
DATE: Tuesday, September 02, 2025
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 Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 7:00p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Shirese Hursey, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Darius White, Olivia Jovine, Matt Roeschley

OTHERS PRESENT: Joseph Altshuler, Assistant Professor at the Illinois School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jake Rhoades, Graduate Student at the Illinois School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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 7:01 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Transforming the City-owned Parking Lot North of the Rose Bowl into a Permanent Plaza – CM's Evans and Wilken

Presented by Joseph Altshuler, Assistant Professor at the Illinois School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Jake Rhoades, Graduate Student at the Illinois School of Architecture at UIUC with an introduction provided by CM Evans. CM Evans stated this concept for a permanent, public plaza was developed in collaboration with the UIUC School of Architecture, City of Urbana representatives, and the owner of the Rose Bowl Tavern. Joseph Altshuler clarified the design is purely speculative and conceptual and made in conjunction with Charlie Harris from the Rose Bowl Tavern, the City of Urbana's Public Realm Team, and CM Evans. Jake Rhoades stated the students analyzed findings from the Urbana Downtown Public Realm Study to propose a new community space within the vicinity of the Rose Bowl Tavern where public amenities are relatively lacking and can be improved. Joseph Altshuler stated the design was guided with the intent to link downtown cultural assets, amplify

the identity of Urbana citizens, invite spontaneity of informal gatherings, and being adaptable to different times of day across all seasons. Noted the community of Urbana has a significant amount of event programming but lacks venues to accommodate the number of events.

Proposed the City-owned parking lot north of the Rose Bowl Tavern be converted into a public plaza, noting a third of the 4,500 parking spaces in downtown Urbana are reportedly underutilized and the proposal impacts 46 parking spots.

Jake Rhoades detailed how the design of the plaza will facilitate various forms of gathering across the three proposed zones within the plaza. Shared renderings displaying the plaza from multiple angles and entrances to the plaza from the street and alleyways.

Motion to extend presentation time by 3 minutes by CM Evans, seconded by CM Wu.

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

Spoke on a concept image of the proposed concert stage where elevated views are also provided for people further away from the stage that can also be utilized as a general seating area. Further shared images of proposed modular seating areas within the plaza to allow for the space to be used as needed by the community. Joseph Altshuler stated the design is inspired by spheres of influence, how the surface of the floor can be activated to be dynamic with space and aligning with public realm across every facet. Questions and discussion followed.

b. Public Input

None.

4. Staff Report

None.

5. New Business

None.

6. Discussion

a. Police Surveillance Technology (Ordinance No. 2024-12-042)

Presented by Darius White, City Administrator. City Administrator White spoke on the list of surveillance technologies and databases shared within the packet, noting the specific departments each technology is utilized by. Stated the list details the department, tool used, the vendor, and the purpose behind the use of the technologies. Stated the list is a beginning to the discussion and further questions can be brought back to the individual departments for them to answer.

CM Wu asked for clarification on what is considered a surveillance database and which of the databases originate from a surveillance technology. City Administrator White stated the list is not final and can be modified to remove items that are not considered surveillance databases. Stated the items on the list are technologies and databases that collect information from Urbana residents. Council discussed the criteria for what is considered a

surveillance technology or database and the need for more disclosure.

Council discussed how the Ordinance will function regarding how Council will review and approve uses of surveillance technologies.

7. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans shared on Sunday, September 7 from 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. the City of Urbana's Philo Road Ahead program will be hosting a Community Kickoff Block Party at the Sunnycrest Center parking lot. **Mayor Williams** encouraged the public to attend the Community Kickoff Block Party and meet representatives from every City department, enjoy the free entertainment, and partake in free food. Urged the public to directly share their input and thoughts with the City. *Chair Quisenberry passed the Chair to CM Wu.* **CM Quisenberry** welcomed the public to attend the Philo Road Ahead Community Kickoff Block Party. Shared St. Matthew Lutheran Church, in conjunction with Sola Gratia Farms, is hosting a Fall Kickoff Festival on Sunday, September 7 from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. and encouraged the public to participate.

8. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#). **Minutes approved: 9/29/2025**