

Bloomington Common Council-Deliberative Session Minutes
Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 6:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER [6:30pm]

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [6:31pm]

Members:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1, Council Vice President
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger (absent)	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Kelly Murphy	Technology Support Manager

3. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

Council President Hopi Stosberg read a poem, “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me”, by Maya Angelou. Stosberg then summarized the agenda.

4. ORDER OF CONVERSATION [6:34pm]

4.1. Collective Bargaining: Council’s Rights and Responsibilities

Lehner and Stosberg discussed the upcoming collective bargaining agreements, with negotiations expected to start in May 2026. The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and other unions' contracts were set to expire on December 31, 2026. Zulich said she would be interested in observing the negotiations and offered to help draft legislation to update the code related to contract negotiations.

4.2. Council Finance Committee v. Budget Task Force

Stosberg intended to form a special finance committee of four council members at the next meeting. She said the committee would meet at least quarterly, work with the controller on the budget, and work with council staff on the council budget and elected officials’ salary ordinance. She referenced Resolution 2024-12, and the need to establish a Budget Task Force. Stosberg outlined her proposed framework for the task force. She asked councilmembers to send her an email or text message to indicate their interest in participation for both groups.

4.3. Proposed Expansion of Convention Center

Speakers:

Sarah Hempstead	Schmidt Associates
Jeff Underwood	CIB Controller

Deb Kunce	Senior Vice President, J.S. Held
Chris Ciolli	Weddle Bros. Construction Companies
Buzz Krohn	O.W. Krohn & Associates
Margie Rice	Corporation Counsel, Bloomington
Tenley Drescher-Rhoades*	Faegre Drinker Law Firm, Special Counsel
Geoff McKim	CIB Board of Directors
Jessica McClellan	Controller, Bloomington

4.3.1. Building Plans and Construction Information

The convention center expansion project was presented with a \$70 million budget, including \$52 million for construction. Financing would use \$20 million from existing food and beverage cash balances and \$50 million in lease rental bonds. The project aimed for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating, including a green roof and sustainable features.

4.3.2. Discussion of Lease Terms and Related Legal Matters

Discussion of the financing included discussion of lease financing in Indiana, which enabled political subdivisions to avoid hitting their constitutional debt limit. Rice explained the timeline for council action, including the need for a public hearing and passage of a resolution authorizing the execution of the lease. Drescher-Rhoades gave more information and details about the lease itself.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT [8:35pm]

The public offered no comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT [8:36pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 16 day of April, 2025.

APPROVE:



Hopi Stosberg, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



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 City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>
- YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

Background materials and packets are available at <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>