

City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet

Containing legislative materials related to:

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Regular Session at 6:30pm

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council Agenda and Notice: Regular Session

6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Council Chambers (#115), Showers Building
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404
The meeting may also be accessed [remotely](#).¹

1. Roll Call

2. Agenda Summation

3. Minutes for Approval

- A. October 15, 2025 Deliberation Session
- B. October 22, 2025 Regular Session
- C. November 12, 2025 Deliberation Session
- D. November 19, 2025 Regular Session

4. Reports (a maximum of twenty minutes is set aside for each part of this section)

- A. Council members
- B. The Mayor, City Clerk, City Offices, and City Boards and Commissions - John Fernandez, CEO of Amplify Bloomington
- C. Council Committees
- D. Public*

5. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- A. Memo from Clerk Bolden

6. Legislation for First Readings

- A. Ordinance 2026-06 to Amend the City of Bloomington Zoning Maps by Rezoning a 6.3 Acre Property from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and to Approve a District Ordinance and Preliminary Plan

7. Legislation for Second Readings and Resolutions

- A. Ordinance 2026-04 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Consolidate and Amend Boards and Commissions Provisions in Chapters 2.02, 2.08 and 2.12
 - Amendment 01
- B. Ordinance 2026-05 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Allow Discussion at First Readings of

1

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85327558032?pwd=4YPDyVleCZUBkubKeROp0QOd6baVsm.1>

Meeting ID: 853 2755 8032; Passcode: 483939

Posted: Friday, February 13, 2026

Ordinances and to Clarify the Ordinance and Resolution Readings Provisions in Chapter 2.04

- Amendment 01

8. Additional Public Comment* (a maximum of twenty-five minutes is set aside for this section)

9. Council Schedule

10. Adjournment

Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](https://catstv.net/)²
- [City's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington)³

[Materials for this meeting](https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026)⁴ are available on Council's website.

*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two public comment opportunities. Individuals may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed up to three minutes.

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact the Bloomington Common Council Office at council@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3409 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page with which you are having problems.

² <https://catstv.net/>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington>

⁴ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026>

Bloomington Common Council-Deliberative Session Minutes
Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [6:32pm]

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [6:32pm]

Councilmembers present:

Isak Nti Asare (absent)	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
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Kari Bennett	Deputy Council Administrator/Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Researcher
Noah Sandweiss	Housing and Neighborhood Development, Historic Preservation Program Manager
Duncan Campbell	Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission (BHPC), Member
Karen Duffy	BHPC, Member
Andrew (Jack) Baker	BHPC, Member
Ernesto Castaneda	BHPC, Member
Daniel Schlegel	BHPC, Member
Sam DeSollar	BHPC, Chair
Melody Deusner	BHPC, Member
Jeremy Hackerd	BHPC, Member
Reynard Cross	BHPC, Member

2. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:33pm]

Stosberg summarized the agenda. Noah Sandweiss, Historic Preservation Manager, would present. Councilmembers and BHPC members would hold a discussion.

3. INTRODUCTION [6:33pm]

Noah Sandweiss, presented historic preservation topics for discussion. Topics included commission appointments, design review process and delegation, repairs and maintenance, demolition and new construction, enforcement and incentives, and more.

4. JOINT DISCUSSION BETWEEN COUNCIL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION [6:36pm]

Zulich moderated the discussion. On the topic of repairs and maintenance, participants discussed the impact of city code on homeowners’ ability to address needed repairs, Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) reviews, repairs costs, grants, and setting up a system for reporting run-down historic homes. Commissioners and councilmembers discussed procedures for neighborhood guidelines, alternatives to

demolition approvals, neglect, and notifying buyers that they are purchasing a historic home. Commissioners discussed the impact of demolishing smaller, entry-level houses on Bloomington’s housing market. They asked for support from the council through adding online tools for the public to report endangered historic houses, and asking the Mayor’s Office to appoint new, highly-qualified commissioners quicker. Participants spoke about communities working to designate neighborhoods as historic districts.

Elizabeth Cox-Ash commented on the guidelines process in the McDoel Gardens neighborhood. Richard Lewis spoke about guidelines and the historic designation of the Prospect Hill neighborhood. Bill Baus spoke about the Near West Side Neighborhood Association guidelines and development. Wendy Bricht of the Elm Heights neighborhood commented on its historic designation and rentals. Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and Sunny Slopes resident, spoke about architecture. Jeff Richardson spoke about affordable housing efforts and living in Elm Heights. John Butler, Cottage Grove neighborhood, spoke about the potential historic conservation district there. Matt Seddon shared thoughts on historic preservation and city code. James Ford, Cottage Grove, asked about guidelines expectations. Tonda Radewan spoke about renters and landlords in Bloomington

Zulich discussed next steps, including at-risk houses, alternatives to demolition delays, and creating a system to inform buyers of historic homes. Piedmont-Smith stated the importance of feedback from renters regarding historic preservation. Stosberg spoke about the UReport system to report concerns.

5. ADJOURNMENT [8:39pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isak Nti Asare, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above memorandum summarizes the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken. Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

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Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [6:31pm]

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (*Indicates participation via Zoom) [6:31pm]

Councilmembers present:

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	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich (left at 10:17pm)	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Susan Stoll	Deputy Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Kari Bennett	Deputy Council Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Researcher
Katie Gandhi	Metropolitan Planning Organization, Transportation Planner
Pat Martin	Metropolitan Planning Organization, Director
Sharr Pechac	Human Resources, Director
Katherine Zaiger	Utilities, Director
Eric Greulich	Planning and Transportation, Development Services Manager

2. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:34pm]

Stosberg noted it was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and listed statistics and several resources, including Middle Way House. She then summarized the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:37pm]

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to approve the minutes of March 05, 2025, April 30, 2025, and May 07, 2025. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. REPORTS [6:38pm]

4.1. Councilmembers:

Zulich presented a letter she composed to the Monroe County Commissioners and the Monroe County Councilors opposing the purchase of the North Park location for a new Justice Center. There was discussion on what was included and excluded in the letter, as well as signing as a council or individually.

Zulich moved and Asare seconded to approve the letter and to present it to the Monroe County government in both physical and electronic form. The motion was approved by voice vote, Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Rosenbarger spoke about a triplex that had been converted to a single family home located at 601 W. 4th Street. It was sold for nearly \$295,000, remodeled, and now was selling for \$559,000. The process had

removed three affordable homes, within walking distance to downtown. Currently, a triplex could not be built in the neighborhood.

Asare said Canopy Bloomington held the first of three plantings across the city. He mentioned the upcoming plantings. He commented on the current state of affairs, the eroding of institutions, and the difficulty of regaining lost ground. He noted the federal government shutdown, the National Guard being mobilized against the will of local governments, elected officials not being sworn in, and the literal tearing down of historical parts of the White House. He highlighted the importance of local governments.

Piedmont-Smith praised the organizers and participants in the “No Kings” rally which had over two thousand people. It had been a peaceful protest based on the right to assemble and free speech. She noted that the federal government was attacking DEI, civil rights and liberties hard fought in the 1950s and 1960s, and public education. She mentioned the upcoming Freedom Fund banquet hosted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Stosberg extended the time for councilmember reports until 7:00pm without objection.

Ruff noted technical difficulties for his and Rollo’s recent constituent meeting.

Stosberg announced her upcoming constituent meeting. She stated that councilmembers could suggest topics for the upcoming Deliberative Session.

4.2. Mayor and City Offices:

Katie Gandhi, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Planner, Planning department, noted that the MPO received federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration to distribute to local public agencies for multimodal transportation projects. She summarized the projects that received MPO federal funding during fiscal years 2018-2025. No projects were fully funded by federal grants. Gandhi presented projects that would be funded from fiscal years 2026-2030. Asare asked about strengthening the MPO’s ability to secure federal funding. Pat Martin, MPO Director, said the city was maxed out and had optimized all opportunities as much as possible. The projects were recommended by the Engineering department and then approved by committees. He gave additional details on funding, and the federal funding timeline and process. There were project-specific questions and discussion.

4.3. Council Committees:

There were no council committee reports.

4.4. Public:

Greg Alexander was disappointed that the slides he prepared were not going to be presented due to accessibility reasons. He spoke about sidewalks that were blocked and gave examples of consequences.

Paul Rousseau discussed his recent experience of having a bicycle accident.

Eric Spoonmore, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, commented on the pending decision on a new jail and its impact on downtown Bloomington and businesses.

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, thanked council for their work during the budget process. He spoke about the chamber’s Success School for seventh and eighth graders to explore different types of careers including civics.

5. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:33pm]

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

6. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [7:33pm]

6.1. Ordinance 2025-42

To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” – Re: Amending BMC 2.04.380 (Order of Business at Regular Sessions)

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-42 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Deputy Clerk Susan Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:34pm]

7.1. Ordinance 2025-38

An Ordinance Fixing The Salaries Of Officers And Employees Of The Police And Fire Departments for The City Of Bloomington, Indiana, for The Year 2026

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-38 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-38 be adopted.

Sharr Pechac, Human Resources (HR), Director, presented the legislation. She highlighted key changes in the proposal.

Piedmont-Smith moved and Rollo seconded to introduce Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-38. Piedmont-Smith presented Amendment 01.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment adds the words “not,” “and,” and a period (.) to Section III C and corrects “benefits-elegible” to “benefits-eligible” to fix a typographical error.

There were no council questions. There was no public comment.

Stosberg thanked Piedmont-Smith for spotting the error.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-38 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith asked about off-duty pay and shift pay differential. Pechac said the minimum off-duty pay was two hours; shift pay differential was separate. Stosberg asked about bonuses or retention pay for dispatchers, given that it was difficult to train and retain dispatchers. Pechac said that had not been discussed but was a valid suggestion.

There was no public comment. There were no council comments.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-38 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7.2. Ordinance 2025-39

To Fix The Salaries of Appointed Deputies and Employees of The Bloomington City Clerk for The City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana for The Year 2026

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-39 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-39 be adopted.

Clerk Nicole Bolden presented the legislation. There were no major changes aside from the cost of living adjustment (COLA). Piedmont-Smith asked if the COLA of 2.7% was the only change. Bolden stated there was a longevity pay increase for one staff member, following the same structure the administration used for civil city staff. Rollo asked if the salaries were competitive with other clerk's offices in the country. Bolden said that most of the research had focused on other second-class cities in Indiana. Clerks and deputy clerks had been historically undervalued and the positions were typically held by women. The work done by clerk staff was not valued the same as other departmental staff. Rollo supported keeping the clerk's office salaries competitive in order to hire the high quality staff like Clerk Bolden employed at the time. Stosberg asked about interns and Bolden said there was money budgeted for interns.

There was no public comment.

Daily thanked Clerk Bolden and her amazing staff. Council could not hold meetings without a member of the clerk's office present.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-39 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7.3. Ordinance 2025-40

An Ordinance to Fix The Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All The Departments of The City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana For The Year 2026

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-40 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-40 be adopted.

Pechac briefly presented the legislation.

Piedmont-Smith moved and Rollo seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-40. Piedmont-Smith presented Amendment 01.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment clarify that the \$0.50 per hour premium was implemented in a prior salary ordinance, but remains effect. It also adds the words "not," "and," and a period (.) to Section 2 L, and corrects "benefits-elegible" to "benefits-eligible" to fix a typographical error.

There was no public comment.

Stosberg thanked Piedmont-Smith for catching the errors.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-40 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith asked about administrative assistant positions in the City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU). Katherine Zaiger, CBU, Director, said one position was being moved from one division to another. Piedmont-Smith asked if the 5% increase for hourly pay was in the recently passed budget, and Pechac confirmed it was. Piedmont-Smith asked about revising the living wage ordinance to reflect an actual living wage. Pechac said that had not been discussed but the city made an effort to offer competitive wages within budget constraints.

There was no public comment.

Piedmont-Smith expressed interest in increasing the pay in the living wage ordinance for Bloomington. Stosberg reminded everyone that a COLA was inequitable because staff making the least amount of money received the lowest increase while those making the most money received the largest raise, and gave examples. Having a COLA across the city made the wage gap bigger.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-40 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7.4. Resolution 2025-18

To Approve The Naming of The Stadium District in The Area Surrounding Miller-Showers Park

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Resolution 2025-18 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-18.

Stosberg passed the gavel to Piedmont-Smith.

Stosberg presented the legislation noting that it was first introduced and presented two weeks prior. An amended map was sent out the previous day which was not adequate time for council review.

Stosberg moved and Daily seconded to postpone Resolution 2025-18 until the Regular Session on November 05, 2025.

Rosenbarger stated that other neighborhoods and neighborhood associations needed to be contacted, not just Maple Heights. Many residents did not like the word “stadium” and did not want to live in a district with that title. She believed more time was needed. There was discussion on postponing the legislation.

The motion to postpone Resolution 2025-18 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Rollo out of the room)

Piedmont-Smith passed the gavel back to Stosberg.

8. Ordinance 2025-32

To Amend Title 20 (Unified Development Ordinance) of the Bloomington Municipal Code – Re: Use Table Amendment – “Urban Agriculture”

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-32 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Stoll read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-32 be adopted.

Eric Greulich, Development Services Manager, Planning and Transportation (PT) department, presented the legislation. He explained the process and requirements for updating a use table as well as urban agriculture, generally, and limitations to things like educational activities held outdoors. He gave additional details.

Rollo asked about selling produce from one’s property and hiring landscapers. Greulich confirmed that was allowed. There was discussion on educational activities, property management and landscaping, appropriate uses, and changes with the proposed legislation. Asare asked about the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) process and Greulich explained that the proposed use would have to be approved by the BZA. Asare asked about the standards for BZA review. Greulich said there were seven criteria for conditional uses that were reviewed and if granted there was not an expiration date for the use. He discussed violations, and noted that conditional use approvals were very rarely rescinded. Rosenbarger asked about public outreach for the proposal. Greulich said that every property owner was notified via mail but there were not specific

meetings held. She referenced the difference in process with a recently converted duplex off of Wylie Street. Greulich said the public was engaged during the Plan Commission process. There was discussion on public input on multiple Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amendments, and the use table location for urban agriculture commercial. Flaherty noted that most of what was envisioned with the use was already covered by other existing uses with the exception of the education home business component. He asked about home occupation definition and Greulich clarified that it was limited to being within a building. The definition could have been updated to include the outdoors but that would be expanded to other home occupations that may not be appropriate. Flaherty preferred a set of rules that applied more broadly and gave examples. There was additional discussion on homeowners who currently sold from their home, neighborhood garden plots, frequency and timing of educational activities, residential areas, value-added product uses, conditional use, taxes and homestead exemptions, and the change of being allowed to teach outside of a building under home occupation uses. Use-specific restrictions, enforcement, and more was discussed.

Stosberg passed the gavel to Piedmont-Smith.

Stosberg moved and Rollo seconded to introduce Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-32. Stosberg presented Amendment 01 by highlighting the key points.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment replaces the Attachment A.

Asare asked why there were votes against the proposal when it was before the Plan Commission. Stosberg recollected details of the process undertaken by the Plan Commission. There was discussion on process and actions council could take.

Jeff Stake spoke about land use law, and disruption to neighborhoods.

James Glenn opposed Ordinance 2025-32 and gave reasons in opposition.

Connie Cook Glenn discussed the benefits of having children grow food on school property, as was done by the Farm to School program. She opposed the legislation.

Joseph Wynia supported the proposed legislation and gave many reasons in support.

Dan Conkle commented on value-added products and proposed changes in the legislation.

Christopher Emge stated that the deliberation that evening was convoluted, and that going before the BZA was complex.

Steve Volan spoke about parking, transportation, council processes, and changes in neighborhoods.

Jami Sholl discussed the establishment of the Farmer's Market, urban agriculture, and growing food.

Sara Jane Hughes urged council to deny the proposal and gave reasons why.

Ellie Spier spoke about removing barriers for urban agriculture and in favor of the legislation.

Kathy Berry asked council to vote no and gave varying reasons.

Matthew Austin discussed urban agriculture and teaching, per plot size, and supporters of the proposal.

Flaherty asked for staff's input on the amendment. Greulich said staff did not oppose it. There was additional discussion on the legislation and Amendment 01, home occupation, and possible council actions.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-32 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 3 (Rollo, Rosenbarger, Asare), Abstain: 0. (Zulich left the meeting at 10:17pm)

Piedmont-Smith passed the gavel back to Stosberg.

Asare moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to postpone Ordinance 2025-32 as amended until the Regular Session on November 5, 2025.

Rosenbarger noted other legislation that had been postponed to the next regular session. Stosberg mentioned that leadership had anticipated a potential third reading of the legislation.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes; 7, Nays: 1 (Rosenbarger), Abstain: 0.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [10:20pm]

Matthew Austin spoke about food fermentation and free workshops by GardenQuest at the Bloomington Community Orchard.

Sara Jane Hughes requested that the city repaint the speed bumps in the city.

10. COUNCIL SCHEDULE [10:25pm]

Stosberg reviewed the upcoming council schedule. Piedmont-Smith noted the upcoming Fiscal Committee meeting.

11. ADJOURMENT [10:26pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isak Nti Asare, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above minutes summarize the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken. Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

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Bloomington Common Council-Deliberative Session Minutes
Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [6:32pm]

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [6:32pm]

Councilmembers present:

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 (absent)	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
Kari Bennett	Deputy Administrator/Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Researcher
Jamie Kreindler	Planning & Transportation, Senior Zoning Planner
David Hittle	P&T, Director
Kerry Thomson	Mayor
Anna Killion-Hansen	Housing and Neighborhood Development, Director

2. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:33pm]

Stosberg summarized the agenda. The meeting was the second community conversation on housing, focusing on policy and the city’s future direction. The meeting alternated between presentations by planning staff and small group discussions on housing policy. She stated expectations for discussion.

3. PRESENTATION AND DIALOGUE [6:36pm]

David Hittle, Planning and Transportation Director, presented on housing policy changes considered by staff. They had performed outreach with various stakeholders and considered amendments of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for housing attainability improvements. He spoke about outreach efforts, both locally and to other peer cities. Hittle quoted from the city’s 2018 Comprehensive Plan and the Climate Action Plan regarding housing diversity. He gave topics for the first small group discussion.

Jamie Kreindler, Senior Zoning Planner, Planning and Transportation, presented on nationwide housing attainability efforts. Cities had reformed their zoning codes to encourage gentle density and expand middle housing options. She spoke about the Hopewell neighborhood and integrating ideas in the entire city.

Stosberg initiated the first small group discussions. A city staff member and a councilmember facilitated discussion in each group.

Attendees returned to Council Chambers for Hittle’s second presentation. He shared highlights that planning staff learned through outreach efforts. Residents’ main concerns involved expected loss of neighborhood character and cost of living increases. There was a strong desire for walkability. He spoke about off-campus student housing and zoning strategies.

Stosberg initiated the second small group discussion.

4. REPORTING AND DEBRIEFING

No reporting or debriefing occurred. Stosberg stated that next steps would be to introduce policy changes.

5. ADJOURNMENT [8:43pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isak Nti Asare, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above memorandum summarizes the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken. Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

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Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER [6:30pm]

Council Vice President Isabel Piedmont-Smith called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL (*Indicates participation via Zoom) [6:30pm]

Councilmembers present:

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	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg* (arrived at 8:53pm)	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Sofia McDowell	Chief Deputy Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Kari Bennett	Deputy Council Attorney
Eric Greulich	Planning and Transportation, Development Services Manager
David Hittle	Planning and Transportation, Director

2. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

Piedmont-Smith summarized the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:34pm]

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to approve the minutes of July 23, 2025. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. REPORTS [6:35pm]

4.1. Councilmembers:

Asare announced that he would be attending the Maple Heights neighborhood association meeting. He commented on Innovation Week and its successes. He mentioned a recent community conversation on food security he hosted along with Daily and Monroe County Commissioner Jody Madeira.

Rosenbarger stated that she would also be attending the Maple Heights neighborhood association meeting.

Zulich reported that the Committee on Council Processes was considering the use of a consent agenda for council meetings.

Piedmont-Smith expressed disdain at President Donald Trump’s repeated lawsuits against news and media organizations. She referenced the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights as a fundamental right.

4.2. Mayor, City Clerk, City Offices, and City Boards and Commissions:

There were no reports from the mayor and city offices.

4.3. Council Committees:

There were no reports from council committees.

4.4. Public:

Christopher Emge spoke of the Future Cast Luncheon hosted by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Kelley School of Business where wages had been discussed. Wages had increased in the nation and Indiana but decreased in Bloomington.

5. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [6:44pm]

On behalf of Interview Committee Team C, Zulich moved and Flaherty seconded to make appoint to appoint Joseph Shing to seat C-2 on the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth, and to appoint Zachary Ammerman to seat C-5 on the Commission on Sustainability. The motion was approved by voice vote.

6. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [6:45pm]

6.1. Ordinance 2025-19

TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" Re: Chapters 15.48 and 15.52 – Updating Permissible Towing and Storage Charges for Authorized Towing Services

Daily moved and Flaherty seconded that Ordinance 2025-19 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

6.2. Ordinance 2025-20

TO AMEND CHAPTER 4.32 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "NON-CONSENSUAL TOWING BUSINESS" Re: Updating Towing License Requirements and Permissible Towing and Storage Fees for Non-consensual Towing Services under Chapter 4.32

Daily moved and Asare seconded that Ordinance 2025-20 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7. Ordinance 2025-44

TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "WASTEWATER" (Septic Hauler Rate Adjustment)

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2025-44 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

8. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-14

TO SPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FROM THE GENERAL FUND, MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND, CC JACK HOPKINS FUND EXPENDITURES NOT OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED (Appropriating Various Transfers of Funds within the General Fund, Parks & Recreation General Fund, Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Local Road and Street Fund, Public Safety LIT Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and Fleet Maintenance Fund)

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-14 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Piedmont-Smith referred the legislation to a second reading on December 03, 2025.

9. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [6:50pm]

9.1. Resolution 2025-20

To Fund Emergency Food Services with a Distribution from the Jack Hopkins Social Services Grant Program

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2025-20 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-20.

Asare s that council had sent a letter to Mayor Kerry Thomson requesting additional funding from the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund for organizations working in food security, primarily due to the federal government shutdown. The funds would be distributed by Hoosier Hills Food Bank. There was discussion on the county residency requirement in the legislation, which was a mayoral priority. Piedmont-Smith said that was a policy issue that needed to be investigated, and Heading Home had shifted their stance on that. Lisa Lehner, Council Attorney, clarified that the memorandum of understanding was the one used by the Community and Family Resources department.

There was no public comment.

Zulich and Daily appreciated the legislation.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-20 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

9.2. Ordinance 2025-45

TO FIX THE SALARIES OF ALL ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2026

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2025-45 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-45.

Piedmont-Smith presented the legislation which added a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to elected officials' salaries.

There were no council questions.

Christopher Emge thanked elected officials for their service.

Flaherty did not oppose a COLA but felt that elected officials' salaries should be rooted in a cohesive, consistent, and comprehensive framework. He spoke about the salary committee's work the previous year as well as other frameworks, like peer-benchmarking to other cities. He would vote no.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-45 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 2 (Flaherty, Rosenbarger), Abstain: 0.

9.3. Ordinance 2025-41

TO AMEND TITLE 20 (UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE) OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE – Re: Use Table Amendment- "Single Room Occupancy"

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2025-41 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. McDowell read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2025-41 be adopted.

Eric Greulich, Development Services Manager, Planning and Transportation, said the legislation was drafted in response to a request from council. It allowed the “Single Room Occupancy” (SRO) use in multiple zoning districts. He gave additional details.

Piedmont-Smith passed the gavel to Daily.

Piedmont-Smith moved and Asare seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-41. Piedmont-Smith presented Amendment 01.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment, sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith, inserts a new Whereas clause to explain that the Common Council requested the Plan Commission to consider Single Room Occupancy as a new allowed use. It also incorporates a revised Attachment A to better highlight and clarify the proposed changes adopted by the Plan Commission.

There were no council questions. There was no public comment. There were no council comments.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-41 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Daily passed the gavel back to Piedmont-Smith.

Asare asked about the buffer zone. Greulich said it was an effort to not saturate neighborhoods with the SROs. There would be a one hundred and fifty foot buffer where no other SROs could be located for two years. There was discussion on parking, whether SROs had to be attached, dwelling units, housing types in zoning districts, housing affordability, and incentives. Additional discussion included rental prices, the restriction on rent control by the state, existing residential rooming houses, accessory dwelling units, owner-occupied units, and renting for no less than thirty days. SROs would be considered by a hearing officer or the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), depending on situation.

Rollo moved and Daily seconded to introduce Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2025-41. Rollo presented Amendment 02.

Amendment 02 Synopsis: This amendment, sponsored by Councilmember Rollo, reduces the maximum occupancy for Single Room Occupancy units from two adults to one.

Greulich explained that if Amendment 02 passed, then nothing would change. Rollo said Amendment 02 was an effort to not allow families in SROs for safety reasons. He was concerned with AirBnbs, and private equity firms purchasing single family homes. There was discussion on the definition of a “family” and separate leases in homes. Rollo said that the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) restricted SROs to one adult per room. Piedmont-Smith referenced code requiring that the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) inspect SROs. There was discussion on the owner-occupancy requirement, the potential rent that could be charged, and the ability to house more people. Asare asked about early indicators of a proliferation of SROs in the R1-R4 districts. Greulich believed there was a low chance of many SROs in those districts.

Christopher Emge said that going to the BZA was cumbersome for some residents.

Jan Sorby was in favor of SROs and rooming houses, and spoke in favor of owner-occupancy.

Rosenbarger did not support limiting the SROs to one adult per bedroom. Asare would not support Amendment 02. Zulich concurred and cautioned against overregulation. Ruff believed it was important to pass Amendment 02. Flaherty noted that HUD specified that, by definition, SROs were single person occupancy, but did not explicitly state that requirement as a safety concern. The legislation had sufficient safeguards against abuse of SROs. Rollo reiterated concerns of having a family in a single bedroom. Piedmont-Smith said the legislation came from deliberative sessions on homelessness in 2024, and allowing two people in an SRO was a real response to housing needs and for example, unhoused couples wishing to

stay together. She restated that HAND would be inspecting the SROs so there would not be overcrowding. There was additional discussion on SROs in other districts.

The motion to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2025-41 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 2 (Rollo, Ruff), Nays: 6, Abstain: 0. FAILED

Eric Ost stated that a Limited Liability Company was considered a person and could own SROs.

Jan Sorby was against SROs in residential areas.

Wendy Bricht spoke against turning homes into rentals and in favor of families in neighborhoods.

John Lawrence discussed converting motels into SROs and vacant lots for additional housing.

Rollo questioned if an LLC could be a homeowner and Greulich said that would have to be clarified by the county. Asare said the change was incremental and allowed two people to live together. While he understood the concerns, Asare believed there were enough safe-guards in place. Rosenbarger noted that councilmembers used other cities as examples, but not for things like plexes. She spoke about empty bedrooms due to the three, unrelated adults rule, conditional uses, permitted use, potential amendments in the future, and missing middle housing. Rollo said it was useful to look to other cities, as well as residents' experiences. He cautioned about adverse outcomes, unintended profit incentives, too many people occupying a room, and not going before the BZA. Ruff believed the legislation was experimental and had risks; he did not understand how SROs would be handled between the BZA and hearing officers. Stosberg commented on the discussion that evening and the preparation of the petition. Piedmont-Smith understood the concerns, but due to the housing crisis, it was important to provide more housing. She noted the city was interested in converting hotels that were for sale into SROs. There were enough guardrails to not have a negative impact on neighborhoods and also increase housing options. She commented on similar concerns in 2021 regarding plexes, which had not overtaken neighborhoods. Rollo commented on rentals overtaking owner occupied homes and the threat to single family homes.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-41 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Rollo, Ruff), Abstain: 0. (Stosberg arrived at 8:53pm)

10. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [9:08pm]

There was no additional public comment.

11. COUNCIL SCHEDULE [9:09pm]

Piedmont-Smith explained there was a proposed annual council legislative schedule for 2026. There was brief council discussion.

Zulich moved and Asare seconded to adopt the annual council legislative schedule for 2026. The motion received a voice vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

12. ADJOURMENT [9:13pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isak Nti Asare, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

For Approval

Clerk’s Note: The above minutes summarize the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken. Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>
- YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

Background materials and packets are available at <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>

Date: February 11th, 2026

To: Members of the Bloomington Common Council, and
The Office of the Mayor,

Re: Draft Resolution on Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

Dear Colleagues,

Included in this week's packet is a draft resolution regarding automated license plate readers (ALPRs) and the City's current use of the Flock Safety platform in Bloomington. This item is not scheduled for a vote this week because neither the Mayor nor the Deputy Mayor was able to be present at today's meeting, and I believe this topic deserves a discussion in which the Administration can participate fully. I am sharing this draft now to invite early engagement. It is somewhat unusual to circulate draft legislation in the packet this way, but the aim is simple: to encourage input before the conversation moves into formal debate.

It is important to acknowledge at the outset that many residents and public-safety professionals who support ALPR technology are pursuing legitimate goals: faster recovery of stolen vehicles, support for missing-person cases, leads in serious crimes, and more efficient use of limited staffing. Those are real public goods. The question is not whether public safety matters; it is how we pursue it—what capabilities we build, what risks we accept, and what limits we place on ourselves when technology expands the reach of institutional power.

We need not fall into a common trap: the belief that any benefit, however small, is sufficient. With a powerful surveillance capability, "it might help sometimes" is not a governing standard. Benefits must be demonstrated, not presumed—and must decisively outweigh the civil liberties, security, and governance risks created by the system itself

Of course, the strongest protection for civil liberties is restraint. Data not collected cannot be misused, required to be produced, breached, or quietly normalized. But whether one starts from that conclusion or not, Bloomington deserves something that is too often missing from public technology debates: a process that is disciplined, transparent, and worthy of public trust—one that produces an outcome we can defend not only today, but as technologies evolve and capabilities expand.

The draft resolution in this packet is designed as a first step toward that kind of responsible governance. It does three things.

First, it establishes a shared premise: ALPR systems collect location-linked information about residents and visitors, including many who are not suspected of wrongdoing, and therefore require stronger justification and oversight than conventional municipal technology.

Second, it initiates a structured process of inquiry. It requests a public briefing from the Bloomington Police Department, supported by a written packet, so the Council and the public

can understand the program as it exists today: the scope of deployment, contract terms and costs, retention settings, who has access, what training is required, how searches are logged and reviewed, what auditing occurs, what public reporting exists, and what sharing pathways or integrations are enabled. This is the due diligence required to make informed decisions in daylight.

Third, it signals the Council's intent to develop an ordinance that establishes durable, enforceable rules for ALPR and similar surveillance technologies in Bloomington—regardless of vendor. While there are specific concerns that have been raised about Flock as a provider, this conversation should not be reduced to a single company. The deeper issue is whether Bloomington has the institutional capacity to govern technologies that are increasingly common and will continue to be so. If the community decides that some ALPR use should continue, then Bloomington should adopt binding safeguards as a matter of law: narrowly authorized purposes focused on serious crimes and missing persons; short retention measured in days or weeks; role-based access with case-level justification and query logging; routine audits and public reporting; hard limits on sharing—especially any pathway that enables easy access beyond local intent; and a sunset or periodic reauthorization mechanism so this capability does not become permanent by inertia.

At its best, local government is where democracy is most tangible. People can see the decisions. They can speak into them. They can hold us accountable. That is the spirit in which I am sharing this draft now. When a technology has the potential to reshape the balance between public safety and civil liberty, we should not drift into it. We should decide deliberately. We should set limits. We should demand accountability. And we should govern with the seriousness the moment requires.

I welcome feedback. If you have edits, concerns, or alternatives, I want to hear them. My hope is that this draft helps us begin a careful, public conversation—and that, whatever course we choose, we choose it deliberately and together.

I would also like to note that Councilmember Piedmont-Smith has separate legislation on this subject that will also be scheduled, and she has also shared an open letter to the Mayor. I am most grateful to Councilmember Flaherty for thoughtful comments on this draft resolution and welcome any co-sponsors.

Thank you for considering.

Most respectfully,

Isak

RESOLUTION 2026-____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING IMMEDIATE TRANSPARENCY, LIMITS, AND A PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS FOR AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER TECHNOLOGY IN BLOOMINGTON

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City recognizes and affirms the community's commitment to civil liberties, including freedom of movement and speech, due process of law, and the principle that government should not create standing surveillance capabilities absent necessity, strict limits, and democratic accountability; and

WHEREAS, "Automated License Plate Reader" or "ALPR" technology means any fixed, mobile, or portable camera system—together with any associated software or service—that captures images of motor vehicles and automatically detects, extracts, or converts license plate numbers (and related vehicle descriptors such as make, model, color, date/time, and location) into searchable records or alerts; and

WHEREAS, automated license plate reader ("ALPR") systems collect and store location-linked data about large numbers of residents and visitors who are not suspected of wrongdoing, and experience shows that surveillance infrastructure tends to expand in use and scope over time unless constrained by binding rules; and

WHEREAS, the City currently utilizes ALPR technology and related services provided by Flock Safety, which operates as a privately owned, vendor-managed platform, meaning the City does not fully control the software ecosystem, product roadmap, integrations, or the ways the platform may evolve; and

WHEREAS, public trust in law enforcement and local government depends not only on good-faith use today, but on durable safeguards that hold under changing conditions—leadership changes, policy changes, vendor changes, or external pressure; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that any use of ALPR technology must meet a heightened standard of necessity and proportionality, must be subject to strict purpose limitations, short retention, auditable access, meaningful reporting, and hard limits on sharing—especially any pathway that could make access easy beyond local intent; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that the strongest protection for civil liberties is restraint: data not collected cannot be misused, compelled, breached, or normalized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION 1 The Council states its opposition to unchecked, generalized surveillance and affirms that any technology capable of tracking the public at scale must meet a heightened

standard of necessity and proportionality, with strict limits, public transparency, and democratic oversight.

SECTION 2 The Chief of Police and the Office of the Mayor shall provide a briefing to the Common Council on the City's ALPR program, including the City's contract(s) and relationship with Flock Safety, and the current operational use of ALPR cameras and related equipment.

SECTION 3 The police department shall provide a written briefing packet to the Council no later than seven (7) days prior to the public briefing, describing in plain language: the number of ALPR devices in operation and their general placement; the contract term(s), renewal dates, termination provisions, and total program costs to date; the data retention period(s); the current access controls and training requirements; and the current rules governing searches, auditing, reporting, and data sharing.

SECTION 4 The Chief of Police shall explicitly address in the briefing what controls are currently in place—or are technically feasible under existing agreements—to ensure the following best-practice safeguards: narrowly authorized purposes; short retention windows; role-based access; query logging; routine auditing; and public reporting (including volume of searches, categories of cases, hit rates, and errors); and hard limits on data sharing, especially any pathway that could enable easy access beyond local intent.

SECTION 5 The Council encourages the Office of the Mayor to impose an immediate pause on any expansion of the ALPR program until the requested briefing is completed, including a pause on adding new cameras, expanding features, creating new access pathways, enabling new integrations, or increasing the number of user accounts, except as required to maintain existing obligations or ensure continuity of essential operations.

SECTION 6 The Council states its intent to develop and consider an ordinance to establish durable rules governing the acquisition and use of ALPR technology in Bloomington—regardless of vendor—including binding limits on purpose, retention, access and auditing, transparency and reporting, sharing restrictions, and periodic reauthorization or sunset provisions.

SECTION 7 The Council will use the information provided through the briefing and written materials to make determinations both about Bloomington's current relationship with Flock Safety and about the broader governance framework the City should adopt for ALPR and similar surveillance technologies now and in the future.

SECTION 8: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Common Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Resolution, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional



Clerk Nicole Bolden
City of Bloomington
Office of the City Clerk
401 N Morton St, Ste. 110
Bloomington, IN 47404

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Clerk Nicole Bolden

Date: 13 February 2026

Re: Interview Committee Recommendations for Board and Commissions

The Common Council interview committees have made recommendations for appointments to the following boards and commissions:

Interview Committee Team C Recommendations:

- For the Arts Commission - To recommend to reappoint Gerard Pannekoek to seat C-4 and to appoint Austin White to seat C-5.
- For the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth - To recommend to appoint Andrea Alvarez to seat C-1.

Contact:

Clerk Nicole Bolden, 812-349-3408, or email clerk@bloomington.in.gov
Jennifer Crossley, Deputy Clerk of Communications and Outreach, 812-349-3403, or email jennifer.crossley@bloomington.in.gov

Bloomington Common Council Ordinance No. 2026-06 to Amend the City of Bloomington Zoning Maps by Rezoning a 6.3 Acre Property from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and to Approve a District Ordinance and Preliminary Plan

Preamble

Whereas, Ordinance 20-06, repealed and replaced the official zoning map within Title 20 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled, "Unified Development Ordinance"; and

Whereas, the Plan Commission has considered this case, Z02025-12-0018, and favorably recommends that the petitioner, Bloomington Redevelopment Commission, be granted an approval to rezone 6.3 acres from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and to approve a preliminary plan and district ordinance; and

Whereas, the Plan Commission therefore requests that the Common Council consider this petition.

Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:

Section 1. Rezoning.

Through the authority of IC 36-7-4 and pursuant to Chapter 20.02 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, the zoning of the property described below shall be changed from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD). The property is further described as follows:

PARCEL G

ALL OF LOT 45 SEMINARY SQUARE AND SEMINARY LOTS, A SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA AS RECORDED ORIGINALLY IN DEED BOOK "A" PAGE 55 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER IN MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, LYING NORTH OF WYLIE STREET AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING NORTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST 14.16 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT, SAID POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF ROGERS STREET AS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED IN DEED RECORD 364, PAGE 240; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 49 SECONDS WEST ON AND ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY 338.20 FEET; TO THE APPARENT NORTH RIGHT OF WAY OF WYLIE STREET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE 647.77 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF AN ALLEY; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST ON AND ALONG SAID ALLEY 331.05 FEET TO THE APPARENT NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 644.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIBED PARCEL, CONTAINING 4.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

PARCEL H

A PART OF LOT 52 SEMINARY SQUARE AND SEMINARY LOTS, A SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA AS RECORDED ORIGINALLY IN DEED BOOK "A" PAGE 55 AND LOTS 148, 149 AND 150 IN THE DIXIE HIGHWAY ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ALL LOCATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER IN MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 52, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 158.46 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 03 SECONDS WEST 103.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 56.07 FEET TO THE APPARENT NORTH LINE OF LOT 131 IN DIXIE HIGHWAY ADDITION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 39, PAGE 478 IN THE OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY RECORDER; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST ON AND ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID ADDITION 95.74 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID ADDITION; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST ON AND ALONG SAID EAST LINE 55.83 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF AN ALLEY SHOWN ON SAID PLAT; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 03 SECONDS WEST 136.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 148 IN SAID ADDITION; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 157.46 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT AND ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF FIRST STREET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST ON AND ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF FIRST STREET 336.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 1.34 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

Section 2: Approval of District Ordinance and Preliminary Plan

This District Ordinance and the Preliminary Plan shall be approved as attached hereto and made a part thereof.

Section 3: Severability.

If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications 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 4: Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Passed

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Isak Nti Asare
President, City of Bloomington

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:

Nicole Bolden
Clerk, City of Bloomington

Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026:

Nicole Bolden
Clerk, City of Bloomington

Approval by Mayor

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the _____ day of _____,
2026:

Kerry Thomson
Mayor, City of Bloomington

Synopsis

This Ordinance amends the zoning of the property from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD).

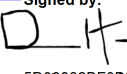
Bloomington Common Council Ordinance No. 2026-06

In accordance with IC 36-7-4-605, I hereby certify that the attached Ordinance Number 2026-06 is a true and complete copy of Plan Commission Case Number ZO2025-12-0018 which was given a favorable recommendation by a vote of 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions by the Bloomington City Plan Commission at a public hearing held on February 9, 2026.

Date: February 12, 2026

Plan Commission Secretary Signature

Signed by:



2/13/2026

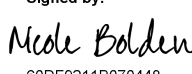
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David Hittle
Secretary, Plan Commission

Clerk Signature

Received by the Common Council Office on:

Signed by:



2/13/2026

60DF9241B070448

Nicole Bolden
Clerk, City of Bloomington

Type of Legislation

Zoning Change

Fiscal Impact Statement

The legislation is not expected to have a major impact on existing City finances including, but not limited to revenues, expenditures, and any new debt obligations.

This Ordinance amends the zoning of the property from Residential Urban Lot (R4) and Residential Multifamily (RM) within the Transform Redevelopment Overlay (TRO) to Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Ordinance 2026-04 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” to Consolidate and Amend Boards and Commissions Provisions in Chapters 2.02, 2.08 and 2.12

Preamble

Whereas, provisions governing boards and commissions appear in several chapters of Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that clarity will be promoted by consolidation of these provisions into a single chapter of Title 2 in the Bloomington Municipal Code; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that public trust will be enhanced by adoption of a code of conduct applicable to all members of boards and commissions; and

Whereas, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate “community resilience” into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability; and

Whereas, on November 18, 2025, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) unanimously adopted a resolution requesting that Common Council consider renaming the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, pursuant to Bloomington Municipal Code paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B), which empowers BCOS to advise and make recommendations to Common Council;

Whereas, Common Council finds that renaming the Commission will provide a more complete definition of the Commission’s areas of work and will facilitate the Commission’s ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners.

Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:

Section 1: Delete Boards and Commissions General Provisions from Chapter 2.08 Entitled Executive Branch.

Section 2.08.020 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled General Provisions is hereby amended to remove all provisions concerning boards and commissions. Specifically, the reference to city boards, commissions and councils in the introductory sentence is deleted, and subsections (2) through (12) and subsection (14) are deleted as reflected in Attachment A.

Section 2: Add Boards and Commissions General Provisions to Chapter 2.02 Entitled Boards and Commissions.

A new section 2.02.050 entitled General Provisions is hereby added to Chapter 2.02 of the Bloomington Municipal Code as reflected in Attachment A. This new section shall incorporate the general provisions removed from Chapter 2.08 as addressed in Section 1 of this ordinance. The new section shall include a new Code of Conduct subsection and amend the Removal for Cause subsection to allow removal of a member for violations of the Code of Conduct.

Section 3: Delete Chapter 2.12 Entitled Boards, Commissions and Councils and Add All Sections to Chapter 2.02 Entitled Boards and Commissions.

Chapter 2.12 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled Boards, Commissions and Councils is hereby deleted in its entirety as reflected in Attachment A. The sections of this chapter are hereby added as new sections to Chapter 2.02 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled Boards and Commissions as reflected in Attachment A.

Section 4: Changing the Name of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability.

The name of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is hereby changed to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience as reflected in Attachment A.

Section 5: Severability.

If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications 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 6: Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Passed

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Isak Nti Asare

President, City of Bloomington

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:

Nicole Bolden

Clerk, City of Bloomington

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026:

Nicole Bolden

Clerk, City of Bloomington

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the _____ day of _____, 2026:

Kerry Thomson

Mayor, City of Bloomington

Synopsis

This ordinance sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith consolidates Title 2 provisions regarding boards, commissions and councils into a single chapter, adds code of conduct provisions, and renames the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience.

Ordinance 2026-04 - Attachment A

Chapter 2.02 - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2.02.050 - General Provisions

The following provisions apply to the city's boards, commissions and councils, with the exception of the common council.

- (1) **Terms.** The terms for all boards, commissions, and councils established under this title shall, after having been established in a staggered manner, be for a period of two years and expire on January 31st. For all such boards, commissions, and councils in effect on December 1, 2014, the terms shall be as set forth in the Proposed Board and Commission Term Expiration Dates, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into the code. In compliance with Indiana Code § 36-1-5-4, two copies of the proposal shall be on file in the office of city clerk for public inspection. For all boards, commissions, and councils established after December 1, 2014, the manner for achieving staggered terms shall be set forth in the enabling legislation and shall spread the expiration dates as evenly as is practicable between the appointing authorities and over all of the appointments.
- (2) **Residential Requirement.** All appointments to city boards, commissions and councils shall be made from residents of the city except those positions that are directed otherwise by state law or city ordinance. If a city employee is appointed to a city board, commission or council by virtue of the employment position, the residency requirement may be waived. In the event a member of a board, commission, or council no longer resides in the city, the member shall resign immediately and notify the appropriate appointing official or body.
- (3) **Code of Conduct.** Appointees to boards, commissions and council shall comply with a code of conduct that is maintained by the clerk's office. The clerk's office shall present the code of conduct to each appointee for review and signature.
- (4) **Removal for Cause.** Except for appointees who serve at the pleasure of the mayor, a member of a board, commission or council may be removed for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, violations of the code of conduct specified in subsection (3) and excessive absenteeism. Excessive absenteeism is a failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the board, commission, or council or four regularly scheduled meetings in any twelve-month period; provided, that any member may submit in writing to the appointing authority any extenuating circumstances. Such written submission shall be made within five business days before the formal decision to remove is

reached. Acceptance of extenuating factors by the appointing official or body puts the member on notice that further excessive absenteeism shall result in removal.

- (5) Vacancies by Death, Resignation—Failure to Appoint. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of a board, commission, or council through resignation or death, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased member. If a member's term has expired, but the appointing authority has failed to act, the appointment of the member whose term has expired carries over until the appointing authority reappoints or appoints a successor.
- (6) Majority Vote. Majority vote means a majority of the members of a board, commission or council who are present and voting.
- (7) Quorum. Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members serving on a board, commission or council, excepting the nonvoting ex officio members, constitute a quorum for purpose of conducting the official business of the board, commission or council.
- (8) Parliamentary Procedure. Meetings of all boards, commissions and councils shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in Roberts Rules of Order.
- (9) Officers. Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.
- (10) Duties of the Secretary. The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.
- (11) Special Meetings. A special meeting of a board, commission or council may be called by the chairperson, the mayor, or by a majority of the members then serving on the board, commission or council requesting such meeting in writing. Upon receiving such request, the chairperson shall thereafter call a special meeting to be held within twenty days.
- (12) Office Space and Staff. Provision of office space and staff to boards, commissions and councils shall be at the discretion of the mayor, subject to common council appropriation approval.
- (13) The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the city's boards, commissions and councils.

2.02.060 Animal care and control commission.

The commission shall be composed of six members.

(1) Appointments. Three members shall be appointed by the mayor, two by the common council, and one by and representative of the Monroe County board of commissioners.

(2) Qualifications. One of the mayor's appointees shall be a licensed veterinarian who is a resident of Monroe County and one shall be a member of the Monroe County Humane Association. The representative from the Monroe County board of commissioners must reside in Monroe County.

(3) Meeting. Regular meetings shall be held once every month as called by the chairperson.

(4) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Formulate, adopt, and implement policies, principles, and standards for humane treatment and control of all animals in the city;

(b) Review the decisions and actions of the director of the animal care and control division and any animal care and control officer in any matter related to the enforcement of this chapter, if a written request for a hearing is received from the complaining animal owner within ten days after that action is taken; and

(c) Make recommendations to the mayor and the common council as to necessary ordinances concerning the care, treatment and control of animals; and

(d) In carrying out its duties, consider public health and the safety of residents, as well as ecosystem health and services; and

(e) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.070 Bloomington Arts Commission.

(a) Public Policy and Purpose. The City of Bloomington recognizes that the arts are an important part of the culture and economy of the community, and that the city has a responsibility to foster an environment conducive to the community's participation in the arts. The conservation and development of the city's artistic resources are essential to the social, educational, and economic vitality of the city. Artists, works of art, and

artistic institutions contribute to the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of Bloomington. The Bloomington Arts Commission seeks to provide inclusive and equitable opportunities to all artists and community members, especially those who have been under-served.

The Bloomington Arts Commission strives to develop and enhance the Bloomington arts community by:

- (1) Supporting local artists and artist groups;
- (2) Engaging Bloomington residents in arts across genres;
- (3) Facilitating connections between City of Bloomington staff, artists, and artists groups; and
- (4) Commissioning public arts works by local, regional, and national artists.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Commission" means the Bloomington Arts Commission as created in this section.
- (2) "Public art project" means an original work of high quality art of any medium, which is created by an artist or artists, which belongs and is accessible to the public.

(c) Appointments. The commission shall consist of eleven members. Six members shall be appointed by the mayor and five by the common council.

(d) Qualifications. All members of the commission shall have a demonstrated commitment to the arts. To the extent possible, priority shall be given first to ensuring a broad representation of professional artists from the disciplines of the visual, performing and literary arts and then to arts administrators and arts consumers and to representatives from the education and business communities.

(e) Terms. Members shall serve terms of three years. Members having served two consecutive three-year terms may not be reappointed until one year has passed from the end of the second term. Terms shall be staggered, with four members' first term ending within one year; three members' first term ending within two years, and four members' first term ending within three years after their initial appointment, so that no more than five members will leave the commission at the end of each term, which will be the thirty-first day of January.

(f) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Adopt administrative rules and regulations, adopt procedures, conduct activities and form committees necessary to conduct the commission's business;
- (2) Develop, administer, and promote programs to achieve the commission's purpose;
- (3) Inform and advise the common council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on current arts issues and large-scale strategic planning projects for the arts; and
- (4) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.080 Percentage for the Arts Program.

A policy is established to include works of art and design services of artists in capital projects of the city.

(a) Purpose. The city through the Bloomington Arts Commission accepts responsibility for expanding the community's experience with art by bringing art to public places. Public art has enabled people in all societies to better understand and enrich their individual and collective lives. In order to sustain our economic and cultural vibrancy, the city supports public art and the artists who make it possible. A policy is therefore established to include works of art and/or design services of artists in certain city capital projects.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Annual public art projects plan" means a prioritized list of art projects, with budgets and recommended design approach, developed by the commission in consultation with city departments anticipating capital projects.

"City building" means a fixed structure with walls and a roof that will be owned by the city.

"City capital project" means any permanent capital project paid for, wholly or in part, by the city to construct or remodel any building, structure, park, utility, street, sidewalk, or parking facility, or any portion thereof, that will be owned by the city.

"Commission" means the Bloomington arts commission.

"Construction costs" means the cost of the project excluding costs for acquisition of land, design, and financing.

"Funds" means a source of money for construction projects from which art is not precluded as an object of expenditure.

"Guidelines" means a document that outlines how the city will implement the arts program, which shall include but not be limited to methods for the selection of artists, for selection and placement of works of art and for the education and promotion of public art.

"Landscaping" means areas, including the pedestrian portions of streetscapes, where by grading, placing concrete or rock, or planting vegetation, the natural features of a site are made more attractive.

"Municipal arts fund" means a dedicated fund for administration of the public art program.

"Parks facilities" means amphitheaters, fountains, pools, pedestrian ways, sports areas and other improvements where people gather or play.

"Public art" is an original work of art of the highest quality created by an artist, artists, or a collaboration of design professionals which belongs and is accessible to the public, is integrated into the site, and enhances the quality of city life.

(c) Bloomington Arts Commission Authority. The commission shall:

(1) Prepare a set of guidelines for carrying out the city's public art program which shall be submitted in the form of resolutions to the board of park commissioners, the board of public works and the common council.

(2) Review the city's annual capital improvement plan with city officials and jointly submit an annual public art projects plan to the appropriate board having responsibility over the project for their recommendation and to the common council for their approval. The annual public art projects plan, which may be incorporated into the annual capital improvement plan, shall be submitted to the common council for their consideration at the same time as the civil city budget.

(3) Encourage and pursue additional funds for the program which may be deposited in the municipal arts fund.

(4) Acquire works of art, retain consultants or hire employees, and take other reasonable measures within its appropriations to administer the public art program.

(d) Criteria for the selection and placement of public art. The following criteria shall be used for the selection and placement of public art:

(1) Public art shall be located in areas where residents and visitors live and congregate and shall be highly accessible and visible;

(2) Areas such as the entryways, downtown, neighborhoods, and the parks shall be treated as separate areas that deserve separate attention in the guidelines;

(3) Since public art has a significant effect on the lives of those who frequent public places, public art should reflect enduring, and not transitory, artistic concepts;

(4) Public art shall reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of this city without deviation from a standard of excellence; and

(5) Selection shall also take into account appropriateness to the site, permanence of the work in light of surrounding environmental conditions, maintenance requirements, quality of work, likelihood the artist can successfully complete the work within the available funding, and works of art already in the public art collection.

(e) Funds for Works of Art. Appropriations for certain city capital projects shall include an amount not less than one percent of the city's contribution to the estimated construction costs of the project for public art. These city capital projects shall include the construction or renovation of all city buildings, and shall be otherwise limited to the construction of parks facilities and the landscaping portion of major projects that are approved in the annual public arts projects plan.

(f) Municipal Arts Fund. The funds for public art include the allocation of one percent of the construction costs of certain city capital projects along with donations, grants, and all other appropriations for public art. Those funds shall be deposited in a municipal arts fund unless they are for a city capital project, in which case, they may be kept as other funds for capital projects are kept.

Expenditures from this fund may be used for design services of artists and for the selection, acquisition, commissioning, and display of art works, for maintenance, and

administration of the program as outlined in the guidelines and annual public art project plan. Funds approved as part of one project, but not deemed necessary in total or in part for said project, may, if not precluded by any law, be expended on other projects or purposes approved in the annual public art project plan.

2.02.090 Environmental commission.

(1) Purpose. It is declared to be the public policy of the City of Bloomington and the purpose of this section to promote the stewardship and preservation of the city's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.

(2) Appointments. The commission shall consist of twelve members, six appointed by the mayor and six appointed by the common council.

(3) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with expertise in environmental fields.

(4) Meetings. The commission shall meet a minimum of once each month.

(5) Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.

(b) To encourage, conduct, synthesize, and report on studies, investigations, and research relating to emerging issues in Bloomington and make recommendations to the appropriate public and private bodies.

(c) To collect and disseminate information through outreach efforts that encourage engagement and personal commitment to strengthening Bloomington's environmental health.

(d) To collaborate with all departments and governmental branches of the city concerning the impacts of their operations and policies on the city's environment and natural resources, through the development and distribution of reports, memos, and resolutions.

(e) To work with city staff to apply for, provide input on, accept, receive and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section. Such funds received by the

commission pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in accordance with the administrative regulations of the commission.

(f) To cooperate with partners or groups within or outside of Bloomington on matters of environmental well-being such as responsible stewardship of biodiversity, air and water quality, and land use.

(g) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.100 Transportation commission.

(a) Purpose. The transportation commission (hereinafter referred to as "commission") is established with the explicit purpose of guiding the city's transportation endeavors through a comprehensive framework which seeks to provide adequate and safe access to all right-of-way users while prioritizing nonautomotive modes and sustainability. The commission shall provide recommendations and guidance to the mayor and common council in the pursuit of developing and implementing a city-wide policy to eliminate all transportation- related fatalities and serious injuries to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and passengers; shall promote sustainable transportation; shall foster equitable access; and shall promote community-centric design. The commission shall also serve as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies and grant programs.

(b) Appointments. The commission shall consist of nine members, none of whom may hold any employment, elected, or appointed position with the city, unless specifically permitted as outlined in this section:

(1) One member appointed by the mayor shall be a member from the council for community accessibility or a designated representative. The council for community accessibility shall submit a list of at least three names to the mayor for consideration;

(2) One member appointed by the public transportation corporation board of directors shall be a member or a designated representative, including from among staff of the corporation;

(3) One member appointed by the plan commission shall be a member or a designated representative;

(4) One member appointed by the board of public works shall be a member or a designated representative;

(5) One member appointed by the common council shall be from among its membership;

(6) Two members shall be appointed by the council, and shall be residents living within city limits who have experience using forms of travel other than personal motor vehicles as their primary method of transportation;

(7) Two members shall be appointed, one by the mayor and one by the council, and shall be residents living within the city limits. Preference for appointments shall be given to board members, employees, or other formal volunteers with Monroe County Community School Corporation, especially as involved in safe routes to school, pollution reduction, and school bus utilization; and members of community organizations dedicated to serving marginalized groups, especially safety-marginalized transportation users.

(c) Terms. Members appointed from the membership of the public transportation corporation board of directors, plan commission, board of public works, and common council shall serve a term coextensive with their terms on the body from which they were appointed or until that body appoints another at its first regular meeting of the year. Members appointed from the council for community accessibility, members who are acting as appointed representatives, and members appointed by common council who are not among its membership shall serve a two year term.

(d) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Coordinate, supervise, and, when necessary, approve transportation-related studies, plans, consultant reports, activities, programs, and projects, including acting as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies, plans and plans updates, and grant programs.

(2) Review all transportation projects, proposed changes to Title 15 (Vehicles and Traffic), relevant proposed changes to Title 12 (Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewers), and other applicable changes to the Bloomington Municipal Code to determine if the proposed change:

(A) Is consistent with the comprehensive plan and other applicable city adopted plans;

(B) Is consistent with the best practices for eliminating all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries within the city;

(C) Is consistent with advancing a sustainable transportation system and equitable access to all transportation facility users while prioritizing non-automotive modes; and

(D) Has adequately conducted public engagement and considered community-centric design tied to targeted outcomes.

(3) Provide a forum for members of the public to submit transportation-related testimonials, inquires, and requests;

(4) Conduct education activities in matters related to transportation safety in an effort to both eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, and promote sustainable forms of transportation within the city;

(5) Make recommendations on transportation policy, including but not limited to: changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, capital planning, program implementation, or any other aspect of advancing a safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation system;

(6) Make recommendations on public parking policy, including but not limited to: pricing, hours of operation, addition or removal of parking supply or parking spaces, changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, enforcement procedures, or any other aspect of parking management policy;

(7) Produce or oversee an annual analysis of parking asset management, including but not limited to: reporting all costs and revenues for city- owned structured parking, surface parking, metered parking, neighborhood parking zones, and other relevant city-owned parking; documenting parking utilization rates and longitudinal trends; conducting or contracting for parking data analytics; and recommending changes to the parking system necessary to advance the goals of the comprehensive plan and other applicable city plans;

(8) Request appropriations through the mayor and communicate the need for appropriations to the city council, or research and apply for grants, gifts, or other funds from public or private agencies, for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions of this section.

(e) Procedure and Scheduling. The commission shall establish its own rules and procedures, subject to amendment by a majority vote. This shall include the ability to define its meeting schedule within the scope of the established rules and procedures.

(f) Staff. The commission shall be primarily staffed by the engineering department. When serving as a steering committee, the commission shall be staffed by the planning and transportation department. Staff from the department of public works, the economic and sustainable development department, and other departments deemed necessary for decision-making to support the city's transportation and parking goals shall attend meetings of the transportation commission at the commission's request.

2.02.110 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission.

(1) Appointments. The Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission shall consist of seven members, with three appointed by the mayor, three appointed by the common council, and one appointed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(2) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons belonging to local religious organizations, the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, Monroe County Government, local community school corporations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(3) Powers and Duties. To promote and honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and legacy in our community, with a focus on fostering diversity, inclusivity, and advancing racial equity and justice for historically marginalized communities. The commission may appoint volunteers and associates committed to these goals. The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.120 Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience.

(1) Public Policy and Purpose. The purpose of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience is to promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Broadly, sustainability can be seen as a community or society meeting its needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and comprehensive framework for organizing and prioritizing sustainability goals and actions. The SDGs shall guide the commission's work, along with sustainability components of relevant city plans, including the comprehensive plan, climate action plan, and sustainability action plan.

(2) General. The commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.02.050 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.

(3) Appointments and Residency. The commission shall consist of fourteen members. Six of the members shall be appointed by the mayor and six shall be appointed by the common council. No more than two of the mayor's appointments and no more than two of the common council appointments may be citizens who live outside the corporate city limits of Bloomington and within Monroe County. One of the six common council appointments shall be a member of the common council. One of the members shall be appointed by the Monroe County Commissioners from Monroe County government. And, the Director of the Indiana University Office of Sustainability or his/her designee shall serve as the ex-officio member from Indiana University. All members shall have a vote and shall serve without compensation.

(4) Qualifications. Sustainability is an interdisciplinary concept. As such, the commission's membership shall reflect environmental, social and economic perspectives, unified by the common interest of sustainability. The commission shall draw its members from government, business, academia, not-for-profits and neighborhood associations.

(5) Officers. Officers shall be selected by vote of the commission members annually.

(6) Meetings. The commission shall meet one time each month, every month of the year, unless it decides to cancel the meeting.

(7) Staffing. The city's sustainability coordinator shall serve as staff liaison to the commission. The liaison will research and pursue funding opportunities for sustainable development, engage in education and outreach, and identify "best practices." The city administration shall provide general administrative support for the commission.

(8) Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(A) To coordinate ongoing and to propose and promote new sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, government, nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions, including outreach, research, and education programs;

(B) To advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability and community resilience;

(C) To provide recommendations for assessing, or provide an assessment of, Bloomington's current and future sustainability status, in cooperation with city staff and

other city boards and commissions as appropriate, including through the potential use of sustainability indicators or based on the goals of existing plans;

(D) To advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies, boards and commissions of the City of Bloomington, the state, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the federal government, and with interested persons or groups on matters of sustainability;

(E) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business; and,

(F) To research and apply for grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section.

(G) To submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.130 Community advisory on public safety commission.

(a) Establishment and Purpose. There shall be established a community advisory on public safety commission ("commission"), which shall:

(1) Perform research and gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community members, with specific focus on perceptions and preference data gathered from minority community members, individuals who are disabled, and other often marginalized community members; and

(2) Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing; and

(3) Identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington.

(4) Make recommendations to the common council, the board of public safety, and/or the mayor or the mayor's designee on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.

(b) General. The commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.02.050 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.

(c) Appointments. The commission shall be composed of nine voting members appointed by the common council. Each member shall have one vote and shall serve without compensation.

(d) **Qualifications.** Citizen appointments to the commission must be at least eighteen years of age and reside within the City of Bloomington. Strongly encouraged to apply are residents who are historically underrepresented in local government. Such groups may include, but are not limited to residents:

(1) Who are Black;

(2) Who are Latiné;

(3) Who are people of color;

(4) With disabilities;

(5) Who are experiencing or who have experienced mental health challenges;

(6) Who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender;

(7) Who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness;

(8) Who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence;

(9) Who have a previous record of incarceration;

(10) With addictions; and

(11) Who have a demonstrated background of empowering historically disadvantaged groups and working to further racial, social, and economic equity.

(e) **Officers.** Officers shall be selected by a vote of the commission members annually.

(f) **Meetings.** The commission shall meet monthly, unless canceled by the commission, with a minimum of four meetings per year.

(g) **Staffing.** The common council staff shall provide general administrative support for the regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

(h) **Terms.** The initial terms of five city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2022. The term of the remaining initial six city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2023. Thereafter, all terms of city resident appointments shall be for two years and expire on January 31.

(i) **Powers and Duties.**

(1) In its actions, the commission shall seek to promote transparency, accountability, a collaborative spirit, long-term and strategic thinking, and effective risk management.

(2) The commission shall:

(A) Gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from: racial minority; economically disadvantaged; and marginalized residents of Bloomington.

(B) Research evidence-based approaches to public safety focusing on those approaches outside the scope of traditional policing, including, but not limited to:

(i) The establishment of an alternate crisis response phone number;

(ii) Investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, and/or job training to mitigate the causes of crime; and

(iii) All other innovative approaches.

(C) Explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the U.S. and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington;

(D) Make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, the board of public safety, and the mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members;

(E) Promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs;

(F) Provide an annual report of its activities to the common council, mayor and the public.

2.02.140 Citizens' redistricting advisory commission.

(a) Establishment and Purpose. There is hereby established a five-member citizens' redistricting advisory commission, hereinafter "commission," whose purpose shall be to make recommendations to the common council regarding its decennial redistricting ordinance, which divides the city into the six council districts from which councilmembers shall be elected; and to make recommendations to the Monroe County Commissioners on dividing the city into precincts.

(b) Term. Because of the time-limited nature of the commission's purpose, the commission shall be limited in term to two years from the date of its formation ("formation date"), after which time it shall disband. The commission's first formation date shall be January 1, 2021, and shall be reformed at the beginning of the year following each decennial United States Census ("census year"). All commission members shall be appointed to serve until final district boundaries are adopted by the common council, or until two years after the commission's formation date, whichever comes first. The commission shall be reformed in the event that the city is required, due to annexation or other legal procedures, to redraw council-district lines outside of these periods. The same membership selection process shall be followed in the event the commission is reformed.

(c) Membership Qualifications. The commission shall consist of five members, subject to the following qualifications and limitations.

(1) Political Affiliations. Commissioners shall be divided by political affiliation as follows:

A. One member shall be a duly enrolled full-time student at Indiana University Bloomington affiliated with the Democratic Party;

B. One member shall be a non-student affiliated with the Democratic Party;

C. One member shall be a duly enrolled full-time student at Indiana University Bloomington affiliated with the Republican Party;

D. One member shall be a non-student affiliated with the Republican Party; and

E. One member shall be appointed who identifies as independent of either of the two major political parties in the state.

(2) Limitations. The following individuals are excluded from serving on the commission:

(A) Anyone who is currently a public office holder;

(B) Anyone who has been an employee for an elected official, including anyone who has been employed by the City of Bloomington, within ten years of the commission's formation date;

(C) Anyone who is currently an officer of any county-level political party in Monroe County (not including people serving as precinct committee persons);

(D) Anyone who has contributed a cumulative total of \$2,000.00 or more to any political candidate(s) within five years of the commission's formation date;

(E) Anyone registered with the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission;

(F) Immediate family members of any excluded person.

(d) Membership Selection Process. Commissioners shall be selected after an open application process:

(1) Applicants shall attest that they are eligible to serve per the conditions of subsection (c).

(2) The process shall be conducted by a selection committee made up of the three at-large councilmembers. The selection committee shall review all applications and in a public meeting choose ten applicants in five pools of two, one pool for each seat noted in subsection (c)(1), whom they believe are the most qualified to carry out the commission's duties.

(3) The ranking at-large councilmember shall administer a coin flip to select a member from each pool of applicants.

(4) If there is only one eligible applicant for a given seat after complying with the requirements of BMC 2.02, the selection committee may appoint the applicant to the seat. If there are no eligible applicants for a given seat after complying with the requirements of BMC 2.02, the seat may be left empty.

(e) Redistricting Criteria.

(1) The commission shall recommend council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the Indiana Constitution, and applicable federal and state laws, including the Federal Voting Rights Act and Indiana Code §§ 3-5-10 and 36-4-6-3.

(2) The commission shall prepare descriptions and a map of recommended council district boundaries.

(3) Whenever possible, the commission should avoid recommending districts that split communities of interest into multiple districts. These communities include, but are not limited to, political subdivisions, neighborhoods, school districts, historic districts and other areas where residents share common traits and concerns.

(4) Where it does not negatively impact the above criteria, districts shall be drawn to encourage political competition.

(f) Commission Processes and Transparency.

(1) The city shall establish and maintain, at least until the redistricting process is concluded, a webpage for the commission where redistricting materials shall be published, including the roster of commissioners, meeting agendas and minutes, and draft maps created by the commission.

(2) The commission shall hold public hearings at least every other month, but may choose to meet more often.

(3) The commission shall issue descriptions of recommended council districts, an accompanying map depicting the recommended districts, and a report that explains how the recommended districts comply with subsection (e).

(4) Approval of recommended council districts, including a map and accompanying report, by the commission requires an affirmative vote from at least two-thirds of serving commissioners. All other actions of the commission require a simple majority vote to pass.

(5) The commission shall be subject to the Indiana Open Door Law and the Access to Public Records Act.

(g) Legislative Approval.

(1) The commission shall provide, and publish on its webpage, the descriptions of its recommended council districts, along with the accompanying map and report, to the common council no later than the first Wednesday in September of the second year following a decennial census.

(2) In performing its responsibilities under Indiana Code § 36-4-6-3, the common council shall determine whether the commission's recommended districts conform to the criteria contained in federal and state law.

(3) The common council shall act on the commission's recommended districts before November 1 of the second year following a decennial census. If the common council rejects the commission's recommended districts, the common council shall return the matter to the commission with a written statement of the reasons for the rejection.

(4) If the common council rejects the commission's recommended districts, the commission shall, before December 1 of the second year following a decennial census, consider the common council's written statement of reasons for the rejection, revise the map and descriptions accordingly, and return them along with any revised report, to the common council.

(5) After considering the commission's final recommendations, or if the commission fails to complete its work, the common council shall perform its duties under Indiana Code §§ 3-5-10 and 36-4-6-3. If the common council rejects the commission's final recommendations, it shall provide a written statement of the reasons for the rejection.

Chapter 2.08 - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

2.08.020 General provisions.

For the executive branch ~~and the city's boards, commissions and councils~~, the following general provisions apply unless otherwise specified by statute or ordinance.

(1) Appointments. All department heads shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to commission or board approval when required by this title, and serve at the pleasure of the mayor. Department heads shall appoint deputies and other employees within their departments with the approval of the mayor.

~~(2) Terms. The terms for all boards, commissions, and councils established under this title shall, after having been established in a staggered manner, be for a period of two years and expire on January 31st. For all such boards, commissions, and councils in effect on December 1, 2014, the terms shall be as set forth in the Proposed Board and Commission Term Expiration Dates, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into the code. In compliance with Indiana Code § 36-1-5-4, two copies of the proposal shall be on file in the office of city clerk for public inspection. For all boards, commissions, and councils established after December 1, 2014, the manner for achieving staggered terms shall be set forth in the enabling legislation and shall spread the expiration dates as evenly as is practicable between the appointing authorities and over all of the appointments.¶¶~~

~~(3) Residential Requirement. All appointments to city boards, commissions and councils shall be made from residents of the city except those positions that are directed otherwise by state law or city ordinance. If a city employee is appointed to a city board, commission or council by virtue of the employment position, the residency requirement may be waived.¶¶~~

~~In the event a member of a board, commission, or council no longer resides in the city, the member shall resign immediately and notify the appropriate appointing official or body.¶¶~~

~~(4) Removal for Cause. Except for appointees who serve at the pleasure of the mayor, a member of a board, commission or council may be removed for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the board, commission, or council or four regularly scheduled meetings in any twelve month period; provided, that any member may submit in writing to the appointing authority any extenuating circumstances. Such written submission shall be made within five business days before the formal decision to remove is reached. Acceptance of extenuating factors by the appointing official or body puts the member on notice that further excessive absenteeism shall result in removal.¶¶~~

~~(5) Vacancies by Death, Resignation Failure to Appoint. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of a board, commission, or council through resignation or death, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased member. If a member's term has expired, but the appointing authority has failed to act, the appointment of the member whose term has expired carries over until the appointing authority reappoints or appoints a successor.¶¶~~

~~(6) Majority Vote. Majority vote means a majority of the members of a board, commission or council who are present and voting.¶¶~~

~~(7) Quorum. Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members serving on a board, commission or council, excepting the nonvoting ex officio members, constitute a quorum for purpose of conducting the official business of the board, commission or council.¶¶~~

~~(8) Parliamentary Procedure. Meetings of all boards, commissions and councils shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in Roberts Rules of Order. ¶¶~~

~~(9) Officers. Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.¶¶~~

~~(10) Duties of the Secretary. The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.¶¶~~

~~(11) Special Meetings. A special meeting of a board, commission or council may be called by the chairperson, the mayor, or by a majority of the members then serving on the board, commission or council requesting such meeting in writing. Upon receiving such request, the chairperson shall thereafter call a special meeting to be held within twenty days.¶~~

~~(12) Office Space and Staff. Provision of office space and staff to boards, commissions and councils shall be at the discretion of the mayor, subject to common council appropriation approval.~~

~~(13)~~(2) Budget. All departments, divisions of departments, boards, commissions and councils shall prepare and submit annual budgets in accordance with the forms, timetables, and procedures promulgated by the mayor.

~~(14) The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the city's boards, commissions and councils.¶~~

~~Chapter 2.12 BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS~~

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council Memorandum

To: Councilmembers

From: Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith

Subject: Ordinance 2026-04 - To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" Re: Consolidating and Amending Boards and Commissions Provisions in Chapters 2.02, 2.08 and 2.12

Date: January 28, 2026

Ordinance 2026-04 seeks to accomplish the following goals:

Moving text from BMC 2.08.020 to 2.02.050

Currently, the general provisions that apply to the city's volunteer boards and commissions are situated in BMC 2.08 "Executive Branch," although these bodies are not part of the executive branch. There are also currently two chapters of BMC Title 2 that are very similar: 2.02 "Boards and Commissions" and 2.12 "Boards, Commissions and Councils." Ord. 2026-04 moves the general provisions from 2.08 to 2.02, under a new sub-heading "General Provisions" (2.02.050).

This change was discussed in the Committee on Council Processes and approved by general consensus.

Deleting duplicative BMC chapter 2.12

As mentioned above, 2.12 has an almost identical heading as 2.02. Ord. 2026-04 moves all sections of 2.12 to 2.02 and deletes chapter 2.12.

Adding a Code of Conduct for board and commission members

Deputy Clerk Jennifer Crossley has worked with City Legal on a Code of Conduct that all members of boards and commissions will need to sign in the future. The Committee on Council Processes has reviewed the Code of Conduct, and it is currently being finalized. Ord. 2026-04 makes reference to the Code of Conduct in the context of reasons for dismissal, but it does not include the actual text.

Changing the name of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

On November 18, 2025, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability unanimously approved their Resolution 2025-04 recommending to the Common Council that the

name of the commission be changed to Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience. To meet this request, the change has been incorporated into Ord. 2026-04.

Please find the BCOS memo and resolution included with this legislation.

I would appreciate your support of Ord. 2026-04 and am available via email and phone to answer any questions you may have.



November 25, 2025

Council President Hopi Stosberg
Bloomington Common Council

Dear President Stosberg,

On November 18, 2025, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) unanimously adopted Resolution 2025-04 (*To Change the Name of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to the "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience"*), pursuant to Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B), which empowers BCOS to advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council.

It is the expressed opinion of BCOS that changing its name to "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience" would better reflect that sustainability and resiliency are two distinct-but-interdependent concepts that are central to the Commission's operating philosophy. Additionally, it would help signal to the public and community partners our commitment to enhancing Bloomington's sustainability as well as its ability to withstand and adapt to unforeseen disruptions.

Please find enclosed the language of that resolution, including ordinance language that would effectuate the proposed change in city code.

We appreciate Council's consideration of this recommendation and are happy to provide additional information or answer questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Vassel".

Justin Vassel, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

CC Nicole Bolden
Bloomington City Clerk

Lisa Lehner
Council Administrator/Attorney

Dave Rollo
Councilmember
BCOS Commissioner

Shawn Miya
Assistant Director of Sustainability

Encl: BCOS Resolution 2025-04

Sponsor(s):
Jami Scholl
Dave Rollo

Passed 9-0-0

RESOLUTION 2025-04

**TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY TO THE “BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
AND RESILIENCE”**

- WHEREAS, sustainability seeks to maintain and enhance the long-term integrity of the integrated socio-ecological and economic system to ensure human and environmental wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS, resilience refers to the capacity of this integrated system to absorb disruptions, maintain its core functions and structures, and adapt to and transform in the face of both short-term shocks and long-term uncertainties, making it essential for achieving sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, recent and foreseeable disruptions—including climate-induced droughts and destructive weather events, economic instability, artificial intelligence-driven workforce displacement, food system vulnerabilities, shifts in federal policy, and public health crises—threaten the integrity of community systems and demand resilient infrastructure capable of maintaining essential functions under stress; and
- WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate “community resilience” into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, including a more complete definition of the Commission’s areas of work will facilitate the Commission’s ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. the Common Council consider adopting an ordinance, such as that found in attachment 1, which amends BMC § 2.12.100 to rename the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability as the "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience".

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this 18th day of November, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Vasel", is positioned above a horizontal line.

JUSTIN VASEL, Chair
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

**BCOS RESOLUTION 2025-04
ATTACHMENT 1**

DRAFT ORDINANCE LANGUAGE

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED
“ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL”**

Re: Amending BMC 2.12.100 (Bloomington Commission on Sustainability)

- WHEREAS, sustainability seeks to maintain and enhance the long-term integrity of the integrated socio-ecological and economic system to ensure human and environmental wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS, resilience refers to the capacity of this integrated system to absorb disruptions, maintain its core functions and structures, and adapt to and transform in the face of both short-term shocks and long-term uncertainties, making it essential for achieving sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, recent and foreseeable disruptions—including climate-induced droughts and destructive weather events, economic instability, artificial intelligence-driven workforce displacement, food system vulnerabilities, shifts in federal policy, and public health crises—threaten the integrity of community systems and demand resilient infrastructure capable of maintaining essential functions under stress; and
- WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-05 amended Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) paragraph 2.12.100(8)(B) to integrate “community resilience” into the operational philosophy of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); and
- WHEREAS, including a more complete definition of the Commission’s areas of work will facilitate the Commission’s ongoing efforts in public education and identifying mission-aligned community partners; and
- WHEREAS, the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability passed BCOS Resolution 2025-04 requesting that their name be updated to better reflect the full scope of their operating philosophy.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2.12.100 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” shall be renamed “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”.

SECTION 2. Section 2.12.100 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” shall be amended by deleting the words “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” in sub-part (1) and replacing them with the words “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”.

SECTION 3. If any sections, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications 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 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council Amendment Form

- Ordinance: 2026-04
- Amendment: Amendment 01
- Submitted by: Councilmember Asare
- Date: February 13, 2026

Proposed Amendment:

1. Add a new Whereas clause between the third and fourth Whereas clauses in the Preamble of the Ordinance to read as follows:

Whereas, Common Council finds that it is beneficial to set forth clearly a procedure for removal of a member appointed by Common Council to a board or commission.

2. Amend Section 2 of the Ordinance to read as follows:

A new section 2.02.050 entitled General Provisions is hereby added to Chapter 2.02 of the Bloomington Municipal Code as reflected in Attachment A. This new section shall incorporate the general provisions removed from Chapter 2.08 as addressed in Section 1 of this ordinance. The new section shall include a new Code of Conduct subsection and amend the Removal for Cause subsection to allow removal of a member for violations of the Code of Conduct

3. Amend Attachment A of Ordinance 2026-04, as shown in Amended Attachment A.

Synopsis

This amendment, sponsored by Councilmember Asare, inserts a new Whereas clause to the Preamble and revisions to Section 2 of the Ordinance to address the procedure for removal of a member appointed by Common Council to a board or commission. It also revises Attachment A of Ordinance consistent with the amendments to the Ordinance.

02/18/2026 Regular Session Action: Pending

Ordinance 2026-04 - Attachment A

Chapter 2.02 - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2.02.050 - General Provisions

The following provisions apply to the city's boards, commissions and councils, with the exception of the common council.

- (1) **Terms.** The terms for all boards, commissions, and councils established under this title shall, after having been established in a staggered manner, be for a period of two years and expire on January 31st. For all such boards, commissions, and councils in effect on December 1, 2014, the terms shall be as set forth in the Proposed Board and Commission Term Expiration Dates, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into the code. In compliance with Indiana Code § 36-1-5-4, two copies of the proposal shall be on file in the office of city clerk for public inspection. For all boards, commissions, and councils established after December 1, 2014, the manner for achieving staggered terms shall be set forth in the enabling legislation and shall spread the expiration dates as evenly as is practicable between the appointing authorities and over all of the appointments.
- (2) **Residential Requirement.** All appointments to city boards, commissions and councils shall be made from residents of the city except those positions that are directed otherwise by state law or city ordinance. If a city employee is appointed to a city board, commission or council by virtue of the employment position, the residency requirement may be waived. In the event a member of a board, commission, or council no longer resides in the city, the member shall resign immediately and notify the appropriate appointing official or body.
- (3) **Code of Conduct.** Appointees to boards, commissions and councils shall comply with a code of conduct that is maintained by the clerk's office. The clerk's office shall present the code of conduct to each appointee for review and signature.
- (4) **Removal for Cause of Member.** ~~Except for Mayoral appointees who serve at the pleasure of the mayor, a member of a board, commission or council may be removed for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, violations of the code of conduct specified in subsection (3) and excessive absenteeism.~~
Common Council appointees serve at the pleasure of Council and may be removed at any time by a majority vote of Council.
- (5) **Removal for Excessive Absenteeism.** Excessive absenteeism is a failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the board, commission, or council or four regularly scheduled meetings in any twelve-month period;

provided, that any member may submit in writing to the appointing authority any extenuating circumstances. Such written submission shall be made within five business days before the formal decision to remove is reached. Acceptance of extenuating factors by the appointing official or body puts the member on notice that further excessive absenteeism shall result in removal.

- (6) Vacancies by Death, Resignation—Failure to Appoint. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of a board, commission, or council through resignation or death, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased member. If a member's term has expired, but the appointing authority has failed to act, the appointment of the member whose term has expired carries over until the appointing authority reappoints or appoints a successor.
- (7) Majority Vote. Majority vote means a majority of the members of a board, commission or council who are present and voting.
- (8) Quorum. Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members serving on a board, commission or council, excepting the nonvoting ex officio members, constitute a quorum for purpose of conducting the official business of the board, commission or council.
- (9) Parliamentary Procedure. Meetings of all boards, commissions and councils shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in Roberts Rules of Order.
- (10) Officers. Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.
- (11) Duties of the Secretary. The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.
- (12) Special Meetings. A special meeting of a board, commission or council may be called by the chairperson, the mayor, or by a majority of the members then serving on the board, commission or council requesting such meeting in writing. Upon receiving such request, the chairperson shall thereafter call a special meeting to be held within twenty days.
- (13) Office Space and Staff. Provision of office space and staff to boards, commissions and councils shall be at the discretion of the mayor, subject to common council appropriation approval.
- (14) The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the city's boards, commissions and councils.

2.02.060 Animal care and control commission.

The commission shall be composed of six members.

(1) Appointments. Three members shall be appointed by the mayor, two by the common council, and one by and representative of the Monroe County board of commissioners.

(2) Qualifications. One of the mayor's appointees shall be a licensed veterinarian who is a resident of Monroe County and one shall be a member of the Monroe County Humane Association. The representative from the Monroe County board of commissioners must reside in Monroe County.

(3) Meeting. Regular meetings shall be held once every month as called by the chairperson.

(4) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Formulate, adopt, and implement policies, principles, and standards for humane treatment and control of all animals in the city;

(b) Review the decisions and actions of the director of the animal care and control division and any animal care and control officer in any matter related to the enforcement of this chapter, if a written request for a hearing is received from the complaining animal owner within ten days after that action is taken; and

(c) Make recommendations to the mayor and the common council as to necessary ordinances concerning the care, treatment and control of animals; and

(d) In carrying out its duties, consider public health and the safety of residents, as well as ecosystem health and services; and

(e) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.070 Bloomington Arts Commission.

(a) Public Policy and Purpose. The City of Bloomington recognizes that the arts are an important part of the culture and economy of the community, and that the city has a responsibility to foster an environment conducive to the community's participation in the arts. The conservation and development of the city's artistic resources are essential to the social, educational, and economic vitality of the city. Artists, works of art, and

artistic institutions contribute to the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of Bloomington. The Bloomington Arts Commission seeks to provide inclusive and equitable opportunities to all artists and community members, especially those who have been under-served.

The Bloomington Arts Commission strives to develop and enhance the Bloomington arts community by:

- (1) Supporting local artists and artist groups;
- (2) Engaging Bloomington residents in arts across genres;
- (3) Facilitating connections between City of Bloomington staff, artists, and artists groups; and
- (4) Commissioning public arts works by local, regional, and national artists.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Commission" means the Bloomington Arts Commission as created in this section.
- (2) "Public art project" means an original work of high quality art of any medium, which is created by an artist or artists, which belongs and is accessible to the public.

(c) Appointments. The commission shall consist of eleven members. Six members shall be appointed by the mayor and five by the common council.

(d) Qualifications. All members of the commission shall have a demonstrated commitment to the arts. To the extent possible, priority shall be given first to ensuring a broad representation of professional artists from the disciplines of the visual, performing and literary arts and then to arts administrators and arts consumers and to representatives from the education and business communities.

(e) Terms. Members shall serve terms of three years. Members having served two consecutive three-year terms may not be reappointed until one year has passed from the end of the second term. Terms shall be staggered, with four members' first term ending within one year; three members' first term ending within two years, and four members' first term ending within three years after their initial appointment, so that no more than five members will leave the commission at the end of each term, which will be the thirty-first day of January.

(f) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Adopt administrative rules and regulations, adopt procedures, conduct activities and form committees necessary to conduct the commission's business;

(2) Develop, administer, and promote programs to achieve the commission's purpose;

(3) Inform and advise the common council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on current arts issues and large-scale strategic planning projects for the arts; and

(4) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.080 Percentage for the Arts Program.

A policy is established to include works of art and design services of artists in capital projects of the city.

(a) Purpose. The city through the Bloomington Arts Commission accepts responsibility for expanding the community's experience with art by bringing art to public places. Public art has enabled people in all societies to better understand and enrich their individual and collective lives. In order to sustain our economic and cultural vibrancy, the city supports public art and the artists who make it possible. A policy is therefore established to include works of art and/or design services of artists in certain city capital projects.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Annual public art projects plan" means a prioritized list of art projects, with budgets and recommended design approach, developed by the commission in consultation with city departments anticipating capital projects.

"City building" means a fixed structure with walls and a roof that will be owned by the city.

"City capital project" means any permanent capital project paid for, wholly or in part, by the city to construct or remodel any building, structure, park, utility, street, sidewalk, or parking facility, or any portion thereof, that will be owned by the city.

"Commission" means the Bloomington arts commission.

"Construction costs" means the cost of the project excluding costs for acquisition of land, design, and financing.

"Funds" means a source of money for construction projects from which art is not precluded as an object of expenditure.

"Guidelines" means a document that outlines how the city will implement the arts program, which shall include but not be limited to methods for the selection of artists, for selection and placement of works of art and for the education and promotion of public art.

"Landscaping" means areas, including the pedestrian portions of streetscapes, where by grading, placing concrete or rock, or planting vegetation, the natural features of a site are made more attractive.

"Municipal arts fund" means a dedicated fund for administration of the public art program.

"Parks facilities" means amphitheaters, fountains, pools, pedestrian ways, sports areas and other improvements where people gather or play.

"Public art" is an original work of art of the highest quality created by an artist, artists, or a collaboration of design professionals which belongs and is accessible to the public, is integrated into the site, and enhances the quality of city life.

(c) Bloomington Arts Commission Authority. The commission shall:

(1) Prepare a set of guidelines for carrying out the city's public art program which shall be submitted in the form of resolutions to the board of park commissioners, the board of public works and the common council.

(2) Review the city's annual capital improvement plan with city officials and jointly submit an annual public art projects plan to the appropriate board having responsibility over the project for their recommendation and to the common council for their approval. The annual public art projects plan, which may be incorporated into the annual capital improvement plan, shall be submitted to the common council for their consideration at the same time as the civil city budget.

(3) Encourage and pursue additional funds for the program which may be deposited in the municipal arts fund.

(4) Acquire works of art, retain consultants or hire employees, and take other reasonable measures within its appropriations to administer the public art program.

(d) Criteria for the selection and placement of public art. The following criteria shall be used for the selection and placement of public art:

(1) Public art shall be located in areas where residents and visitors live and congregate and shall be highly accessible and visible;

(2) Areas such as the entryways, downtown, neighborhoods, and the parks shall be treated as separate areas that deserve separate attention in the guidelines;

(3) Since public art has a significant effect on the lives of those who frequent public places, public art should reflect enduring, and not transitory, artistic concepts;

(4) Public art shall reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of this city without deviation from a standard of excellence; and

(5) Selection shall also take into account appropriateness to the site, permanence of the work in light of surrounding environmental conditions, maintenance requirements, quality of work, likelihood the artist can successfully complete the work within the available funding, and works of art already in the public art collection.

(e) Funds for Works of Art. Appropriations for certain city capital projects shall include an amount not less than one percent of the city's contribution to the estimated construction costs of the project for public art. These city capital projects shall include the construction or renovation of all city buildings, and shall be otherwise limited to the construction of parks facilities and the landscaping portion of major projects that are approved in the annual public arts projects plan.

(f) Municipal Arts Fund. The funds for public art include the allocation of one percent of the construction costs of certain city capital projects along with donations, grants, and all other appropriations for public art. Those funds shall be deposited in a municipal arts fund unless they are for a city capital project, in which case, they may be kept as other funds for capital projects are kept.

Expenditures from this fund may be used for design services of artists and for the selection, acquisition, commissioning, and display of art works, for maintenance, and

administration of the program as outlined in the guidelines and annual public art project plan. Funds approved as part of one project, but not deemed necessary in total or in part for said project, may, if not precluded by any law, be expended on other projects or purposes approved in the annual public art project plan.

2.02.090 Environmental commission.

(1) Purpose. It is declared to be the public policy of the City of Bloomington and the purpose of this section to promote the stewardship and preservation of the city's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.

(2) Appointments. The commission shall consist of twelve members, six appointed by the mayor and six appointed by the common council.

(3) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with expertise in environmental fields.

(4) Meetings. The commission shall meet a minimum of once each month.

(5) Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.

(b) To encourage, conduct, synthesize, and report on studies, investigations, and research relating to emerging issues in Bloomington and make recommendations to the appropriate public and private bodies.

(c) To collect and disseminate information through outreach efforts that encourage engagement and personal commitment to strengthening Bloomington's environmental health.

(d) To collaborate with all departments and governmental branches of the city concerning the impacts of their operations and policies on the city's environment and natural resources, through the development and distribution of reports, memos, and resolutions.

(e) To work with city staff to apply for, provide input on, accept, receive and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section. Such funds received by the

commission pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in accordance with the administrative regulations of the commission.

(f) To cooperate with partners or groups within or outside of Bloomington on matters of environmental well-being such as responsible stewardship of biodiversity, air and water quality, and land use.

(g) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.100 Transportation commission.

(a) Purpose. The transportation commission (hereinafter referred to as "commission") is established with the explicit purpose of guiding the city's transportation endeavors through a comprehensive framework which seeks to provide adequate and safe access to all right-of-way users while prioritizing nonautomotive modes and sustainability. The commission shall provide recommendations and guidance to the mayor and common council in the pursuit of developing and implementing a city-wide policy to eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and passengers; shall promote sustainable transportation; shall foster equitable access; and shall promote community-centric design. The commission shall also serve as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies and grant programs.

(b) Appointments. The commission shall consist of nine members, none of whom may hold any employment, elected, or appointed position with the city, unless specifically permitted as outlined in this section:

(1) One member appointed by the mayor shall be a member from the council for community accessibility or a designated representative. The council for community accessibility shall submit a list of at least three names to the mayor for consideration;

(2) One member appointed by the public transportation corporation board of directors shall be a member or a designated representative, including from among staff of the corporation;

(3) One member appointed by the plan commission shall be a member or a designated representative;

(4) One member appointed by the board of public works shall be a member or a designated representative;

(5) One member appointed by the common council shall be from among its membership;

(6) Two members shall be appointed by the council, and shall be residents living within city limits who have experience using forms of travel other than personal motor vehicles as their primary method of transportation;

(7) Two members shall be appointed, one by the mayor and one by the council, and shall be residents living within the city limits. Preference for appointments shall be given to board members, employees, or other formal volunteers with Monroe County Community School Corporation, especially as involved in safe routes to school, pollution reduction, and school bus utilization; and members of community organizations dedicated to serving marginalized groups, especially safety-marginalized transportation users.

(c) Terms. Members appointed from the membership of the public transportation corporation board of directors, plan commission, board of public works, and common council shall serve a term coextensive with their terms on the body from which they were appointed or until that body appoints another at its first regular meeting of the year. Members appointed from the council for community accessibility, members who are acting as appointed representatives, and members appointed by common council who are not among its membership shall serve a two year term.

(d) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Coordinate, supervise, and, when necessary, approve transportation-related studies, plans, consultant reports, activities, programs, and projects, including acting as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies, plans and plans updates, and grant programs.

(2) Review all transportation projects, proposed changes to Title 15 (Vehicles and Traffic), relevant proposed changes to Title 12 (Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewers), and other applicable changes to the Bloomington Municipal Code to determine if the proposed change:

(A) Is consistent with the comprehensive plan and other applicable city adopted plans;

(B) Is consistent with the best practices for eliminating all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries within the city;

(C) Is consistent with advancing a sustainable transportation system and equitable access to all transportation facility users while prioritizing non-automotive modes; and

(D) Has adequately conducted public engagement and considered community-centric design tied to targeted outcomes.

(3) Provide a forum for members of the public to submit transportation-related testimonials, inquires, and requests;

(4) Conduct education activities in matters related to transportation safety in an effort to both eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, and promote sustainable forms of transportation within the city;

(5) Make recommendations on transportation policy, including but not limited to: changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, capital planning, program implementation, or any other aspect of advancing a safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation system;

(6) Make recommendations on public parking policy, including but not limited to: pricing, hours of operation, addition or removal of parking supply or parking spaces, changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, enforcement procedures, or any other aspect of parking management policy;

(7) Produce or oversee an annual analysis of parking asset management, including but not limited to: reporting all costs and revenues for city- owned structured parking, surface parking, metered parking, neighborhood parking zones, and other relevant city-owned parking; documenting parking utilization rates and longitudinal trends; conducting or contracting for parking data analytics; and recommending changes to the parking system necessary to advance the goals of the comprehensive plan and other applicable city plans;

(8) Request appropriations through the mayor and communicate the need for appropriations to the city council, or research and apply for grants, gifts, or other funds from public or private agencies, for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions of this section.

(e) Procedure and Scheduling. The commission shall establish its own rules and procedures, subject to amendment by a majority vote. This shall include the ability to define its meeting schedule within the scope of the established rules and procedures.

(f) Staff. The commission shall be primarily staffed by the engineering department. When serving as a steering committee, the commission shall be staffed by the planning and transportation department. Staff from the department of public works, the economic and sustainable development department, and other departments deemed necessary for decision-making to support the city's transportation and parking goals shall attend meetings of the transportation commission at the commission's request.

2.02.110 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission.

(1) Appointments. The Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission shall consist of seven members, with three appointed by the mayor, three appointed by the common council, and one appointed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(2) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons belonging to local religious organizations, the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, Monroe County Government, local community school corporations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(3) Powers and Duties. To promote and honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and legacy in our community, with a focus on fostering diversity, inclusivity, and advancing racial equity and justice for historically marginalized communities. The commission may appoint volunteers and associates committed to these goals. The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.120 Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience.

(1) Public Policy and Purpose. The purpose of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience is to promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Broadly, sustainability can be seen as a community or society meeting its needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and comprehensive framework for organizing and prioritizing sustainability goals and actions. The SDGs shall guide the commission's work, along with sustainability components of relevant city plans, including the comprehensive plan, climate action plan, and sustainability action plan.

(2) General. The commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.02.050 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.

(3) Appointments and Residency. The commission shall consist of fourteen members. Six of the members shall be appointed by the mayor and six shall be appointed by the common council. No more than two of the mayor's appointments and no more than two of the common council appointments may be citizens who live outside the corporate city limits of Bloomington and within Monroe County. One of the six common council appointments shall be a member of the common council. One of the members shall be appointed by the Monroe County Commissioners from Monroe County government. And, the Director of the Indiana University Office of Sustainability or his/her designee shall serve as the ex-officio member from Indiana University. All members shall have a vote and shall serve without compensation.

(4) Qualifications. Sustainability is an interdisciplinary concept. As such, the commission's membership shall reflect environmental, social and economic perspectives, unified by the common interest of sustainability. The commission shall draw its members from government, business, academia, not-for-profits and neighborhood associations.

(5) Officers. Officers shall be selected by vote of the commission members annually.

(6) Meetings. The commission shall meet one time each month, every month of the year, unless it decides to cancel the meeting.

(7) Staffing. The city's sustainability coordinator shall serve as staff liaison to the commission. The liaison will research and pursue funding opportunities for sustainable development, engage in education and outreach, and identify "best practices." The city administration shall provide general administrative support for the commission.

(8) Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(A) To coordinate ongoing and to propose and promote new sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, government, nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions, including outreach, research, and education programs;

(B) To advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability and community resilience;

(C) To provide recommendations for assessing, or provide an assessment of, Bloomington's current and future sustainability status, in cooperation with city staff and

other city boards and commissions as appropriate, including through the potential use of sustainability indicators or based on the goals of existing plans;

(D) To advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies, boards and commissions of the City of Bloomington, the state, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the federal government, and with interested persons or groups on matters of sustainability;

(E) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business; and,

(F) To research and apply for grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section.

(G) To submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.02.130 Community advisory on public safety commission.

(a) Establishment and Purpose. There shall be established a community advisory on public safety commission ("commission"), which shall:

(1) Perform research and gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community members, with specific focus on perceptions and preference data gathered from minority community members, individuals who are disabled, and other often marginalized community members; and

(2) Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing; and

(3) Identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington.

(4) Make recommendations to the common council, the board of public safety, and/or the mayor or the mayor's designee on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.

(b) General. The commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.02.050 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.

(c) Appointments. The commission shall be composed of nine voting members appointed by the common council. Each member shall have one vote and shall serve without compensation.

(d) Qualifications. Citizen appointments to the commission must be at least eighteen years of age and reside within the City of Bloomington. Strongly encouraged to apply are residents who are historically underrepresented in local government. Such groups may include, but are not limited to residents:

- (1) Who are Black;
 - (2) Who are Latiné;
 - (3) Who are people of color;
 - (4) With disabilities;
 - (5) Who are experiencing or who have experienced mental health challenges;
 - (6) Who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender;
 - (7) Who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness;
 - (8) Who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence;
 - (9) Who have a previous record of incarceration;
 - (10) With addictions; and
 - (11) Who have a demonstrated background of empowering historically disadvantaged groups and working to further racial, social, and economic equity.
- (e) Officers. Officers shall be selected by a vote of the commission members annually.
- (f) Meetings. The commission shall meet monthly, unless canceled by the commission, with a minimum of four meetings per year.
- (g) Staffing. The common council staff shall provide general administrative support for the regularly scheduled monthly meetings.
- (h) Terms. The initial terms of five city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2022. The term of the remaining initial six city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2023. Thereafter, all terms of city resident appointments shall be for two years and expire on January 31.

(i) Powers and Duties.

(1) In its actions, the commission shall seek to promote transparency, accountability, a collaborative spirit, long-term and strategic thinking, and effective risk management.

(2) The commission shall:

(A) Gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from: racial minority; economically disadvantaged; and marginalized residents of Bloomington.

(B) Research evidence-based approaches to public safety focusing on those approaches outside the scope of traditional policing, including, but not limited to:

(i) The establishment of an alternate crisis response phone number;

(ii) Investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, and/or job training to mitigate the causes of crime; and

(iii) All other innovative approaches.

(C) Explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the U.S. and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington;

(D) Make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, the board of public safety, and the mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members;

(E) Promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs;

(F) Provide an annual report of its activities to the common council, mayor and the public.

2.02.140 Citizens' redistricting advisory commission.

(a) Establishment and Purpose. There is hereby established a five-member citizens' redistricting advisory commission, hereinafter "commission," whose purpose shall be to make recommendations to the common council regarding its decennial redistricting ordinance, which divides the city into the six council districts from which councilmembers shall be elected; and to make recommendations to the Monroe County Commissioners on dividing the city into precincts.

(b) Term. Because of the time-limited nature of the commission's purpose, the commission shall be limited in term to two years from the date of its formation ("formation date"), after which time it shall disband. The commission's first formation date shall be January 1, 2021, and shall be reformed at the beginning of the year following each decennial United States Census ("census year"). All commission members shall be appointed to serve until final district boundaries are adopted by the common council, or until two years after the commission's formation date, whichever comes first. The commission shall be reformed in the event that the city is required, due to annexation or other legal procedures, to redraw council-district lines outside of these periods. The same membership selection process shall be followed in the event the commission is reformed.

(c) Membership Qualifications. The commission shall consist of five members, subject to the following qualifications and limitations.

(1) Political Affiliations. Commissioners shall be divided by political affiliation as follows:

A. One member shall be a duly enrolled full-time student at Indiana University Bloomington affiliated with the Democratic Party;

B. One member shall be a non-student affiliated with the Democratic Party;

C. One member shall be a duly enrolled full-time student at Indiana University Bloomington affiliated with the Republican Party;

D. One member shall be a non-student affiliated with the Republican Party; and

E. One member shall be appointed who identifies as independent of either of the two major political parties in the state.

(2) Limitations. The following individuals are excluded from serving on the commission:

(A) Anyone who is currently a public office holder;

(B) Anyone who has been an employee for an elected official, including anyone who has been employed by the City of Bloomington, within ten years of the commission's formation date;

(C) Anyone who is currently an officer of any county-level political party in Monroe County (not including people serving as precinct committee persons);

(D) Anyone who has contributed a cumulative total of \$2,000.00 or more to any political candidate(s) within five years of the commission's formation date;

(E) Anyone registered with the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission;

(F) Immediate family members of any excluded person.

(d) Membership Selection Process. Commissioners shall be selected after an open application process:

(1) Applicants shall attest that they are eligible to serve per the conditions of subsection (c).

(2) The process shall be conducted by a selection committee made up of the three at-large councilmembers. The selection committee shall review all applications and in a public meeting choose ten applicants in five pools of two, one pool for each seat noted in subsection (c)(1), whom they believe are the most qualified to carry out the commission's duties.

(3) The ranking at-large councilmember shall administer a coin flip to select a member from each pool of applicants.

(4) If there is only one eligible applicant for a given seat after complying with the requirements of BMC 2.02, the selection committee may appoint the applicant to the seat. If there are no eligible applicants for a given seat after complying with the requirements of BMC 2.02, the seat may be left empty.

(e) Redistricting Criteria.

(1) The commission shall recommend council district boundaries that comply with the United States Constitution, the Indiana Constitution, and applicable federal and state laws, including the Federal Voting Rights Act and Indiana Code §§ 3-5-10 and 36-4-6-3.

(2) The commission shall prepare descriptions and a map of recommended council district boundaries.

(3) Whenever possible, the commission should avoid recommending districts that split communities of interest into multiple districts. These communities include, but are not limited to, political subdivisions, neighborhoods, school districts, historic districts and other areas where residents share common traits and concerns.

(4) Where it does not negatively impact the above criteria, districts shall be drawn to encourage political competition.

(f) Commission Processes and Transparency.

(1) The city shall establish and maintain, at least until the redistricting process is concluded, a webpage for the commission where redistricting materials shall be published, including the roster of commissioners, meeting agendas and minutes, and draft maps created by the commission.

(2) The commission shall hold public hearings at least every other month, but may choose to meet more often.

(3) The commission shall issue descriptions of recommended council districts, an accompanying map depicting the recommended districts, and a report that explains how the recommended districts comply with subsection (e).

(4) Approval of recommended council districts, including a map and accompanying report, by the commission requires an affirmative vote from at least two-thirds of serving commissioners. All other actions of the commission require a simple majority vote to pass.

(5) The commission shall be subject to the Indiana Open Door Law and the Access to Public Records Act.

(g) Legislative Approval.

(1) The commission shall provide, and publish on its webpage, the descriptions of its recommended council districts, along with the accompanying map and report, to the common council no later than the first Wednesday in September of the second year following a decennial census.

(2) In performing its responsibilities under Indiana Code § 36-4-6-3, the common council shall determine whether the commission's recommended districts conform to the criteria contained in federal and state law.

(3) The common council shall act on the commission's recommended districts before November 1 of the second year following a decennial census. If the common council rejects the commission's recommended districts, the common council shall return the matter to the commission with a written statement of the reasons for the rejection.

(4) If the common council rejects the commission's recommended districts, the commission shall, before December 1 of the second year following a decennial census, consider the common council's written statement of reasons for the rejection, revise the map and descriptions accordingly, and return them along with any revised report, to the common council.

(5) After considering the commission's final recommendations, or if the commission fails to complete its work, the common council shall perform its duties under Indiana Code §§ 3-5-10 and 36-4-6-3. If the common council rejects the commission's final recommendations, it shall provide a written statement of the reasons for the rejection.

Chapter 2.08 - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

2.08.020 General provisions.

For the executive branch ~~and the city's boards, commissions and councils,~~ the following general provisions apply unless otherwise specified by statute or ordinance.

(1) Appointments. All department heads shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to commission or board approval when required by this title, and serve at the pleasure of the mayor. Department heads shall appoint deputies and other employees within their departments with the approval of the mayor.

~~(2) Terms. The terms for all boards, commissions, and councils established under this title shall, after having been established in a staggered manner, be for a period of two years and expire on January 31st. For all such boards, commissions, and councils in effect on December 1, 2014, the terms shall be as set forth in the Proposed Board and Commission Term Expiration Dates, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into the code. In compliance with Indiana Code § 36-1-5-4, two copies of the proposal shall be on file in the office of city clerk for public inspection. For all boards, commissions, and councils established after December 1, 2014, the manner for achieving staggered terms shall be set forth in the enabling legislation and shall spread the expiration dates as evenly as is practicable between the appointing authorities and over all of the appointments.¶¶~~

~~(3) Residential Requirement. All appointments to city boards, commissions and councils shall be made from residents of the city except those positions that are directed otherwise by state law or city ordinance. If a city employee is appointed to a city board, commission or council by virtue of the employment position, the residency requirement may be waived.¶¶~~

~~In the event a member of a board, commission, or council no longer resides in the city, the member shall resign immediately and notify the appropriate appointing official or body.¶¶~~

~~(4) Removal for Cause. Except for appointees who serve at the pleasure of the mayor, a member of a board, commission or council may be removed for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the board, commission, or council or four regularly scheduled meetings in any twelve month period; provided, that any member may submit in writing to the appointing authority any extenuating circumstances. Such written submission shall be made within five business days before the formal decision to remove is reached. Acceptance of extenuating factors by the appointing official or body puts the member on notice that further excessive absenteeism shall result in removal.¶¶~~

~~(5) Vacancies by Death, Resignation Failure to Appoint. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of a board, commission, or council through resignation or death, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased member. If a member's term has expired, but the appointing authority has failed to act, the appointment of the member whose term has expired carries over until the appointing authority reappoints or appoints a successor.¶¶~~

~~(6) Majority Vote. Majority vote means a majority of the members of a board, commission or council who are present and voting.¶¶~~

~~(7) Quorum. Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members serving on a board, commission or council, excepting the nonvoting ex officio members, constitute a quorum for purpose of conducting the official business of the board, commission or council.¶¶~~

~~(8) Parliamentary Procedure. Meetings of all boards, commissions and councils shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in Roberts Rules of Order.¶¶~~

~~(9) Officers. Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.¶¶~~

~~(10) Duties of the Secretary. The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.¶¶~~

~~(11) Special Meetings. A special meeting of a board, commission or council may be called by the chairperson, the mayor, or by a majority of the members then serving on the board, commission or council requesting such meeting in writing. Upon receiving such request, the chairperson shall thereafter call a special meeting to be held within twenty days.¶~~

~~(12) Office Space and Staff. Provision of office space and staff to boards, commissions and councils shall be at the discretion of the mayor, subject to common council appropriation approval.~~

~~(13)~~(2) Budget. All departments, divisions of departments, boards, commissions and councils shall prepare and submit annual budgets in accordance with the forms, timetables, and procedures promulgated by the mayor.

~~(14) The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the city's boards, commissions and councils.¶~~

~~Chapter 2.12 BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS~~

Ordinance 2026-05 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” to Allow Discussion at First Readings of Ordinances and to Clarify the Ordinance and Resolution Readings Provisions in Chapter 2.04

Preamble

Whereas, section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled “Ordinances and resolutions; Readings required,” states that an ordinance may not be debated or amended at its first reading or introduction unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would permit Councilmembers to understand the purpose of the legislation and to identify and resolve issues earlier in the legislative process; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would promote efficiency and result in fewer readings of complex or contentious legislation; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that allowing debate and amendment of ordinances at first reading would alleviate time pressures associated with legislation that has a statutory or other deadline for enactment; and

Whereas, Common Council finds that the general prohibition that ordinances not be adopted at first reading, as well as the exceptions and procedures for adoption of ordinances at first reading, provide sufficient protections to public participation.

Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:

Section 1: Amend Section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to allow discussion at first readings of ordinances and to clarify readings of ordinances and resolutions.

Section 2.04.300 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled “Ordinances and resolutions - Readings required,” is hereby amended as reflected in Attachment A.

Section 2: Amend Section 2.04.310 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to clarify voting procedures for ordinances and resolutions.

Section 2.04.310 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled “Ordinances and resolutions - Vote required,” is hereby amended as reflected in Attachment A.

Section 3: Severability.

If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications 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 4: Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Passed

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Isak Nti Asare

President, City of Bloomington

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:

Nicole Bolden

Clerk, City of Bloomington

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2026:

Nicole Bolden

Clerk, City of Bloomington

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the _____ day of _____, 2026:

Kerry Thomson

Mayor, City of Bloomington

Synopsis

This ordinance sponsored by Councilmember Zulich allows debate and amendment of ordinances at first readings. It also clarifies the readings and voting procedures for ordinances and resolutions.

Ordinance 2026-05 - Attachment A

Chapter 2.04 - Common Council

2.04.300 - Ordinances and resolutions—Readings required.

~~(a) Every ordinance shall be given two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage and no ordinance shall be passed on the same day or at the same meeting as it is introduced except by unanimous consent of the members present, at least two-thirds of the members being present and voting. An ordinance may not be debated or amended at its first reading or introduction unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise.¶¶~~

~~(b) At each reading of an ordinance the synopsis shall be read and the clerk shall read the ordinance by title only, provided there is unanimous consent.¶¶~~

~~(c) Each resolution submitted to the council shall be read by title only provided there is unanimous consent.¶¶~~

(a) Every ordinance shall be given at least two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage unless there is unanimous consent of the members present to proceed to a vote after first reading, in which case a two-thirds vote of all the members is required to pass the ordinance. This procedure to pass an ordinance on the same day or in the same meeting at which it is introduced does not apply to zoning ordinances or amendments to zoning ordinances adopted under Indiana Code 36-7 and cases where otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

(b) An ordinance may be debated and amended at its first reading and at subsequent readings. Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of members, the city clerk shall read the title and synopsis of the ordinance at each reading.

(c) Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of the members, every resolution shall be read by title and synopsis only and may be debated, amended and adopted at the meeting of introduction.

2.04.310 - Ordinances and resolutions—Vote required.

A majority vote of the members of the council shall be necessary to adopt any resolution, order or ordinance, unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise. If there is a vote on an ordinance on the same day or at the same meeting at which it is introduced, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the elected members is required for adoption.

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council Amendment Form

- Ordinance: 2026-05
- Amendment: Amendment 01
- Submitted by: Councilmember Zulich
- Date: February 12, 2026

Proposed Amendment:

1. Add a new Whereas clause between the fourth and fifth Whereas clauses in the Preamble of the Ordinance to read as follows:

Whereas, Indiana Code 36-4-6-13 dictates that:

- a. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the elected members, after unanimous consent of the members present to consider the ordinance, is required to pass an ordinance of a legislative body on the same day or at the same meeting at which it is introduced.
 - b. Subsection (a) does not apply to a zoning ordinance or amendment to a zoning ordinance that is adopted under IC 36-7.
2. Amend Attachment A of Ordinance 2026-05, as shown in Amended Attachment A.

Synopsis

This amendment, sponsored by Councilmember Zulich, inserts a new Whereas clause to the Preamble of the Ordinance to recite state law relevant to adoption of an ordinance on the same day or at the same time it is introduced. It also revises Attachment A of Ordinance regarding the procedures for reading and voting on ordinances and resolutions.

02/18/2026 Regular Session Action: Pending

Ordinance 2026-05 - Amended Attachment A

Chapter 2.04 - Common Council

2.04.300 - Ordinances and resolutions—Readings and vote required.

~~(a) Every ordinance shall be given two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage and no ordinance shall be passed on the same day or at the same meeting as it is introduced except by unanimous consent of the members present, at least two-thirds of the members being present and voting. An ordinance may not be debated or amended at its first reading or introduction unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise.¶¶~~

~~(b) At each reading of an ordinance the synopsis shall be read and the clerk shall read the ordinance by title only, provided there is unanimous consent.¶¶~~

~~(c) Each resolution submitted to the council shall be read by title only provided there is unanimous consent.¶¶~~

(a) Introduction. When an ordinance or resolution is reached on the city council agenda, the presiding officer shall announce the item and read aloud its title and synopsis.

(b) Deliberations. After introduction as spelled out in 2.04.300(a), the ordinance or resolution shall be considered by the council. An ordinance or resolution may be debated and amended at its first reading and at subsequent readings.

(c) Ordinances and resolutions - Vote required. Every ordinance shall be given at least two readings before a vote may be taken on its passage unless there is unanimous consent of the members present to proceed to a vote after first reading, in which case a two-thirds vote of all the elected members is required to pass the ordinance. This procedure to pass an ordinance on the same day or in the same meeting at which it is introduced does not apply to zoning ordinances or amendments to zoning ordinances adopted under Indiana Code 36-7 and cases where otherwise prohibited by state or federal law. At least a majority vote of the elected members is required to pass an ordinance, resolution or other action of Council, unless a greater vote is required by statute.

~~(b) An ordinance may be debated and amended at its first reading and at subsequent readings. Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of members, the city clerk shall read the title and synopsis of the ordinance at each reading.¶¶~~

~~(c) Upon motion made, seconded and approved by a majority of the members, every resolution shall be read by title and synopsis only and may be debated, amended and adopted at the meeting of introduction.~~

~~**2.04.310 Ordinances and resolutions Vote required.**~~

~~A majority vote of the members of the council shall be necessary to adopt any resolution, order or ordinance, unless state or federal requirements provide otherwise. If there is a vote on an ordinance on the same day or at the same meeting at which it is introduced, a two thirds (2/3) vote of all the elected members is required for adoption.~~