
DATE: Monday, May 5, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in special session Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Matt Roeschley, Elizabeth Hannan, Bridget Broihahn, Thomas Webb, Seok Hyun Cho, Demond Dade, Andrea Ruedi, Will Kolschowsky

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the special meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6:30p.m.

2. Oaths of Office

Mayor Marlin shared a statement wishing the best for the newly elected Council and Mayor before administering the oath of office to Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk.

City Clerk Sandefur administered the oaths of office to DeShawn B. Williams, Mayor; Christopher Evans, Alderperson for Ward 2; Shirese Hursey, Alderperson for Ward 3; Jaya Lynn Susheela Kolisetty, Alderperson for Ward 4; Chaundra Bishop, Alderperson for Ward 5; Grace Wilken, Alderperson for Ward 6; and James Quisenberry, Alderperson for Ward 7.

3. Roll Call (New Council)

With a quorum present, Mayor Williams called the special meeting of the newly seated Urbana City Council to order at 6:44p.m. Clerk Sandefur called the Roll once again.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Minnie Pearson expressed pride on behalf of herself and the residents of Urbana for the swearing in of Mayor Williams for the City of Urbana. Voiced hope for the upcoming years. Shared appreciation for the work and accomplishments of Mayor Marlin. *Anonymous* stated Urbana has made history and welcomed the first Black Mayor of the City of Urbana, DeShawn B. Williams. Voiced hope for further community involvement and collaboration moving forward.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Wilken echoed congratulations to Mayor Williams and thanked Mayor Marlin for her service to the City of Urbana. Expressed both hopefulness for the future and concern for the incoming challenges faced by the City regarding protecting the rights of residents, safety of residents, and upholding the

Constitution to protect the community. Voiced confidence in being able to handle the future challenges together, as a community. **CM Quisenberry** shared how wonderful the past few days have been in the City as he celebrated the work of Mayor Marlin on Friday, took part in celebrating Mayor Williams' accomplishment on Saturday, and further congratulated his fellow Councilmembers for being re-elected. Thanked the residents of Ward 7 for political engagement and feedback, hoped for continued collaboration moving forward. **CM Hursey** congratulated Mayor Williams on his election victory and stated she will assist him however possible in adjusting to his new role. Thanked the residents of Ward 3 for their continued trust in representing them and hoped she can continue advocating for them to the best of her ability. Hoped for Council to continue working together to do right by the residents of Urbana and weather the chaotic federal administration. **CM Kolisetty** congratulated Mayor Williams and voiced the honor felt for being a part of the diverse elected officials that well represent the community of Urbana. Stated while there may be disagreements within Council, they stand firm in upholding the Constitution despite the difficult circumstances with the federal administration. Thanked the residents of Urbana for entrusting Council to represent them. **CM Evans** thanked the residents of Urbana for electing Mayor Williams and stated his leadership will help endure the chaos of the federal administration. Called for Urbana to double down on being a Sanctuary City, showing kindness to strangers, and embracing our diversity. Called on the residents of Urbana to continue providing input to Council and thanked them for their civic engagement. **Mayor Williams** thanked the residents of Urbana for electing him as Mayor and shared he will be leading from the heart to better the entirety of Urbana and not any select group. Stated he will focus on collaboration and there will be moments of disagreement, but it will be in service of improving the community. Expressed the honor felt for having the opportunity to serve alongside Council. **CM Kolisetty** thanked City Clerk Sandefur for her work and the importance of the Clerk's functions in helping Council conduct business. Expressed the work of the Clerk has not received its due credit whether it was City Clerk Sandefur in the role or her predecessor, Phyllis D. Clark. Shared appreciation for the City Clerk's office for their work.

6. Reports of Officers

None.

7. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho
Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 5/12/25