Bloomington Common Council-Budget Hearings for 2026 City Budget Memorandum Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana Monday, August 25, 2025, 5:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [5:34pm]

Dave Rollo, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [5:34pm]

Members:

Isak Nti Asare (arrived at 5:40pm) At-Large

Courtney Daily District 5, Council Parliamentarian

Matt Flaherty (absent) At-Large

Isabel Piedmont-Smith District 1, Council Vice President

Dave Rollo District 4
Kate Rosenbarger (arrived at 5:36pm) District 2
Andy Ruff (arrived at 5:36pm) 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

Kerry Thomson Mayor

Gretchen Knapp Deputy Mayor Jessica McClellan City Controller

Shatoyia Moss Community and Family Resources Department, Director

Tim Street Parks and Recreation, Director

Adam Wason Public Works, Director

Virgil Sauder Director, of Animal Care and Control

Katherine Zaiger Utilities, 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, 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.

Meeting Date: August 25, 2025

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.

Priority Area Introduction: Community Health & Vitality by Mayor Kerry Thomson and Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp.

Shatoyia Moss, Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD) Director, presented CFRD's 2026 Budget.

Tim Street, Parks and Recreation Department Director, presented the department's 2026 Budget.

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, presented the Animal Care and Control Division's 2026 Budget. Virgil Sauder provided additional information to council questions.

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, presented the Sanitation Division's 2026 Budget.

Katherine Zaiger, City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) Director, presented CBU's 2026 Budget.

3. ADJOURNMENT [8:05pm]

ACTION: Rollo adjourned the meeting until August 27, 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