
DATE: Monday, August 25, 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 regular session Monday, August 25, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Shirese Hursey

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Taliah Abdullah, Elizabeth Hannan, Michelle Brooks, Demond Dade, Darius White, Matt Roeschley, Kevin Garcia, Seok Hyun Cho

OTHERS PRESENT: Renae Nicholson, Nominee for the Civilian Police Review Board

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- a. 07-28-2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. 08-04-2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

CM Wilken noted minor corrections to the minutes regarding wording of motions and absences.

Motion to approve, as updated, by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

- a. The Urbana Free Library FY25 Annual Report per 75 ILCS 5/4-10

Presented by Taliah Abdullah, Executive Director of The Urbana Free Library. Taliah Abdullah spoke on highlights from the Annual Report, focusing on the vision and mission of The Urbana Free Library (TUFL). Stated the vision of TUFL is to nurture growth through sparking curiosity

and fostering a sense of belonging throughout the programs offered, the staff, events held, and outreach conducted. Stated the mission of TUFL is to encourage learning and the enrichment of lives by providing access to diverse resources and programs.

Shared in Fiscal Year 25 (FY25), over 234,000 people visited the library and utilized spaces within the buildings displaying an increase from the previous year. Expressed importance and need for publicly accessible community spaces. Shared an increase in children's programs offered by TUFL in FY25. Stated despite fewer programs being offered for young adults in FY25, an increase in attendance was seen. Shared over 600,000 physical items were loaned through FY25, with a large increase in electronic materials checked out. Reported 653,354 total materials were circulated in FY25.

Highlighted the most popular checkout under adult materials was a book titled "The Women"; mobile hotspots were the most popular under electronic materials followed a game for the Nintendo Switch titled "It Takes Two"; the 1971 album by Funkadelic titled "Maggot Brain" was the top vinyl checkout; under the Young Adult category a book titled "One Last Breath" was the most popular checkout; and the Children's category saw a high circulation of The Wiggles DVDs and a graphic novel titled "Fizzy" by Claribel Ortega. Encouraged people to consider following along with popularly checked out items to see what the community has recently been interested in.

Stated the facilities were improved in FY25 through the replacement of the aging East Air Handler unit, the implementation of an internet phone system, the implementation of a welcoming and low-maintenance landscaping, and shared TUFL is currently undergoing further renovations. Shared the historic archives were improved by adding the historic News-Gazette archive collection; adding 7,000 entries to the online historic catalog; adding accessible materials for the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter records and Illinois Central Railroad Scrapbook; adding a day-book cataloging payments made to employees and income from 1888 to 1939; and receiving a digital collection archiving queer nightlife across the City of Urbana and the City of Champaign from 1973 to 2000.

Emphasized the importance of collaborations and partnerships to TUFL. Thanked the University, local businesses, Street College, The Champaign-Urbana Genealogical Society, Illinois Railroad Club, The Immigration Project, and CU Symphony and Orchestra for their contributions to TUFL through FY25. Spoke on contributions of both The Friends of The Urbana Free Library and The Urbana Free Library Foundation. Encouraged people interested in getting involved with supporting TUFL to get in touch with either of those organizations.

Motion to extend presentation time by 5 minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Affirmed TUFL is an inclusive space for the community to utilize beyond its book resources. Stated TUFL will be having a focus on improving its status as a downtown destination in Urbana. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Urbana Night Market – CD

Presented by Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner. Kevin Garcia shared a video of the previous year's Urbana Night Market at the Square containing positive testimonies from vendors and attendees. Expressed appreciation for Vivian Krishnan, Arts & Culture Specialist and Bryan

Heaton, Market at the Square Coordinator for their work in coordinating the Urbana's Night Market at the Square.

Shared a promotional poster of the event from the previous year, noting the dates for the event have changed this year to be held on Thursday nights from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. in September. Stated the market features many arts and craft vendors, some food vendors, and a stage area for live musical performances. Spoke on attendance rates across the Night Market dates in 2024, based on anonymized data collected, noting good attendance with the highest rate being over 1,000 and the lowest being 600. Stated the total attendance was over 4,600 last year with around 4,200 unique individuals attending the event.

Stated last year, 28 unique vendors participated in the event and currently 53 vendors have registered to participate this year. Shared around \$6,500 in vendor fees were collected the previous year. Spoke on the expenses for the event covering decorations, live painters, musicians, and marketing. Stated the largest expense from the previous year was \$4,500 spent on postcard mailers for the event, which will not be returning this year. Shared the list of bands set to perform across the four event nights this year. Stated the four nights instead of six like the previous year reduces strain on City Staff while also allowing for the dates to be more memorable as it is now limited to Thursdays in September. Stated the less events allowed for more live bands to be hired this year to fully provide music for the entirety of the event and more variety as well.

Motion to extend presentation time by 5 minutes by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Passed with unanimous consent.

Stated more emphasis is going to be placed on radio advertisement, billboards, and advertisements on MTD busses. Encouraged the public to attend the event. Questions and discussion followed.

c. Public Input

None.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken thanked the presenters tonight and those watching the meetings online or at home. Expressed she will be listening back on the upcoming discussions on Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding police surveillance. Voiced appreciation for Council and the Executive department for delaying consideration of the Ordinance to allow for discussions and updates to be had.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Grace Wilken, Ward 6)

1. Consent Agenda

None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2025-08-024:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #1 – Omnibus) – HRF

The Ordinance amends the FY2026 Annual Budget to include rebudgets across multiple accounts, a correction to Fire Station bond payments, funding for a fire truck engine replacement, allocation of ARPA funds, appropriation of newly awarded grants, and other routine housekeeping items.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry, Williams

NAY: None.

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

None.

10. Mayoral Appointments

- a. ***Civilian Police Review Board***

– Renae Nicholson (term ending June 30, 2028)

Presented by Mayor Williams with City Attorney Roeschley present for questions. Mayor Williams voiced excitement for Renae Nicholson to be able to join the Civilian Police Review Board after having an opportunity to speak with the nominee. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

11. Closed Session per ILCS 120/2(c)(2) – Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Motion to enter closed session by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Entered closed session at 7:38p.m.

Motion to return to open session by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Returned to open session at 8:23p.m.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:23p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 9/29/2025