Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, June 10, 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	District 2
Andy Ruff (arrived at 6:31pm)	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3
Sydney Zulich	District 6, Council Vice President

City staff, officials, and guests present:	
Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Larry Allen	Common Council, Attorney (temporary)
Michael Wagenaar	O'Neill Leadership Program Fellow
Kelly Murphy	Information Technology Services, Technology Support Manager
Jane Kupersmith	Economic & Sustainable Development (ESD), Director
Andrea de la Rosa	ESD, Assistant Director of Small Business Development
Anna Killion-Hanson	Housing & Neighborhood Development, Director
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Jamie Neibel	Monroe County Emergency Management, Director
Katherine Zaiger	City of Bloomington Utilities, Director

2. Agenda Summation [6:31pm]

Council President Asare summarized the agenda.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to move the reading of Ordinance 2026-12 so that it was considered immediately after Resolution 2026-10. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

3. Approval of Minutes [6:32pm]

There were no minutes for approval.

4. Reports [6:33pm]

4.1. Councilmembers:

There were no councilmember reports.

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

Jane Kupersmith, Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD) department, Director, introduced Andrea de la Rosa, Assistant Director of Small Business Development, ESD, who presented the

Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

Annual Tax Abatement Report. She summarized the tax abatement program and the economic impacts. She highlighted the evaluative criteria and application process, the compliance review process, and reviewed current tax abatements. Kupersmith reviewed the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements including Evergreen Village, Countryview, Cambridge Square, and Henderson Court. Stosberg asked about Union at Crescent's struggles and reputation. Anna Killion-Hanson, Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) department, described the progress made by the property owners. Piedmont-Smith asked about the number of part-time and full-time jobs created by Catalent (Novo Nordisk). She asked why the tax abatement was considered substantially compliant when there were supposed to be 4,212 jobs but there were only 1,867. Kupersmith said the original job growth at Catalent was due to vaccine production and Defense Production Act; the vaccine market lessened which was outside of Catalent's control. Ruff commented on market circumstances and expressed concern with tax abatements. The city did not receive compensation when a business did well; it seemed that tax abatements socialized risk and loss, and privatized profits.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to approve the Tax Abatement Report as presented. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

4.3. Council Committees:

Zulich reported from the Hiring Committee, noting that there were five candidates for the Council Administrator/Attorney that would be interviewed. There was discussion on processes on personnel matters and having alternate committee members. Asare appointed Flaherty and Rosenbarger to serve as alternate members of the Hiring Committee as necessary for the duration of the six-week council recess.

Stosberg referenced the Fiscal Committee's meetings, schedule, and topics discussed.

4.4. Public:

There was no public comment.

5. Appointments to Boards and Commissions [7:10pm]

There were no appointments to boards and commissions.

6. Legislation for First Reading [7:11pm]

There was no legislation for first reading.

7. Legislation for Second Reading and Resolutions [7:11pm]

7.1. Resolution 2026-10

On the Existential Risk of Artificial Intelligence

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-10 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-10 be adopted.

Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

Rollo presented the legislation and described concerns with artificial intelligence (AI) and super intelligence like artificial general intelligence (AGI) which were designed to replace people. Narrow AI was task-specific and used beneficially for healthcare, fraud detection, and more. He noted the rapid development of AI that autonomously wrote most of its own code and cautioned that it could potentially eliminate humanity; he quoted several AI experts. The alignment problem noted that AI could not be programmed to keep humanity's well-being centered. Developers admitted that AI models were becoming more powerful with many employees leaving the field or becoming whistleblowers. There needed to be regulations. Rollo was indebted to Peter Jensen at Safe AI Forever. Rollo then showed a video provided by Peter Bereson, PhD economist and former vice president of Goldman Sachs. Anthony Geary, professor of Physics and head of Future of Life Institute, a nonprofit seeking to steer advanced AI in beneficial directions, described various concerns about AI including the rapid development of highly autonomous AI systems that competed with humans. It could act independently of human oversight resulting in an acute risk to society. Companies were designing AI to replace human labor and therefore disrupting incomes. He described many other risks and concerns with advanced AGI. The main focus of AI companies was successfully making money. There was discussion on the rapid development of AI systems and their capabilities.

Jami Scholl commented on her concerns with AI and its replacement of human labor. Marc Haggerty spoke against AI. Paul Rousseau supported Resolution 2026-10.

Council discussed local outreach on AI, existential threats, deregulation lobbying in congress, resources for the concerned public, and the relevancy of AI, generally.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-10 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7.2. Ordinance 2026-12

To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to Seasonally Provide a Carless Kirkwood

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-12 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-12 be adopted.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2026-12. Rosenbarger presented the amendment. She highlighted key points including public engagement, vibrant third places, investing in public spaces, car-free pedestrian zones, alleys, and a new start date of April 2027. There was brief council discussion.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment updates proposed Ordinance 2026-12 to update portions of the preamble to reflect stated goals and outcomes of the Common Council, to remove references to any alley closures, and to add severability and effective date Sections.

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, appreciated there would be deliberation sessions. Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp thanked the sponsors for the amendment and the new start date. She noted that the public safety officers had requested to not close Kirkwood to cars on the proposed start date because it was going to be Little 500.

Flaherty said the deliberation sessions were ideal to have after the resolution in order to discuss how to do a carless Kirkwood rather than continue to have the same debate on whether or not to do so.

Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2026-12 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Rosenbarger reviewed a slide presentation noting the process and discussions so far, the city engineer's power to restore motor vehicle traffic, plans moving forward, and the Comprehensive Plan including pedestrian-friendly spaces and cultural spaces that are publicly available to all. Daily added comparative research of college towns like Bloomington, including Iowa City, State College, and Burlington that had pedestrian malls. She described many solutions to concerns that Bloomington could consider. Rosenbarger said pedestrian malls had positive economic development, increased walking and biking, and revitalized public spaces. Steve Volan, Transportation Commission (TC) Chair, said that while staff had made a negative recommendation for the ordinance, the TC concluded that the ordinance was broadly consistent with the TC's criteria for analysis and review. The TC forwarded a positive recommendation to council by a 5-1 vote.

Stosberg asked for clarification on the two motions that failed to pass at the TC. Volan said one was to adopt a neutral recommendation and the second was to adopt a negative recommendation. Flaherty, TC commissioner, noted there were four codified sets of criteria by which the TC assessed proposals. Common Council Attorney Larry Allen referenced the set of criteria in code.

Zack Ammerman spoke against the administration's resistance to closing Kirkwood to cars. Hilary Martel supported a more pedestrian-friendly Kirkwood, but not car-less, and provided reasons. Hartzell Martel spoke against the permanent closure of Kirkwood and supported closures during special events. Christopher Emge discussed funds, and concerns of come businesses. Chris Sturbaum commented about failures of pedestrian-only streets. Carole Canfield spoke against closing Kirkwood to cars. Ted Polley favored a seasonal car-less Kirkwood working towards a permanent pedestrian only Kirkwood. Claire Woods supported a pedestrian-only Kirkwood. Dave Huber spoke in favor of making downtown and Kirkwood more friendly to pedestrians. Joan Middendorf commented in support of a seasonal closure of Kirkwood to cars working towards a permanent closure. John Santos noted that cars were needed to bring pedestrians to the downtown and urged the city to do the closure properly, like potentially closing during the fall when students were in town. Jami Scholl supported sustainability. Paul Gillard spoke in favor of seasonal closure. Paul Rousseau discussed options for older people being able to access Kirkwood. Jessica [Last Name Unknown] urged council to keep Kirkwood open to cars. Tessa Donohue commented in favor of pedestrian-friendly Kirkwood and frequently walked and biked to the downtown. Alex Jorck supported the closure of Kirkwood to cars. Katie Yoder spoke in favor of the proposal.

Rollo recognized there were mixed opinions; he noted many things to consider. He preferred to table the proposal so more discussion could be had. Zulich would like to see a carless Kirkwood, but it had not been successful the previous year and there were other corridors in the city that needed improvements. She would not support the legislation. Stosberg discussed her thoughts on the pros and cons of pedestrian malls and whether Kirkwood should be car-less. She spoke about the successes of peer cities, parking concerns, year-long closure to vehicles, and other downtown streets that could be considered. She noted that proposed legislation was necessary to force the hand of the administration. Piedmont-Smith agreed with most points made that evening. She was concerned with changing code prior to having discussions on how to implement a successful car-less Kirkwood. Flaherty appreciated the conversation that evening which had been similar to previous years. He believed great things could be done in the city, especially a shared street between the courthouse square and Sample Gates. He commented on funding, studies, a redesign of Kirkwood, committing to ensuring success for a shared street, and the administration's resistance to the proposal. Ruff appreciated the discussion and work on the proposal. He often walked and biked, and discussed fiscal realities to contend with. Rosenbarger read from a resident's email in support of a pedestrian-only Kirkwood and noted local restaurants that had closed. The Commission on Sustainability and Resilience had unanimously passed a resolution to encourage council to have a car-free Kirkwood. She gave reasons to support the proposal. Daily explained the extensive work she

Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

and Rosenbarger had done on the proposal. She noted that students were in Bloomington during parts of the closure, and gave various reasons in support of the proposal including investing into things like shade, et cetera. Piedmont-Smith discussed the impacts from the loss of revenue from property taxes, blocks not being active the previous year, and wondered about the cost of investing into a successful car-less Kirkwood. She noted concerns from Leslie Davis, Council on Community Accessibility (CCA); closing Kirkwood to cars disproportionately affected people with disabilities.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-12 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5 (Asare, Daily, Flaherty, Rollo, Rosenbarger), Nays: 4 (Stosberg, Piedmont-Smith, Zulich, Ruff), Abstain: 0.

7.3. Resolution 2026-09

To Adopt the Monroe County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-09 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-09 be adopted.

Jamie Neibel, Monroe County Emergency Management Director, explained how the plan originated. Stosberg noted errors in the plan and asked about the committee members. Neibel stated that an invite was sent to stakeholders, but attendance was not required. Rollo asked if it was required to only work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Neibel clarified that there were many other plans for different types of emergencies, including a pandemic. Piedmont-Smith referenced Perry Township's report regarding tornadoes and Neibel said she and her deputy had read the plan. Neibel explained that the plans were not widely shared as a precaution against nefarious entities.

There was no public comment.

Zulich urged councilmembers to tour the emergency management center. Stosberg said that the ESD department would be able to apply for grants if the city had the plan in place.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-09 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Daily moved and Stosberg seconded to move Ordinance 2026-13 next on the agenda. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Rosenbarger out of the room).

7.4. Ordinance 2026-13

To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Loans Between Utilities

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-13 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Rosenbarger out of the room). Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-13 be adopted.

Stosberg moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2026-13. Stosberg presented the amendment which addressed clarity in the wording of the legislation.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment updates Section 1 to clarify language on establishing Cash Reserve Fund and City utilities ability to make monthly deposits of surplus earnings.

Docusign Envelope ID: DAC49021-2E00-81DA-8338-981C6CA14F5D

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

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2026-13 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Rosenbarger out of the room).

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

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-13 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Rosenbarger, Ruff out of the room).

7.5. Resolution 2026-11

Authorizing the Allocation of the Jack Hopkins Social Services Program Funds for the Year 2026 and Related Matters

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-11 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0 (Ruff out of the room).

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-11 be adopted.

Daily presented the legislation and explained the process of the program and review of applications. Zulich asked if any agencies were denied funding and Daily said there were two that did not meet the criteria for funding. Council discussed funding criteria, scope, and the prioritization of types of funding which included operational costs.

Jami Scholl suggested having more time to submit applications. Carole Canfield spoke against giving money to Planned Parenthood. Joan Middendorf spoke in favor of Planned Parenthood.

Rollo appreciated that the administration raised the funding for JHSSF to $500,000 and noted that inflation affected that amount. Stosberg spoke in favor of Planned Parenthood. Zulich supported Planned Parenthood and the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Plus) community and wished all a Happy Pride.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-11 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

7.6. Resolution 2026-12

Establishing Rules and Guidelines for Alcohol Permit Districts

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-12 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. Piedmont-Smith and Stosberg said they would vote no because the deadline for materials had not been met. Zulich stated that she would vote yes because staff were ready to present. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Stosberg, Piedmont-Smith), Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2026-12 be adopted.

Asare passed the gavel to Zulich.

Asare presented the legislation highlighting key points in state code, processes, and guidelines. There was discussion on the discretion in the evaluation criteria, definitions, recommendations for liquor licenses, things to consider and who decided, and council's role. There was additional discussion on the proposal, concerns, processes, and timelines. It was noted that council did not issue the liquor licenses but could make provisions for how the licenses were issued. Living wage ordinance compliance and which city department would be responsible were factors. Preference for bodegas and restaurants was ideal as well as having a framework for future discussions. Larry Allen, Council Administrator/Attorney, clarified state code, types of liquor licenses, districts, written commitments, applications, and more.

Steve Volan spoke in favor of Resolution 2026-12 and council's role. He gave various examples. Aubrey Williams, Heartworks Brewery, supported Resolution 2026-12. Galen Cassady gave many reasons in support of the proposal. Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of Resolution 2026-12.

Stosberg moved and Asare seconded to postpone the legislation until the next Regular Session on July 22, 2026 at 6:30pm. There was brief discussion on actions council could take. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Zulich passed the gavel back to Asare.

7.7. Ordinance 2026-14

To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Require Councilmember Sponsorship of Legislation Under Chapter 2.04

Daily moved and Stosberg seconded that Ordinance 2026-14 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Zulich), Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Ordinance 2026-14 be adopted.

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

Stosberg and Piedmont-Smith stated the purpose of the ordinance. Flaherty thanked the Committee on Council Processes for their work.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-14 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Asare, Rosenbarger), Abstain: 0.

8. Additional Public Comment [11:22pm]

Jami Scholl spoke about food resilience and challenges agriculture faced.

9. Council Schedule [11:26pm]

Asare mentioned the joint meeting with the county the following day. Stosberg noted the upcoming Fiscal Committee meeting.

10. Adjournment [11:27pm]

Asare adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026
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