



# City of Bloomington Common Council

## Legislative Packet

Containing materials related to:

Wednesday, 15 January 2025  
Deliberative Session at 6:30pm



# **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL**

**AGENDA AND NOTICE:  
DELIBERATION SESSION  
WEDNESDAY | 6:30 PM  
15 JANUARY 2025**

*Council Chambers (#115), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street  
The meeting may also be accessed at the following link:*

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85957597176?pwd=w5ZduZVEmKqopssgdTK2fvbjl2fapc.1>

- I. ROLL CALL**
- II. AGENDA SUMMATION**
- III. ORDER OF CONVERSATION**
  - A.** Committees in the Bloomington Municipal Code – Discussion of Standings and Descriptions
  - B.** Internal Expectations of Committee Chairs
  - C.** Internal Expectations for Reporting on Council Committees
  - D.** Internal Expectations for Reporting on Boards/Commissions
  - E.** Discussion of Existing Committees vs. Desired Committees
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**To:** Members of the City Council

**From:** Council President Hopi Stosberg

**Date:** January 10, 2025

**Regarding:** January 15 deliberation session

---

I am looking forward to having an engaging and productive conversation about Council Committees during our first deliberation session of 2025. Please come ready to discuss the following as relates to committees and board/commission assignments.

- 1) What City Code says about committees, found in [Article III of Bloomington City Code 2.04 Common Council](#).
- 2) Expectations of committee chairs
- 3) Expectations of frequency and types of committee reports AND reports from the various board and commission assignments held by councilmembers.
- 4) Our current standing and special committees, their current stated purposes and usefulness
  - a. [Jack Hopkins](#)
  - b. [Sidewalk Committee](#)
  - c. [Climate Action and Resilience](#)
  - d. [Council Processes](#)
- 5) Other committees that might add value to the work of City Council. Please come prepared to share ideas as to specific tasks or purposes associated with your idea(s).

My goal for this discussion is to put us on a path to consider the following actions:

- 1) Creation of an informal set of shared standards and expectations for committee roles and reports back to the full council.
- 2) Modification of Title 2 as it relates to defining committee expectations, creation, or structure.
- 3) Resolution(s) to create or dissipate any standing committee(s).

Please note, I do not enter this discussion with any specific outcome in mind for any of the above and recognize shared understandings and agreements may not happen. Additionally, I do not expect this session to result in any official documents. Achieving any of the above goals will depend on further work by council members to compile shared understandings into final documentation.

Thank you in advance for your deliberation and consideration of our committees and committee structure.

### ***Article III. Committees***

#### **2.04.210 Standing committees—Establishment.**

To facilitate the transaction of business, the council may by resolution establish standing committees and define the duties and responsibilities of each committee. If such committees are established, the presiding officer shall appoint at least three council members to each committee, observing the preference of each member as closely as possible, and shall appoint a chairperson for each committee. Legislation and questions before the council may be referred for investigation and report to the standing committees and the committees may investigate other areas within their jurisdiction. All council members may attend the meetings of any standing committee, but only those members who have been appointed to the committee shall be permitted to vote on questions before the committee. The council may create or abolish standing committees by adoption of subsequent resolutions.

(Ord. 79-97 § 2 (part), 1979).

#### **2.04.220 Standing committees—Meetings.**

A committee shall meet on call of its chairperson or any two of its members. Notice shall be communicated by the city clerk, who shall keep a record of such notices. A majority of the membership of a committee shall constitute a quorum, which shall be necessary to conduct the business of the committee. The chairperson may act as secretary of the committee or the committee may appoint a secretary, who shall keep a memorandum of the proceedings and the recommendations made at the committee meeting. In committee meetings the rules of debate shall be relaxed in order to encourage discussion but general procedural decorum shall prevail.

(Ord. 79-97 § 2 (part), 1979).

#### **2.04.225 Intentional display of firearms prohibited.**

The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the council.

(Ord. No. 11-15, § 2, 9-14-2011)

#### **2.04.230 Standing committees—Reports.**

- (a) The reports of standing committees shall be in writing and signed by a majority of the committee. Documents referred to the committee shall be returned with the report.
- (b) Matters or questions referred to standing committees shall normally be reported back to the council not later than the second regular session after being referred to the committee, but the council may extend the time for reporting. When a committee to which a matter or question has been referred with instructions to report at a specific time is not ready to report at that time, the matter referred shall, unless further time is granted, be considered as though reported back without recommendation.
- (c) The council may agree by majority vote to discharge any committee from further consideration of any matter referred to it. The matter referred shall be brought back before the council and take its proper place in the order of business.

- 
- (d) When an ordinance or resolution is reported back from a committee with recommendations, the recommendation of the committee shall have no force unless adopted by the council at a properly convened session.
  - (e) Any member of a committee may file a minority report and may move that the minority report be substituted for the recommendations of the majority.
- (Ord. 79-97 § 2 (part), 1979).

#### **2.04.240 Special committees.**

Any three council members or the presiding officer may form a special committee for any specific purpose proper for council consideration. The committee shall cease to function when it has completed its duties and made a report or recommendation to the council.

(Ord. 79-97 § 2 (part), 1979).

#### **2.04.250 Committee of the whole.**

- (a) With the exceptions noted in this section, the council may resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider ordinances, resolutions, or other matters with the freedom of committee procedures. The council may decide by majority vote to cancel any such committee meeting or to meet at an alternative date and time. The council may by majority vote resolve itself into a committee of the whole at any other time and for any other legitimate purpose.
- (b) Whenever the council resolves itself into a committee of the whole the presiding officer shall leave the chair. Chair of the committee meetings scheduled for Wednesday evenings and city budget hearings shall rotate by alphabetical order among all councilmembers except the council president and such rotation will be tracked by the city clerk. Should a councilmember be unable to attend a committee meeting the next member on the rotation shall preside and the rotation shall proceed from that point. The council president will designate the chair for any unscheduled committee meetings.
- (c) When the council resolves itself into the committee of the whole, the rules of the council shall govern except that:
  - (1) The committee of the whole may consider only matters and questions referred to it, and the only motions in order shall be to amend or adopt, or that the committee rise and report;
  - (2) No limit shall be placed on frequency of speaking, but no member may speak for longer than five minutes at a time;
  - (3) Interested citizens may be heard on the question under consideration if they address the chair and ask permission to speak;
  - (4) The previous question may not be moved;
  - (5) The clerk shall keep a memorandum of proceedings and recommendations in a manner consistent with Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-4.
- (d) When the committee of the whole rises, the presiding officer of the council shall resume the chair, and the chairperson of the committee shall report its recommendations to the council. The question shall then be on agreeing the recommendations of the committee and adopting the action or measures recommended.

(Ord. 79-97 § 2 (part), 1979).

---

(Ord. No. 12-10, §§ 1, 2, 5-2-2012; Ord. No. 13-05, § 4, 3-6-2013)

#### **2.04.255 Committees—Scheduling.**

- (a) When a committee is to consider legislation referred by the council, it shall convene its meeting on the second or fourth Wednesday of the month. The council may decide by majority vote to cancel any such committee meeting, or to meet at an alternative date and time.
  - (1) If more than one standing committee has had legislation referred to it during the same period of time, the committees shall not be scheduled at the same time, so that any council members may attend any meeting.
  - (2) Such committee meetings shall not begin before 5:30 p.m. or after 9:45 p.m.
- (b) The president shall have the authority to refer legislation to the appropriate committee when the legislation is introduced for first reading, but such a referral may be changed by a motion approved by a majority of the council. The president shall have the authority to call and schedule committee meetings on second and fourth Wednesdays in anticipation of the introduction of legislation.
- (c) A council committee shall not meet on legal holidays as enumerated in Indiana Code § 1-1-9-1, and shall not meet to hear legislation during the council's official recess, on the Wednesday evening immediately before Thanksgiving Day, or on or between the fourth Wednesday in December and New Year's Eve.

(Ord. No. 12-10, § 3, 5-2-2012; Ord. No. 16-42, § 2, 11-16-2016; Ord. No. 21-03, § 5, 2-17-2021)

## **Current Standing Committees and purposes**

### **Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee**

**About:** Started by, and named after, former Councilmember Jack Hopkins, this funding program began in 1993. Since its inception, the Bloomington Common Council and Mayor have provided over \$6.2 million to social services agencies for projects that have made a difference in the lives of City residents in need. The Committee is composed of four member of the Common Council and three City residents with experience in social services.

**Program Focus:** The program should address an identified priority for social services funds, as indicated in the Service Community Assessment of Needs (SCAN), the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department's Consolidated Plan, or other community-wide survey of social service needs. This investment in the program should lead to broad and long lasting benefits to the community. In the words of Jack Hopkins, "Priority should be given to projects or programs where investments now will have a positive, long-term spillover effect."

### **Sidewalk Committee**

The Common Council Sidewalk Committee meets each year to recommend the best way to use appropriations from the City's Alternative Transportation Fund for the following year. Established in 1992, the Fund receives excess revenues from the Residential Neighborhood Parking Permit program and is dedicated to reducing our community's dependence on the automobile. The Committee has helped further this goal by primarily funding the design and construction of new sidewalks. Most of the sidewalks funded by Committee connect with existing pedestrian ways and are expected to be used by a significant number of residents.

### **Climate Action and Resiliency Committee**

As a standing committee of the Bloomington Common Council created by Resolution 20-01, the Climate Action and Resilience Committee is authorized to consider legislation referred to it by the Council and to focus on the city's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase community resilience in the face of climate change. Economic equity, environmental equity, and social equity in climate action fall under the purview of this committee.

### **Committee on Council Processes**

As a special committee of the Bloomington Common Council created by action of the Council President, the Committee on Council Processes is made up of four councilmembers who meet as needed to discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the Council's own processes.