

BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-15
AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRE MERIT COMMISSION**

Preamble

Whereas, the City of Bloomington (the “City”), has previously established a Board of Public Safety under Bloomington Municipal Code 2.17; and

Whereas, on January 1, 2025, the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission (the “Commission”) was established by operation of law pursuant to Ind. Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(d); and

Whereas, the Commission has the power and duty of hiring, promoting and disciplining members of the City of Bloomington Fire Department as set out in I.C. 36-8-3.5; and

Whereas, the Board of Public Safety continues to have control of and oversees all other aspects of the City of Bloomington Fire Department; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to identify this delineation of power between the Board of Public Safety and the Commission through an amendment to Chapter 2.17 of Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code; and

Whereas, it is also appropriate to establish a new chapter 2.36 under Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code that sets forth the powers and duties of the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission following the same or similar format set forth under Chapter 2.17; and

Whereas, on July 17, 2026, the Board of Public Safety considered the proposed amendment to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, determined that the amendment is appropriate and necessary, and adopted a resolution recommending that the Common Council adopt the amendment in substantially the same form. A copy of the resolution is attached as Exhibit “A”; and

Whereas, the proposed amendments to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code has been duly considered by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington.

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

Section 1: Section 2.17.030 shall be amended in its entirety to read as follows:

“With the exception of the hiring, promoting and discipline of members of the fire department of the city, which shall be overseen by the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission, the board of public safety shall have control and oversee the police and fire department of the city pursuant to statute, and shall have the authority to allow and approve claims. ”

Section 2: Chapter 2.36 shall be added to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, shall be titled Fire Merit Commission, and shall read as follows:

2.36 - Fire Merit Commission.

2.36.000 - Establishment.

On January 1, 2025, pursuant to I.C. 36-8-3.5-5.5(d), by operation of law, a fire merit commission was established for the City of Bloomington Fire Department (the "Department") and is known as the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission (the "Commission").

2.36.010 - Appointments and Elections.

The Commission shall consist of five commissioners. Two commissioners, who shall be of different political parties, shall be appointed by the mayor, and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor. One commissioner shall be appointed by the common council, and shall serve at the pleasure of the common council. Two commissioners, who shall be of different political parties, shall be elected by the active members of the Department. For purposes of this section, political affiliation shall be determined through the voter's registration records for the three most recent primary elections.

2.36.020 - Term.

The term of each commissioner shall be four years. However, one of the mayor's initial selected commissioners and one of the Department's initial elected commissioners shall initially serve a two year term.

2.36.030 - Qualifications.

Each commissioner shall:

- a. Be at least 21 years of age;
- b. Be a person of good moral character;
- c. Not be an active member of any police or fire department or agency; and
- d. Be a legal resident of the City of Bloomington for three consecutive years immediately preceding the commissioner's term.

Not more than two of the commissioners may be past members of a police or fire department or agency. No commissioners may receive any remuneration as salary from the City.

2.36.040 - Powers and Duties.

The Commission shall have the exclusive power to hire, promote and discipline members of the Department and shall have those powers and duties as are now set forth in I.C. 36-8-3.5, and as may be amended from time to time.

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, or 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 29 day of July , 2026.



Signature of the Common Council President Isak Nti Asare

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:



Signature of the Bloomington City Clerk Nicole Bolden



Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 04
day of August , 2026.

Signature of the Bloomington City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Approval by the Mayor:



Signature of the Mayor Kerry Thomson

8/6/26

Synopsis

This ordinance amends Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to delineate the duties between the Bloomington Board of Public Safety and the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission and to create a new chapter which identifies the existence of the statutorily created City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission.

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

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY RESOLUTION 2026-01
TO RECOMMEND AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL
CODE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BLOOMINGTON FIRE MERIT
COMMISSION**

Whereas, on January 1, 2025, the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission (the "Commission") was established by operation of law pursuant to I.C. 36-8-3.5-5.5(d); and

Whereas, the Commission has the power and duty of hiring, promoting and disciplining members of the City of Bloomington Fire Department as set out in I.C. 36-8-3.5; and

Whereas, the Board of Public Safety continues to have control of and oversees all other aspects of the City of Bloomington Fire Department; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to identify this delineation of power between the Board of Public Safety and the Commission through an amendment to Chapter 2.17 of Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code; and

Whereas, it is also appropriate to establish a new chapter 2.36 under Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code that sets forth the powers and duties of the City of Bloomington Fire Merit Commission following the same or similar format set forth under Chapter 2.17; and

Whereas, the Board of Public Safety has duly considered the proposed amendment to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, determined that the amendment is appropriate and necessary and recommends that the same be adopted by the City of Bloomington Common Council.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Public Safety of Bloomington, Indiana, as follows:

1. The Board approves this Resolution and hereby recommends to the Common Council that it adopt the proposed language set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.
2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption by the Board.

Passed and Adopted on the 17th day of July, 2026.

Barbara McKinney, acting chair
Board of Public Safety