
DATE: Monday, August 04, 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, August 4, 2025, at 7:01p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk, CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey, CM Grace Wilken

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Elizabeth Hannan, Seok Hyun Cho, Tarek Azim, Brearden Belcher, Matt Roeschley, Larry Boone

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. 07-07-2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. 07-07-2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Clerk Sandefur noted a correction needs to be made to the number of the Resolution Authorizing Expenditure of Alternative Response Task Force Funds to be “Resolution No. 2025-08-074R”.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Claudia Lynhoff stated the ARPA funds received by the Champaign County Healthcare Consumers (CCHCC) from the City of Urbana has allowed them to work with low-income seniors, immigrants, and people who are disabled. Reported the disability assistance applications that were approved amounted to over \$30,000 in new, additional monthly income being

brought to the community. Noted the number only reflects the reported amount as some applicants do not report back the assistance they have been approved for. Shared over \$152,000 has been received by CCHCC clients in lump-sum back payments, allowing people in the community to stabilize their housing and meet their needs. Stated the number of people who are homeless in the community would be much larger without the City of Urbana's funding to community programs. Shared how the CCHCC was able to assist 32 households navigate the closure of the Restoration Urban Ministries Transitional Housing Program and assist in securing housing 26 of the households. Emphasized the importance of Urbana's funding in mitigating the rising homelessness due to national increases in cost of living.

4. Staff Report

None.

5. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-08-065R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Class R&T-1 Liquor Licenses for Sepelas LLC d/b/a Sepelas Restaurant, 510 North Cunningham Avenue, Suite A, Urbana, Ill. – Exec

Presented by Mayor Williams. The Resolution increases the number of Class R&T-1 (Restaurant & Tavern – All Alcohol) liquor licenses in the City of Urbana for Sepelas LLC d/b/a Sepelas Restaurant, 510 North Cunningham Avenue, Suite A, Urbana, Illinois. Mayor Williams stated this is an existing business that has not received a liquor license before.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-08-066R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and Champaign County Healthcare Consumers for Special Populations Outreach & Enrollment – CD

Presented alongside Resolutions No. 2025-08-067R, 2025-08-068R, 2025-08-069R, 2025-08-070R, 2025-08-071R, 2025-08-072R, and 2025-08-073R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with Champaign County Healthcare Consumers for Special Populations Outreach & Enrollment in the amount of \$130,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program. Breaden Belcher stated the Housing & Homeless Innovations Grant Program (HHI) is to utilize various funding sources to support organizations that provide services to households experiencing homelessness. Stated the original round of funding took place in 2022 and is being offered again with grant funding.

Spoke on the application process beginning with the application period from January 6, 2025 to February 5, 2025. Stated the applications were ranked and reviewed by a committee comprised of staff from the City of Champaign, staff from the City of Urbana, representatives from the United Way of Champaign County, and representatives from the Champaign County Continuum of Services Providers to the Homeless. Stated \$2,250,000 was made available in funding and around \$2,100,000 in funding is proposed for approval across the agencies presented tonight, representing the full continuum of services for

people experiencing homelessness. Stated the programs will provide non-congregate shelter, supportive services such as case management, assist in outreach, and develop affordable housing. Stated the grant funding will provide improved access to public resources to an estimated 500 individuals, serve 200 individuals through expanded street outreach, and 600 individuals will receive case management and housing navigation services. Shared the funding will be used to create 35 affordable rental units and 32 new shelter beds.

Stated the funding is comprised of \$1,500,000 from the HOME ARP program; \$300,000 from the Urbana ARPA allocation; \$200,000 from the Urbana General Fund; and \$250,000 from a grant received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to omnibus Resolutions No. 2025-08-066R, 2025-08-067R, 2025-08-068R, 2025-08-069R, 2025-08-070R, 2025-08-071R, 2025-08-072R, and 2025-08-073R by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Motion to approve the omnibus to the consent agenda by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- c. **Resolution No. 2025-08-067R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and Champaign County Regional Planning Commission for Emergency Shelter for Families Comfort Center – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission for Emergency Shelter for Families (Comfort Corner) in the amount of \$175,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- d. **Resolution No. 2025-08-068R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and City of Champaign Township for Strides Shelter – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with City of Champaign Township (Strides Shelter) for Operating & Case Management Services in the amount of \$180,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- e. **Resolution No. 2025-08-069R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with Cunningham Township for the CARES & Bridge to HOME Program in the amount of \$200,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- f. Resolution No. 2025-08-070R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and CU at Home, Inc. for Mattis Shelter Operating Support – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with C-U at Home for the Mattis Avenue Mid-Barrier Shelter in the amount of \$20,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program through HOME ARP Program funds.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- g. Resolution No. 2025-08-071R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and CU at Home, Inc. for Mattis Shelter Rehabilitation – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with C-U at Home for the Mattis Avenue Mid-Barrier Shelter in the amount of \$300,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program through ARPA SLFRF funds.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- h. Resolution No. 2025-08-072R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and First Followers for Webber/Wiley Affordable Rental Housing Development – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with First Followers for Wiley/Webber Affordable Housing Developments in the amount of \$190,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

- i. Resolution No. 2025-08-073R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing a Housing & Homeless Innovations II Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Urbana and Hope Village Inc. for Hope Village – CD

Presented together with Resolution No. 2025-08-066R by Breaden Belcher, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution authorizes and executes a funding agreement with Hope Village, Inc. for Hope Village in the amount of \$1,000,000 as part of the Housing & Homeless Innovations II Grant Program.

Approved in omnibus, see Item b.

j. ~~Resolution No. 2025-08-073R: A Resolution Authorizing Expenditure of Alternative Response Task Force Funds – Exec~~

Number of Resolution was corrected to be “2025-08-074R” during Additions to the Agenda.

Resolution No. 2025-08-074R: A Resolution Authorizing Expenditure of Alternative Response Task Force Funds – Exec

Presented by Tarek Azim, Management Analyst and Elizabeth Hannan, Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO. The Resolution authorizes the expenditure of up to \$52,130 in Alternative Response Task Force (ARTF) funds for discussion facilitation and alternative response model development from the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). Elizabeth Hannan thanked Tarek Azim for leading the project through the recent turnover and transition. Tarek Azim thanked City Attorney Roeschley for his assistance, Council for their contributions to the development of the ARTF, and Will Kolschowsky, former Senior Management Analyst/Assistant to the City Administrator for his work on the project.

Stated the current request to Council is to approve expenditure of funds of up to \$52,310 for a contract with LEAP to produce a recommendation for an Alternative Response Model (ARM). Emphasized the \$52,310 figure is a limit based on the potential for additional expenditures, stating the cost for the Core LEAP deliverables is \$33,610 reduced from \$63,610 due to LEAP securing a \$30,000 Joyce Foundation Grant. Stated the eight planned meetings will require an estimated \$250 to provide refreshments and supplies for the meeting group and potentially \$1,000 per meeting for a facility rental to allow for two-way video conferencing. Stated an additional four meetings has been budgeted for at a cost of \$2,130 per meeting.

Spoke on the “Key Engagement Touchpoints” deliverables from LEAP. Stated the deliverables will begin with an in-person focus group involving City Council during a public meeting, followed by an online survey to inform future discussions. Stated after the survey is conducted, the eight ARTF large-group discussions will begin that will involve the 18 representatives from stakeholders, two representatives from LEAP, the City Clerk, and support staff. Stated LEAP will also begin one-on-one and small group discussions. Shared LEAP will produce a preliminary report to receive feedback on from the ARTF and will also share the final report with the ARTF for feedback. Stated the final report will then be shared at a City Council meeting and two community engagement events will be held during this process as well. Stated LEAP will prepare materials for ARTF discussions, provide summaries of all discussions, analyze calls-for-service data, develop call narratives, and produce the report with recommendations on the ARM, budget, funding sources, and an implementation guide.

Stated the City Clerk’s Office will assist the large ARTF meetings through creating agendas, noticing the discussions, publishing summaries for the record, incorporate written feedback into the record, recommend an approach for public input, and facilitate Robert’s Rules of Order. Stated LEAP will lead the discussions with support from the City Clerk, summaries will be created but not voted on, written feedback will not be read into the record due to time constraints, no quorum is required, the best effort will be made to livestream the meetings, and recordings of the meetings will be made available online.

Shared the estimated timeline from LEAP stating within two months LEAP will review existing reports, conduct the focus group with City Council, obtain call data for analysis, and distribute the online survey. Stated within three months, LEAP will complete its calls-for-service analysis and present the results, begin the large ARTF meetings, and begin the

smaller discussions. Stated within six months, LEAP expects to have the draft preliminary report to present to the ARTF for feedback. Stated within nine months, LEAP expects to have the completed final report and present the findings to Council and the community. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

6. Council Input and Communications

CM Wu shared, on behalf of CM Hursey, that there is a firearms safety program to distribute free cable locks and free gun safes. Shared the Urbana Police Department has free cable locks available for distribution and the gun safes require a sign-up online at the following link:

<https://www.champaigncountygunsafety.org/>. **CM Quisenberry** addressed a public comment shared at the previous meeting, stating the growth enrolled students at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) averages to 3% growth per year. Emphasized the skill and thoughtfulness of the planners at the City of Urbana, noting the City of Champaign allowed for buildings to be developed that heavily stressed the Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District due to a lack of consideration for the impact of large developments on infrastructure. Stated the City of Champaign has allowed for accessory dwelling units to be developed, yet only a few structures have been built as it did not align with the needs of the residents.

7. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Bishop adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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