
DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 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 Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:01 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 James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Stephanie Cockrell

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Olivia Jovine, Chris Kalter, Matthew Roeschley, Michael Cervantes

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 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. 07-27-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- b. 08-03-2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
- c. 08-03-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- d. 08-10-2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
- e. 08-17-2026 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
- f. 08-17-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Katie Harmon shared Courage Connection is a local agency that provides supportive services and housing for people facing domestic violence. Expressed appreciation for the funding from the Urbana HOME Consortium that has supported Courage Connection's Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program since 2011, assisting over 61 households in finding stable, permanent housing. Stated the reduction in funding for this fiscal year is disappointing as it will sustain two households with no opportunity to onboard new households into the program. Shared Courage Connection has recently changed leadership, and she has moved into the position of Executive Director in March of this year. Assured Council that future TBRA funds will be efficiently spent and utilized. Emphasized the importance of TBRA funds in providing supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, allowing people to exit cycles of abuse and control. Requested Council reconsider the reduction in TBRA funding for Courage Connection.

5. Staff Report

None.

6. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2026-09-047R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Rental Assistance Between the City of Urbana and Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office FY2027 – CD

Presented by Chris Kalter, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution approves and authorizes a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office (CTSO) to provide emergency rental assistance using \$55,000 in CDBG public service funds. Chris Kalter stated the funds will be used for rental assistance, distinct from TBRA. Stated 15% of the Community Development Block Grant funds can be annually set toward public services such as rental assistance for income-eligible Urbana residents. Shared CTSO intends to use the funds toward emergency rental assistance for Urbana households under 80% Area Median Income throughout the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2027. Noted CTSO previously received this same funding in 2025, assisting around 50 households with \$58,000. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

- b. Resolution No. 2026-09-048R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Urbana HOME Consortium Subrecipient Agreement Designating Courage Connection as a Subrecipient of HOME Program Funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance FY2027 – CD

Presented by Chris Kalter, Grants Division Manager. The Resolution approves and authorizes a HOME Investment Partnerships Program subrecipient agreement with Courage Connection to provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) using \$14,858 in HOME funds. Chris Kalter provided background information on HOME funds and TBRA requirements. Stated the agreement with Courage Connection from 2024 expired June 30, 2026, and the Resolution continues TBRA coverage for two households assisted by the previous program. Questions followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Chair Hursey called a two-minute recess at 7:17 p.m.

With a quorum present, Council reconvened from recess at 7:19 p.m.

- c. Resolution No. 2026-09-049R:** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services – Exec

Presented by Matthew Roeschley, City Attorney and Michael Cervantes, Interim Deputy Chief of Police. The Resolution authorizes the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Champaign County for Animal Control and Impoundment Services. Matthew Roeschley shared Champaign County is seeking to enter into new IGAs with municipalities for animal control and impoundment services. Stated the IGA is retroactive to the beginning of this fiscal year and changes to fees for services rendered, instead of being a per capita cost.

Michael Cervantes spoke on the history of animal control in the City of Urbana and how the City began to contract with Champaign County around 2021. Shared that \$111,174.40 was paid last fiscal year to Champaign County for animal control and impoundment services. Noted the services would cover calls for services regarding dogs; vicious animals; as well as cases of neglect or abuse.

Matthew Roeschley emphasized the new IGA does not change the scope of services provided by Champaign County and focuses on the cost structure. Summarized the costs of services for animal control and impoundment within and outside of standard business hours. Shared the call volume for calendar years 2024 and 2025 for animal control and impoundment services.

Michael Cervantes stated animal control calls are routed through Champaign County for evaluation by Metropolitan Computer Aided Dispatch (METCAD) and the Urbana Police Department (UPD) only immediately responds to reports of vicious animals. Shared the majority of animal control calls made in Urbana are regarding a barking animal which are usually followed up through Champaign County. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans announced the first Bazaar Urbana event will be held this Saturday, September 12, 2026, on Griggs Street by the Boneyard Park. Shared that artists, local businesses, activities, vendors, live music, and community organizations will all be present from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. with no cost of entry. Thanked the event sponsors and the event organizer, Matt Harsh.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Hursey adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 9/14/26**