

Call to Order [5:46pm]

Council President Isak Nti Asare called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call (* indicates participation via Zoom) [5:46pm]

Council Members:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large, Council President
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith (absent)	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:

Sofia McDowell	Chief Deputy Clerk
Susan Stoll	Deputy Clerk
Michael Wagenaar	Council, O'Neill Leadership Program Fellow
Kelly Murphy	Information Technology Services, Technology Support Manager

2. Agenda Summation

Council President Asare summarized the agenda.

3. Updates from Hiring Committee

Asare reported from the Hiring Committee noting four options for consideration. One option was to keep the current council office structure as is; three staff including a lawyer-administrator, deputy lawyer-administration, and a legal researcher. The second option was to separate the administrative function from the legal functions. The administrative functions could reside under the purview of the City Clerk and the council would have two attorneys. The administrative role would be to prepare the packet and not make decisions on behalf of council. The third option was to have the legal researcher become two part time positions, with one in the clerk's office, and another fulfilling the legal researcher duties for the council. A fourth option was to place the administrative duties onto the deputy position; to shift the duties with the three current positions. Rollo preferred keeping all of the duties in the council office and hiring an attorney, a deputy attorney/administrator, and an assistant for the administrative duties. He believed that having someone assembling the packet in the clerk's office had potential for conflict.

There was clarification on the four options. Council discussed where to place the administrative burden and if it made sense to have barred attorneys bear a heavy administrative burden. The administrative duties had increased significantly in recent years. Most attorneys did not go to law

school to primarily do administrative work. There were questions regarding the chain of command for positions, work assignments, council's budget, and how it would work to have the administrative duties in the clerk's office. Asare reiterated that the details would need to be determined. Stosberg suggested potentially having the administrative work in the mayor's office since most packet materials came from city departments and the administration. She expressed discomfort with having a dedicated council staff position in the clerk's office. Zulich noted that the committee opted to share the four options with council prior to determining the details for each option. Ruff did not believe it was possible to implement significant changes to council staff's job descriptions in the immediate future; he believed the current council office structure had worked for a long time. He opposed dramatically changing the positions. Zulich clarified that former Council Administrator/Attorney Dan Sherman had been in the position for many years and had acclimated to the role, as well as Stephen Lucas who had been in the clerk's office prior to becoming Deputy Council Administrator/Attorney and then Council Administrator Attorney. A new attorney would not have the same skill set. Flaherty stated that it was an opportune time to make changes; it was hard to implement changes once someone was hired under the current job description. He understood that the current council office structure had not recently worked well. Flaherty favored separating the functions and liked the design of the second option. Stosberg referenced the current job description and she felt it sufficed for the primary attorney. Then, that person could work with the council on the office structure. She gave examples of possible options. Rosenbarger supported having two attorneys and gave many examples why. She also supported adding an additional staff member.

4. Approval of Job Descriptions

Clerk's note: The Common Council did not take action on approval of job descriptions.

5. Adjournment [6:29pm]

Asare adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this day: 16 of September, 2026.

APPROVE:



Signature of Isak Nti Asare, Common Council President



Signature of 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 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>