

**Ordinance 2026-05 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Allow Discussion at First Readings of Ordinances and to Clarify the Ordinance and Resolution Readings Provisions in Chapter 2.04**

**Preamble**

Whereas, section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled "Ordinances and resolutions; Readings required," states that an ordinance may not be debated or amended at its first reading or introduction unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would permit Councilmembers to understand the purpose of the legislation and to identify and resolve issues earlier in the legislative process; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would promote efficiency and result in fewer readings of complex or contentious legislation; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would alleviate time pressures associated with legislation that has a statutory or other deadline for enactment; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that the general prohibition that ordinances not be adopted at first reading, as well as the exceptions and procedures for adoption of ordinances at first reading, provide sufficient protections to public participation.

Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:

**Section 1: Amend Section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to allow discussion at first readings of ordinances and to clarify readings of ordinances and resolutions.**

Section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled "Ordinances and resolutions - Readings required," is hereby amended as reflected in Attachment A.

**Section 2: Amend Section 2.04.310 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to clarify voting procedures for ordinances and resolutions.**

Section 2.04.310 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled "Ordinances and resolutions - Vote required," is hereby amended as reflected in Attachment A.

**Section 3: Severability.**

If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**Section 4: Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

**Passed**

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the 18 day of February, 2026.



Isak Nti Asare  
President, Bloomington Common Council

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:



Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this  
19 day of February, 2026:



Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the 19 day of Feb, 2026:



Kerry Thomson  
Mayor, City of Bloomington

**Synopsis**

This ordinance sponsored by Councilmember Zulich allows debate and amendment of ordinances at first readings. It also clarifies the readings and voting procedures for ordinances and resolutions.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Legal, and Mayor.

**Ordinance 2026-05 - Attachment A**

**Chapter 2.04 - Common Council**

**2.04.300 - Ordinances and resolutions—Readings required.**

~~(a) Every ordinance shall be given two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage and no ordinance shall be passed on the same day or at the same meeting as it is introduced except by unanimous consent of the members present, at least two-thirds of the members being present and voting. An ordinance may not be debated or amended at its first reading or introduction unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise.~~

~~(b) At each reading of an ordinance the synopsis shall be read and the clerk shall read the ordinance by title only, provided there is unanimous consent.~~

~~(c) Each resolution submitted to the council shall be read by title only provided there is unanimous consent.~~

(a) Every ordinance shall be given at least two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage unless there is unanimous consent of the members present to proceed to a vote after first reading, in which case a two-thirds vote of all the members is required to pass the ordinance. This procedure to pass an ordinance on the same day or in the same meeting at which it is introduced does not apply to zoning ordinances or amendments to zoning ordinances adopted under Indiana Code 36-7 and cases where otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

(b) An ordinance may be debated and amended at its first reading and at subsequent readings. Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of members, the city clerk shall read the title and synopsis of the ordinance at each reading.

(c) Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of the members, every resolution shall be read by title and synopsis only and may be debated, amended and adopted at the meeting of introduction.

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**2.04.310 - Ordinances and resolutions—Vote required.**

A majority vote of the members of the council shall be necessary to adopt any resolution, order or ordinance, unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise. If there is a vote on an ordinance on the same day or at the same meeting at which it is introduced, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the elected members is required for adoption.

