Passed 9-0

ORDINANCE 16-42

TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL" -
Re: Amending BMC 2.04.050 (Regular Meetings) and BMC 2.04.255 (Committees – Scheduling) to Start Common Council Regular Sessions and Committees of the Whole an Hour Earlier - at 6:30 p.m.

WHEREAS, Except for a few holidays, two recesses (one from mid-July to mid-August and the other during the end of December), and the occasional alteration by the Common Council, the Council meets almost every Wednesday of the year for either a Regular Session or a Committee of the Whole; and

WHEREAS, According to Bloomington Municipal Code 2.04.050 (Regular Meetings) and 2.04.255 (Committees – Scheduling), except by motion of the Council, these meetings start at 7:30 p.m.;

WHEREAS, Since the beginning of 2016, a little more than half of all of the Council Regular Sessions and Committees of the Whole lasted over two hours, one-fifth of all these meetings lasted over four hours, and one-fifth of all these meetings ended after 11:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Late meetings discourage participation by the public, are inconvenient and compromise the well-being of City staff who must attend these meetings and return to work early the next morning, and tend to diminish the quality of deliberations by members of the Council; and

WHEREAS, Almost all of the more than two dozen City boards and commissions convene earlier than 7:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, The Council wishes to start its Regular Sessions and Committees of the Whole at 6:30 p.m.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 2.04.050 (Regular meetings) shall be amended in the following manner:

(a) Part (a) shall be amended by striking the word "seven" as it appears in the first sentence and replacing it with the word "six" so that the first sentence reads as follows:

> With the exceptions noted in subsections (b) through (g), of this section, the council shall meet in regular session on the first and third Wednesday of each month at six thirty p.m. local time.

(b) Part (c) shall be amended by striking the time "7:30 p.m." as it appears in the first sentence and replacing it with the time of "6:30 p.m." so that the first sentence reads as follows:

> In accordance with Indiana Code 36-4-6-7, in the year following its election the council shall hold its first regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. one evening no later than the second Wednesday in January to elect officers.

(c) Part (d) shall be amended by striking the time "7:30 p.m." as it appears in the first sentence and replacing it with the time of "6:30 p.m." so that the first sentence reads as follows:

> In accordance with Indiana Code 36-4-6-8, in years subsequent to the year immediately following its election, the council shall meet at 6:30 p.m. one evening no later than the second Wednesday in January to elect officers.

SECTION 2. Section 2.04.255 (Committees - Scheduling) shall be amended by striking the time of "7:30 p.m." as it appears in Part (a)(3) and replacing it with the time of "6:30 p.m." so that Part (a)(3) reads as follows:

(a)(3) Such meetings of the committee of the whole shall convene at 6:30 p.m. local time.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to Common Council Regular Sessions and Committees of the Whole held on or after January 1, 2017

SECTION 4. If any section, sentence, chapter or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other section, sentence, chapter, provision or application 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 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 16 day of November, 2016.

ANDY RUFF, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 18 day of November, 2016.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 21st day of November, 2016.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance is sponsored by Councilmember Chopra and would amend Chapter 2.04 (Common Council) by starting Council Regular Sessions and Committees of the Whole an hour earlier – at 6:30 p.m. With this change, these Council meetings should end about an hour earlier than otherwise.

Distributed to: Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Clerk, Council Administrator, Legal, Planning and Transportation, HAND, Controller, Public Works, Utilities, CFRD, ESD, Human Resources, ITS, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, Transit