



**Minutes
City Council - Special Session
Monday, March 16, 2026 - 6:00 PM**

The City Council convened in special 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 John Danenberger
Council Member Michael Straza
Council Member Cody Hendricks
Council Member Kent Lee
Council Member Abby Scott
Mayor Dan Brady
- Absent:** Council Member Sheila Montney
Council Member Mollie Ward

Public Comment

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. John Woods spoke in person. Cam Touchet registered to speak, but was not present. John Woods emailed public comment.

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

Item 6.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2026, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 6.B. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Quit Claim Deed for the Purpose of Clearing Title to Certain Real Property and Conveying Any City of Bloomington Interest in that Property to the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 021

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLEARING TITLE TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND CONVEYING ANY CITY OF BLOOMINGTON INTEREST IN THAT PROPERTY TO THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 7.A. Presentation and Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget - Capital Projects and other Key Initiatives, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens introduced the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2027 Budget presentation focused on capital projects and key initiatives.

Finance Director Scott Rathbun provided an overview of the FY 2027 Capital Projects budget. He noted that total capital spending was \$111.7 million, a major increase of about \$31 million over FY 2026, and roughly 30% of the Citywide budget of \$370.5 million. He emphasized that it reflected a strong focus on infrastructure investment as they were putting taxpayer dollars directly into projects that benefit residents.

A detailed presentation focused on department capital projects was led by each of the applicable Department Directors responsible for said projects.

Mayor Brady thanked Administration and the Department Directors for their presentations.

Council Member Kearns asked how planned subdivision/zoning updates would connect with neighborhood revitalization and allow for community input. Cordaryl Patrick, Community Impact & Enhancement Director, explained that property maintenance staff already enforced some zoning rules and would continue to be part of an internal team guiding the zoning update ensuring revitalization and enforcement stay coordinated. Kelly Pfeifer, Development Services Director, explained that the subdivision update would primarily affect how land was divided for future development (lot lines, plats, infill, missing-middle housing, etc.), not impacting existing homes. She added that they intended to make development processes clearer and more efficient, rather than changing already established neighborhoods.

Council Member Mosley and Director Patrick discussed staffing needed to enforce vacant and foreclosure ordinances. Council Member Mosley confirmed with City Manager Jurgens that there were no new position creations for City Engineers, but that engineering positions were available with fulfillment underway.

Council Member Scott and City Manager Jurgens discussed the return on investments with funding allocated to community groups. Director Pfeifer elaborated on the partnership with Bloomington Normal Economic Development Council ("BN-EDC"), which manages the Enterprise Zone, and how the collaboration had proven successful.

Council Member Straza confirmed with Director Pfeifer that updating subdivision and zoning tools to support infill housing would not remove protections from existing neighborhoods. He then discussed with Mose Rickey, Public Works Director, how the new asphalt paver would be used on residential roads.

Council Member Lee discussed futureproofing of sewers and streets with Brett Leuschen, Water Director, and Jim Karch, Engineering Director. He further discussed the required lead service line replacement mandate and deadline with Director Leuschen.

Council Member Hendricks confirmed with City Manager Jurgens that the FY 2027 budget

was higher than last year only because of \$82 million in mandated water projects and that without those projects the total budget would have been slightly lower.

Council Member Kearns and Director Karch discussed the status of the Locust - Colton Combined Sewer Overflow ("CSO") and how Phases 8 and 9 must be completed by April 2030 to meet Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") requirements to avoid enforcement action.

Council Member Straza and Director Leuschen discussed the availability of the state or federal "forgiveness" funding for water projects.

Mayor Brady asked Director Leuschen to review timelines for the water projects. Director Leuschen responded accordingly.

Council Member Mosley offered to extend the Council discussion time. Mayor Brady insinuated that he could wrap up his final comments quickly.

Mayor Brady asked staff to review how the \$82 million in water projects would be funded and whether the work was realistic under current federal and state funding issues. City Manager Jurgens said they were built into the budget, financed with bonds, and repaid through existing water rates. He then stated that the City was on track and ahead on key compliance requirements and would remain so. Director Lueschen noted the projects would be split among multiple contractors.

Mayor Brady discussed various items with Director Pfeifer including the proposed Economic Development website and related tools. He then went on to discuss staffing of a recently purchased asphalt paver needed with Directors Rickey and Karch.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jurgens reported that McLean County remained in a drought, but that the combined lake deficits for the City had improved. He celebrated Stage 2 of Phase 1 of the Downtown Streetscape starting with completion expected by early to mid-summer. He also presented the redesigned Connect Transit Downtown Transfer Station noting it was still under review by the Federal Transit Administration. Lastly, he reminded everyone that all FY 2027 budget materials were available on the City's website.

Council Member Discussion

Council Member Scott thanked the Islamic Center of McLean County for inviting her and her husband to enjoy a meal at the Center. She shared about their experience and stressed the importance of the Center and their members in Bloomington.

Council Member Hendricks shared about his recent visit to the Islamic Center of McLean County as well, and discussed how the City could support the Center's growing congregation.

Council Member Straza reminded the community to vote.

Council Member Mosley thanked Director Rathbun for answering tough budget questions and for his informative yet easy-to-follow budget presentations.

Council Member Kearns echoed comments about the Islamic Center of McLean County. She looked forward to continuing to build bridges with the Center and its community. She reported on a recent visit to the Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center sharing how impressed she was with the Department's methods for solving crime and handling and protecting data including information from FLOCK cameras. She hoped to share that understanding with constituents and help connect them to staff who could address privacy questions.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Brady echoed Council's remarks about the Islamic Center of McLean County noting his long-standing relationship with the Center and its families. He then reported on his recent tour of The Bridge project with a representative from Congressman Sorensen's Office who was very impressed. He also discussed he and Council Member Straza representing Bloomington at the "Sharing of the Green" parade in Uptown Normal.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST



Dan Brady, Mayor



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

