

**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

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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 18 day of February, 2026.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Isak Nti Asare, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



City Clerk Nicole Bolden

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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:

- 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>