

**Bloomington Common Council-Budget Hearings for 2026 City Budget Memorandum**  
**Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 5:30pm**

**CALL TO ORDER [5:32pm]**

Andy Ruff, Chair, called the meeting to order.

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

**Members:**

Isak Nti Asare	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 (arrived at 5:41)	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich (left at 8:07)	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
Kerry Thomson	Mayor
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Jessica McClellan*	City Controller
John Connell	Bloomington Transit General Manager
David Hittle	Planning and Transportation Director
Andrew Cibor	City Engineer
Adam Wason	Public Works Director
Nate Nickel	Public Works Data Analyst and Manager

**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 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30pm. The budget adoption meeting is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Stosberg moved and Rollo seconded to amend the agenda for this evening's Departmental Hearing for 2026 Budget to add an item following the report by Department of Public Works Parking Services Division. The added item is "Common Council Discussion and Reflection on the Proposed 2026 Budget including Consideration of Reductions and Consideration of Increases." This added item would be a discussion item only; no vote would occur. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Rosenbarger arrived after this vote).

Priority Area Introduction: Transportation by Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

John Connell, Bloomington Transit (BT) General Manager, presented BT's 2026 Budget.

David Hittle, Planning and Transportation (PT) Director, presented PT's 2026 Budget.

Andrew Cibor, City Engineer, presented the Engineering Department's 2026 Budget.

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, presented the Street and Traffic division's 2026 Budget.

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, presented the Parking Services division's 2026 Budget.

**3. COMMON COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION ON THE PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REDUCTIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF INCREASES**

**4. ADJOURNMENT [8:59pm]**

ACTION: Ruff adjourned the meeting.

Memorandum prepared by:  
Clerk Nicole Bolden  
City of Bloomington

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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>