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Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 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* (joined at 6:33pm)	District 2
Andy Ruff (absent)	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3
Sydney Zulich	District 6, Council Vice President

City staff, officials, and guests present:	
Jennifer Crossley	Deputy Clerk
Larry Allen	Common Council Attorney (temporary)
Michael Wagenaar	O'Neill Leadership Program Fellow
Geoff McKim	Controller
Sharr Pechac	Human Resources, Director

2. Agenda Summation [6:31pm]

Council President Asare summarized the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes [6:32pm]

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to approve the amended minutes of January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026, February 4, 2026, February 25, 2026, and March 31, 2026. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

4. Reports [6:32pm]

4.1. Councilmembers:

Piedmont-Smith spoke about the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and read part of a poem by Amanda Gorman titled "In This Place, An American Lyric."

Rollo reported on the recent escape of OpenAI's model where advanced autonomous agents broke out of their secured servers and discovered a software flaw, immediately hacking a network called Hugging Face. The AI used stolen credentials, chained multiple attack vectors together to execute remote code on servers. He cautioned that powerful AI could act completely on its own, bypassing safety limits, and intruding on an outside company. He called for a moratorium on the development of AI superintelligence and urged people to contact their representatives.

Stosberg noted that Lynn Coyne was appointed interim director of Planning and Transportation at a recent Plan Commission meeting. She said she would be at the Democrat's booth at the Farmer's Market in a couple weeks. She would submit a written report from the Fiscal Committee containing information from the Reedy Financial Group presented at a recent meeting. She spoke about

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the discussion on a location for a new jail and referenced Piedmont-Smith's letter to county commissioners. She said the commissioners had not participated in working groups over the summer.

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

There were no reports.

4.3. Council Committees:

Piedmont-Smith reported from the Committee on Council Processes. Memberships on the Transportation Commission and Environmental Commissions and Title 2 updates were discussed.

4.4. Public:

There was no public comment.

5. Appointments to Boards and Commissions [6:45pm]

There were no appointments to boards and commissions.

6. Legislation for First Reading [6:45pm]

6.1. Ordinance 2026-16

To Amend an Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers and Employees of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Indiana for the Year 2026 Council Sponsor - N/A

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-16 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Deputy Clerk Jennifer Crossley read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to discuss Ordinance 2026-16. The motion to discuss Ordinance 2026-16 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sharr Pechac, Human Resources Director, presented the legislation and noted errors and transposed numbers in the ordinance. She would submit an amendment correcting the errors for the second reading of the legislation. She gave a background on the Workforce Evaluation and Realignment Committee (WERC) process that allowed department directors to adjust job duties, reporting, and distribution of workload. The requests were to be net neutral with no new funding. She highlighted key changes for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) including a new lieutenant position.

Piedmont-Smith asked about future funding of the new position. Geoff McKim, Controller, said it was not a new position, it converted a sergeant to a lieutenant. There was discussion on the number of staff in BPD, and duties, compared to other cities. Flaherty asked for clarification on the instructions to directors regarding the net neutral request, given that, for BPD, there would be an increase in personnel funding in future years. Flaherty noted no other director had submitted a request. Pechac stated that had been communicated clearly to all directors and in cabinet meetings, too.

There was no public comment.

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Stosberg looked forward to clarification on the questions and errors in the legislation at second reading. Asare said it would be informative to have more information on the distribution of job duties in BPD at their current staffing level.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to present Ordinance 2026-16 for second reading at the next Regular Session to be held on August 5, 2026 at 6:30pm. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

6.2. Ordinance 2026-17

To Amend the 2026 Salary Ordinance of Appointed Officers, Non-Union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All Departments of the City of Bloomington, Indiana Council Sponsor - N/A

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-17 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Crossley read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to discuss Ordinance 2026-17. The motion to discuss Ordinance 2026-17 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Pechac presented the legislation and noted there were typos so an amendment would be forthcoming at second reading. There were eight requests that impacted the salary ordinance. Utilities, Human Resources (HR), and Public Works had submitted requests. She highlighted details on each request including fiscal impacts. Piedmont-Smith asked who was on WERC and assessed requests. Pechac stated it was primarily HR and the Office of the Controller, with some assistance from the Office of the Mayor. There was discussion on human resource systems, clarification on the total requests such as part-time positions that did not affect the salary ordinance, justification for the requests, shifts in job duties and direct reports, and overall effects on the budget. Pechac noted that directors only had opportunities to adjust the salary ordinance, job duties, et cetera once per year. She had hoped to have gotten the requests done earlier in the year, but WERC had been a complex process. There was additional discussion on opportunities for directors to submit requests and clarification on offsetting personnel funding and duties in Utilities and Public Works.

There was no public comment.

Piedmont-Smith said the fiscal impact should be calculated beyond the current year. Rosenbarger agreed. Asare noted that departments could offset any fiscal impact by cutting funds in other areas. Stosberg said the fiscal impact beyond the current year could highlight where the cuts might occur.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to present Ordinance 2026-17 for second reading at the next Regular Session to be held on August 5, 2026 at 6:30pm. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7. Legislation for Second Reading and Resolutions [7:45pm]

7.1. Ordinance 2026-15

Amending Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Establishment of the Fire Merit Commission Council Sponsor - CM Zulich

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-15 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Crossley read the legislation by title and synopsis.

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Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-15 be adopted.

Chris Wheeler, Legal, Assistant City Attorney/Senior Assistant City Attorney, presented the legislation and gave a background on the commission and proposed updates to code like clarifying that the Board of Public Safety no longer had the authority to hire, promote, or discipline fire members.

There were no council questions. There was no public comment.

Piedmont-Smith said Ordinance 2026-15 could have been on a consent agenda. Consent agendas were being considered by the Committee on Council Processes.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

8. Additional Public Comment [7:50pm]

There was no additional public comment.

9. Council Schedule [7:51pm]

There was no discussion on the council's upcoming schedule.

10. Adjournment [7:51pm]

Asare adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this day: 4th of October, 2026.

APPROVE:

Signed by:

31826BE6116F4B5...
11/10/2026 | 10:48 AM EST

Signature of Isak Nti Asare, Common Council President

ATTEST:

Signed by:
Nicole Bolden
60DF9211B070448...
11/10/2026 | 11:32 AM EST

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[1] (CATS)
- City of Bloomington YouTube[2]

Background materials and packets[3] are available on the Common Council website.

[1] https://catstv.net
[2] https://youtube.com/@citybloomington
[3] https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings