

Bloomington Common Council-Budget Hearings for 2026 City Budget Memorandum
Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Monday, August 18, 2025, 5:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [5:31pm]

Courtney Daily, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [5:31pm]

Members:

Isak Nti Asare (arrived at 5:32pm)	At-Large
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1, Council Vice President
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Sofia McDowell	Chief Deputy Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Researcher
Kerry Thomson	Mayor
Jessica McClellan	City Controller
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Margie Rice	Corporation Counsel
Sharr Pechac	Human Resources, Director
Rick Dietz	ITS, Director
Adam Wason	Public Works, Director
David Hittle	Planning and Transportation, Director
Cheryl Gilliland*	Deputy Controller
Tim Street*	Parks and Recreation, Director
Jane Kupersmith*	Economic and Sustainable Development, Director
Kate Scales*	Talent Manager, Human Resources
J.D. Boruff*	Operations and Facilities, Director

2. Topics Discussed:

This week’s budget hearings will include budget presentations from each city department. Each night, department heads will present on their proposed 2026 budgets along with the goals and outcomes they hope to achieve for their departments in 2026. These presentations are a preview of what each department is hoping to see reflected in the 2026 budget as a whole.

There will be no council votes taken this week on each department’s proposed budget because the adoption of the 2026 budget will not include department-by-department votes. Instead, councilmembers will make comments during council comment periods as to what changes they wish to see in each individual department’s budget before later this fall, when the Council is scheduled to consider the budget as a whole through a vote on three appropriation ordinances and four salary ordinances.

The three appropriation ordinances include the civil city budget, the Utilities Department budget, and the budget for Bloomington Transit. The three salary ordinances will include salaries for officers of the police and fire departments, salaries for appointed officers, non-union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. employees for all the departments of the city, and salaries for elected officials.

Council discussion and a public hearing on these items of legislation are scheduled for September 24th beginning at 6:30pm. The budget adoption meeting is scheduled for October 8th beginning at 6:30pm. There may still be changes between this week's presentations and the seven budget ordinances that come to Council later in the fall. Throughout the remainder of August and September, the administration will work with the Council and various departments to prepare a final version of the 2026 budget for the City.

MOTION: Stosberg moved and Zulich seconded that for the duration of budget week, council limits councilmember question and answer periods to a maximum of three minutes per councilmember per presentation, limit councilmember comment period to three minutes per councilmember per presentation, and limit public comment to two minutes per speaker per comment period.

ACTION: The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Introduction by Mayor Kerry Thomson and Controller Jessica McClellan.

Priority Area Introduction: High-Performing Government by Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

Clerk Nicole Bolden presented the Office of the City Clerk's 2026 Budget.

Lisa Lehner, Council Attorney, presented the Office of the Common Council's 2026 Budget.

Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp presented the Office of the Mayor's 2026 Budget.

Jessica McClellan, City Controller, presented the Office of the Controller's 2026 Budget.

Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, presented the Legal Department's 2026 Budget.

Sharr Pechac, Human Resources Director, presented the Human Resources' 2026 Budget.

Rick Dietz, Information Technology Services (ITS) Director, presented the ITS Department's 2026 Budget.

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, presented the 2026 Budget for the Administration, Facilities Maintenance Division, and the Fleet Maintenance Division.

3. ADJOURNMENT [9:28pm]

ACTION: Daily adjourned the meeting until August 20, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Memorandum prepared by:

Sofia McDowell, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

City of Bloomington

Clerk's Note: The above memorandum summarizes the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. It is not a verbatim copy of every word spoken. Bloomington City Council meetings are available for watching on the following websites:

Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>

YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

Background materials and packets can be found at <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>