
DATE: Monday, March 09, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:11 p.m.

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

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Elizabeth Hannan, Steven Doggett, Tal Prendergast, Vince Gustafson, Larry Boone, Matt Roeschley, Darius White

OTHERS PRESENT: Verdell Jones III, Ward 4 Vacancy Candidate; Dr. Daniel Urban, Urbana Police Department Use of Force Committee Member

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:11p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 02-16-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Motion to add a Discussion on Traffic Requests before the Committee of the Whole section by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Evans.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Council discussed if the term length for the appointment of Verdell Jones III should be extended. Reached consensus on the current term length being sufficient based on the election certification process and past procedure on appointments to vacancies.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Charles Warmbrunn stated many incorrect statements were made regarding Ordinance No. 2026-03-007 and the Traffic Commission and provided a supplemental packet for Council and inclusion in the meeting minutes. Stated the former City Engineer, John Zeman, should have returned to the Traffic Commission for approval when he changed his decision on the recommendations contained in Ordinance No. 2026-03-007 according to the Bylaws of the Traffic Commission. Stated Ordinance No. 7677-95 began with inquiries about extending Vine Street dating back to 1970 and led to the extension being completed in 1978. Stated the area in question for the Ordinance was designed for two lanes of driving and one lane for parking on the east side between George Huff Drive and Holmes Street. Spoke on the items in the supplied packet detailing the history of consideration for this street. Noted the existing street parking is safer than parking on the curve. **Camille Cobb** spoke in support of the original version of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding the regulation of surveillance tools used by the City of Urbana. Stated her ongoing research focuses on the ethics of technology use in security and privacy, emphasizing ethical use by a municipality begins with transparency and oversight. Highlighted the racial inequity found in the Urbana Police Department's (UPD) use of force and stated improving transparency is a step toward addressing that issue. **Jessica Yasin** stated despite African American people representing 19% of the population of Urbana, 74% to 81% of UPD's use of force is toward African American people. Noted the reported median income for an Urbana resident is around \$45,000 and the poverty rate is around 28%. Stated increases in funding for a police department are justified if it results in more equitable and effective policing for residents, but that is not the case in Urbana despite the City's goals of improving trust between the UPD and the community and reducing racial disparity in policing. Stated the Use of Force Reports display the issues still existing within Urbana similar to how the issue of racial inequity in policing did not improve under Chief of Police Larry Boone's tenure at the City of Norfolk in the State of Virginia. Requested Larry Boone, City Administration, and Council provide and enact a clearer path forward on improving policing in Urbana. **Terri Lynn Carter Rocky Morgan** stated Urbana lacks affordable housing for people who are living with a fixed income and raised concerns regarding the delays in development of Bristol Place Residences. Stated there is a lack of temporary shelter for women and hotels are an inaccessible option for people. Stated local hotels also contain significant issues with mold and understaffing. Stated she will be occupying the patio of the Cunningham Township office to try to find potential housemates to split the cost of housing with. **Stuart Levy** pointed to the connection previously made 15 years ago by Esther Patt in Urbana traffic stop data where traffic stops had seen decreased levels of racial disparity during the night where the race of the person driving is less visible. Stated the disparity in traffic stops remains high and requested people keep that connection in consideration when analyzing the use of force data.

Written Public Input in support of keeping all oversight provisions within Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding surveillance technologies was received from the following individual and read by Mayor Williams: Adam.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken announced the Ward 6 Listening Session will be held on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Health and Wellness Center located at 2002 East Washington Street in Urbana. Welcomed residents to use the event as an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns directly with the City. **Mayor Williams** announced the applications for the Community Services Grant Program for Program Year 2027 are available through the City's website and encouraged members of the public to share the news of the grant to anyone interested.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Discussion

a. Traffic Requests – CM’s Wilken and Evans

CM Wilken requested discussion on the process and standards through how the City addresses traffic safety issues. Expressed consistency and more information on the process is required for equity.

Council discussed instances where they previously faced difficulties in advocating for community concerns on traffic issues such as a community request for a stop sign in Ward 6 within the Myra Ridge neighborhood, a request for the addition of a stop sign at the intersection of Stone Creek and Colorado, a request for speeding mitigation on Illinois Street, and a request for a crosswalk in Ward 7.

Council requested information from the City on how their requests are documented, how they are routed through the Traffic Commission, and what measures exist to ensure equitable treatment. Further requested information on the procedures for addressing community concerns on traffic and street lighting.

Mayor Williams requested Council Members to communicate with the Mayor’s Office and City Administrator regarding their previous experiences on addressing traffic concerns with City staff.

CM Wilken reported mailers sent by the City of Urbana for Public Works projects contained gendered language in conflict with Resolution No. 2021-01-004R and recommended staff to use gender-neutral and inclusive language. Asked if there are currently any internal programs to promote the use of gender inclusive language across City communications.

Council requested an additional discussion on the topic to appear in a future meeting.

8. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Maryalice Wu, Ward 1)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2026-03-006:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule H of Section 23-93 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Requiring Stop Signs at Certain Intersections (Grove Street and Anderson Street at High Street) – PW

The Ordinance removes the existing yield signs and replaces them with stop signs for both directions of traffic on Grove Street and Anderson Street at their respective intersections with High Street.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2026-03-008:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule H of Section 23-93 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Requiring Stop Signs at Certain Intersections (Four Intersections in Beringer Commons Subdivision) – PW

The Ordinance requires approaching traffic on the terminating legs of four T-intersections in

the Beringer Commons Subdivision to stop before entering the intersection: Beacon Hill Circle at Beringer Circle, Clarion Road at Abbey Road, Clarion Road at Beringer Circle, and Haydon Drive at Beacon Hill Circle.

- c. **Resolution No. 2026-03-009R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Right-of-Way Dedication (North Lincoln Avenue along the Frontage of 1407 North Lincoln Avenue – Former Fire Station #3) – PW

The Resolution allows the City to dedicate additional street right-of-way from the City’s property at 1407 North Lincoln Avenue to the public for sidewalk and street usage.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2026-03-007:** An Ordinance Amending Schedule J of Section 23-183 of the Urbana Local Traffic Code Prohibiting Parking at All Times on Certain Streets (Vine Street from Holmes Street to Florida Avenue) – PW

Vince Gustafson, Public Works Director was present for questions. The Ordinance prohibits on-street parking on both sides of Vine Street from Holmes Street to Florida Avenue.

~~Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.~~ Questions and discussion followed.

Motion amended to return to Committee of the Whole by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

9. Reports of Special Committees

None.

10. Reports of Officers

- a. **2024 Annual Use of Force Report – PD***

**The agenda contained a typo and has been updated to “2024 Annual...” from “2025 Annual...”.*

Presented by Cortez Gardner, Lieutenant and Larry Boone, Chief of Police. Larry Boone stated the report contains the number of incidents, Use of Force Committee findings, internal review policy compliance process, training outcomes, corrective actions, demographic data, and the types of force used.

Shared the heat map for calls for service in 2024, highlighting the area around South Vine

Street and East Elm Street and the area around South Philo Road and East Mumford Drive. Noted deployment strategies for patrol, prevention, and community engagement are determined by data collected. Shared the heat map for Part 1 Crime in 2024 displaying recorded criminal activity. Highlighted the geographical areas of recorded criminal activity overlap with the heat map for calls for service in the East University Avenue and North Lincoln Avenue area and the South Philo Road and East Mumford Drive area.

Stated the heat maps display and reinforce his observation of a figure-eight in the geographical area of criminal activity in Urbana. Stated the two areas have had significant amounts of criminal activity across records dating back to 2015. Stated concentrations of criminal activity exist within every City and are often influenced by historic economic, housing, and development factors. Emphasized that the effort to deconstruct those factors must meet the amount of effort it took to put those factors in place.

Shared an overview of the demographics of the 89 individuals involved in use of force. Stated the data should be considered in its context and not interpreted in isolation. Stated use of force incidents were reviewed and determined to be within the boundaries of policy. Stated use of force must always be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat. Shared every use of force incident is documented, reviewed by a supervisor, evaluated through case management, and examined by the Use of Force Committee. Noted he replaced members of the Use of Force Committee with UPD command staff to ensure policy compliance, enable higher levels of review, reduce organizational risk, and inform policy changes and trainings.

Stated the UPD participates in the FBI National Use of Force Data Collection (NUFDC), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and the Illinois State Police reporting portal. Noted the UPD has not had any incidents since 2019 that met federal reporting thresholds for fatalities, serious bodily injuries, and firearm discharges.

Shared from 2022 to 2025, the Urbana Police Department has participated in 2098.75 combined hours of training on Bias Free/Cultural Competency (227.75 hours), De-Escalation Role Play (1414.75 hours), and 1871 combined hours on De-Escalation. Noted the SAFE-T Act (Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today) requires at least 6 hours of De-Escalation training with a minimum of 12 hours in scenario-based role playing. Stated all officers are currently in compliance with the SAFE-T requirements.

Cortez Gardner introduced himself and shared he has been with the UPD since 2012 and held the positions of Patrol Sergeant and Field Training Officer before his promotion to Lieutenant. Shared he has served on the Use of Force Committee; conducted trainings on the use of firearms, tactics, and TASERS; and held various other positions within the UPD.

Stated uses of force must be reported when OC (Oleoresin Capsicum, or “Pepper”) spray, a baton, or a TASER is displayed; a duty weapon is removed from its holster; a rifle is displayed; anytime a firearm is pointed at a person; and whenever physical applications of force are used. Shared in 2024, the UPD received 24,864 calls for service and recorded 72 uses of force. Added of the 72 incidents, 42 were Empty Hand “Soft”, 28 were Firearm Point/Display, 13 were TASER Display, 1 was Empty Hand “Hard”, and 1 was OC Spray Display. Noted there were no incidents of TASER Deploy, OC Spray, Blunt Impact, or Firearm Discharge in 2024. Expressed the data demonstrates the UPD maintaining proportional and controlled responses through their calls for service.

Shared AI-Generated images depicting various use of force scenarios between officers and faceless individuals. Stated Empty Hand “Soft” incidents include actions such as takedowns, joint locks, and using strength to overpower resistant individuals.

Stated Firearm Point/Display incidents can range from suspects of robbery to a suspicious person who refuses to comply with orders to show their hands. Noted officers are trained from the beginning of their police academy to recognize hands as sources of harm to officers, creating the need to have an individual’s hands in sight.

Expressed a need for all UPD officers to be equipped with TASERs to prevent the use of firearms in use of force incidents.

Stated Empty Hand “Hard” control techniques include hand-to-hand strikes and are discouraged as officers are often injured in these scenarios.

Noted the UPD has previously had incidents where OC Spray accidentally affected the officer, compromising their position.

Larry Boone reported the number of use of force incidents have decreased with each year since 2021 and noted he was able to produce similar decreases in the use of force within the City of Norfolk’s police department during his employment there. Questions and discussion followed.

11. Mayoral Appointments

a. *Ward 4 Council Member*

– Verdell Jones III (term ending April 6, 2027, the date of the next consolidated election)

Mayor Williams introduced Verdell Jones III and spoke on his history of service with the City of Champaign’s Fire Department and the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection District. Shared he also is the director of a youth focused non-profit organization that provides mentorship through sports.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Upon approval, Mayor Williams administered the oath of office to Verdell Jones III, Alderperson for Ward 4.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:00p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 4/13/26

Public comment for 2026-03-09 meeting

From Adam [REDACTED]
Date Sun 3/8/2026 9:03 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear city council,

I do not want to see any oversight provisions removed from the surveillance oversight ordinance.

UPD should not have any problem with having to creating and disclosing operational policies and being held accountable to them. I understand the arguments for trying to get loopholes added, but I do not agree that it's overly burdensome to write a policy that the majority of the city council will accept.

Please do not make the regulation more complex. Let the issue of when and how to use specific technologies be handled individually. It may be appropriate for some tools to only be used for investigations or when there is probable cause. That's fine. Handle that through the standard process instead of writing in a blanket exception.

I want you represent me, your constituent, when you vote on this ordinance.

Thank you,
Adam
Ward 7 resident

Please read my comments out loud into the record.