

Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington Council Chambers, City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order [6:30pm]

Council President Isak Nti Asare called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call: (*indicates participation via Zoom) [6:30pm]

Council Members:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large, Council President
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger	District 2
Andy Ruff (arrived at 6:32pm)	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3
Sydney Zulich	District 6, Council Vice President

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Common Council, Administrator/Attorney
Kari Bennett	Common Council, Deputy Administrator/Attorney

1. Agenda Summation [6:30pm]

Asare summarized the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes [6:31pm]

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to approve the minutes of October 15, 2025, October 22, 2025, November 12, 2025, and November 19, 2025. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Reports [6:32pm]

3.1. Councilmembers:

Stosberg spoke about issues she had with the Hopewell Planned Unit Development (PUD). She regretted her vote in the Plan Commission meeting to forward the ordinance to the full council.

Flaherty reported on concerns with pedestrian safety and inaccessible sidewalks after snowstorms.

Rollo shared Flaherty’s concerns with sidewalks, spoke about his upcoming constituent meeting, and warned about possible upcoming war.

Piedmont-Smith spoke about scooter enforcement and Black History Month events.

3.2. The Mayor, City Clerk, City Offices, and City Boards and Commissions:

John Fernandez, CEO of Amplify Bloomington, presented on the organization’s efforts on entrepreneurship, strategic business attraction, and community and cultural activation.

City Clerk Nicole Bolden spoke about Black History Month and the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson, and reported on parking citation appeals and boards and commissions appointments.

3.3. Council Committees:

There were no reports from council committees.

3.4. Public:

Samuel Dixon spoke against FLOCK cameras. Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about land value assessment rollback taxes and local business issues. Paul Rousseau discussed sidewalk accessibility during large snowfalls. Mobie Jean Glaser encouraged councilmembers to end the FLOCK contract. Dave Burnworth spoke in favor of FLOCK cameras and asked councilmembers to speak with law enforcement.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions [7:11pm]

On behalf of Interview Committee Team C, Rollo moved and Zulich seconded to reappoint Gerard Pannekoek to seat C-4 and to appoint Austin White to seat C-5 to the Arts Commission. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Rollo moved and Zulich seconded to appoint Andrea Alvarez to seat C-1 to the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. The motion was approved by voice vote.

5. Legislation for First Reading [7:12pm]

5.1. 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

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-06 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only.

Stosberg expressed disdain for the motion as the legislative materials were not submitted to the council office within the ten day deadline. She would vote no as a statement to Council President Asare that deadline policies mattered, and to the Mayor that the council sets the agenda; administrative pressure would not overrule due process. Rollo asked Council Attorney Lisa Lehner for her opinion. Lehner agreed that Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) stated that legislative materials must be filed within ten days of the meeting, but that the council president sets the agenda. Presidents have deviated from this procession in previous circumstances. Flaherty expressed concern about errors with the ordinance and on significant demands of council staffs' time. He would vote no and suggested code changes to allow for greater flexibility. Piedmont-Smith was concerned that the legislation was rushed with no time for council attorney or councilmember analysis. She would vote no. Rollo and Rosenbarger agreed with prior council comments and would be voting against the legislation.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 2 (Asare, Zulich), Nays: 7 (Daily, Flaherty, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Rosenbarger, Ruff), Abstain: 0. FAILED

6. Legislation for Second Reading and Resolutions [7:26pm]

6.1. 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

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-04 be adopted.

Piedmont-Smith presented the legislation. It consolidated and moved text about boards and commissions to its own section in code, added language about commissioner removal for cause, and renamed the Commission on Sustainability to the Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (BCOSR).

Stosberg asked about the creation and implementation of the Code of Conduct. Deputy Clerk Jennifer Crossley outlined the process development. She had worked with the Legal Department and the Committee on Council Processes. Staff and commissioners would receive yearly training. Bolden stated the Code of Conduct lived in the Clerk’s Office, and they would be open to input from councilmembers even though it did not need to be approved by the council.

Asare passed the gavel to Daily.

Asare moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2026-04.

Amendment 01 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.

Asare presented the amendment. Mayoral appointments served at the pleasure of the mayor, while council appointments could only be removed for cause. The amendment updated code to match, allowing council appointments to serve at the pleasure of the council.

Flaherty asked if all mayoral appointees serve at the pleasure of the mayor. Discussion ensued on whether there were circumstances where appointees may only be removed for cause, concluding that state law requires certain commissions’ members to only be removed for cause.

There was no public comment on Amendment 01.

Piedmont-Smith expressed concern that the amendment allows removal for any reason by a majority vote of the council. Zulich supported the amendment due to circumstances of unacceptable treatment of staff liaisons and the public by some commissioners. Asare stated that the topic could be revisited. He withdrew the amendment.

Daily passed the gavel back to Asare.

Christopher Emge spoke in favor of the Novac report recommendations on boards and commissions.

Jami Scholl, former BCOSR commissioner, spoke about the commission.

Piedmont-Smith spoke in favor of councilmember liaisons to boards and commissions. Rollo thanked Scholl for her work and Stosberg thanked Crossley and the Clerk's Office. Asare encouraged residents to apply for boards and commissions.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

6.2. 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

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-05 be adopted.

Zulich presented the legislation. The ordinance allowed debate and amendments on first readings of ordinances. Final votes could only be taken on first reading a two-thirds majority of the councilmembers voted yes.

Stosberg asked about procedure, staff time, and public comment. Zulich and Lehner explained possible motions and that the administration was aware and did not object. Flaherty asked about balancing flexibility with clarity for the public and staff. Zulich suggested specifying expectations.

Asare passed the gavel to Daily.

Asare moved and Zulich seconded to introduce Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2026-05.

Amendment 02 Synopsis: This amendment replaces the proposed Attachment A of Ordinance 2026-05 with substitute language that clarifies when ordinances and resolutions are properly before the council and incorporates the statutory two-thirds vote requirement for same-day passage of ordinances under Indiana Code 36-4-6-13. The amendment also relocates voting limitations into a dedicated section, removes duplicative voting and clerk-reading provisions, and amends Section 2.04.280(b) as necessary to ensure clarity and internal consistency across Chapter 2.04.

Asare presented the amendment. It removed the requirement for the clerk to read legislation and outlined procedures and limitations for first readings and possible adoptions on first readings.

Piedmont-Smith asked why sections of code requiring the clerk to read by title and synopsis would be eliminated and whether Clerk Bolden had been consulted about those changes. Asare confirmed she was. Bolden had no objections but was hesitant to remove duties for future clerks. She did not think that it would be an important requirement. Stosberg and Asare discussed whether the amendment eliminated a vote for first reading and the effects on the public's interaction.

Paul Rousseau and Dave Askins spoke against the amendment. Kevin Keough spoke in support of allowing discussion at first readings.

Rollo stated the council had in the past regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings to discuss legislation without adoption and expressed concern on public awareness. Councilmembers discussed whether the amendment made substantial changes to processes and laws already in place. Asare stated the amendment focused on allowing the opportunity to discuss legislation on first

reading, allowing earlier council and public contribution. Stosberg expressed discomfort and said the amendment gave the council president power over other councilmembers. She would vote no. Discussion ensued over whether the amendment allowed greater or less transparency, motions and procedure, and on council presidential authority. Zulich would support the amendment.

The motion to adopt Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2026-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5 (Asare, Daily, Rollo, Ruff, Zulich), Nays: 4 (Flaherty, Stosberg, Piedmont-Smith, Rosenbarger), Abstain:0. Daily passed the gavel back to Asare.

Dave Askins commented on motions the council could have made. Greg Alexander stated support for the legislation. Paul Rousseau expressed disapproval of the legislation. Jami Scholl stated a preference to return to Committee of the Whole meetings. Kevin Keough spoke about transparency.

Stosberg would not support the legislation. Rosenbarger and Flaherty expressed disappointment in losing the motion to introduce but both would support the legislation. Piedmont-Smith stated that increased flexibility for the council meant increased confusion for the public. Rollo was primarily interested in discussing legislation at first reading but he was unsure about the legislation due to the divide it created between councilmembers. Zulich would vote yes. There was a line between open dialogue and being respectful, and she encouraged councilmembers to remember that everyone was doing what they thought was best for the city. Daily stated the ordinance gave greater opportunity for more discussions and understanding, and she was excited to vote yes. Rosenbarger asked about re-voting on Amendment 02. Asare acknowledged some criticism and suggested mitigating measures such as councilmember sponsors and structures for public comment and staff presentations. The legislation was a first step.

Rollo moved to reconsider Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2026-05. The motion to reconsider was approved by voice vote.

Bolden asked for a recess. Asare granted a five minute recess with no objections from the council. The motion to reconsider Amendment 02 to Ordinance 2026-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 3 (Asare, Daily, Zulich), Nays: 6 (Flaherty, Piedmont-Smith, Rollo, Rosenbarger, Ruff, Stosberg), Abstain:0. AMENDMENT FAILED

Stosberg stated the legislation was better without the amendment but expressed concern about meeting length and duplicative public comment which become tedious and unhelpful. There was not enough clarity for her to support it. Rosenbarger thanked council leadership and was excited to vote yes. Piedmont-Smith was in favor of the ordinance and agreed with Stosberg that details needed to be figured out, but she would be happy to help. Rollo appreciated the discussion, which made him reverse his vote on the amendment. He believed the legislation would be beneficial and would vote yes.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Stosberg), Abstain: 0.

7. Additional Public Comment [9:27pm]

Greg Alexander asked council to disband the Economic and Sustainable Development Department.

Zulich moved and Daily seconded to suspend the rules to allow public comment on items that were on the agenda but not discussed or introduced. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Matt Gleason commented on the Hopewell South rezone and encouraged discussion on first reading.

8. Council Schedule [9:34pm]

Stosberg stated the Fiscal Committee would meet every other Friday at 8:30am. Piedmont-Smith stated the upcoming schedule for the Committee on Council Processes. Asare reminded the council about leading deliberation sessions.

9. Adjournment [9:37pm]

Asare adjourned the meeting.

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



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>