
DATE: Monday, February 16, 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 Monday, February 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.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 Chaundra Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Matt Roeschley, Larry Boone, Bridget Broihahn, Auste Shelmadine, Roy Lane

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Edwards, Ward 4 Vacancy Candidate; Verdell Jones III, Ward 4 Vacancy Candidate; Karen James, Ward 4 Vacancy Candidate

Chair: *James Quisenberry, Ward 7*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 02-02-2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, 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. Fire Department Promotion

Roy Lane, Battalion Chief introduced Auste Shelmadine for his promotion to the position of Engineer and spoke on his career with the Urbana Fire Department. Auste Shelmadine was pinned by his daughter, Maeve Shelmadine and his son, Parker Shelmadine and was accompanied by his wife, Katie Shelmadine.

b. Ward 4 Vacancy Candidates

Mayor Williams introduced Wendy Edwards, Verdell Jones III, and Karen James as the final three candidates for the Ward 4 vacancy appointment after two candidates did not meet the statutory requirements for holding office.

Wendy Edwards spoke on her connection to the area and her return to Urbana in 1999 after her graduate schooling. Stated she is currently a senior software engineer for a non-profit agency focused on cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and security. Shared that she holds master's degrees in computer science and library sciences. Spoke on her community engagement through the FIRST LEGO League, CU2600, and the City of Champaign's Police Department Officer Interview Panel. Stated her primary three issues for Urbana are fiscal safety, public safety, and distressed commercial areas. Noted the need for long-term tax planning and guidelines for technologies such as Automated License Plate Readers. Stated the vacancies across Urbana and in Ward 4 must be addressed through redevelopment, economic opportunity, and engaging residents through the process. Expressed her commitment to the duties of a Council Member.

Verdell Jones III stated his intent for applying for the appointment is to make steps toward improving the community for those who are here now and those who will come after. Spoke on how he has grown up in the area, left for collegiate basketball, and returned to many changes in the community with COVID worsening issues. Spoke on his experience as a Firefighter for the City of Champaign and how he has witnessed firsthand the pain residents are feeling without direction for improvement. Emphasized the City of Urbana has the opportunity to be the light for positive change in the world. Expressed he will act with collaboration and open-mindedness to develop a better Urbana.

Karen James stated she has been a resident of Urbana since 1998 and expressed her love for Urbana has inspired her to apply for the position. Emphasized her desire to make lasting impacts on the City to improve life now and in the future. Shared her experience serving on committees for Alzheimer's, Cancer Walk, Kid's Camp, and the Parent-Teacher Association and stated she currently works at a cancer center. Stated she hopes to be involved as she has the time available to dedicate to the position.

c. Public Input

CM Wilken read Written Public Input from the previous 2/9/2026 City Council meeting on behalf of Sarah Nixon regarding support for the improvement of care for survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence to correct an error from the previous reading.

5. Staff Report

a. Surveillance Ordinance

Darius White, City Administrator stated there are currently no updates. Shared the Public Works Department and Urbana Police Department will present on the topic next week. Stated he will be presenting next week as well to share further answers to questions for Placer.ai.

6. New Business

- a. **Resolution No. 2026-02-008R:** A Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2025-10-079R and Revoking City Council Authorization to Accept the FY2024 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant – FD

Presented by Matt Roeschley, City Attorney. The Resolution rescinds the approval to previous Council authorization for the acceptance of the FY2024 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for \$67,814.54 toward the purchase of eight portable radios. Matt Roeschley stated the Resolution resolves the legislative conflict between the approval of the acceptance of the AFG with Resolution No. 2025-10-079R and the defeat of Ordinance No. 2025-12-034 to allocate the funds for use.

Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Wu. Discussion followed.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

7. Council Input and Communications

CM Wu shared tomorrow, February 17 is Tet and marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse. Wished for happy celebrations to all that observe and thanked the following community partners for their support: Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), 40 North 88 West, Urbana Arts & Culture, The Urbana Free Library, Urbana Park District, Krannert Center for Performing Arts, the New American Welcome Center, Rotary Club of Urbana, Lincoln Square Mall, the City of Urbana, and We Love Urbana. Raised concern for an incoming change in water billing, that was announced within the bills, that may increase the cost. **CM Wilken** thanked CM Wu for raising awareness of the proposed changes and stated Urbana's Legal Department is currently investigating the change. Thanked the Ward 4 Vacancy Candidates for their engagement and noted the meetings usually take longer than they have recently been. **Mayor Williams** also noted the meetings have recently been shorter than usual. Announced the first of the series of Ward listening sessions begins in Ward 7 on Thursday, February 26 at 6:30p.m. at St. Matthew's Church at 2200 Philo Road. Stated both he and CM Quisenberry will be present to listen to comments and concerns of residents of Ward 7.

8. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Quisenberry adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 3/9/26**