaison. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Hursey, Jones, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Wilken

Motion to extend the meeting to 11:10 p.m. by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Evans.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Jones, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

7. Discussion

a. Surveillance Ordinance

None.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Jones and Chair Hursey expressed condolences to the family and friends of former Council Member Chaundra Bishop.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Hursey adjourned the meeting at 11:08 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 8/3/26**