
DATE: Monday, September 15, 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, September 15, 2025, at 7:00p.m.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Don Ho, Elizabeth Hannan, Matt Roeschley, Demond Dade, Larry Boone, Mike Cervantes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Maryalice Wu, Ward 1*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Wu called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. **08-11-2025 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- b. **08-18-2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

- a. **National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week Proclamation**

Mayor Williams proclaimed the week of September 15, 2025, to September 21, 2025, as National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week in recognition of the mental health professionals collaboratively addressing the growing need for mental health and substance abuse services alongside law enforcement officers.

b. Welcoming Week 2025 Proclamation

Mayor Williams proclaimed September 12, 2025, to September 21, 2025, as Welcoming Week 2025 in recognition of the contributions and importance of the local immigrant community from across the world.

c. Public Input

Dennis Sears spoke on his efforts to receive clarification on the City of Urbana's flag policies in regard to the recent Presidential Proclamation ordering flags to be at half-staff from September 10, 2025, to September 14, 2025, after the killing of Charlie Kirk. Stated Bridget Broihahn and another City employee had informed him the orders for half-staffing the flags come from a website to minimize political considerations. Expressed this proclamation disrespects the flag code and diminishes the significance of the honor as Charlie Kirk was a racist, homophobic, Christian nationalist blogger. Stated the length of time for the proclamation is double the length of the standard time for a death of a member of Congress. *Rohn Koester* voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and appreciation for the work that has gone into its development. Expressed it is more important to be more vigilant now in protecting the City's own authority and the data of residents. *Jessica Yasin* shared concern for the four-way stop at the intersection of Washington Street and Vine Street as many drivers are running the stop sign. Urged the City to consider replacing the stop signs with a traffic light to improve safety near the Urbana High School. Raised the issue of the parking price gouging ongoing at Carle Hospital due to the changes to OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center to City Council.

4. Staff Report

None.

5. New Business

a. Ordinance No. 2025-09-025: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #2 – Omnibus) – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO and Don Ho, Senior Management Analyst / Budget Coordinator. The Ordinance rebudgets multiple equipment line items across various departments, totaling \$120,599; rebudgets \$6,990 in the Urbana Police Department (UPD) budget for uniform items; rebudgets \$13,914 in the UPD budget for periodic physical exams; and increases the Information Technology (IT) budget by \$13,455 to replace email archive hardware. Don Ho stated the omnibus contains rebudgets from budgets that were unspent in FY24 and an increase to the IT budget for the purchase of new hardware. Stated the \$120,599 in rebudgets are routine due to the uneven timing of specific equipment purchases for various departments. Stated \$6,990 is also rebudgeted for police uniform items and \$13,914 is rebudgeted for required physical exams for police officers. Noted those items were budgeted for in the previous year but were unspent. Stated the \$13,455 increase for the IT budget is to replace email archive hardware which is currently set to expire in February 2026. Noted the budget amendment will not have an impact on the fund balance in the General Operating Fund. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. Ordinance No. 2025-09-026:** An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$5,200,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025 – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO and Don Ho, Senior Management Analyst / Budget Coordinator with Darius White, City Administrator available for questions. The Ordinance approves the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the reimbursement of an economic development incentive provided to the developer of Hotel Royer for \$5,200,000. Elizabeth Hannan thanked Don Ho for his work on this Ordinance. Noted the original incentive was \$5,500,000 but decreased by \$300,000 due to deadline penalties incurred by the developer. Stated tax-exempt debt is unable to be issued due to certain terms within the development agreement, noting the taxable debt will have a higher interest rate. Stated the City has been working with Chapman as bond counsel and Baird as placement agent for the bond issue. Anticipated having at least three bids for the bond with an interest rate around 5% for a nine- or ten-year term. Stated the current three bidders are certified through the Human Rights Commission and it's possible to move up the bidding time if a financial event were to be forecast that would greatly impact the interest rates. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- c. Ordinance No. 2025-09-027:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 5, Article XIII - Fire Prevention Code – UFD

Presented by Demond Dade, Fire Chief. The Ordinance aligns this section of the City Code with the City's renewal of its agreement with Brycer LLC for third-party fire safety inspection services and would broaden its application to include any third-party vendor performing such work on the City's behalf. Demond Dade stated in September of 2022, City Council previously approved an Ordinance that allowed the Urbana Fire Department (UFD) to contract with Brycer LLC, as a third-party inspection reporting system. Stated the amendment involves removing Brycer LLC from the City Code and the sunset clause to allow the Ordinance to remain in effect. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- d. **Resolution No. 2025-09-075R:** A Resolution Approving a Grant Agreement Between the State of Illinois, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, and City of Urbana – UPD

Presented by Larry Boone, Chief of Police. The Resolution approves a grant agreement between the State of Illinois, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) and the City of Urbana in the amount of \$165,818.40 from the FY25 Camera Grant. Larry Boone thanked Lisa Curtiss, the UPD’s Administrative Assistant for her work in applying for this grant from ILETSB. Stated the grant provides one-time funding for officer-worn cameras, in-car cameras, secure storage, and all related training. Shared the City was notified of the awarded amount of \$165,818.40 on August 28, 2025. Stated the funds will be used to reimburse costs from FY24 and reallocate resources to supporting other essential services. Questions and discussion ensued.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

6. Discussion

- a. **Police Surveillance Technology (Ordinance No. 2024-12-042)**

Chair Wu called for a five-minute recess at 8:06p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:11p.m.

Presented by CM Wilken. CM Wilken shared supplemental notes comparing the surveillance ordinances between the Village of Oak Park and the City of Urbana. Council discussed the legal standing for the destruction of data collected in contravention of the Ordinance and discussed current record retention policies.

Council further discussed comparisons between the proposed Ordinance and the Ordinance adopted by the Village of Oak Park. Council discussed the inclusion of the ability for individuals with surveillance technology to share their data with the UPD. Council discussed the approval procedure for the use of surveillance technologies operated by external organizations and individuals within the local area.

Council discussed the time periods in which Council has to review requests for use of new and existing surveillance technologies. CM Evans raised concern regarding the list of surveillance technologies used by the City of Urbana and discrepancies in the alignment of definitions for items. Council discussed the inclusion of a requirement to disclose the use of surveillance technologies and the data the City has regarding its residents. Council discussed the definition and parameters of what is considered a surveillance technology.

Council discussed procedures for how to resolve scenarios where employees knowingly violate the Ordinance and if language should be entered into the Ordinance regarding that. Council discussed if the intent of the Ordinance is to legislate on all matters regarding public safety and edited language to clarify Council’s responsibility on legislating public safety.

CM Wilken spoke on Sections 1 and 2 covering purpose and the approval process. Council discussed coverage of currently used databases and when a database becomes considered a surveillance database. Council reviewed suggestions to wording and welcomed further

suggestions to amending the language of the Ordinance to better align it with Council's intent.

Council discussed how currently used technologies will be reviewed upon approval of the Ordinance and the restrictions on renewing contracts with surveillance technologies that have not yet been presented to Council. Council discussed the process of evaluating unredacted, confidential information covered under non-disclosure agreements (NDA's). Council clarified the segment of the Ordinance that states any data collected by the City will not be sold for monetary gain. Council discussed the potential for introducing a companion Ordinance that states the City will not sell any data collected from its residents.

CM Wilken spoke on Section 6 regarding exigent circumstances for the temporary use of surveillance technologies during emergencies. Council discussed how to define an emergency situation. Council discussed the inclusion of the ability to apply technical updates to ensure cybersecurity and the process for approving those updates when they enable the use of a technology as a surveillance database.

CM Wilken reviewed Section 7 regarding the data destruction policies and procedures. Council discussed Section 8 regarding the annual surveillance technology report review process involving the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB).

7. Council Input and Communications

Mayor Williams stated an employee of the City of Urbana had posted an insensitive comment regarding the killing of Charlie Kirk on their personal social media account outside of work. Stated the comment does not reflect the values of the City of Urbana nor Mayor Williams' own personal views. Stated the City's social media policies need review as they are 15 years old and do not reflect the modern digital landscape. Stated the policy will be reviewed by City staff and the City Attorney to protect the right of free speech for all City employees while upholding standards for public servants. Stated the City of Urbana does not condone violence or threats under any circumstances, thanking the public for their understanding. Stated no further questions will be responded to regarding this personnel matter. **CM Quisenberry** thanked the Mayor and City staff for the Philo Road Ahead program in the previous weekend as well as CM's Wu, Evans, and Kolisetty for attending. Shared many conversations regarding the hopes and dreams of residents in the neighborhood were had and has highlighted the ways in which connections within the community can be made through engaging with residents. Voiced appreciation for the community engaging with the City. **CM Wilken** echoed thanks for the ongoing focus on building connections with community partners and residents in the South Philo Road area. Agreed with developing a City policy on handling executive orders and flag policies, noting the City does not condone physical violence nor does it support hateful rhetoric. Expressed support for developing procedures on how to utilize the \$200,000 in the current budget for relocating victims of violence and the funds dedicated toward immigrant services. *Chair Wu passed the Chair to CM Evans.* **CM Wu** agreed with CM Wilken in developing a process regarding following proclamations and flag policies. Stated those who seek to lobby for a traffic light at the intersection of Vine Street and Washington Street should speak with the Traffic Commission as they provide recommendations to City Council for approval. *Chair Evans relinquished the Chair to CM Wu.*

8. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 10/6/25