

Bloomington Common Council-Budget Hearing Memorandum
Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 5:30pm

Councilmember Dave Rollo, Chair, called the meeting to order. **[5:33pm]**

1. Roll Call (*indicates participation via Zoom) [5:34pm]

Council Members:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large, Council President
Courtney Daily (absent)	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3
Sydney Zulich	District 6, Council Vice President

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Sofia McDowell	Chief Deputy Clerk
Colleen Williamson	Deputy Clerk
Jennifer Crossley	Deputy Clerk
Larry Allen	Council Administrator/Attorney
Rick Dietz	Information Technology Services (ITS), Director
John Whikehart	Capital Improvement Board, President
Jeff Underwood	Capital Improvement Board, Treasurer
Talisha Coppock	Downtown Bloomington, Inc., Executive Director
Kerry Thomson	Mayor
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Geoff McKim	Controller
Cheryl Gilliland	Deputy Controller
Margie Rice	Corporation Counsel
Sharr Pechac	Human Resources, Director
Kelly Murphy	ITS, Technology Support Manager
Michael Crump	ITS, Assistant Director of Operations
Hillary Kanyi	Human Resources, Assistant Director
Jordan Nouri	ITS, Temporary Part-time helpdesk Specialist

2. Agenda Summation [5:34pm]

Rollo summarized the agenda.

3. Topics Discussed [5:35pm]

This week’s budget hearings will include budget presentations from each city department. Each night, department heads will present their proposed 2027 budgets along with the goals and outcomes they hope to achieve for their departments in 2027. These presentations are a preview of what each department is hoping to see reflected in the 2027 budget as a whole.

There will be no council votes taken this week on each department’s proposed budget because the adoption of the 2027 budget will not include department-by-department votes. Instead, councilmembers will make comments during council comment periods as to what changes they wish to see in each individual department’s budget before later this fall, when

the Council is scheduled to consider the budget as a whole through a vote on three appropriation ordinances and four salary ordinances.

The three appropriation ordinances include the civil city budget, the Utilities Department budget, and the budget for Bloomington Transit. The three salary ordinances will include salaries for officers of the police and fire departments, salaries for appointed officers, non-union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. employees for all the departments of the city, and salaries for elected officials.

Council discussion and a public hearing on these items of legislation are scheduled for September 23rd beginning at 6:30pm. The budget adoption meeting is scheduled for October 7th beginning at 6:30pm.

There may still be changes between this week's presentations and the seven budget ordinances that come to Council later in the fall. Throughout the remainder of August and September, the administration will work with the Council and various departments to prepare a final version of the 2027 budget for the City.

John Whikehart, Capital Improvement Board (CIB), President, presented the CIB's 2027 Budget. Jeff Underwood, CIB, Treasurer, and Talisha Coppock, Downtown Bloomington, Inc., Executive Director, provided additional information on the CIB's 2027 Budget.

Clerk Nicole Bolden presented the Office of the City Clerk's 2027 Budget.

Larry Allen, Council Administrator/Attorney, presented the Common Council's 2027 Budget.

Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp presented the Office of the Mayor's 2027 Budget.

Geoff McKim, Controller, presented the Controller's 2027 Budget.

Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, presented the Legal & Risk Management's 2027 Budget.

Sharr Pechac, Human Resources Director, presented HR's 2027 Budget.

Rick Dietz, Information and Technology Services Director, presented ITS's 2027 Budget.

4. Adjournment [8:54pm]

Rollo adjourned the meeting.

Memorandum prepared by:
Colleen Williamson, Deputy Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

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

- [Community Access Television Services](https://catvstv.net)¹ (CATS)
- [City of Bloomington YouTube](https://youtube.com/@citybloomington)²

[Background materials and packets](https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings)³ are available on the Common Council website.

¹ <https://catvstv.net>

² <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

³ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings>