



City of Bloomington Common Council

Informational Packet

Containing materials related to:

Wednesday, 9 April 2025

Deliberation Session at 6:30pm



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

**AGENDA AND NOTICE:
DELIBERATION SESSION
Wednesday | 6:30 PM
9 April 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/89306342012?pwd=WPilQvvvmueJ7hKSUKJD9S6VMzLxpj.1>

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. AGENDA SUMMATION**
- 3. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**
- 4. COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2026**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO 2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES**
- 6. COUNCIL SCHEDULE**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please call (812) 349-3409 or e-mail council@bloomington.in.gov.

Posted: April 4, 2025

To: Bloomington Common Council
From: Councilmembers Hopi Stosberg & Isak Asare
RE: April 9 Deliberation Session Preparation
Date: April 4, 2025

PURPOSE: This memo outlines the process and expectations for upcoming council discussions related to the development of the 2026 city budget. As we work to align our budget process more closely with outcomes that matter to our residents, this year's deliberations represent an important step forward.

UPCOMING BUDGET CALENDAR

- **April 9:** Initial full council discussion of individual councilmember budget priorities for 2026.
- **April 16:** Special Fiscal Committee meets to develop a consolidated, prioritized list of 2026 budget priorities based on the April 9 discussion.
- **April 30:** Full council meets to discuss and vote on the finalized budget priority list forwarded by the Special Fiscal Committee.
- **May 14:** Council-administration deliberation session to discuss shared priorities and explore alignment.

Note: We anticipate a follow-up budget discussion in late July following summer recess and prior to formal budget presentations. This session is not yet confirmed.

In preparation for the April 9 deliberation session, each councilmember is asked to come prepared with specific budget priorities for 2026 to discuss. We encourage you to consider not just individual line-item requests or program funding needs, but the outcomes those investments are meant to produce.

As a city, we are shifting toward an Outcome-Based Budgeting (OBB) model. This approach emphasizes achieving measurable results for our community rather than simply funding programs or departments as they have historically existed.

To support this transition, we have developed an **Outcome-Based Budgeting Worksheet** that should help you:

- Define the outcome area your priority falls within (e.g., public safety, transportation, housing)
- Clarify your broad goal for that area
- Describe the strategic outcome or change you hope to see
- Propose a performance measure to track success

- Identify a specific budget action or investment to achieve the outcome

Please use this worksheet to frame your thinking and ensure consistency across presentations. The tool is designed to make our deliberations more focused, actionable, and aligned with long-term community goals.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to a robust discussion on Wednesday evening.

City Council Budget Planning Worksheet

This worksheet is designed to help councilmembers articulate budget priorities using an Outcome-Based Budgeting (OBB) framework. Rather than focusing only on departmental funding or line items, this approach emphasizes the outcomes our community wants to achieve. For each outcome area, you'll be asked to define your vision, desired results, and proposed actions.

Step 1: Choose or Define Outcome Area(s)

An outcome area is a major theme or category that reflects a core aspect of community well-being. These areas represent the results the city is working to achieve for residents. They often cut across multiple departments and require coordination and strategic investment. Consider the following common examples of municipal outcomes and place a star or checkmark next to your top priorities:

- Public Safety
- Transportation & Mobility
- Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Economic Health & Jobs
- Environmental Health & Sustainability
- Culture & Recreation
- Neighborhood Livability & Social Health
- Health & Human Services
- High Performing Government
- Equity
- Government Transparency
- Other: _____

Notes:

Step 2: Complete the following outcome worksheet

Outcome areas are broad themes that capture what a city aims to improve for its residents—like public safety, transportation, or housing. Within each outcome area, broad goals articulate the city's vision, such as “improve walkability” or “expand access to affordable housing.” To achieve these goals, the city funds specific items, programs, or services—for example, building new sidewalks, adding shelter beds, or funding small business grants. These investments are justified by their expected impact, which we express through outcomes: measurable changes in the community, like a 20% increase in pedestrian access or a reduction in the number of residents experiencing homelessness. This structure helps ensure that every dollar we spend is tied to a result that matters. Complete the following worksheet while keeping your top outcomes from above in mind. Consider how your specific funding priorities impact your highest priority outcomes.

1. Specific Budget Items (Inputs)

These are direct, concrete proposals for how money should be spent (e.g., new projects, increased funding, capital improvements).

Examples:

- Allocate \$250,000 to expand sidewalk construction on Main Street
- Fund an additional social worker in the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department
- Increase funding for youth recreation programs by 10%

Your Proposals:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. Broad Goals (Vision or Policy Direction)

These express your high-level priorities or visions for the city's future. They help guide where investments should be focused. Many of these types of goals are already outlined in various city plans.

Examples:

- Improve walkability and pedestrian safety
- Expand access to affordable housing
- Make Bloomington more climate resilient

Your Broad Goals:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

3. Specific Outcomes (Measurable Results)

These define the changes or results you want to see in the community and provide a way to evaluate success.

Examples:

- Increase pedestrian access to commercial areas by 20% in 3 years
- Reduce emergency response times by 10% citywide
- Cut city-wide emissions by 30% by 2030

Your Desired Outcomes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Notes: