

City of Bloomington Common Council

AGENDA: Fiscal Committee

Friday, 8:30 AM, 27 March, 2026

Hooker Conference Room (#245), City Hall

401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed at the following [link](#)¹.

Chair: Hopi Stosberg

1. Agenda Review and Approval
2. Update from Controller McKim
 - a. Audit updates & other reporting requirements
 - b. Public Comment
3. 2027 Council Budget Priorities
 - a. Refinements to draft letter
 - b. Budget presentation formatting
 - c. Public Comment
4. Elected Official Salaries
 - a. Framework development
 - b. Public Comment
5. Budget Calendar
 - a. Any additions?
6. Adjournment

REMINDER: Charge of the Special Fiscal Committee:

1. Work closely with the Controller to:
 - o Create a timeline and activity framework for the yearly budgeting calendar
 - o Track progress of the yearly budget and report back to the whole council.
 - o Track fund balances (esp. TIF, CRED, Bonds, etc.)
 - o Recommend scheduling of specific budget related discussions, presentations, and education for the full council.
2. Be responsible for supporting Council Staff with the 2026 Council Budget and presentation of that budget.
3. Continue the work started by the Ad-Hoc Salary Committee to fine-tune the Elected Salary Framework. The Special Fiscal Committee will be responsible for bringing forward the Elected Salary Ordinance for FY2026.
4. Explore and recommend improvements to the budgeting process.

¹<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/89392624389?pwd=nKNpFAIz2yXIKfy2255UbRvwGk7OR.1> Meeting ID: 893 9262 4389 Passcode: 430805

Bloomington Special Fiscal Committee 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/fiscal-committee/meetings?year=2026)⁴ are available on Council's website.

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Committee Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Matt Flaherty	Council President	1/7/2026	1/7/2026 - 1/6/2027
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	Council President	1/7/2026	1/7/2026 - 1/6/2027
Hopi Stosberg	Council President	1/7/2026	1/7/2026 - 1/6/2027
Dave Rollo	Council President	1/7/2026	1/7/2026 - 1/6/2027

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Posted: March 25, 2026

² <https://catstv.net/>

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

⁴ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/fiscal-committee/meetings?year=2026>

To: Mayor Kerry Thomson
From: Bloomington Common Council
Date: March **, 2026
RE: Budget Priorities 2027

As you know, Council has been discussing budget priorities through the lens of outcomes and the 7 priority buckets identified in partnership with the administration. This memo serves as a summary and ranking of our budget priorities for 2027 and requests for budget presentations in light of these priorities.

First, as a body, implementation of existing plans rose to the top of our collective conversations. Existing plans have gone through multiple rounds of community input and vetting, thus implementation of those plans is of high importance for council and for the community as a whole. There is specific interest in highlighting the Safe Streets for All Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the Transportation Plan. Related is interest in development of plans where none currently exist, specifically noting a Public Safety Plan.

Second, through discussion and member surveys, a list of overall priority outcomes were identified and ranked. Deputy Mayor Knapp indicated that our final list of priorities did not need to be separated by priority buckets.

1. Maintenance and enhancement of city assets
 - a. Basic maintenance and upkeep (filling potholes, repaving, etc.)
 - b. Design improvements to improve access, service to community, safety, etc.
2. Making homelessness brief, rare, and nonrepeating
 - a. Increased access to mental healthcare
 - b. Increased access to addiction treatment programs
 - c. Support of early intervention services (like eviction prevention and job support)
 - d. Job and wage growth
 - e. Coordination of support services
 - f. Increased range of affordable housing types
3. Zero traffic fatalities or serious injuries by 2039
 - a. Pedestrian network is cleared quickly and effectively after snowfall
 - b. Transportation network enhancements support all travel modes for people of all ages, abilities and modes of transportation
4. Increase housing diversity within neighborhoods
 - a. Increase predictability for permitting
 - b. Decrease permitting wait times
 - c. Increase range of affordable housing options, including those with Universal Design and/or are environmentally sustainable
5. Address and Reduce systemic inequities

- a. Programs to reduce income inequality across and between ages, races, and genders
- b. Ensure engagement processes are inclusive and representative
- c. Reduce race and class disparities in policing, justice, and public safety systems

**Note: these can look like goals related to systems (like CBU bill discounts/assistance), systematic approaches to government procedures, defining equity, and measuring who is engaging and in what contexts.

- 6. Inclusive and strong local economy, able to stay resilient and adaptable
 - a. Wages, jobs, and GDP outpace population growth
 - b. An increased number of employees who work in Bloomington are able to live in Bloomington
- 7. Bloomington residents have options other than uniformed officers for nonviolent issues
- 8. Strengthen food security networks
 - a. A local food culture is promoted and protected
- 9. Air quality is maintained at a high level and carbon emissions are reduced
 - a. Fossil fuel consumption is reduced community wide
 - b. Increased renewable energy production
- 10. Create vibrant 3rd places/neighborhood hubs
 - a. Activate vacant spaces
 - b. Invest in ensuring public spaces are high quality, engaging, and active
- 11. Waste reduction
 - a. Increased composting

We recognize there may be many methods of meeting the above priorities, they could each fall into more than one of our Outcome Based Budgeting categories or “buckets”, and may include multiple departments and city staff. Additionally, we realize that these priorities require different levels of investment and approaches, including policy updates, support of community partners, programs, and legislative change.

Third, as part of budget presentations, we are interested in hearing how certain programs and expenses are supporting these priorities and splitting those expenses out to the greatest extent possible, including considering direct expenses, staff time, and if the expense falls into more than one priority area. For example, the maintenance of city assets would include filling potholes, which requires direct expenses for materials and also staff time. An intersection redesign to enhance safety may include materials, staff time, and design work and may be considered enhancement of a city asset and also work toward our goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2039.

Closing

City Council of Bloomington, Indiana

Elected Official Compensation Framework

Guiding Principles

Values to guide how the City Council makes decisions regarding elected official compensation.

1. Accessibility of Public Service
 - a. The level of compensation makes elected office attainable for community members of all socioeconomic statuses.
2. Equitable Pay
 - a. Elected officials are compensated equitably according to their respective levels of responsibility and relative to other Bloomington elected officials and departmental leadership
3. Quality Community Service
 - a. Compensation enables elected officials to meaningfully engage with and serve the Bloomington community
4. Informed Decisions
 - a. Council makes informed decisions about elected official compensation in alignment with these Guiding Principles and based on relevant objective data
5. Transparent and Documented Process
 - a. A transparent, repeatable process guides compensation decisions for elected officials and results are clearly communicated.

Annual Process

- April – Committee validates/updates this framework
- May-June – Committee gathers and analyzes relevant information
- August – Chair drafts elected official salary ordinance
- October – Ordinance vote and passage

Mandate

“The city legislative body shall, by ordinance, fix the annual compensation of all elected officers.” IC 36-4-7-2

Basis of Salary Setting

City Council will use the following approach to determine annual salaries for elected officials.

Elected Officials roles are not Civil City positions and are not assigned pay grades. Nonetheless, the ranges established for Civil City leaders are useful points of reference for the following:

1. Mayor: Set salary at a level similar to compensation for Civil City senior leadership positions. The presumptive salary is the midpoint of the salary range for the highest Civil City pay grade.
2. City Clerk: Set salary at a level similar to compensation for Civil City senior leadership positions. The presumptive salary is the midpoint of the salary range for leaders of Civil City departments.
3. Council Member: As a coequal branch of government, yet given the part time nature of the role, salary to be set at a percentage of the mayor's salary. Percentage to be determined based on the number of hours required to meet expectations.

Relevant Information/Data

Information relevant to enable the City Council to make informed decisions.

- Civil City Pay Ranges
- City Budget Constraints/Capacity
- Consultation with Bloomington Elected Officials
- Input from Councilmembers on hours required to meet expectations

Contextual information for reasonableness check:

- Elected official salaries for Monroe County and other Indiana Second Class Cities
- Bloomington Area Median Income and Cost of Living

To: Fiscal Committee
From: Councilmember Stosberg
Date: March 24, 2026
RE: 2027 Budget Year Calendar for review at the March 27, 2026 meeting

Current 2027 budget related dates include:

March 11: Deliberation Session focused on 2027 budget priorities

May 15: Supplemental distribution amounts released for FY2026

July 31: DLGF estimate of property tax losses for FY2027

August 16: DLGF estimate for Local Income Tax distributions for FY2027

August 17, 19, 24, 26: 2027 Department budget hearings

September 23: Introduction of 2027 Budget legislation

October 7: Adoption of Budget legislation

****Note to discuss the elected official salary ordinance for 2027 and goals related to that piece of legislation in order to include them in this calendar.****

Please let me know of any additional dates that should be added or additional items we should consider adding to the calendar. Thank you.

Future meeting dates are:

Friday, April 10 at 8:30 am (Reports from Administration)

Friday, April 24 at 8:30 am (Council Fiscal Business)

Friday, May 8 at 8:30 am (Reports from Administration)

Friday, May 22 at 8:30 am (Council Fiscal Business)

Friday, June 12 at 8:30 am (Reports from Administration)