

Bloomington Common Council-Budget Hearings for 2026 City Budget Memorandum
Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 5:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [5:31pm]

Matt Flaherty, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [5:32pm]

Members:

Isak Nti Asare (arrived at 5:37pm)	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 (arrived at 5:37pm)	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Researcher
Kari Bennett	Deputy Council Attorney
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Anna Killion-Hanson	Housing and Neighborhood Development, Director
Jessica McClellan	City Controller
Jeff Underwood	Capital Improvement Board, Controller
John Whikehart	Capital Improvement Board, President
Geoff McKim	Capital Improvement Board, Treasurer
Holly Warren	Economic and Sustainable Development, Assistant Director
Jane Kupersmith	Economic and Sustainable Development, Director
Roger Kerr	Fire Chief
Michael Diekhoff	Police Chief
Kerry Thomson	Mayor

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, salaries for Clerk staff, 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: Piedmont-Smith moved and Rollo seconded that the following two points be added to how council conducted the remaining budget hearings:

(1) After public comment on each budget presentation, during the Councilmember comment period, Councilmembers may use their 3-minute time allotment to redirect questions made during the public comment period to staff. The 3 minutes would still include the question, the answer, and (if any time remains) any final comment from the Councilmember.

(2) Each 3-minute period of Councilmember questions and Councilmember comments is limited to one turn for each Councilmember to allow for accurate timekeeping.

ACTION: The motion was approved by voice vote.

Priority Area Introduction: Affordable Housing & Homelessness by Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

Anna Killion-Hanson, Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Director, presented the HAND’s 2026 Budget.

Priority Area Introduction: Economic Development by Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

John Whikehart, Capital Improvement Board (CIB) President, introduced Geoff McKim, CIB Treasurer, who then presented the CIB 2026 Budget. The presentation was supported by Jeff Underwood, CIB Controller.

Jane Kupersmith, Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) Director, presented ESD’s 2026 Budget.

Priority Area Introduction: Public Safety by Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

Roger Kerr, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department’s 2026 Budget.

Michael Diekhoff, Police Chief, presented the Police Department’s and Dispatch’s 2026 Budget.

3. ADJOURNMENT [8:02pm]

ACTION: Flaherty adjourned the meeting until August 25, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Memorandum prepared by:
Clerk Nicole Bolden
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>