
DATE: Monday, December 15, 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, December 15, 2025, at 7:25 p.m.

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

***CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Elizabeth Hannan, Tal Prendergast, Steven Doggett, Vince Gustafson, Darius White, Michael Cervantes, Matt Roeschley, Olivia Jovine, Carla Boyd

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:25p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Presentations and Public Input

a. Fire Department Promotions and Recognitions

Mayor Williams noted the ceremony already occurred before the meeting.

b. Public Input

Leslie Krause stated in 2014, the security of Presence Covenant Medical Center assaulted her for refusal to sign discharge papers after being cleared for release by a doctor. Stated in December 2015, the hospital staff treated her with hostility after explaining how she had shared online her intent to self-harm but no longer wished to after a friend had reached out. Stated the medical staff injected her with sedatives under the threat of force and admitted her to the psych ward of the hospital for a week until a doctor returned from holiday break and discharged her after listening to her experience. Stated the Urbana Police Department did not accept the report of criminal negligence when she had tried to report it. Expressed concern for the planned expansion of OSF Healthcare's behavioral health department at the Urbana location. Noted no acknowledge of her mistreatment has been made and no steps toward holding OSF Healthcare accountable have been taken by the City.

Written Public Input expressing concern for proposed development on the Pickerill Farmland and expressing support for Council's work on Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual and read by CM Kolisetty: Lilah Leopold.

Written Public Input concerning the viability of the proposed development on the Pickerill Farmland and in support of investing the funds into Central TIF instead was received from the following individual and read by CM Quisenberry: Adam Nichols.

4. Council Input and Communications

CM Quisenberry apologized for his tardiness due to circumstances outside of his control.

5. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

6. Committee of the Whole (Council Member James Quisenberry, Ward 7)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. ~~Resolution No. 2025-12-091R: A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Amendment to a Grant Agreement for the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant between the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Urbana – PW~~

Moved to the regular agenda by CM Wilken.

- b. **Resolution No. 2025-12-092R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a License Agreement with Urbana School District #116 (On-Street Parking and a Bus Turnout at 1602 South Anderson Street) – PW

The Resolution approves and authorizes the execution of a license agreement with Urbana School District #116, allowing them to construct, maintain, operate, and repair two parking areas and a bus turnout within the public rights-of-way adjacent to their property at 1602 S. Anderson Street.

- c. **Resolution No. 2025-12-093R:** A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Vine Street and Washington Street) – PW

The Resolution appropriates \$50,000 of State Motor Fuel Tax (State MFT) funds for Preliminary Engineering for Vine Street and Washington Street, Section 18-00615-00-RS to reconcile a recently found deficit for services completed in 2020.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-12-091R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Amendment to a Grant Agreement for the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant between the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Urbana – PW

The Resolution approves and authorizes an amendment to a grant agreement with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) for the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, which includes the City of Urbana as a subrecipient for the Lincoln Avenue (Wascher to Killarney) complete streets demonstration.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2025-11-034:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #3B – FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant) – HRF

The Ordinance amends the budget to make adjustments for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to allow for the use of the funds.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry, Williams

NAY: Kolisetty, Wilken

Motion defeated without the required six of eight votes for approval.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2025-12-035:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate (2302 Vance Road, Urbana, Illinois) – CD

Presented by Olivia Jovine, Director of Community Development Services. The Ordinance authorizes the purchase of 2302 Vance Road (PIN 91-21-04-100-008 and PIN 91-21-04-251-002) utilizing tax increment generated by Tax Increment District Four (TIF 4) in the total amount of \$915,000 and additionally allocating \$10,000 for the 2026 Farm Lease. Olivia Jovine stated the quick timeline of the property purchase is due to the upcoming closure of TIF 4 at the end of the year and this use aligns with the intent of the Cunningham Avenue Corridor Redevelopment Plan. Highlighted the unique aspects of the 30-acre lot with existing infrastructure compared to available lots in Central TIF. Stated examples of return on investment for various developments on the B-3, General Business, zoned lot were shared with Council and staff which included an example of a truck stop and hotel. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Williams

NAY: Evans

- d. **Ordinance No. 2025-12-036:** An Ordinance Dissolving the Special Tax Allocation Fund and Terminating the Designation of the City of Urbana Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area (TIF 4) – CD

The Ordinance terminates the City’s TIF 4 and directs the City Treasurer to close the Special Allocation Fund no later than December 31, 2025. Olivia Jovine stated the Ordinance begins the formal process, required by state law, to close out TIF 4 by December 31, 2025.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

7. Reports of Special Committees

None.

8. Reports of Officers

None.

9. New Business

- a. **Ordinance No. 2025-12-037:** An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026 – HRF

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, HR & Finance Director / CFO alongside Ordinances No. 2025-12-038 and 2025-12-039. The Ordinance approves the 2025 property tax levy. Elizabeth Hannan stated the increase in property taxes levied is made with an estimation of the increase of the property tax values across Urbana. Stated Ordinance No. 2025-12-038 will adjust the tax levy to the current, existing tax rate of \$1.3499. Noted the increase in property taxes paid by an individual will be connected to an increase in assessed value of the property. Questions and discussion followed.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. Ordinance No. 2025-12-038:** An Ordinance Directing the Champaign County Clerk to Abate the Tax Levy for the General Corporate Fund for the Tax Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026 – HRF

The Ordinance abates the tax levy through directing the County Clerk to adjust the corporate levy to achieve a total tax rate of \$1.3499 to maintain the City's current property tax rate.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. Ordinance No. 2025-12-039:** An Ordinance Directing the Champaign County Clerk to Abate a Portion of the 2025 Tax Levy Related to General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025, and General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025A – HRF

The Ordinance abates debt service payments for the 2025 and 2025A general obligation bonds through directing the County Clerk to abate a portion of the tax levy related to general obligation bonds.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

10. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:18p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 1/20/26

Fwd: PUBLIC COMMENT 12-1-2025 Rescheduled for 12-8-2025

From Lilah Leopold [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/15/2025 10:30 AM

To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanalL.gov>; Maryalice Wu <Maryalice.Wu@UrbanalL.gov>; Christopher Evans <Christopher.Evans@UrbanalL.gov>; Shirese Hursey <Shirese.Hursey@UrbanalL.gov>; Jaya Kolisetty <Jaya.Kolisetty@UrbanalL.gov>; Chaundra Bishop <Chaundra.Bishop@UrbanalL.gov>; Grace Wilken <Grace.Wilken@UrbanalL.gov>; James Quisenberry <James.Quisenberry@UrbanalL.gov>

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Williams and Council Members Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry,

I am not sure if I will be able to appear to tonight's meeting in-person, so would be grateful if you could read the below public comment on my behalf if time allows. I think there may have been some e-mail difficulties with the joint council e-mail over the past few weeks, so please imagine that I have sent or spoken these comments times three (or at least times two, including the early December snow day)!

My name is Lilah Leopold and I am a resident of Urbana (Ward 4) and would like to direct my comment today toward the proposed land acquisition of the Pickeril Farmland and the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

As someone who cares deeply about community health and environmental justice, when I heard that the City of Urbana is considering purchasing a portion of farmland, my ears perked up. My mind immediately turned to the potential to incentivize farming food that could directly feed members of our community, or taking steps to restore farmland or encourage tree perimeters, or the like.

The last thing that crossed my mind would be the construction of a motel and gas station, unless it were to be made available for emergency housing or land developed for low-income housing. The site in question, however, is convenient for neither. (Instead what comes to mind are increased availability for ICE and federal agents to find expedient housing for their operations.) I can't rationalize the use of nearly one million dollars of local taxpayer money to incentivize yet another business development from out of town (who could very well afford to develop land on their own), and which offers a service which does not directly benefit our community.

I would encourage Council to explore alternatives for increasing city funds without letting our tax money seep to outside enterprises who don't need it. If this is the only plan for what to potentially do with that land, it does not seem right to move forward with this.

Now, to shift gears, I applaud the Council on their work on the proposed Surveillance Oversight Ordinance and deeply thank you for your discussion and consideration of our collective civil rights and liberties in this discussion. I would be happy if this

ordinance would apply to all city departments, not just to the police department. Though if it were a question of pursuing an ordinance that addressed only the police department or no ordinance at all, I'd be for starting there.

This is such an exciting opportunity to address a gap in policy to the benefit of all those involved. Collaboration with the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) and Human Rights Commission (HRC) seem like a natural choice for sharing the burden of decision-making about policy implementation as cases arise.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Lilah Leopold

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lilah Leopold** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 3:31 PM

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT 12-1-2025 Rescheduled for 12-8-2025

To: <Citycouncil@urbanaininois.us>

Dear Mayor Williams and Council Members Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry,

I am not sure if I will be able to appear to tonight's meetings in-person, so would be grateful if you could read the below public comment on my behalf if time allows:

My name is Lilah Leopold and I am a resident of Urbana (Ward 4) and would like to direct my comment today toward the proposed land acquisition of the Pickeril Farmland and the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

As someone who cares deeply about community health and environmental justice, when I heard that the City of Urbana is considering purchasing a portion of farmland, my ears perked up. My mind immediately turned to the potential to incentivize farming food that could directly feed members of our community, or taking steps to restore farmland or encourage tree perimeters, or the like.

The last thing that crossed my mind would be the construction of a motel and gas station, unless it were to be made available for emergency housing or land developed for low-income housing. The site in question, however, is convenient for neither. (Instead what comes to mind are increased availability for ICE and federal agents to find expedient housing for their operations.) I can't rationalize the use of nearly one million dollars of local taxpayer money to incentivize yet another business development from out of town (who could very well afford to develop land on their own), and which offers a service which does not directly benefit our community.

I would encourage Council to explore alternatives for increasing city funds without letting our tax money seep to outside enterprises who don't need it. If this is the only plan for what to potentially do with that land, it does not seem right to move forward with this.

Now, to shift gears, I applaud the Council on their work on the proposed Surveillance Oversight Ordinance and deeply thank you for your discussion and consideration of our collective civil rights and liberties in this discussion. I would be happy if this ordinance would apply to all city departments, not just to the police department. Though if it were a question of pursuing an ordinance that addressed only the police department or no ordinance at all, I'd be for starting there.

This is such an exciting opportunity to address a gap in policy to the benefit of all those involved. Collaboration with the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) and Human Rights Commission (HRC) seem like a natural choice for sharing the burden of decision-making about policy implementation as cases arise.

Thank you so much for your consideration,
Lilah Leopold

Public comment for 2025-12-15

From Adam [REDACTED]
Date Wed 12/10/2025 5:42 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Dear city council members,

I'm writing about the proposed land acquisition by the freeway.

I really appreciate the problem that you're trying to solve the problem of city expenditures outpacing revenue, and that you're trying to do so without raising tax rates. This problem has gotten worse over the past few years and it's good to see it getting some attention.

One thing to keep in mind with a truck stop is that most large chains (e.g. Loves, T&A) have calculated the optimal distance between their locations. Unless there is a major company who has a substantial gap in this section of freeway, or there's a dearth of truck stops in general, there's not much motivation for any of these companies to set up shop here.

As for independent truck stops, I don't think there are many left at this point. The amount of capital required to build a truck stop is substantial, which makes it difficult to enter the market.

Even if there's an independent company who wants to open a truck stop, and they have the required money, they'd face the same market challenges as the big companies but without the brand name recognition.

Unless there is strong evidence that the market conditions are favorable to a hotel or truck stop, this seems like a speculative investment. There are two things that make this seem like a risky bet:

1. If this were a good place for a hotel or truck stop, and there were a person or company who wanted to capitalize on that, they would have done it by now.
2. The macroeconomic analysts are expecting a downturn in the economy in the foreseeable future, which means less travel and fewer hotel stays.

The farmland purchase only achieves its ends of revenue generation if a business of the specific type is started and thrives at that location. Without the business, this is all just wishful thinking.

Therefore, I urge you to put that money in the Central TIF fund, and

focus on attracting businesses to downtown Urbana. Downtown is a core part of the Imagine Urbana plan and money invested there will bring in more revenue via the hotel tax, sales tax, and liquor taxes. This plan has wide buy-in from your constituents. It helps people who live, work, and shop in Urbana. And overall, it's a much safer investment.

Please read my comments into the public record.

Thank you,
Adam Nichols
Urbana Resident, Ward 7