



Minutes
City Council - Regular Session
Monday, January 12, 2026 - 6:00 PM

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 PM. Mayor Dan Brady called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, ending with a moment of silent prayer/reflection.

Roll Call

Present: Council Member Jenna Kearns Mayor Dan Brady
Council Member Micheal Mosley
Council Member Sheila Montney
Council Member John Danenberger
Council Member Michael Straza
Council Member Cody Hendricks
Council Member Mollie Ward
Council Member Kent Lee
Council Member Abby Scott

Recognition/Appointments

Item 5.A. Presentation of Bloomington Police Officer Commission Certificates to Police Officers Brendan Bunch, Aaron Pavolka, Logan Kolat, and Bowen Benoit upon Completion of their Probationary Period, as requested by the Police Department.

Police Chief Jamal Simington recognized each of the following Officers for the completion of their one-year probationary period: (1) Brendan Bunch; (2) Aaron Pavolka; (3) Logan Kolat; and (4) Bowen Benoit.

Item 5.B. Proclamation Recognizing April 14th as Tamil Day, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Brady read the Proclamation. Uma Balakrishnan, along with multiple members of the Bloomington Tamil Community, came forward to accept the Proclamation.

Public Comment

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. No emailed public comment was received. Nadeem Demian spoke in-person.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by City Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2025, Special City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the November 24, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$16,179,056, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on Approving Appointments and Reappointments to Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointments be approved.)

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Ballistic Vests from Ray O'Herrons, Inc., for the Bloomington Police Department, in the Amount of \$55,185, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 001

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF BALLISTIC VESTS FROM RAY O'HERRONS, INC., FOR THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,185

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County, for the Use of the Arena Kitchen, at \$150 per day, paid to the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Arts & Entertainment Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 002

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MCLEAN COUNTY, FOR THE USE OF THE ARENA KITCHEN, AT \$150 PER DAY, PAID TO THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving an Easement Across the Constitution Trail (PIN: 20-01-100-025) for Ameren to Support an Interconnection for a Solar Development on the Property Commonly Known as 2405 W. Washington Street (PIN: 20-01-100-031), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 001

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN EASEMENT ACROSS THE CONSTITUTION TRAIL (PIN: 20-01-100-025) FOR AMEREN TO SUPPORT AN INTERCONNECTION FOR A SOLAR DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2405 W. WASHINGTON STREET (PIN: 20-01-100-031)

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Road Use Agreement with Copperleaf Solar, LLC, for Utilization of Bloomington Heights Road, in the Amount of \$25,000 (PIN: 20-01-100-031), as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended

Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 003

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A ROAD USE AGREEMENT WITH COPPERLEAF SOLAR, LLC, FOR UTILIZATION OF BLOOMINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 (PIN: 20-01-100-031)

Item 7.J. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment for the Property Commonly Known as 1326 Sherman Street, from the R-1C (Single-Family Residence) District to the R-3B (Multiple-Family Residence) District (PIN: 14-32-429-030), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 002

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1326 SHERMAN STREET, FROM THE R-1C (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE) DISTRICT TO THE R-3B (MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE) DISTRICT (PIN: 14-32-429-030)

Item 7.K. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Amending the Settlement Authority Previously Authorized, for a Total Amount of \$43,624.80, as requested by the Human Resources Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 004

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$43,624.80

Item 7.L. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Auto Liability Settlement Agreement with Claimant Joshua Zakery, in the Amount of \$50,407.70, as requested by the Human Resources Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 005

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AUTO LIABILITY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH CLAIMANT JOSHUA ZAKERY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,407.70

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.A. Consideration and Action on (1) an Ordinance Approving Text Amendments, Modifications, and Additions to Chapter 44 (Zoning Code) of the City of Bloomington City Code, relating to (1) Building Characteristics in the D-1 (Central Business) Zoning District, and (2) Permitted Encroachments in Public Rights-of-Way; and (2) an Ordinance Approving Text Amendments, Modifications, and Additions to Chapter 38 of the City of Bloomington, Illinois City Code (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Ways), Relating to Encroachment on Sidewalks, as requested by the Development Services Department.

Kelly Pfeifer, Development Services Director, explained the Item and provided an overview of the proposed changes to the two City Code chapters. She explained that, currently, the Code required recessed storefront entries both for historic continuity and to prevent outward-swinging doors from obstructing sidewalks, but that the new Downtown for All Streetscape had widened sidewalks and shifted the main pedestrian path away from building fronts. She stated that the proposed Chapter 44 amendments would allow non-recessed, outward-swinging doors so businesses could reclaim interior floor area, while still mandating a minimum five-foot clear pedestrian route. Director Pfeifer further explained that Chapter 38 needed to be amended in tandem to allow and regulate private encroachments, such as doors and safety features, into the public right-of-way through a permit system, with permit holders responsible for maintenance. She showed examples and diagrams of existing recessed entries, potential new street-wall doors, and possible physical barriers that would visually and physically separate out-swinging doors from the pedestrian path. She emphasized that historically “contributing” buildings would require Historic Preservation Commission review for any such changes and reported that staff, the Traffic Engineer, and the Planning Commission all recommended approval of the coordinated text amendments.

Council Member Hendricks expressed appreciation for staff’s work on the text amendments, noting that the issue had been brought to him by several businesses and that the process demonstrated the City’s willingness to review and adjust its practices when residents or businesses raised concerns.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 003

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING TEXT AMENDMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND ADDITIONS TO CHAPTER 44 (ZONING CODE) OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON CITY CODE, RELATING TO (1) BUILDING CHARACTERISTICS IN THE D-1 (CENTRAL BUSINESS) ZONING DISTRICT, AND (2) PERMITTED ENCROACHMENTS IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 004

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING TEXT AMENDMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND ADDITIONS TO CHAPTER 38 OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS CITY CODE (STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC WAYS), RELATING TO ENCROACHMENT ON SIDEWALKS

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jeff Jurgens reported that the Downtown Streetscape paver work was approximately 81% complete, and it would continue as weather conditions allowed, with the hope of reopening the street within a few weeks. He noted that the former Elks site had been converted to a public parking lot and was already being used, adding needed Downtown parking. He stated that the City remained in a moderate drought and urged continued voluntary water conservation.

He reported that leaf collection crews were working extended hours and weekends to catch up on delayed routes, and significant progress was expected in coming weeks. He announced that the demolition of the Front & Center building was complete, roads in that area had reopened, and the site would be converted to additional parking while coordination with Connect Transit was underway to restore bus operations there.

Council Member Discussion

Council Member Montney thanked City Manager Jurgens and Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment Director, for an in-depth, behind-the-scenes tour of the Arena to her and a student intern. She noted Director Nelson's passion for continuous improvement was evident, and commented on the value of seeing a future summary of the community benefits from said investments. She thanked Director Pfeifer, Planning Manager Alyssa Pemberton, and Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus for holding multiple meetings with the Old Farm Lakes Homeowners Association Board to address concerns related to missing middle housing and existing zoning in that neighborhood. She reported that the neighborhood was pleased with the progress and reiterated her appreciation for the staff's responsiveness and ongoing work on the issue.

Council Member Lee thanked the Public Works Department, reporting that a Ward 8 constituent had praised recent repaving work on Oakland Ave.

Council Member Scott commented on the new bulk pick-up changes and thanked the bulk pick-up crews. She then thanked Council Member Montney for her work on the Mental Health and Public Safety Fund Advisory Council and requested that reports be provided on decisions made at the meetings so the public could more easily track the outcomes. Council Member Scott then referenced Council Member Montney's idea of connecting County officials to the Commission for Safe Communities and suggested the opportunity to link both Committees with the now permanent Commission for Safe Communities body.

Council Member Montney noted her appreciation for a recent discussion with Council Member Scott. She explained that the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council was not subject to the Open Meetings Act, which was why its work was not regularly reported in Council meetings. She summarized that the three recent meetings centered on replacing a lost grant for Brightpoint and that it was discovered that the County had a dedicated, legally restricted fund sufficient to cover some of the funding requests.

Council Member Ward requested regular updates and discussions on the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council from the City's formal representatives. She stated that the individuals represent the Council body and, as such, believed it was important to prioritize sharing those reports.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Brady thanked the Council Members who attended the recent Bridge project ribbon cutting and noted the strong community turnout. He reported being honored to attend the Fire Department's promotion ceremony at Miller Park Pavilion and congratulated the promoted personnel and their families. He also highlighted the ongoing efforts around water conservation and leaf collection, emphasizing that many residents were choosing to be part of the solution, and specifically thanked Deputy City Manager Sue McLaughlin for coordinating leaf pickup and bulk collection efforts.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Dan Brady, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

