
DATE: Monday, December 8, 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 special session Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:10 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans*, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Bridget Broihahn, Vince Gustafson, Darius White, Matt Roeschley, Justin Swinford, Don Ho, Elizabeth Hannan, Tal Prendergast, 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 7:10p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Presentations and Public Input

Leslie Krause shared an encounter with an Urbana Police Department (UPD) officer when walking on the road with a cart to avoid icy sidewalks. Stated the officer continued to harass her after requesting she walk on the sidewalk. Noted walking on the side of the street is not considered a crime according to Illinois Vehicle Code when walking on the sidewalk is not accessible. Stated the officer dismissed her concerns about the icy sidewalk and was highly unprofessional in this encounter. **Ben Joselyn** stated his questions emailed to the City regarding the deployment of SWAT and sniper teams during the recent No Kings Protest have yet to receive a response. Stated his additional question on if the City's Legal Department looked into the citation for the UPD's drone use during the protest has not received an answer as well. Stated this displays a need for transparency regulations on surveillance technologies as well as a strong enforcement mechanism. Brought to attention the legal liability surveillance technologies have as news outlets have reported lawsuits against municipalities for the use of surveillance technologies that infringe on the rights of their residents. **Tony Allegretti** voiced support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding regulating Police Surveillance Technology as the Chair of the City of Urbana's Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB). Stated the CPRB has collaborated with Council through the development of the Ordinance. Stated the consequences of the misuse of surveillance have been seen across the country and within the State of Illinois. Stated the CPRB is ready to act as an advisory Board to this Ordinance if Council requests it. Stated more consideration and thoughtfulness needs to go into the use and oversight of surveillance technologies to allow for the UPD to use them effectively without harming the rights of the community. **John Donovan** thanked the City for continuing their work on developing Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and voiced support for its approval.

4. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken thanked the public for their input and attention to the development of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding Surveillance Oversight. Requested Leslie consider filing a Citizen Police Complaint online so the encounter can be thoroughly investigated by the City. **CM Quisenberry** thanked the Urbana Fire Department for their invitations to attend the ribbon cutting for Fire Station #2 as it displays the investment Urbana has made toward community safety and the safety of the firefighters themselves.

5. Mayoral Appointments

a. *Interim Fire Chief*

– Tal Prendergast (term ending on or before June 5, 2026)

Mayor Williams spoke on Tal Prendergast’s over 16 years of service with the Urbana Fire Department in addition to his administrative roles held at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. Shared Tal Prendergast has previously served with the Danville Fire Department and received a bachelor’s degree in Technical Systems Management from the University of Illinois.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

b. *The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees*

– Justin Kingston (term ending June 30, 2026)

Human Rights Commission

– Adam Ruggieri (term ending June 30, 2028)

Mayor Williams provided a background on Justin Kingston and spoke on his experience overseeing all IT functions at Farnsworth Group as well as his previous work with the Hayner Public Library District. Introduced Adam Ruggieri and spoke on his 14 years of work with Minuteman Press and his over 20 years of experience in studying and teaching martial arts.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

6. Staff Report

a. Financial Forecast FY2027 – FY 2031 Budget

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO and Don Ho, Senior Management Analyst / Budget Coordinator with Justin Swinford, Assistant City Engineer present for questions. Elizabeth Hannan provided background information on the annual financial forecast required by the City's financial policies that were approved by City Council. Stated the forecast marks the beginning of the budgeting process and focuses on the General Operating Fund to evaluate financial conditions. Spoke on how risk is evaluated within the forecast with focus being given to the most likely scenarios and specific risks.

Stated Federal and Grant Funding are the most vulnerable funds that could be reduced or delayed due to the current administration. Expressed support for maintaining the \$4,600,000 in reserve funds in case of potential disruptions in Federal and Grant Funding. Stated the expected disruptions have not occurred but are still possible under current conditions. Noted State budget decisions may have impacts on income taxes, revenue sources, and potential changes to Tier 2 pensions could increase costs for the City pension. Stated the City has seen employee health insurance costs and workers compensation exposure grow faster than the City's revenues.

Don Ho stated the overall economic outlook is uncertain due to high inflation rates and increased overall costs. Noted the changes to State tax laws and the City's 1% Grocery Tax are expected to provide modest growth in revenue. Highlighted the current federal administration's tariffs and uncertainty in trade policies are increasing costs for construction materials, vehicles, and equipment.

Detailed the key assumptions the Financial Forecast is structured upon such as: the population count of 40,975, a long-term inflation rate of 2.25%, retaining the current property tax rate of \$1.3499, beginning the Community Engagement Team in FY27, and shifting the revenue and expenses of the Parking Enforcement division to the Parking Fund. Spoke on how recurring expenditures as a percentage of recurring revenue and fund balance as a percentage of recurring expenditures are two key indicators used to determine fiscal health. Shared a chart displaying how recurring expenses are anticipated to outgrow recurring revenue by FY30. Noted the forecast becomes less reliable when considering later years.

Stated the forecasted growth in recurring revenues and expenditures for FY27 are higher due to the current information available and conservative assumptions are used for predicting later years due to the high uncertainty. Stated recurring expenditures are forecasted to outpace revenues consistently and is consistent with the trend of costs increasing faster in Urbana than the sources of revenue. Shared the Fund Balance is anticipated in the likely scenario to remain stable during the forecast period, the best-case scenario sees great increases to the Fund Balance, and the worst case scenario sees a sharp decline in the Fund Balance over the forecast period. Noted the forecast for the likely scenario predicts the Fund Balance will continue to meet policy goals throughout the forecast period.

Elizabeth Hannan stated the purpose of the forecast is to influence decisions for the upcoming budget and attempt to predict how those decisions impact future years. Recommended the City maintain the current level of services with current revenues, plan for revenue increases to support new or expanded services, continue to prioritize economic development, and maintain the current reserves in case of potential reductions in Federal funding. Questions and discussion followed.

7. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:07p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 1/5/26