

Passed 9-0

**Resolution 2026-05 - A Resolution to Initiate a Proposal to Amend Title 20 (Unified Development Ordinance) of the Bloomington Municipal Code in order to Improve Sustainability and Housing Affordability**

**Preamble**

Whereas, the Common Council, by its Resolution 18-01, approved a new Comprehensive Plan for the City of Bloomington, which took effect on March 21, 2018; and

Whereas, thereafter the Plan Commission initiated and prepared a proposal to repeal and replace Title 20 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled "Unified Development Ordinance" ("UDO") in order to implement the vision for community development put forward in the Comprehensive Plan; and

Whereas, on December 18, 2019, the Common Council passed Ordinance 19-24, to repeal and replace the UDO, and the Mayor signed and approved this ordinance; and

Whereas, the minimum lot widths and areas required by the UDO in several residential zones do not align well with the historic and existing form of the relevant zoning districts, and these requirements unduly restrict housing development, exacerbating housing availability and affordability challenges; and

Whereas, the Climate Action Plan calls for a decrease in the use of on-site fossil fuel combustion systems citywide through electrification (Goal EB-4) and specifically to "Explore the establishment of policies or ordinances supporting all electric buildings, such as an all electric requirement for buildings receiving PUD or Conditional Use Permit approvals;" and

Whereas, decades of policies that require minimum parking space allotments for development projects have contributed significantly to urban sprawl, car dependency, and a lack of abundant and affordable housing, all of which further exacerbate local contributions to climate change and are broadly counter to the goals contained in the city's Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan; and

Whereas, the Common Council wishes to initiate a proposal to amend the UDO to increase sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment, specifically through building electrification, building energy efficiency, more efficient land use and reduced sprawl, and reduced vehicle miles traveled; and

Whereas, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-4-602, the Common Council may initiate a proposal to amend or partially repeal the text of the UDO and require the Plan Commission to prepare it; and

Whereas, in preparing and considering this proposal, the Plan Commission and Common Council shall pay reasonable regard to: the Comprehensive Plan; current conditions and character of current structures and uses in each district; the most desirable use for which land in each district is adapted; and the conservation of property values throughout the jurisdiction; and responsible development and growth;

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

**Section 1**

The Common Council directs the Plan Commission to prepare a proposal to amend the text of the UDO to reduce minimum lot widths and minimum lot areas in zones R1, R2, R3 and R4, in order to better align these requirements with: (1) the dimensions of preexisting, lawfully nonconforming lots within Bloomington neighborhoods of the same zoning district, and (2) the dimensions in recent PUDs where houses were built along the B-Line trail between Dodds St. and Allen St. and on S. Dunn St. between Grimes Ln. and Hillside Dr. The Plan Commission may also consider and propose to reduce minimum lot widths and minimum lot areas in other zones.

**Section 2**

Based on reduced minimum lot widths and lot areas proposed pursuant to Section 1, the Plan Commission shall consider reductions in setback requirements to: (1) better align with the historic form and development patterns within the relevant zoning districts; and (2) make lot subdivision and small-scale development more feasible. Concurrently, the Plan Commission may also consider and propose additional text changes that would further support small-scale development and affordability, including but not limited to: impervious surface coverage maximums, lot frontage requirements, and subdivision standards.

**Section 3**

The Common Council directs the Plan Commission to prepare a proposal consistent with this resolution to amend the text of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) section 20.04.110(d) (Sustainable Development) to add a new requirement for projects seeking to be eligible for the Sustainable Development incentives. This new requirement should express that projects brought by petitioners seeking to utilize the Sustainable Development incentives established in section 20.04.110(d)(3), via Option 1 or Option 2, must only include buildings that use either electricity or on-site renewable energy sources for all significant energy needs, including for space heating, water heating, and cooking. The Plan Commission may consider and propose exceptions for specific uses based on best practices in all-electric building codes.

**Section 4**

The Common Council directs the Plan Commission to prepare a proposal consistent with this resolution to amend the text of the UDO section 20.02.050(b) (Planned Unit Development (PUD) district) to add a new Qualifying Standard for proposed Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) requiring that the development is subject to the applicable standards established in section 20.04.110(d) (“Sustainable Development”).

**Section 5**

The Common Council directs the Plan Commission to prepare a proposal consistent with this resolution to amend the text of the UDO section 20.04.060 (Parking, loading, and storage) to eliminate minimum parking requirements in all zones and to make any additional parking-related text changes necessitated by this policy change.

**Section 6**

Upon passage of this resolution, the Plan Commission shall review and recommend amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance to the Common Council in response to this resolution. Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-4-602 and 36-7-4-607.5, the Plan Commission is instructed to prepare and submit this amendment in the same manner as any other amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance. The Plan Commission shall, within 60 days from the effective date of this resolution, hold a public hearing in accordance with I.C. 36-7-4-604. The Plan Commission shall vote on the proposal within 60 days of holding the public hearing.

**Section 7**

If any section, sentence or provision of this legislation, 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 legislation which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this legislation are declared to be severable.

**Passed**

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the 20 day of May , 2026.

**Signature of Bloomington Common Council President:**



Isak Nti Asare  
President, Bloomington Common Council

**Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:**



Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

**Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:**

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 02 day  
of June , 2026:



Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

**Approval by Mayor:**

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the 9 day of June , 2026:



Kerry Thomson  
Mayor, City of Bloomington

**Synopsis**

This resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Flaherty, directs the Plan Commission to prepare amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance regarding: (1) a reduction of minimum lot widths, lot areas, and building setback requirement to better align with Bloomington's historic form and character; (2) sustainability incentives and planned unit development requirements for building electrification; and (3) the elimination of minimum parking requirement to facilitate housing development and reduce housing costs.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Legal, Mayor, and Planning & Transportation.