



**Minutes
City Council - Regular Session
Monday, February 9, 2026 - 6:00 PM**

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom. 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
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
Mayor Dan Brady

Recognition/Appointments

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

The Mayor recognized the following appointments to the Commission for Safe Communities: Cierra Aiden; Ryan Bertrand; John Scott Denton; Elizabeth German; Robert Harris; Cathy Lust; and Kaitlyn Selman.

Public Comment

No emailed comments were received. Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. Tracey Patkunas and Kristie Engerman spoke. Melanie Walker and Craig Gates registered to speak but withdrew.

Public Hearings

Item 7.A. Public Hearing on the Program Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan, as requested by the Community Impact & Enhancement Department.

Mayor Brady opened the public hearing at 6:04 PM.

William Bessler, Grants Manager, presented an overview of the Program Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Annual Action Plan, explaining that Bloomington, as a HUD entitlement community, expected about \$555,000 in CDBG funds plus program income and prior-year resources for a total of about \$610,000. He stated that the goals for the second year of the 2025 - 2029 Consolidated Plan were to preserve existing affordable housing, eliminate slums and blight, support public services, improve public facilities and infrastructure, and administer CDBG effectively. He noted new or refined geographic priorities, including an added focus area in

south central Bloomington, and that Program Year (“PY”) 2026 would be May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027. This was the City’s 52nd year administering CDBG. Mr. Bessler reported that a substantial share of funds would support housing rehabilitation, including emergency rehab and work done with Habitat for Humanity of McLean County, that demolition funds would address vacant and abandoned properties, and that public service funds would support nonprofits such as Home Sweet Home Ministries, KTB Financial Services, Prairie State Legal Services, and West Bloomington Revitalization Project. He highlighted an \$80,000 playground upgrade at Wood Hill Family Apartments, and planning/administration funding for staff support, the McLean County Regional Planning Commission, and a West Bloomington neighborhood plan update. He described the competitive Request for Proposal process (10 applications received, requesting over \$1.1 million) and noted changes for the year, including limiting new non-emergency rehab applications to preservation and regeneration areas, moving Prairie State’s housing legal services into the public services category per HUD direction, and omitting a sidewalk project while staff evaluated future options. He concluded by noting that public comment on the plan would remain open until February 23rd, that adjustments might be needed once HUD issued the final allocation, and that they typically approved the Plan and released funds around September.

Mayor Brady asked if anyone from the public would like to speak. No one stepped forward.

Council Member Ward asked for clarification on the parameters of the preservation and regeneration funding. She inquired whether there were limits on the size of the grants, who was eligible to receive them, and requested a general explanation of how those funds were structured and awarded. Mr. Bessler responded that the CDBG housing rehabilitation program was income-qualified, serving owner-occupants with annual household incomes at or below 80% of the area median income, as published on the City’s website. He explained that the new geographic priorities tied to preservation and regeneration areas were relatively new to the City’s CDBG funding, but aligned with departmental initiatives. He stated that eligible households could receive up to \$30,000 in hard costs for items such as electrical, plumbing, or roof work, while soft costs like lead-based paint hazard control had no set limit and depended on the project. They then discussed how staff anticipated seven rehabilitation units to be completed within the program year and two potential demolition units.

Cordaryl Patrick, Community Impact and Enhancement Department Director, noted that the program year ran concurrently with the City’s fiscal year.

Council Member Mosley asked what contingencies the City had in place if HUD funds were delayed or did not become available, and whether such funding gaps were something the City planned or earmarked for in advance. Director Patrick replied that the City operated on the assumption that HUD would ultimately provide the funds, though sometimes later than expected. He explained that when delays occurred, the General Fund typically covered the costs of HUD-funded programs temporarily, and then was reimbursed once federal funds were received. Mr. Bessler added that the CDBG program enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and was funded in the most recent federal appropriations bill.

Mayor Brady closed the public hearing at 6:17 PM.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items 8.H. and 8.F.

Item 8.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2026, Regular

City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$7,240,933.21, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 8.C. Consideration and Action on Approving an Appointment to a Board, as requested by the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointment be approved.)

Item 8.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Accepting a Grant from McLean County Board of Health for the Implementation of the Fire Department's Community Health Navigator Pilot Program, in the Amount of \$200,000, as requested by the Fire Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 012

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY HEALTH NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000

Item 8.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two Solar Security Trailer Cameras, from Utilitra, in the Amount of \$68,397.78, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 013

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TWO SOLAR SECURITY TRAILER CAMERAS, FROM UTILITRA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,397.78

Item 8.F. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Ward.

Item 8.G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean for the Use of the City of Bloomington Police Shooting Range Facility, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 015

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE COUNTY OF MCLEAN FOR THE USE OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON POLICE SHOOTING RANGE FACILITY

Item 8.H. was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Council Member Straza.

Item 8.I. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Engineering Services Agreement for the Fox Creek Road and Bridge Project for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds, with Fehr Graham, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$250,719, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 017

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE FOX CREEK ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECT FOR MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS, WITH FEHR GRAHAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,719

Item 8.J. Consideration and Action on (1) a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Stark Excavating, Inc., for Fox Creek Road & Bridge Improvements (Bid #2026-11), in the Amount of \$18,247,000; and (2) an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026, for the Motor Fuel Tax ("MFT") Fund, to Utilize Reserves, in the Amount of \$1,343,465.88, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution and Ordinance be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 018

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH STARK EXCAVATING, INC., FOR FOX CREEK ROAD & BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS (BID #2026-11), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,247,000

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2026, FOR THE MOTOR FUEL TAX ("MFT") FUND, TO UTILIZE RESERVES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,343,465.88

Item 8.K. Consideration and Action on (1) a Resolution Approving a Construction Engineering Services Agreement for the Fox Creek Road and Bridge Project for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds, with Hutchison Engineering, Inc., in the Amount Not to Exceed \$1,614,949, and (2) an Ordinance Amending the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2026, for the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, to Utilize Reserves, in the Amount of \$250,145.35, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution and Ordinance be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 019

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE FOX CREEK ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECT FOR MOTOR FUEL TAX (MFT) FUNDS, WITH HUTCHISON ENGINEERING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,614,949

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 009

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2026, FOR THE MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND, TO UTILIZE RESERVES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,145.35

Item 8.L. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Content of Certain Closed Executive Session Meeting Minutes, and Authorizing the Destruction of Audio, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTENT OF CERTAIN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES, AND AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF AUDIO

Item 8.M. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Worker's Compensation Settlement Involving Former Bloomington Police Department Officer Brent Smallwood, in the Amount of \$276,756.09, as requested by the Human Resources Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 021

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A WORKER'S COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT INVOLVING FORMER BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER BRENT SMALLWOOD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$276,756.09

Item 8.N. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Adopting the Official 2025 Zoning Map for the City of Bloomington, which Supersedes and Replaces the Official 2024 Zoning Map, as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 010

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL 2025 ZONING MAP FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, WHICH SUPERSEDES AND REPLACES THE OFFICIAL 2024 ZONING MAP

Item 8.O. Consideration and Action on an Application from PopUp, Inc., d/b/a Pop Up Chicken Shop, located at 409 N. Hershey Rd., Requesting Approval of a Class RAS (Restaurant, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved, and the license issued with the following conditions: (1) Mr. Francis make full payment to McLean County of any amounts in which he owes prior to issuance of the license; and (2) an 18-month probationary period in which there will be no violations pertaining to the liquor license, on or off premises, and if any violations occur an immediate 30-day suspension of the license will result.)

Item 8.P. Consideration and Action on an Application from Jayst, Inc., located at 3805 Ballybunion Rd., Requesting Approval of a Class TAS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Item 8.Q. Consideration and Action on an Application from 531 N. Main Pub, LLC, located at 531 N. Main St., Requesting Approval of a Class TAS (Tavern, All Types of Alcohol, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Item 8.R. Consideration and Action on an Application from GJAMN, LLC, d/b/a Bandana's BBQ, located at 305 N. Veteran's Pkwy, Ste. 107, Requesting Approval of a Class RBS (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only, and Sunday Sales) Liquor License, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Application be approved.)

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution to Authorize Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements and Approve the Purchase with Acme Sports, Inc., for Walther PDP Pro Handguns for the Bloomington Police Department, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$120,000, as requested by the Police Department.

Council Member Ward supported the purchase but questioned how the City would handle

the old firearms, asking about warranties on the new guns. Police Chief Jamal Simington replied that the new weapons had a manufacturer's warranty and had been thoroughly researched and tested, while the existing Sig Sauer pistols were involved in lawsuits and had been barred from training use by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards ("ILETS") Board. He stated the guns were also near the end of their normal service life, and the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD") believed it was an appropriate time to replace them.

Corporation Counsel Chris Spanos explained there were several ongoing or proposed class action lawsuits involving the manufacturer, Sig Sauer, over alleged accidental discharges, and that Sig Sauer was actively disputing those claims and defending the gun's safety. He said the City was not in a position to lead such litigation itself, but if a class action were eventually certified and the City could show it had suffered a loss, it might consider joining a future case.

Council Member Ward emphasized that she was not opposed to buying new weapons but wanted to amend the proposed Resolution. She outlined specific text she wished to strike: (1) the 5th Whereas clause would read "*WHEREAS, the cost of one hundred and forty-five (145) Walther PDP Pro handgun systems is \$132,530, which will be reduced by \$20,800 with a trade-in credit for a total cost of \$111,730; and*"; (2) the entire 6th Whereas clause describing offsetting costs through the buyback program be removed; and (3) the 8th Whereas clause would read "*WHEREAS, BPD is also requesting authorization to waive formal bidding requirements due to several compelling factors, including the urgent need to initiate the manufacturing process, the desire to avoid potential liability, and recent lapses in training sessions. Additionally, the Walther PDP Pro has limited availability, and the vendor has reported a \$100 price increase per pistol. To help offset costs, the vendor has also offered to purchase BPD's existing SIG Sauer firearms. Taken together, these circumstances make it critical to proceed without delay through the formal bidding process; and*".

She explained that, if the City was justifying replacement of the guns on safety grounds, it was not in the public's interest - or ethically consistent - to then reintroduce those same weapons into the community via trade-ins or resale, even with liability waivers.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to move approval of the Item with amendments to the Resolution as stated.

Council Member Mosley expressed concern about potential liability to the City, but noted BPD had not experienced problems with the guns, and that Sig Sauer had claimed they were safe. He questioned whether declaring them unsafe for resale could actually increase the City's exposure and undermine any future cost recovery if class actions failed.

Chief Simington confirmed that BPD and neighboring agencies had experienced no failures with the current guns and described SIG them as dependable, even the ones used extensively by SWAT officers. He reiterated the reasons to replace the guns. He noted the City had a longstanding practice of allowing officers to keep their duty weapon upon retirement or weapon turnover. He explained that service weapons were sentimental to officers and that, although they might never fire them again, they represented officers' years of service and protection.

Council Member Ward and Corporation Counsel Spanos discussed an additional edit based on her proposed amendments.

Council Member Montney wanted to better understand the implications of the amendments. She noted staff had strongly recommended the proposal without changes and asked them to explain how the proposed changes, eliminating the trade-in and officer Buyback components, would affect staff operations, BPD, and the overall cost structure before she decided how to vote.

Chief Simington explained that about 100 officers had expressed interest in the Buyback Program, that BPD had been transparent about potential issues with them, and emphasized that both Bloomington and many other Illinois agencies had found the guns reliable. He added that the vendor, Acme Sports, was a reputable, federally licensed dealer that had long serviced hundreds of police agencies nationwide, and that while he could not control what Acme would choose to do with any traded-in guns, he had no concerns about their professionalism or standing.

Council Member Lee confirmed with Chief Simington that the guns were only going to BPD-trained officers or the federally licensed dealer for resale.

Council Member Scott asked whether there had been a time when BPD had decided to remove a gun from any buyback or resale option and then asked to confirm that officers who purchased their current guns could later resell them as they saw fit. Chief Simington stated that in his 34 years in law enforcement, he had not seen a gun removed from a buyback or resale option. He confirmed that any officer who purchased their gun would, like any private owner, be allowed to resell it, and would have to comply with all federal and state laws governing gun transfers.

Council Member Ward stressed that while the resale would have to comply with all federal and state laws, one of the guns could be sold to the public.

Mayor Brady asked Corporation Counsel Spanos to read the Resolution with the proposed amendments aloud.

Council Member Montney confirmed with Chief Simington that BPD would have to destroy the guns if they were not able to trade them into the vendor.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Danenberger, Hendricks, Ward, Scott

Nayes: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Straza, Hendricks, Lee

Motion Failed.

Council Member Montney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lee, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Nayes: Ward

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 014

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE WITH ACME SPORTS, INC., FOR WALTHER PDP PRO HANDGUNS FOR THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.H. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Agreement with Thorn Run Partners, LLC, for Federal Lobbying Professional Services, as requested by the Legal Department.

Council Member Straza asked why the lobbying contract was proposed for three years and how it could be terminated. City Manager Jurgens replied that Council had originally selected Thorn Run via a three-year Request for Proposal (“RFP”), the firm had performed well, and so staff recommended another three-year term. He noted there was a mutual 30-day termination clause.

Council Member Montney said it was hard to justify spending nearly \$300,000 on a lobbying firm given the City’s strong relationships with its congressional representatives, and she asked whether those officials thought a “middleman” was necessary. City Manager Jurgens reported that in the three years since hiring Thorn Run, the City had secured about \$5.7 million in federal funds, which was a 1,900% return on the contract cost.

Council Member Straza and City Manager Jurgens discussed the possibility of revisiting other vendors should the City no longer want to contract with Thorn Run. Council Member Straza desired more time to discuss the terms and year length.

Council Member Scott confirmed with City Manager Jurgens that Thorn Run aided in federal funds only.

Council Member Straza made a motion to postpone the Item until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Council Member Montney was concerned about how the upcoming One Voice conference could be affected if the Item was postponed, but supported additional discussion.

City Manager Jurgens said staff did not recommend delaying the decision as the City was currently out of contract with Thorn Run, just as Congress was beginning to identify congressionally directed spending projects, and the firm was slated to help staff sort projects and determine eligibility. He stated that staff’s recommendation would not change with additional discussion and reiterated a 30-day termination clause in the agreement.

Council Member Straza withdrew his motion.

Council Member Mosley asked staff for data comparing return on investments compared to other municipalities. Council Member Scott stated she found a positive correlation between municipalities that hire lobbyists and the funds that they return.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mosely, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 016

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THORN RUN PARTNERS, LLC, FOR FEDERAL LOBBYING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 9.A. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 John M. Scott Health Care Trust Category I and Category II Grant awards and Programmatic Agreements, in the Amount of \$907,055.41, as requested by the Community Impact &

Enhancement Department.

William Bessler, Grants Manager, briefly introduced the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2027 John M. Scott Health Care ("JMS") Trust item, noting that it represented nearly a \$1 million investment in the community's health and well-being. He thanked Commission Chair Catherine Porter, the JMS Commission, community reviewers, and his staff for their work supporting the grant process.

Chair Porter presented the FY 2027 JMS Trust grant recommendations. She explained that the Trust funded health care services and social determinants of health for McLean County residents with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, through three categories of grants: Category 1 - multi-year large grants; Category 2 - annual program and capital grants; and Category 3 - annual emergency/urgent-need grants. She outlined the recent RFP process, noting strong demand and multiple applications. She then summarized the proposed FY 2027 awards: continued funding for two existing large Category 1 grants, two Category 2 capital projects, and multiple Category 2 program grants, for a total of just over \$900,000. She highlighted several larger awards and emphasized that funded projects aligned with the Community Health Improvement Plan focus areas of access to care, healthy eating/active living, and behavioral health. She concluded with the next steps for approval and executing agreements.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 JOHN M. SCOTT HEALTH CARE TRUST CATEGORY I AND CATEGORY II GRANT AWARDS AND PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$907,055.41

The following Item was presented:

Item 9.B. Consideration and Action on a Resolution (1) Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirement; and (2) Approving a Three-Year Agreement with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI Online), to Provide Implementation and Hosting Services for the City's Cross- Connection Program, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$156,030, with an Approximate \$120,000/Year Revenue Offset, as requested by the Development Services Department.

Director Kelly Pfeifer presented a proposal to update the City's cross-connection (backflow) control program, noting that Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and state rules required Bloomington to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the public system. She explained that the current program covered only about 3,300 commercial accounts, leaving roughly 29,000 residential accounts and an estimated 1,000 homes with likely backflow systems (e.g., irrigation systems) effectively unmanaged, resulting in the City not fully in compliance. Director Pfeifer proposed a three-year agreement with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI) to survey all accounts, track devices, and collect test reports. She said BSI was widely used in Illinois, cheaper than the only other vendor considered, and would replace the City's outdated, limited-access tracking system. Startup costs would be about \$148,545, with ongoing costs largely offset by revised commercial test submission fees expected to generate about \$120,000 annually, which would

support future survey cycles, limited staff follow-up, and bring the City into full compliance while better protecting the public water supply.

Council Member Mosley and Director Pfeifer discussed how the City would handle customers found not to be testing required backflow devices and compliance. They then discussed how outsourcing regulatory compliance tasks freed up staff to focus on other priorities.

Council Member Lee asked if the City was being penalized for being out of compliance. Eric Leman, City Plumbing Inspector III, reported that Bloomington was already regarded by the Illinois EPA as having one of the strongest cross-connection control programs for a city its size and said state officials viewed the proposed updates as proactive steps to stay prepared and fully compliant rather than waiting to react to problems.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Straza, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 023

A RESOLUTION (1) WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENT; AND (2) APPROVING A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH BACKFLOW SOLUTIONS, INC. (BSI ONLINE), TO PROVIDE IMPLEMENTATION AND HOSTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S CROSS- CONNECTION PROGRAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$156,030, WITH AN APPROXIMATE \$120,000/YEAR REVENUE OFFSET

The following Item was presented:

Item 9.C. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Establishing the 2026 City Council Strategic Priorities and Guiding Principles for the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens introduced the Item and explained that it was a continuation of the discussion from the earlier Committee of the Whole and last year's Council Retreat. He briefly recapped that Council had identified three core principles - fiscal discipline, quality of life, and community engagement - and four strategic priority areas - infrastructure, housing, public safety, and economic vitality. He said approving the resolution would formally establish this framework and that, going forward, staff would use it to show how items brought to Council align with these priorities and principles.

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 024

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2026 CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jurgens reported that, due to severe drought and low reservoir levels, he had issued a formal water conservation proclamation under the City Code, with a goal of reducing water use by 10%. He noted that earlier voluntary efforts had already cut usage by about 6% and asked residents to continue conserving water until spring rains improved conditions.

Council Member Discussion

Council Member Mosley celebrated his one-year anniversary of being on the Council and thanked staff for their support in acclimating him to the position and his constituents in Ward 2.

Council Member Straza reported feedback he had received from the Associate Executive Director of the IHSA, who reported that the recent dance state finals at the Arena were their best ever. He said all 22 suites were sold out with a waiting list and emphasized that IHSA specifically praised the work and leadership of Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment Director, and his team. He noted that staff members Kristen and Maurice were also part of that successful team.

Council Member Abby Scott thanked the Fire Department for arranging a ride-along. She shared how every firefighter was fully engaged and eager to answer questions, demonstrating their commitment and professionalism. She noted that she gained a clearer understanding that the Fire Department was effectively the community's first responder for a wide range of emergencies, not just fires, and she praised their consistently excellent service to residents.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Dan Brady thanked Council Members who attended the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Gala and highlighted the success of the Tour de Chocolate event in Downtown Bloomington, noting increased attendance over the prior year. He also reported positive results from events at Grossinger Motors Arena, citing estimated visitor counts and concession revenues.

Mayor Brady expressed appreciation to event partners, the Downtown team, and Deputy City Manager Billy Tyus for their work.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, 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 7:40 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST



Dan Brady, Mayor



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

