



**Minutes  
City Council - Regular Session  
Monday, January 26, 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 Micheal Mosley Mayor Dan Brady  
Council Member Sheila Montney  
Council Member John Danenberger  
Council Member Michael Straza  
Council Member Mollie Ward  
Council Member Kent Lee  
Council Member Abby Scott  
**Absent:** Council Member Jenna Kearns  
Council Member Cody Hendricks

**Recognition/Appointments**

Item 5.A. Recognition of Boards & Commissions Appointments, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Brady recognized the appointment of Archana Nadkarni to the Welcoming America Commission.

**Public Comment**

The following emailed public comments: (1) Alpesh Patel; (2) Andrew Crumbaugh; (3) David Woolf; (4) Cameron Feldman; (5) Lucinda Hayes; (6) Allison Smith; (7) David and Jennifer O.; (8) Venus Usher ; (9) Jessica Gerding; (10) Jeff Talbert; (11) Denise Geltman; (12) Nicholas Gruschow; (13) Corey Moeglich; (14) Anette Scott; (15) Michael White; (16) Emilia Nye; (17) Jamie Biehl; (18) Kathy Wilson; (19) Susan Eppard; (20) Tia Grose; (21) Jordan Young; (22) Brian Prost; (23) James Pratt; (24) Michael Fasano; (25) James Bryan; (26) Misty Brown; and (27) Susan Tate.

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. The following spoke in person: (1) Robert McAllister; (2) Chelsie Leffelman; (3) Cameron Feldman; (4) Sefa Kirici; (5) Sharon Trowitch; (6) Craig Katz; and (7) Gary Stevens.

The following spoke virtually: (1) Heidi Sykora; (2) Misty Brown; (3) Jennifer Gillis; (4) Michael Fasano; and (5) James Pratt.

**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 Straza made a motion, seconded by None, to approve the Consent**

**Agenda as presented.**

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$9,805,581.99, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

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

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the County of McLean, the City of Bloomington, and the Town of Normal Regarding the Terms and Scope of an Independent Audit of the Mental Health and Public Safety Fund, as requested by the Legal Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 006**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MCLEAN, THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, AND THE TOWN OF NORMAL REGARDING THE TERMS AND SCOPE OF AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND**

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the Illinois State Police to Continue as a Participating Agency in Task Force 6, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 007**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE ILLINOIS STATE POLICE TO CONTINUE AS A PARTICIPATING AGENCY IN TASK FORCE 6**

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Town of Normal, McLean County, and the Ecology Action Center, for a Solid Waste Program, in the Amount of \$73,236 for 2026 (FY 2027), \$75,433 for 2027 (FY 2028), and \$77,696 for 2028 (FY 2029), as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 008**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, AND THE ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER, FOR A SOLID WASTE PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,236 FOR 2026 (FY 2027), \$75,433 FOR 2027 (FY 2028), AND \$77,696 FOR 2028 (FY 2029)**

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for the Fox Creek Road & Bridge Improvements for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$1,614,949, as

requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 009**

**AN ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE FOR THE FOX CREEK ROAD & BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,614,949**

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for the Fox Creek Road & Bridge Improvements for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds, in the Amount of \$18,247,000, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 010**

**AN ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE FOR THE FOX CREEK ROAD & BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,247,000**

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action on an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for the Fox Creek Road & Bridge Improvements for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$250,719, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 011**

**AN ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE FOR THE FOX CREEK ROAD & BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED OF \$250,719**

Item 7.J. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving an Amended Preliminary Plan for the Fourth Revision to a Portion of Empire Business Park Preliminary Plan, for the Property Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of Trinity Ln. and E. Empire St. (PIN: 15-31-300-020), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 006**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDED PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR THE FOURTH REVISION TO A PORTION OF EMPIRE BUSINESS PARK PRELIMINARY PLAN, FOR THE PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF TRINITY LN. AND E. EMPIRE ST. (PIN: 15-31-300-020)**

Item 7.K. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving a Zoning Map Amendment for the Property Commonly Known as 2805 Beich Road, from the R-1H (Single-Family Manufactured Home Residence) District to the R-3A (Multiple-Family Residence) District (PIN 21-19-326-010), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 007**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2805 BEICH ROAD, FROM THE R-1H (SINGLE-FAMILY MANUFACTURED HOME RESIDENCE) DISTRICT TO THE R-3A (MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE) DISTRICT (PIN 21-19-326-010)**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

**Regular Agenda**

*The following Item was presented:*

Item 8.A. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 Misdemeanors of the City Code Prohibiting the Possession, Sale, Delivery, or Distribution of Kratom or Synthetic Alternative Drugs, as requested by the Legal Department.

Council Member Mosley explained that the proposed Kratom Ordinance originated from a resident's concern and that, rather than rushing it, he'd spent 7-8 months researching the issue, listening to residents, reviewing public health information, and studying how other communities had responded. He shared that Kratom was not an ordinary consumer product, but was instead an unregulated substance with drug-like effects, inconsistent labeling, and no standardized dosing or oversight, despite documented risks. He acknowledged reports of personal benefits from Kratom, but stressed that those accounts don't replace the need for safety standards, especially when most consumers were unaware of the exact formulation or appropriate dosing. He believed the Ordinance was a reasonable, measured public-health response, consistent with actions taken by many jurisdictions, and stressed it was not about criminalizing people or limiting personal choice, but was instead about ensuring basic safeguards. Based on his review and consultations, he concluded that the Ordinance was appropriate to protect residents' well-being and respectfully asked Council to support it.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens introduced Assistant ("Asst.") Police Chief Paul Williams, forensic pathology physician Dr. Scott Denton, and City Attorney Chris Spanos to present on the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Spanos explained how the Ordinance was developed and included a review of many other Illinois cities that regulate similar products. He said the proposed Ordinance took a middle-ground approach, would apply only to Kratom and certain synthetic drugs (not THC beverages). He noted that it would be enforced as a civil nuisance rather than a criminal offense, and recommended adjusting the effective date so it would take effect 10 or 11 days after passage to ensure proper notice.

Asst. Police Chief Paul Williams stressed Kratom being a dangerous, unregulated substance whose street name was called "gas station heroin." He emphasized that the goal of the Ordinance was not to send people to prison, but instead to address a public-safety problem. He shared that the products potency varied widely between brands, and effects differed by person and by what other drugs it was paired with. He cited sources like the Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic, noting that Kratom had no proven medical use, could act like an opioid with potential for addiction and withdrawal, and pointed out that several states had already banned it entirely.

Dr. Scott Denton, a local Forensic Pathologist, explained that Kratom contained the alkaloid mitragynine, which acted on the same opioid receptors as other opioids, and that its breakdown product 7-hydroxy-mitragynine could be more potent than morphine. He noted that even in Southeast Asian countries where the plant was native, Kratom is regulated, and Australia placed it in its most restrictive drug category. He described how low doses act as a stimulant, but higher doses have opioid-like effects and could cause side effects such as seizures, psychosis, and liver toxicity. Drawing on regional autopsy data, he reported an increasing number of deaths in which mitragynine was a factor over recent years, and stated that the McLean County Coroner shared his concerns about Kratom-related risks.

**Council Member Mosley made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to approve the Item as amended with an 11-day effectiveness.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 005**

## **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28 MISDEMEANORS OF THE CITY CODE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION, SALE, DELIVERY, OR DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM OR SYNTHETIC ALTERNATIVE DRUGS**

### **Finance Director's Report**

Finance Director Scott Rathbun presented the December financial update noting the City was eight months into Fiscal Year ("FY") 2026 and was in the process of meeting with major departments to build the FY 2027 budget and refine year-end projections. He reported that major tax revenues, especially home rule and state sales tax, were performing better than budgeted, replacement tax was roughly on track with expectations after early shortfalls were corrected, and overall, the City was about \$3.8 million ahead of budgeted revenue year-to-date. He explained that the FY 2026 general fund budget included a planned use of reserves, largely for the Front & Center Street project and the Downtown streetscape projects. He ended by addressing costs associated to overtime and health insurance, as well as revenues being stronger and deferred equipment purchases helping to keep the general fund in a more favorable position as budget work continued.

Council Member Ward asked how current enterprise fund balances compared to prior years. Director Rathbun did not have past-year figures with him, but noted that keeping reserves up in the Sewer Fund had been difficult due to large capital projects, and that reserve targets for enterprise funds were less strict than for the general fund.

Council Member Montney noted that home rule sales tax revenues were up by about \$3 million again, yet property taxes had been raised by a similar amount, and warned that increased housing costs conflicted with the City's affordability goals.

Council Member Lee asked why snow and ice costs showed up as overtime and whether there was budget room left. Director Rathbun shared that the City budgeted about \$200,000 a year for overtime and that staff expected to go over that amount requiring cost cutting in other areas to stay within the overall general fund budget.

Mayor Brady confirmed with Director Rathbun that about \$143,000 in snow-and-ice overtime had been used in FY 2026 compared to around \$93,000 in FY 2025 and \$78,000 in FY 2024.

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Council Member Ward verified with Director Rathbun that the prior figures were actual costs.

**City Manager's Discussion**

City Manager Jurgens shared that staff would follow up with the residents on Empire Street/Route 9 who had provided public comment regarding sidewalks. He also publicly thanked Public Works, Police, Fire, and Water crews for working in severe winter conditions.

**Council Member Discussion**

Council Member Mosley thanked those who had attended the meeting and made public comments. He thanked Council for their dialog and consideration on the Kratom Ordinance.

Council member Straza thanked Public Works crews for their hard work clearing roads.

Council Member Ward and Lee echoed appreciation of the Public Works crews.

**Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Brady thanked Public Works and emergency services personnel for their ongoing efforts during the recent storms and in general.

**Executive Session**

**Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lee, to enter into Executive Session per Section 2(c)(12) OF 5 ILCS 120 to review closed session minutes and per Section 2(c)(21) OF 5 ILCS 120 to discuss settlement of claims.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

**Adjournment**

**Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried (viva voce).**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

**ATTEST**



Dan Brady, Mayor



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

