

MEMORANDUM

**Bloomington Common Council-Council Budget Work Session
Allison Conference Room, #225, City Hall,
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

NOTE: Formal minutes are not produced for City Council Work Sessions, which are held as an opportunity to review proposed legislation. This memorandum summarizes the following meeting.

Meeting called to order: 6:32pm

Councilmembers present: Courtney Daily, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Hopi Stosberg, Sydney Zulich

Councilmembers present via Zoom: Isak Nti Asare, Matt Flaherty, Dave Rollo (left at 8:14pm), Kate Rosenbarger (arrived at 7:02pm, left at 7:45pm), Andy Ruff

Councilmembers absent: none

City staff, officials, and guests present: Jessica McClellan, Stephen Lucas, Chief Deputy Clerk Sofia McDowell

Topics Discussed:

1. Call to Order
2. Topics for Discussion
 - a. Agenda Review
 - b. Councilmember Discussion of 2025 Budget Priorities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Overview of Next Steps
3. Other Business
4. Adjournment

Meeting ended: 8:26pm

Memorandum prepared by:
Sofia McDowell, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK
City of Bloomington

COUNCIL MEMBER BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2025								
CATEGORIES	TRANSPORTATION	PUBLIC SAFETY	SOCIAL SERVICES	SALARIES/ PERSONNEL	HOUSING	CLIMATE ACTION	INFRASTRUCTURE / PLANNING	CITY SERVICES
TOPICS / PRIORITIES	Zulich, Daily: Downtown circulator bus	Daily: police, fire, EMS pay and staffing	Zulich, Rosenbarger: Designation and maintenance of designated, safe sleeping / parking spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness	Zulich: Increase salaries for city employees	Zulich: More support for housing for individuals making 60-120% of AMI, possibly through city-provided housing or city support for BHA	Daily: Prioritize programs to address climate change	Daily: More focus on infrastructure investments (roads and sidewalks)	Ruff: Bring back city leaf pickup
	Zulich: Extended late night service	Ruff: ensure adequate staffing for police/fire; investments to improve retention, morale	Asare: free bus passes for people experiencing homelessness	Rosenbarger: Reviewing job grades to ensure equity and transparency	Ruff: Developing strategy for more affordable and workforce housing, possibly through land trust, use of land fund, reprioritizing city expenditures	IPS: Decrease greenhouse gases, increase equity, reduce car dependency (Rosenbarger)	Ruff: Street and sidewalk repair and maintenance	IPS, Asare: Increase fees for scooter company licenses and enforce existing regulations
	Zulich: Combine city/IU late night services	Stosberg: Police, fire, dispatch staffing/retention; ability to staff those shifts without consistently relying on overtime	Asare: more storage for displaced individuals	Flaherty, Rosenbarger: More equitable pay structures; improve retention and satisfaction; having senior/cabinet level positions aligned with core values of city	Daily: More to support HAND, Heading Home, BHA	Stosberg: Continued progress on Climate Action Plan	Stosberg: Maintenance of streets, sidewalks, parks, buildings, other public structures, sewer and water systems, etc.	IPS: Eliminate general fund subsidy for trash service
	Zulich: Improve walkability, street lights, covered bike parking, closure of Kirkwood to vehicles	Rollo: Support for police to be fully staffed - possibly through pay increases, incentives, etc.	Asare: more case workers	Flaherty, Zulich, Rosenbarger, Daily: Increase salary for city clerk	Asare: Achieve sustainable housing solutions; support for the Heading Home plan	Rollo: Reduce runoff into Lake Monroe, other utilities, protect water quality	Flaherty, IPS: Specific, increased funding (\$2m) for sidewalk infrastructure, along with equitable method for allocating resources, sidewalk master plan, repair of sidewalks	Asare: Some effort to move toward an outcome-based model of spending
	Daily: Free EV charging stations	Flaherty: Goal - equitable and safe community; reducing racial disparities in policing and justice system; greater perceptions of safety; funding a feasibility study for dept of public safety with non-policing alternatives (as called for by CAPS Commission)	Asare: funding for data support	Flaherty, Rosenbarger: Review salaries for councilmembers	Flaherty, Rosenbarger: Increase housing security / affordability, possibly through code updates, support for Heading Home plan		Rollo: Review of repair / maintenance needs for roads	Stosberg: Small loans for entrepreneurship with better payback plans
	Stosberg: Continued investments in improving transportation system, in all modes so that people can safely and efficiently get from Point A to B regardless of transportation method, including bike lanes and trails	IPS, Rosenbarger: Increased safety for all members of the public, through feasibility study of new public safety department (CAPS recommendation)	Asare (top priority), Flaherty, Rosenbarger: Increase in funding for Jack Hopkins program - and possibly combining funding sources related to social services (JHSSF, CDBG)	Rosenbarger, Rollo, Stosberg: salary review for elected officials	Stosberg: Investments / opportunities / grants / education / entrepreneurship and small businesses / community engagement for individual residents		Flaherty: Increased funding (\$5m) for bike/ped infrastructure	
			Ruff, IPS: Increase in funding for Jack Hopkins	Flaherty: Chief Equity Officer and Chief Climate Officer positions as cabinet level positions	Rosenbarger: Look at donating some of Hopewell to Summit Hill Community land trust		Stosberg: Development of neighborhood activity hubs (e.g., Hillside and Henderson), financial incentives to encourage businesses to locate in more underserved areas, particularly for essential services (grocery stores, childcare)	
			Rollo: Increase (x3) in funding for Jack Hopkins	Rosenbarger: Chief Equity Officer as cabinet level position, equity training for staff and elected officials			Flaherty: Design / engineering costs for planned street improvements - e.g., shared street on Kirkwood	
			IPS, Daily: Address mental health / substance abuse issues - expand employment partnership with Centerstone, develop programs / partnerships with County	Asare: look at staffing structure within the city			Flaherty: Safe, sustainable, connected, vibrant streets, to lead to fewer injuries, increased connectivity, increased ped and business activity, increased use streets as public spaces	
			Zulich, Stosberg: Addressing food insecurity, particularly in food deserts				Rosenbarger: Vision Zero & Safe Streets for All; College/Walnut corridor redesign	

Where to find/trim funds?	
Councilmembers	Ideas
Asare	ED-LIT could support additional expenditures, staffing reductions, be mindful of possible downturns, reviewing cash reserves and operational budget during 2008, investing heavily in high-cost issues to see future returns and less spending
Ruff	Less money on outside consultants, outside counsel fees, fewer projects like Hawthorne/Weatherstone greenway
Flaherty	Investigate new sources of revenue, ARPA dollars, former CRED funds, ED-LIT funds, F&B dollars, TIF funds,
Rollo	Info on outside counsel costs re: annexation; keep healthy city reserves (e.g. 10 months of operating costs); PS-
IPS	Cash reserves, wants info on ARPA, CRED funding, end general fund subsidy for trash services, increase
Rosenbarger	Look at opportunities to leverage projects and add in our prioritized transportation projects when feasible